Invasive Mussels: Expensive Damage!

When zebra or quagga mussels invade our local waters they clog power-plant and public-water intakes and pipes. Routine treatment is necessary and very expensive! This leads to increased utility bills. If you use water and electricity, then you do not want zebra/quagga mussels!

Zebra mussels in a cut-away pipe

Zebra mussels blocking a pipe

© Czarnecki

Zebra/Quagga Mussels May Use Your Boat to Invade Additional Waters!

If your boat has been in infested waters, it could be carrying invasive mussels. The primary way that these mussels can spread to new habitats is on boats trailered by the public or by commercial haulers. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and aquatic plants carried by boats. They also commonly attach to bait buckets and other aquatic recreational equipment. You could unintentionally transport microscopic larvae in water held in your live well, bilge, or bait bucket. An adult female zebra mussel can release up to 1,000,000 eggs in a lifetime. Please take the precautions outlined in this brochure to help reduce the chance that zebra or quagga mussels will spread to uninfested areas.

Before Zebras Mussels *After Zebra Mussels*

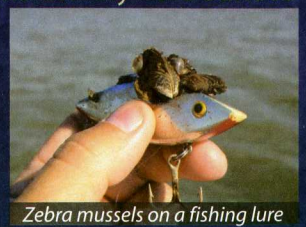
Zebra/Quagga Mussels Harm Native Aquatic Life

Zebra mussels on a crayfish

Zebra mussels on a native mussel

Zebra/Quagga Mussels Encrust Any Hard Surface

Zebra mussels on a beer can



Zebra mussels on a fishing lure

Zebra Mussels / Quagga Mussels

What are they?

Two closely-related, invasive freshwater bivalve (mollusk) species that encrust hard surfaces.

Where do they come from?

Black and Caspian Sea Drainages in Eurasia.

What size are they?

From microscopic up to about 2 inches long, and usually found in clusters.

Why "zebra" mussels?

Both species are sometimes commonly referred to as "zebra" mussels because they both have light and dark alternating stripes. Quagga mussels are actually a separate (but similar) species named after an extinct animal related to zebras.