

“Rock Snot” Concerns in Missouri

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been informed by the Missouri Department of Conservation that information outreach efforts are scheduled to inform the public on preventing invasive “rock snot”. Public meetings are being scheduled. For more information, visit the MDC website for times and locations of these meetings: <http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-hold-public-forums-preventing-invasive-rock-snot>

The USDA National Invasive Species Information Center describes Rock Snot, *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as Didymo, as an invasive alga. Other sources further identify the organism as a species of diatom. This organism is native to northern Europe and northern North American (Vancouver Island). It is listed as present in Canada in the late 1800s, but did not begin to cause problems until the early 1990s.

The exact pathway or means of introduction is unknown, but it spreads easily through contaminated boats and fishing gear. It can result in dense algal blooms that block sunlight and disrupt ecological processes, causing a decline in native animal and plant life.

Rock snot has been found just south of the Missouri-Arkansas border in the White River. A distribution map found on the USDA website, dated July 21, 2008, also indicates occurrences on the Kansas-Colorado and Kansas-Colorado-Nebraska border.

Invasive organisms, which often adversely impact native life, are a concern of many government agencies and citizens. Exercise caution when working or recreating in areas of known infestation to prevent their spread into additional areas.

The Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Regulatory Program webpage has more information on aquatic nuisance and other invasive species. A page of internet links is provided. The webpage is located at:

<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/regulatory.htm>

If you have any questions or would like more information, you can also contact us directly. POC: Mike McFadden, Regulatory Specialist, telephone: (816) 389-3432.