

## INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET



Quagga Mussel

**Common name:** Quagga Mussel and Zebra Mussel

**Family:** *Bivalvia*

**Order:** *Veneroida*

**Class:** *Dreissenidae*

**Species:** *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis* and  
*Dreissena polymorpha*

**Origin:** Native to the Caspian and Black Sea of Eastern Europe.

**Size:** Usually an inch or less, but range from microscopic to two inches long.

**Description:**

Zebra and quagga mussels have a dark and white zebra-like pattern on their shells.

- Zebra mussels are "D" shaped and have a thicker shell.
- Quagga mussels are a more typical clam shape and have thinner shells.



Zebra Mussel

**Ecology:**

- Quagga mussels and zebra mussels are small, freshwater mollusks.
- As filter feeders, they remove food and nutrients from the water very efficiently, leaving little or nothing for native aquatic species. One quagga or zebra mussel can filter up to one liter of water per day.
- They colonize fresh water by forming dense mats, altering the ecosystem.
- These mussels reproduce rapidly.

**Status:** Prohibited in Oregon.

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Interesting Facts:** These mussels attach to most surfaces via hair-like threads.

**Impact:**

- These species clog intake pipes of power plants, water and irrigation systems.
- They ruin boat motors, due to overheating caused by clogging water intake.
- Once established in a waterbody, routine maintenance is necessary and ongoing.
- They are virtually impossible to eradicate and expensive to control.
- Management costs are enormous, particularly for industrial water users like power stations and water supply agencies.
- They have the potential of collapsing entire food webs, reducing fish populations and devastating fisheries.



Zebra Mussel

**Action:**

- Stop the spread: Clean, drain and dry your boat and gear between water bodies.
- Buy a required Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit for your boat.
- Stop if you see an ODFW Boat Inspection Station at a boat ramp or roadside inspection area.
- Call 1-866-INVADER if you suspect you have seen quagga or zebra mussels.

To aid in the fight against these destructive mussels, Oregon has an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program which was established by the 2009 Oregon Legislature in an effort to keep Oregon's lakes, rivers and streams free of destructive invasive species. As part of the program, ODFW and the Oregon Marine Board manage boat inspection stations and education and outreach efforts. Oregon State Police and Oregon County Sheriffs handle enforcement of the law. The program is funded by boaters who purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit. For information about the permit, or to purchase permits online, visit the Oregon Marine Board website. Permits can also be purchased online or where fishing and hunting licenses are sold.



**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr Se  
Salem, Or 97302  
Phone (503) 947-6000  
[www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com)  
[www.odfw.com/conservationstrategy](http://www.odfw.com/conservationstrategy)

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