

## Have you checked your boat and trailer for zebra mussels?

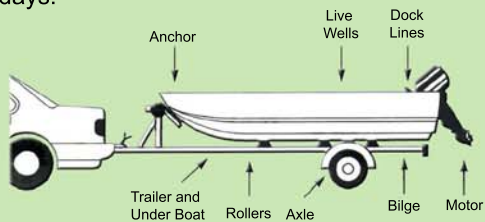
If you have used your fishing boat, sailboat, or personal watercraft in infested waters (see map), you could spread zebra mussels. However, always take action to prevent spread whether you've boated on infested waters or not.

**TRAILERING WEST?**

**Zebra mussels are listed as injurious wildlife under the Federal Lacey Act, which prohibits importation and transport across state lines.**

### 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, but do not release live bait into the water. Please dispose in trash.
- ✦ **Rinse** boat and equipment with high pressure water (hot water > 140 °F preferred), especially if moored for more than a day, or **Dry** everything for at least 5 days.



### For personal watercraft:

- ✦ **Flush** the engine - run the engine for 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water.
- ✦ **Inspect** intake, steering nozzle, hull, and trailer.

**Protect Your Property and Our Freshwater Resources**

## Zebra mussels are bad news for freshwater 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** on boats
- ✦ **Overwhelm local waters** and cover beaches with thousands of broken shells with sharp edges -- making these areas unpleasant and smelly!

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

**IF YOU SEE A ZEBRA MUSSEL in Western Waters, please call 1-800-437-2744**



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-STOP-ANS (1-877-786-7267)  
WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://100thMeridian.org>**



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 Schlosser, Great Lakes Science Center, National Biological Service • Zebra Mussels with Pencil - Michel Istaphanous • MAP: The University of Texas at Arlington based on U.S. Geological Survey 2004 Data • TRAILER DIAGRAM: Minnesota DNR

## 100th Meridian Initiative

To prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels

**ZAP THE ZEBRA**  
[www.100thMeridian.org](http://www.100thMeridian.org)

**TO STOP THE SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSELS  
please report any sightings by calling  
the National Hotline:**

**1-877-STOP-ANS**

(1-877-786-7267)

# The Zebra Mussel:

- ✦ Damages boat engines
- ✦ Threatens native, freshwater mussels, fish and wildlife by outcompeting native species for food and oxygen
- ✦ Costs millions of dollars by clogging power plant and public water intakes and pipes (see below). Guess who pays for this... YOU do in increased utility bills!



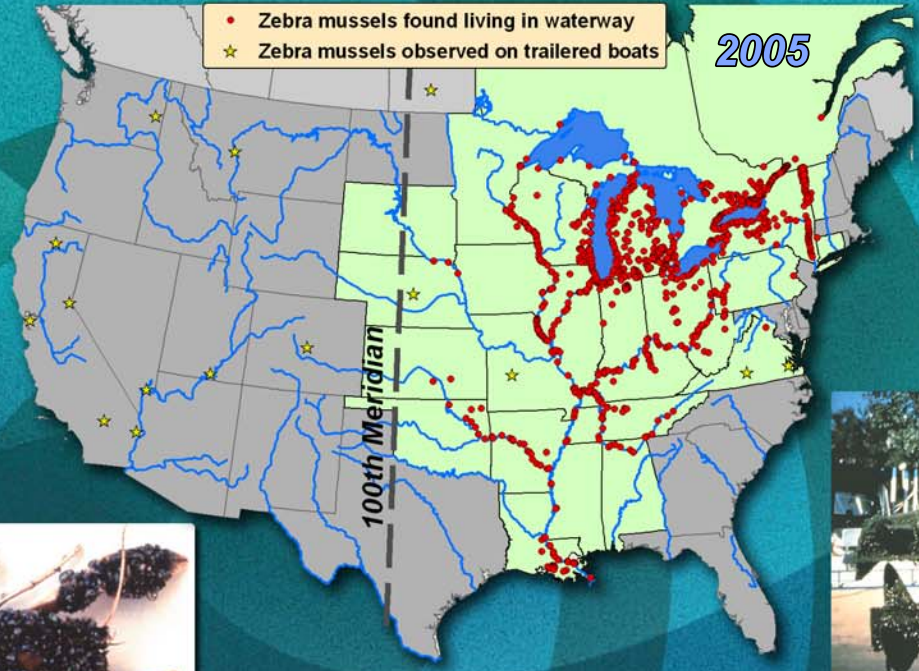
**YOU CAN ZAP THE ZEBRA MUSSEL AND STOP ITS WESTWARD SPREAD BY NOT MOVING WATER, PLANTS, OR ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM ONE WATERWAY TO ANOTHER.**

## Freshwater Zebra Mussels:

- ✦ Usually are the size of your fingernail, but can grow up to two inches (5 cm) long
- ✦ Commonly have alternating dark and light stripes
- ✦ Produce tiny young too small to see. Newly settled young feel like fine sandpaper on smooth boat hulls. But, larvae are undetectable and can be in any water that you take with you
- ✦ 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

Zebra Mussels originally came from the Black and Caspian Sea Drainages and were unintentionally introduced from ships' ballast water into the Great Lakes in 1986. Since then, Zebra Mussels have quickly spread and are now found in at least 22 of the United States and two Canadian Provinces.

If your boat has been in infested waters, it could be carrying Zebra Mussels. The primary way Zebra Mussels can spread westward is on boats trailered by the public or commercial haulers. Zebra Mussels attach to boats and to aquatic plants carried by boats. You could unintentionally transport microscopic Zebra Mussel larvae (veligers) in water. An adult female can release up to one million eggs each season.



To prevent further spread of Zebra Mussels, a comprehensive prevention partnership called "The 100th Meridian Initiative" including state and federal agencies, private industries, and user groups has been developed. Among other components of this Initiative, voluntary boat checks are available in the six states and Manitoba that straddle the 100th meridian (100° longitude). Contact your state's natural resources agency, watercraft, or wildlife department about the 100th Meridian Initiative and local efforts to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels by boats.

**Zebra Mussels live in Freshwater!**  
They are the only freshwater bivalves in North America that encrust hard surfaces.

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)