The 100th Meridian Initiative

to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels

www.100thmeridian.org

ZAP THE ZEBRA

TO STOP THE SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSE

please report any sightings by calling

In the west: 800-437-2744

In the east: 877-786-7267

The zebra mussel:

- ***Damages*** boat engines.
- ***Threatens*** native mussels, fish and wildlife by consuming available food and smothering native mussels and crawfish.
- ***Costs taxpayers*** millions of dollars by clogging power plant and public water intakes and pipes (see below).

YOU CAN ZAP THE ZEBRA MUSSEL AND STOP ITS WESTWARD SPREAD BY NOT MOVING WATER, PLANTS, OR ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM ONE WATERWAY TO ANOTHER.

Zebra mussels:

- ***Usually are the size of your fingernail,*** but can grow up to 2" (5 cm) long. (See back panel.)
- ***Commonly have*** alternating dark and light stripes.
- ***Produce young that are too small to see*** with the naked eye, but newly settled young feel like fine sandpaper on smooth boat hulls.
- ***Attach to aquatic plants*** that can get tangled on your boat, motor, and trailer.
- ***As they grow,*** can be seen on boat hulls, especially around the trim tabs, transducers, along keels, and on lower units and propellers.
- ***Can be found hiding*** in bilges, live wells and motors.

TRAILERING WEST?

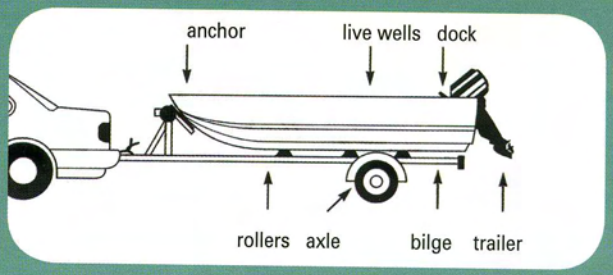
Have you checked your boat and trailer for zebra mussels?

If you have used your fishing boat, sailboat, or personal watercraft in infested waters (see map), you could spread zebra mussels. However, always take action to prevent spread whether you've boated on infested waters or not.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO ZAP THE ZEBRA!

Before launching ... Before leaving:

- ***Remove*** aquatic plants from boat, motor and trailer. Check all underwater fittings and equipment (see diagram below). Put plants in trash if possible.
- ***Drain*** lake or river water from your equipment including the motor, bilges, live wells, bait buckets, and coolers.
- ***Dispose*** of unwanted live bait on shore or in trash.
- ***Rinse*** boat and equipment with high pressure or hot water, especially if moored for more than a day, or ***Dry*** everything for at least 5 days.



For personal watercraft:

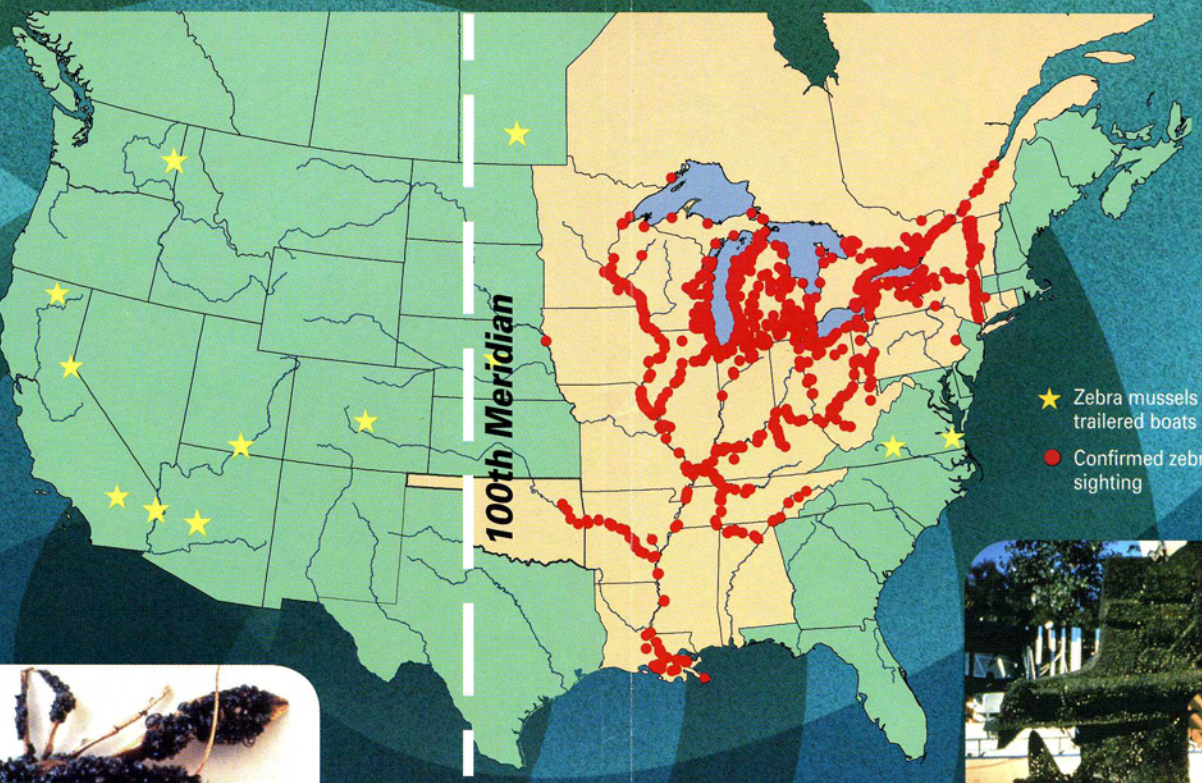
Impeller areas can contain zebra mussels and aquatic plants. Once upon the trailer, run the engine for 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water, zebra mussels, and plants. Before leaving water access, inspect and remove any zebra mussels or plants from intake, steering nozzle, hull, and trailer.

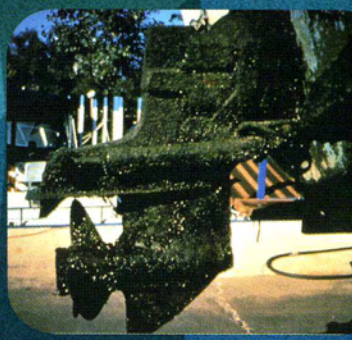
Protect Your Property and Our Water Resources

Since their introduction to the Great Lakes in 1986 in ships' ballast water, zebra mussels have quickly spread and are now found in areas of at least twenty States and two Canadian Provinces.

The primary way zebra mussels can spread westward is on boats trailered by the public or commercial haulers. Zebra mussels can spread on bo hulls, in water (as microscopic larvae), and on aquatic plants. If your boat has been in infested waters for more than one day, it could be carrying zebra mussels A female can release up to one million eggs each season so transporting just one zebra mussel can spel trouble for western waters and your boat!

2002 Map





To prevent further spread of zebra mussels, a comprehensive prevention partnership called the *"The 100th Meridian Initiative"* including State and Federal agencies, private industries, and user groups has been developed. Among other components of the Initiative, voluntary boat checks are available in the six States and Manitoba that straddle the 100th Meridian (100° longitude.) Contact your State resource agency about the 100th Meridian Initiative and local efforts to prevent the spread of zebra mussels by boats.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Zebra mussels are bad news for boaters. They can:

- ***Ruin your engine*** by blocking the cooling system — causing overheating.
- ***Increase drag*** on the bottom of your boat, reducing speed and wasting fuel.
- ***Jam steering equipment*** on boats.
- ***Require scraping and repainting*** of boat bottoms.
- ***Overwhelm local waters*** and cover beaches with thousands of broken shells with sharp edges — making these areas unpleasant and smelly!

IF YOU SEE A ZEBRA MUSSEL, please call
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In the east: 877-786-7267

By taking the steps outlined in this brochure, you can stop the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invaders that have been introduced into our waters and harm native plants and animals. Protect your property and our waters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-STOP-ANS (1-877-786-7267)
ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB http://ANSTaskForce.gov

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION CRIME WITNESS 1-800-437-2744

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

CLEAN WATER TRUST

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT: BOAT/U.S. Clean Water Trust • **DESIGN:** ION Media DC • **ILLUSTRATION:** Steve Raskin and Rob Myers • **PHOTOS**: ***Weeds on Boat Trailer*** - Ladd Johnson, NOAA/Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory • ***Crayfish*** - GLSGN Exotic Species Laboratory, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources • ***Mussels on Engine*** - Steve Krynock • ***Cutaway of Pipe*** - Don Schloesser, Great Lakes Science Center, National Biological Service • ***Zebra Mussels with Pencil*** - Michel Istaphanous • **MAP**: U.S. Geological Survey, revised 2002 • **TRAILER DIAGRAM:** Minnesota DNR