



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## Follow these simple steps:

### ✓ Clean

Remove all plants, animals, mud and thoroughly wash everything, especially all crevices and other hidden areas.

### ✓ Drain

Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.

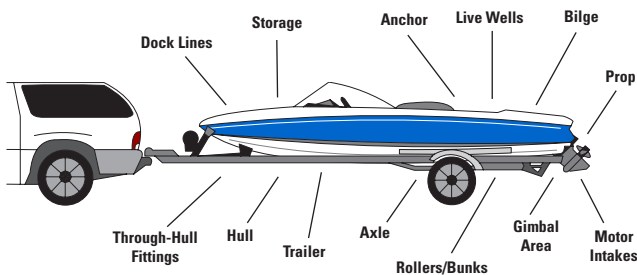
### ✓ Dry

Allow sufficient time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.

If your boat has been in infested waters for an extended period of time, or if you cannot perform the required steps above, you should have your boat *professionally* cleaned with high-pressure scalding hot water (>140 °F) before transporting to any body of water.

Before launching and before leaving...

## Inspect everything!



Quagga mussels encrusting a boat motor



Zebra and quagga mussels are a nuisance for anglers and boaters. They can ruin your equipment, clog motor cooling systems, foul hulls, and jam the centerboard wells under sailboats.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative



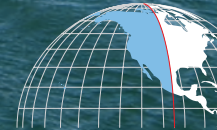
Please report any sighting by calling our National Hotline:

# 1-877-STOP-ANS

1-877-786-7267



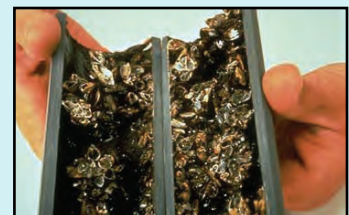
100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative



**Image Credits:** Zebra Mussels on a Fishing Lure by Marc Murrell, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks • Zebra Mussels, Zebra Mussels on a Beer Can, Zebra Mussels on a Native Mussel, Bait Bucket, Quagga Mussels, Zebra/Quagga Mussel Distribution January 2009 by David Britton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • Zebra Mussels in a Cut-Away Pipe by Don Schlosser, Great Lakes Science Center • Zebra Mussels in a Pipe by Craig Czamecki, Michigan Sea Grant • Quagga Mussels Encrusting a Boat Motor by Matt Watson, The University of Texas at Arlington • The distribution map is based on data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program (<http://nas.er.usgs.gov>).

## Invasive Mussels: Expensive Damage!

When zebra and/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, you do not want these mussels.



Zebra mussels in a cut-away pipe



Zebra mussels blocking a pipe

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

Once a boat has been in infested waters, it could carry invasive mussels. These mussels can spread to new habitats on boats trailered by commercial haulers or the public. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and aquatic plants carried by boats. These mussels also commonly attach to bait buckets and other aquatic recreational equipment. An adult female zebra mussel can release up to a million eggs in a year. Please take precautions outlined in this brochure to help reduce the chance that zebra or quagga mussels will spread from your boat or equipment to uninfested areas.



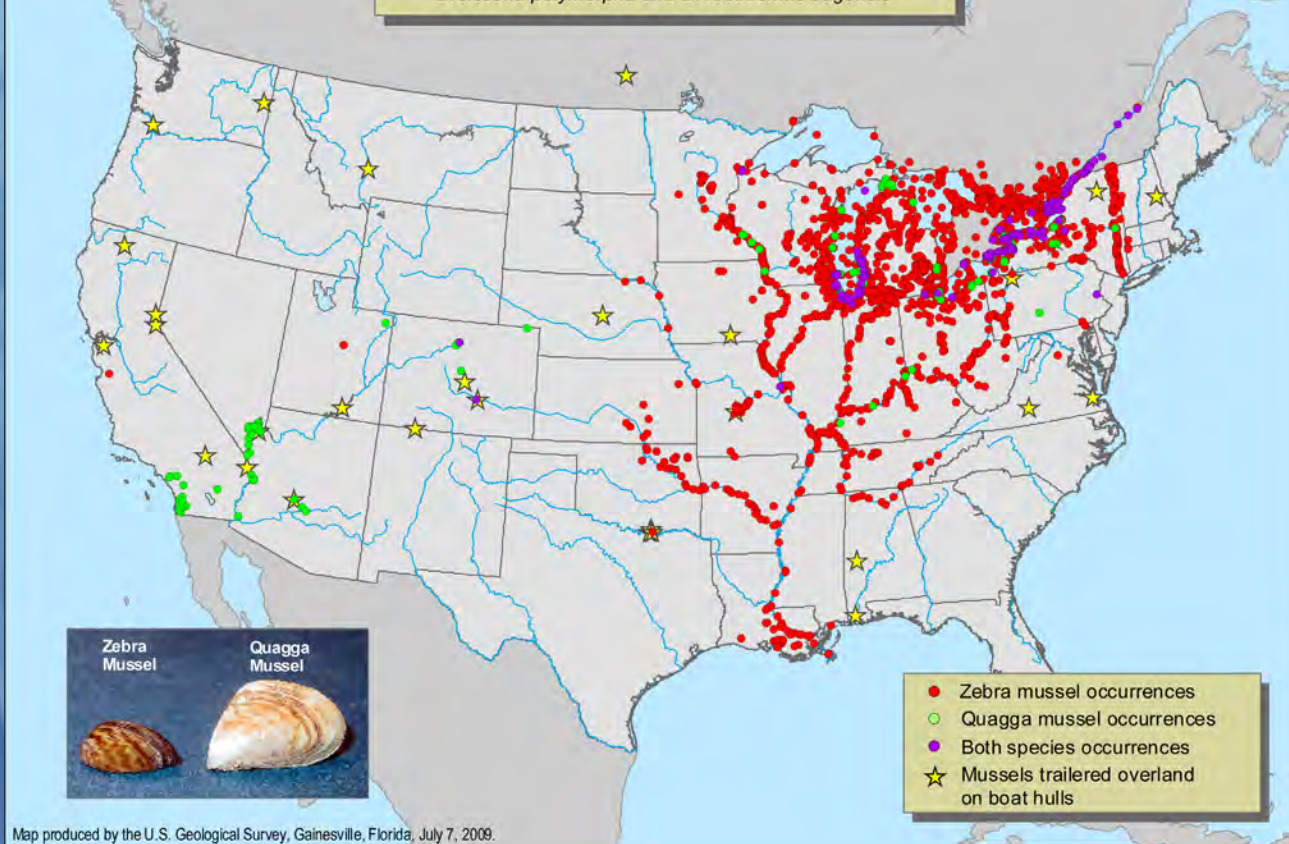
Before zebra mussels



After zebra mussels



### Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution *Dreissena polymorpha* and *D. rostriformis bugensis*



- Zebra mussel occurrences
- Quagga mussel occurrences
- Both species occurrences
- ★ Mussels trailered overland on boat hulls

Map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, Florida, July 7, 2009.

### Zebra/Quagga Mussels Harm Native Aquatic Life



Zebra mussels on a crayfish

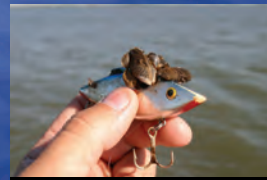


Zebra mussels on a native mussel

### 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?

Both are closely related, invasive, freshwater bivalve (mollusk) species that encrust hard surfaces.

### Where do they come from?

These species came from the Black and Caspian Sea Drainages in Eurasia.

### What size are they?

Larvae are microscopic and adults may be up to two inches long. They are usually found in clusters.

### Why "Zebra" mussels?

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