

Lake Berryessa Invasive Mussel Inspection Protocol

What Do I Have to Do to Launch at Lake Berryessa?

Boaters visiting Lake Berryessa must comply with a screening and inspection protocol. Boaters will be asked questions by concessionaire staff, Reclamation staff or Partnership Interns, and their boats are subject to inspection. Boats coming from an infested waterbody that have not been decontaminated and dry for 30 days **will not be allowed to launch**.

How Do I Know What Waterbodies are Infested?

A list of infested waterbodies can be found at:

http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous_Species/Zebra_mussel_distribution/zebra_mussel_distribution.html

What Should I Do if I Have Been to an Infested Waterbody?

- **Remove the boat from the water and away from the launch ramp** for vessel inspection and cleaning.
- **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 appropriately. Alert the California Department of Fish & Wildlife at 866-440-9530.
- **Remove all plants and mud** from your boat, trailer and equipment. Dispose of all material in the appropriate container. Caution must be used to prevent material from entering uninfected waters.
- **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.
- **Away from the waterway, wash your boat's hull,** trailer, equipment, bilge and any other exposed surfaces with high-pressure hot water. Water at a temperature of 140° F (60° C) at the hull – or about 155° (68° C) at the nozzle – will kill the mussels. Dry all surfaces after cleaning.
- **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. Make sure life jackets, water skis, fishing gear, recreation equipment or other items that have been in the water (including anchors, ropes, etc.) are inspected, cleaned and dried.
- **Empty and dry all buckets** and **dispose of all bait** in trash receptacles before you leave. Do not take bait home, leave it on the ground or dump it in any waterway.

- **Clean and dry personal belongings, clothing and footwear** that have come in contact with the water.
- **Wash, dry and brush pets** that have been in the water.
- **Keep your watercraft dry for up to 30 days** before launching into fresh water.

Where Did the Mussels Come From?

Zebra mussels, a native species of Eastern Europe, were first introduced to the United States through ballast water released into the Great Lakes in the late-1980s. Quagga mussels soon followed. Great effort has been made to prevent the spread of these fresh-water mollusks west of the 100th Meridian. In January 2007, Quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead and later in other reservoirs of the Lower Colorado River. In January 2008, Zebra mussels were discovered in San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County, California. The spread of the mussels to additional California waters will seriously impact the state's aquatic environment and water delivery systems, endangering recreational boating and fishing.

What Do the Mussels Look Like?



What's the Big Deal?

Invasive mussels are devastating to an ecosystem once introduced. Mussels can cause the following problems once in the waterbody:

- Increase in harmful algal blooms
- Displace native species and decrease gamefish populations through food web disruption
- Litter beaches with sharp shells
- Attach to boats and watercraft, clog cooling systems and affect engine functions
- Clog intakes to water systems causing increased maintenance and treatment which can lead to higher water rates.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

Please contact Jason Jordan, Natural Resource Specialist for the Bureau of Reclamation's Lake Berryessa Field Office, for questions or more information at 707-966-2111 ext. 143 or email [jjordan@usbr.gov](mailto:jgjordan@usbr.gov).