



Red Swamp Crayfish was found on Sunset Lake in Vicksburg in 2017. Since then, BCK CISMA has teamed up with DNR and other partners to survey and trap these nasty invaders.

# BCK CISMA NEWSLETTER

## August 2018

### Red Swamp Crayfish

Releasing crayfish from a boil or classroom may seem like a harmless act, but if they are the non-native invasive Red Swamp Crayfish, there are negative side effects. The Red Swamp Crayfish competes with native crayfish for food and habitat. This reduces habitat for amphibians, invertebrates, and juvenile fish. Additionally, their burrowing behavior can create harmful algae blooms and speed up the aging of a lake.

Statewide there are around 20 infestations of Red Swamp Crayfish. Most of these locations are in Southeast Michigan; however, there is one location closer to home. In July of 2017, Red Swamp Crayfish were observed in Sunset Lake in Vicksburg. Following this observation, intensive trapping efforts have occurred to determine spread.

This summer Kalamazoo College student Evan Stark-Dykema has taken the lead on trapping at and around Sunset Lake. Stark-Dykema said that each morning he would find an average of one individual Red Swamp Crayfish in a trap. Over the entire summer, he trapped about 50 others total. Most were found in

Sunset Lake and the runoff areas, but they have not moved far from Vicksburg. Stark-Dykema stressed that just looking in lakes and streams is not sufficient. The Red Swamp Crayfish has no problem walking over land from a river to a retention pond, which is often seen on golf courses or residential areas.

*The Red Swamp Crayfish has no problem walking over land from a river to a retention pond.*

The BCK CISMA, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University (MSU), Gun Lake Tribe, and additional partners have noted that continual trapping efforts is a priority for the Sunset Lake area and high risk locations surrounding it. If you find a Red Swamp Crayfish, please take a picture and send it to

Seth Herbst at [herbsts1@michigan.gov](mailto:herbsts1@michigan.gov) or use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) app - [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu).

BCK CISMA is dedicated to curbing the spread of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have other invasive species concerns within those counties please contact Fallon Januska at [fallon.januska@macd.org](mailto:fallon.januska@macd.org) or 269-908-4139.

- BCK CISMA
- THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS
- 4 Site visits
- 17 Detections
- 27 Treatments
- 2 Partner Meetings
- 1 Steering Committee Meeting



### Meet the new BCK CISMA Coordinator!

My name is Fallon Januska, and I am the new BCK CISMA Coordinator. I grew up in Muskegon and obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology with an Aquatic Science Emphasis from Grand Valley State University. As an undergraduate I spent multiple summers working at Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley. In 2016, I started with the Saginaw Bay CISMA as a member of the Strike Team. In January of 2017, I became the Coordinator of the Saginaw Bay CISMA. My first day with BCK CISMA was Tuesday, August 14th. I look forward to working with you all!

#### Steering Committee Updates

**When should the next steering committee meeting be? We need your input! Please fill out this survey: <https://doodle.com/poll/eawp5p9z7nvqksar>**

**2018 grant proposals due September 28th. Please contact Fallon to see how you can show your support!**

