

STOP

The Invasion



Photos courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Zebra and Quagga Mussel

Dreissena polymorpha and *Dreissena bugensis*

Report Sightings

1-877-9-INFEST
InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov



What are they?

Zebra and quagga mussels are freshwater mollusks that colonizes lakes and rivers. Their preferred habitats include the calm waters upstream of dams. They are most abundant on hard, particularly rocky surfaces.

Are they here yet?

No, but they are only a day's drive away. They attach themselves to boats, so if someone uses a boat in an infected lake and then launches the boat in Washington waters, they could be introduced here. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has an early detection program, but everyone's help is needed to spot them before they become a problem.

Why should I care?

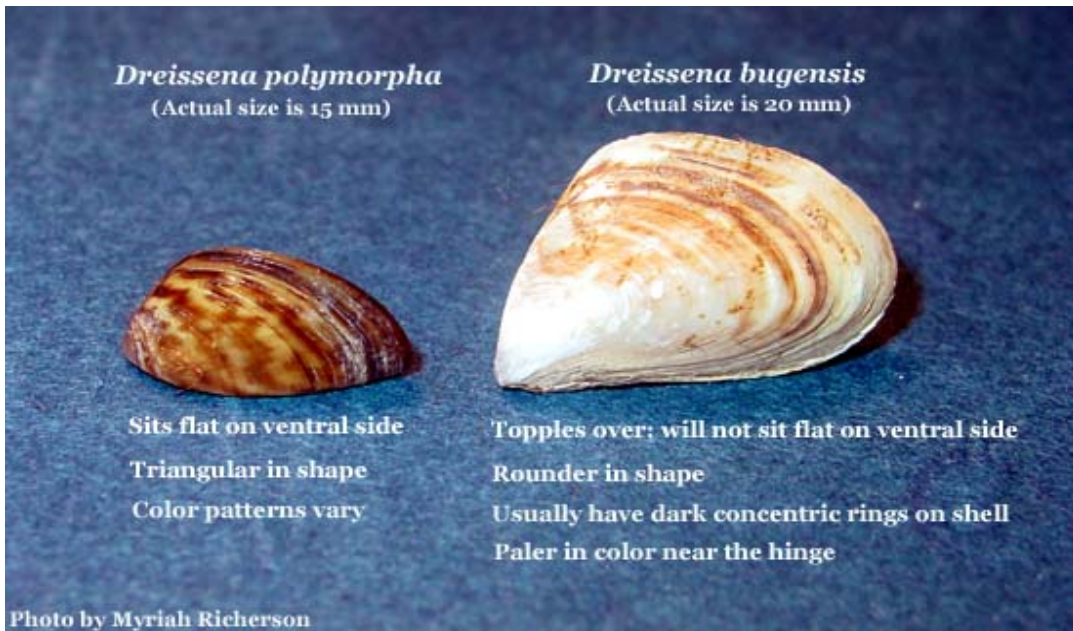
These species could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year and disrupt access to recreational and commercial opportunities on state waters. They clog water intake pipes and filters, reducing water pumping capabilities for power and water treatment plants. Once established, these mussels will change ecosystems and food sources critical to native mussels and species such as salmon and trout.

How can we stop them?

Clean, drain, and dry all watercraft and equipment before using them in another water body to prevent spreading the mussels. It is illegal to transport, possess, or release these species, and there are severe penalties for doing so.

What should I do if I find a zebra or quagga mussel?

Call: 1-877-9-INFEST or report online at www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov.



Zebra Mussel Characteristics

- Adults range from 1/8 to 2 inches in length.
- Mostly white or cream-colored with jagged brown or black stripes across the shell. Shell is D-shaped.
- Byssal threads (or ropes) are on the hinge edge of its shell. These threads are unique to zebra and quagga mussels and are not found on native mussels.

Quagga Mussel Characteristics

- Shell is normally striped, as is that of the zebra mussel.
- Byssal threads (or ropes) are on the hinge edge of its shell.
- The adults are slightly larger than the zebra mussels. They can be up to 0.8 inch wide and more than 2 inches in length.
- Shell is more rounded (fan shaped with pointed edges at either side) on the hinge edge than zebra mussel shells. If you place a shell with its hinge edge on a table, the shell will roll off of the hinge.
- The shells of the quagga mussels are thinner and lighter when they live on soft surfaces, and thicker and heavier when they live on hard or rocky surfaces.

For More Information, Visit

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/index.htm>

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/index.html>

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

<http://100thmeridian.org/>

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