Zebra & Quagga Mussels—Quick Facts

Zebra and quagga mussels are two types of aquatic invasive species. They are not native to Canada, do not have any natural predators, are highly adaptable, and reproduce prolifically. They spread mostly by travelling on boats and related water gear, and once they are in a water body there are currently no effective control options. They have a dramatic impact on the ecosystem, by altering the aquatic environment, as well as recreation and economic impacts.

Two very similar species, but quagga mussels are slightly larger in size. Quagga mussels tolerate colder, deeper water than zebra mussels; however, both species would be able to survive in Saskatchewan lakes. Once introduced and established, they spread rapidly. An individual female can produce up to 1 million eggs per year .

Zebra and quagga mussels need to settle onto a firm substrate, then will begin to attach to each other. Filaments are used to attach, and they have demonstrated the ability to dissolve these attachment filaments to move and reattach elsewhere.

They prefer water with calcium in it, and there is sufficient calcium for their survival in most Saskatchewan lakes.

Zebra and quagga mussels native to the Black and Baltic Seas.

The timeline of zebra mussels in North America:

- entered the Great Lakes in 1988 at Lake Erie
- By 1990, they were moving downstream to major ports
- By 1992, they were found in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and inland infestations were found
- By 2008, they were found in Colorado
- In 2013, zebra mussels were found in Lake Winnipeg
- By 2014, zebra and quagga mussels were found in more than 30 US states
- In 2015, zebra mussel larva were found in Cedar Lake
- Have <u>NOT</u> been detected in SK, AB, YK, NWT, or BC waters. However, during inspections in Alberta in 2015, it has been reported that 11 boats were found with mussels on them. These boats had entered Alberta from the east. In 2014, Alberta inspections found 3 boats with mussels on them.

Native mussels are much larger, do not have filaments to attach, and prefer the sandy lake bottom.

CLEAN

Remove all visible plants, animals, and mud.

Pressure wash with **hot** water away from storm drains, ditches and waterways.

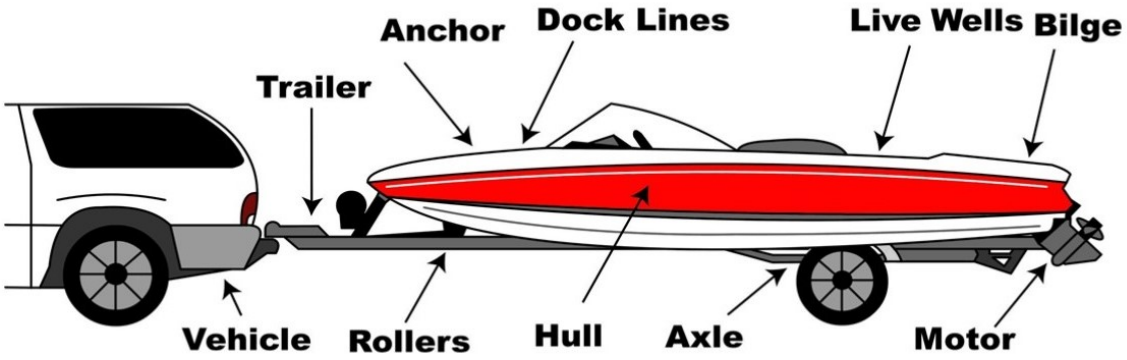
DRAIN

Drain all water from the boat and remove all plugs while transporting your boat.

DRY

Your watercraft and all related gear – completely.

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



The transport of watercraft overland is a major pathway for AIS spread and introduction.

Information provided by the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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