

Zebra and Quagga Mussels

(Dreissena polymorpha and Dresissena bugenis)

Description

- Native to the Caspian Sea.
- Freshwater mollusks that colonize lakes and rivers.
- Preferred habitats include, calm waters upstream of dams.

Zebra Mussel

- Adults range from 2-2.5 cm in length.
- Mostly white or cream-coloured with jagged brown or black stripes across the shell. Shell is D-shaped.
- Byssal threads (or ropes) are on the hinge edge of its shell. These threads are unique to zebra and quagga mussels and are not found on native mussels.

Quagga Mussel

- Shell is striped, as is that of the zebra mussel.
- Byssal threads (or ropes) are on the hinge edge of its shell.
- Adults are slightly larger than zebra mussels. They can be up to 3 cm in length.
- Shell is more rounded (fan shaped with pointed edges at either side) on the hinge edge than zebra mussel shells. Doesn't sit flat.
- The shells of the quagga mussels are thinner and lighter when they live on soft surfaces, and thicker and heavier when they live on hard or rocky surfaces.

Consequences of invasion

- Local extirpation of native mussel populations.
- Alter nutrient cycling of aquatic ecosystems. Clarify water and decrease local algal densities.
- Increases cost associated with maintaining infrastructure related to power generation, sewage and water facilities.

Integrated Pest Management Options

- Prevention is key!
- Clean-Drain-Dry your boat when moving between bodies of water.

More information available:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: www.wdfw.wa
Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program: www.invadingspecies.com
100th Meridian Initiative: www.100thmeridian.org

WEED ALERT!



**PLEASE REPORT
THIS SPECIES!**



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(250) 352-1160**

info@ckipc.ca • www.ckipc.ca



This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

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