

## ***Zebra Mussels***

Mike Smith, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator and Aquatic Biologist for South Dakota, provided an informative presentation on Zebra Mussels on November 18th, 2010, which was open to the public. He covered the ecological, biological, economic, and human health impacts the Zebra Mussel could have on McCook Lake. Zebra Mussels are closer than you think as they have been spotted in the Missouri River.

To learn what you can do to protect our lake, see more information at: <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

## ***Invasive Asian Clams Found in Lewis and Clark Lake***

Numerous Asian clam shells have been found at Lewis and Clark Lake, indicating a high likelihood that the invasive species is established there.

Asian clams, an aquatic nuisance species, were earlier detected in the Missouri River only below Gavins Point dam in Yankton, Clay and Union Counties.

The clams are native to Southeast Asia and were first reported on the West Coast about 1930. They have since spread to 39 states, including South Dakota.

Although often confused with more well-known zebra and quagga mussels, Asian clams do not have threads to attach to surfaces. Asian clams have small (1.5") oval, brown-to-black shells with distinctive, elevated concentric ridges. They prefer shallow, still water with sandy bottoms.

Asian clams are a prolific and highly competitive species capable of rapid growth, and they can displace native species and alter food chains. They can also have an adverse economic impact by clogging water-intake pipes, damaging boat engines, and affecting drinking water, aquaculture and irrigation facilities.

Asian clams release free-swimming, live young that can be easily transported and spread through the movement of water and equipment from infested bodies of water (the likely means of the most recent spread in South Dakota).

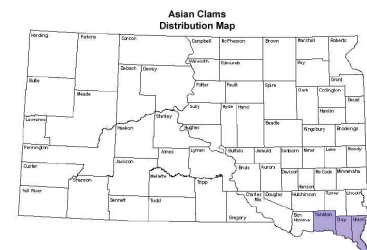
Boaters and others are urged to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the nuisance clams into additional waters in South Dakota. (GFP)



*Zebra Mussels*



*Asian Clams*



*Asian Clam Distribution in South Dakota*