

DON'T PICK UP HITCHHIKERS!

STOP THE ZEBRA MUSSEL

Zebra and "quagga" mussels, black and white striped clam-like mollusks, clog power plant, industrial, and drinking water intakes, foul boat hulls, encrust historic shipwrecks, and disrupt ecosystems. Economic impacts may reach billions of dollars.

Adult mussels can live several days to a week out of water in moist, shaded areas. The mussels may be accidentally carried from infested waters to uninfested waters on trailered boats.

Boats in infested waters for 1 or 2 days may transport mussels on their hulls if the boat has rubbed against a mussel-covered surface. Juvenile mussels can hitchhike on aquatic weeds snagged on engine drive units, propellers and boat trailers. Larvae can be carried in water in live wells, bait buckets, and even engine cooling water systems. Boats that have spent more than 2 days in infested waters may carry such hitchhikers attached to hulls, engine drive units, propellers, anchor chains, or other areas that were wet for a long time.

You can help slow the mussel's spread, protect the environment of your favorite waterbodies, and protect your own equipment, by observing the following recommended measures when transporting your boat from infested waters. Simply follow the steps in the table on the inside of this brochure.

DRAIN

Drain all bilge water, live wells, bait buckets, and other water from your boat, engine and equipment. Dump leftover bait into the garbage at the infested waterbody - live bait should not be taken from infested to uninfested waters.

INSPECT

At the ramp, thoroughly inspect your boat's hull, drive unit, trim and trolling plates, prop guards, transducers, anchor and anchor rope, and trailer. Scrape off and trash any suspected mussels. Remove all hitchhiking water weeds.

WASH

After boating, flush the hull, drive unit, live wells & pump system, bilge, trailer, bait bucket, engine cooling system, and other parts that have gotten wet using a hard spray from a garden hose. If the boat was in infested waters for a long period of time, use HOT water or tow the boat through a do-it-yourself carwash. Do not use chlorine bleach or environmentally unsound solutions. Wash water should not drain to uninfested waters or storm sewers leading to uninfested waters.

DRY

Dry boats and trailers in the sun for 5 days before launching into uninfested waters.



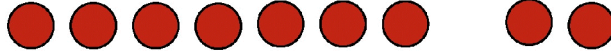
New York Sea Grant is a university-based research and extension education program administered by the State University of New York and Cornell University and Supported by SUNY, Cornell, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



● All Vessels
 ● Short-term (in water < 2 days)
 ● Long-term (in water > 2 days)

Hull Drive Unit Prop/Guard Trim/Trolling Tab Anchor Rope/Chain Bilge Live Well Bait Bucket Trailer Engine/Cooling

Inspect



Drain



Remove Plants



Cold Wash



Hot Wash



For more information on zebra mussels:

National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse
 New York Sea Grant
 State University College
 Brockport, NY 14420
 (585) 395-2516 or (800) 285-2285

www.aquaticinvaders.org