



Prevent the Spread of Zebra Mussels

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

1. Inspect and clean your boat after removing it from the water and away from the launch ramp.
2. Thoroughly inspect all exposed surfaces on your vessel and trailer. If you find any mussels, scrape them off and kill them by crushing them. Dispose of the remains in the trash.
3. Remove all plants and mud from your boat, trailer, and all equipment. Dispose of all material in the trash.
4. Empty and dry all buckets and dispose of all bait in trash receptacles before you leave. Do not take bait home, or leave it on the ground or dump it in any waterway.
5. Carefully feel your boat's hull for any rough or gritty spots, which may be young mussels that have settled on your vessel and cannot be seen. Microscopic Quagga/Zebra mussels will feel like sandpaper.
6. Away from the waterway, drain all water from your boat (pull all plugs) and dry all areas, including the motor, motor cooling system, live wells, ballast tanks, bladders, bilges, and lower outboard units.
7. Keep your watercraft dry for at least 1 week (during hot, dry weather) and up to 4 weeks (during cool, wet weather) before launching into any freshwater lake or pond. Drying is the only way to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.
8. Thoroughly clean all fishing and recreational equipment (fishing nets, etc).

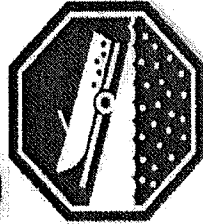
9. Inspect, clean and dry all life jackets, water skis or other items that have been in the water, including anchors, ropes, etc.

10. Clean and dry personal belongings, clothing, and footwear that have come in contact with the water.

11. Wash, dry, and brush pets that have been in the water.

12. Divers - thoroughly clean all regulators, BCDs, wetsuits, and any other dive gear, making sure to clean both the inside and outside of the BCD. Use a commercially available dive equipment cleaning compound that contains ammonia, vinegar, or chlorine. Allow gear, suit, and other equipment to dry before diving in different waters (veligers can survive on a wetsuit if left damp).

13. If you can't keep your watercraft dry, wash your boat's hull, trailer, equipment, bilge, and any other exposed surfaces. High-pressure, hot water will help to *reduce* the spread. A household bleach solution ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup bleach per 2 cups water) must be used to prevent the spread.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

To report a sighting or for more information:

MassDCR Lakes and Ponds Program

(617) 626-4975

www.mass.gov/lakesandponds



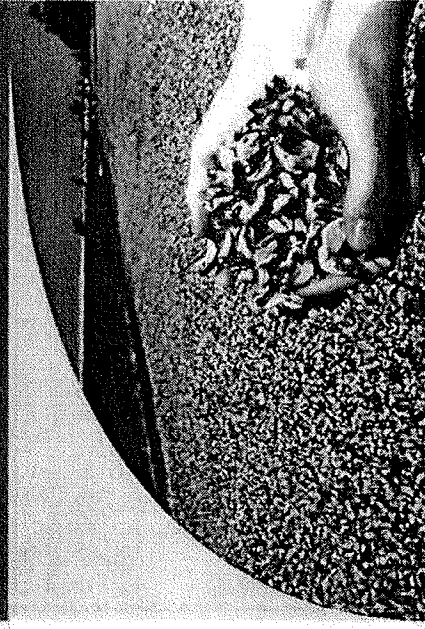
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Massachusetts



COLAP
Massachusetts Congress of
Lakes and Pond Associations, Inc.

LAPA-West

dcr Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Program



Stop the Spread of

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Dreissena polymorpha
An Invasive Mussel

What are Zebra Mussels?

Massachusetts' lakes, ponds, and streams are a valuable resource for boating, swimming, fishing, and numerous other types of recreation. These water bodies also provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife, including a number of popular sport fish species. Unfortunately, the looming invasion of our waters by exotic mussels threatens to damage these resources.

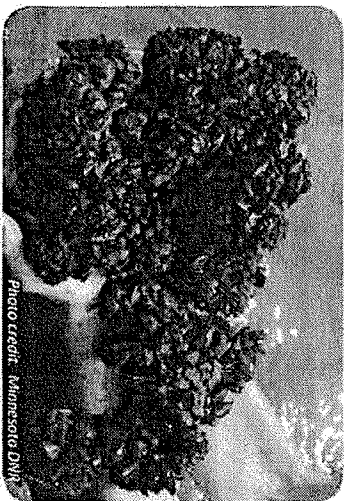


The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) has extended its range in the Northeast in recent years and is now found as close as Twin Lakes in Salisbury, Connecticut, the Hudson River and Lake George in New York, and several lakes in Vermont, including Lake Champlain.

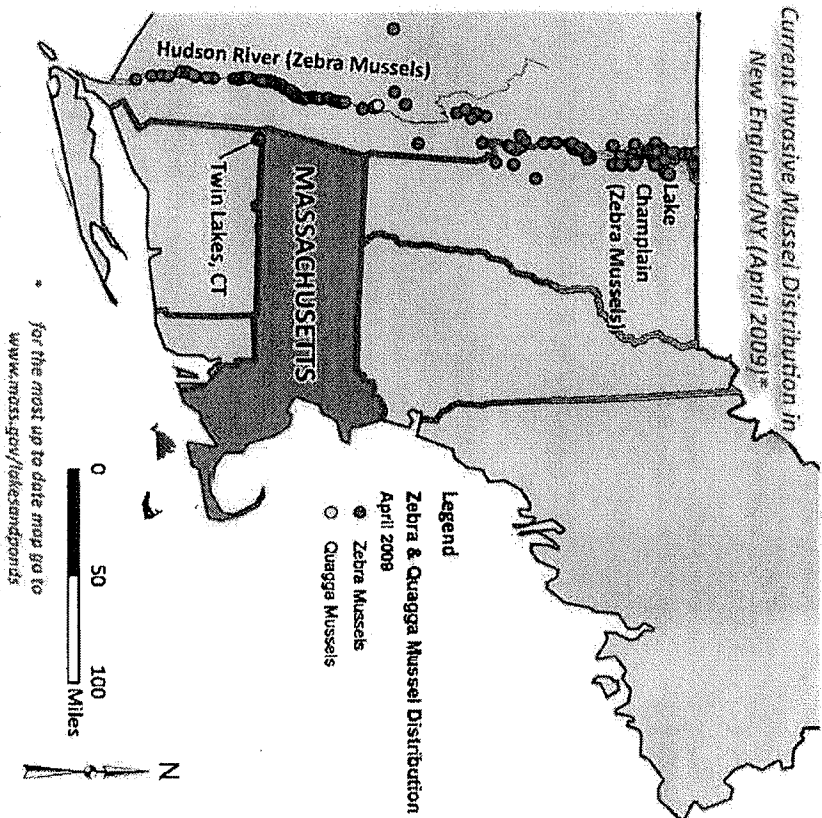


The similar but more aggressive quagga mussel (*D. bugensis*) is rapidly expanding its range and has been found as close as the Mohawk-Hudson River confluence.

Boaters should use extreme caution before launching their boats in Massachusetts waterbodies. If you have been boating in New York, Vermont, or Connecticut it is especially important that you thoroughly inspect and wash your boat and other equipment following the guidelines in this brochure.



Current Invasive Mussel Distribution in New England/NY (April 2009)*



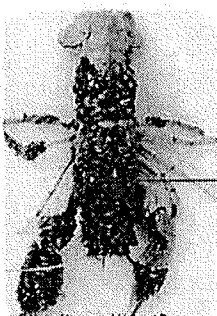
Why should you be concerned about Zebra Mussels?

Zebra and quagga mussels are some of the most ecologically and economically damaging aquatic organisms to invade the United States. Their destructive power lies in their sheer numbers and ability to attach to solid objects – water intake pipes, propellers, boat hulls, dock pilings, submerged rocks and even other aquatic animals.

- Native mussels, fish and wildlife are threatened. Zebra and quagga mussels consume available food and alter the ecology of infested waters. They are a direct threat to native mussels, accumulating on their shells in sufficient numbers to smother their hosts. In infested waters, they can wash up on beaches, covering them with thousands of broken sharp shells.
- Boat engines can be ruined by zebra and quagga mussels growing in the cooling system intakes and blocking water flow. They can also jam steering equipment.



Photo credit: Michigan Sea Grant Archives



Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

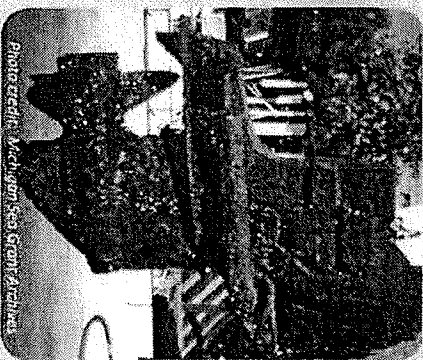


Photo credit: Michigan Sea Grant Archives

BOATERS MUST FILL OUT THIS
CLEAN BOAT CERTIFICATION
BEFORE LAUNCHING THEIR BOAT*



WHY IS THIS REQUIRED?

- Zebra Mussels are an Aquatic Invasive Species that can spread rapidly due to their biology and can significantly alter the ecology of a water body and attach themselves to boats hulls and propellers, dock pilings, water intake pipes and aquatic animals. In July 2009 Zebra Mussels were discovered for the first time in Massachusetts, in Laurel Lake in Lee/Lenox.
- WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD BY FILLING OUT THIS FORM. FAILURE TO SELF CERTIFY IS A VIOLATION OF 320 CMR 2.00, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO A FINE AND PENALTIES.

**This self certification form is required for use of state boat ramps at water bodies located in the Hoosic and Housatonic watersheds.*

BOATERS MUST SELF CERTIFY BEFORE
LAUNCHING

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. In the last 30 days, has your boat been used in any of the following waters, all likely affected by zebra or quagga mussels:

1. Laurel Lake, Lee/Lenox, Massachusetts
Yes ☐ No ☐

2. East/West Twin Lakes, Connecticut
Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Lake Champlain, Vermont
Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Lake George, New York
Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Hudson River, New York
Yes ☐ No ☐

6. Any of the Great Lakes
Yes ☐ No ☐

If you answered "No" to all questions in Section A, and to the best of your knowledge your boat is free of all other aquatic invasive species, sign this form on the reverse side and launch your boat.

If you answered "Yes" to any of the questions in Section A above, please see the reverse side of this form.

If you answered "Yes" to any question in Section A, DECONTAMINATE as described below.

B. DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

B1. SELF DECONTAMINATION

CLEAN all plants, fish, mussels and mud from boat
Yes ____ No ____

DRAIN all water (bilge, livewells, motor)
Yes ____ No ____

DRY (at least one week in hot/dry weather; at least 18 days in cool/wet weather)
Yes ____ No ____

IF YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR WATERCRAFT DRY,

WASH your boat's hull, trailer, equipment, and any other exposed surfaces, and the inside of your bilge area, livewell, and engine cooling system with:

- 1) High-pressure, hot water AND
- 2) Household bleach (1/2 cup per 2 cups water) OR
- 3) 100% Vinegar OR
- 4) 1% Salt Bath (as NaCl) (1/8 cup per 1 gallon water).

B2. PROFESSIONAL DECONTAMINATION

You may also use a professional car wash, provided it can apply scalding water (140 degree F) to wash your boat and trailer and to flush your bilge, livewells and motor.

Commercial Wash Company Agent Signature Date

PLACE THIS SIDE OF CERTIFICATE
FACING UP ON YOUR DASHBOARD

SIGN A NEW LINE BELOW FOR EACH VISIT

CERTIFICATE OF DECONTAMINATION

My boat is clean and I have not put it in any waters listed in Section A; or
I have decontaminated my boat and trailer as outlined in Section B1 or B2.

Circle one: → Self Decontamination Professional Decontamination

Sign and Date →
Boater's signature and date (not valid unless signed and dated)

CERTIFICATE OF DECONTAMINATION

My boat is clean and I have not put it in any waters listed in Section A; or
I have decontaminated my boat and trailer as outlined in Section B1 or B2.

Circle one: → Self Decontamination Professional Decontamination

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