

IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE MUSSEL TO RUIN AN ENTIRE LAKE



THE PROBLEM WITH MUSSELS

Quagga and zebra mussels are tiny, but they pose a huge threat to Arizona's economy and environment. They form dense, destructive colonies that encrust almost any underwater surface, including Arizona's water delivery system.



POTENTIAL DAMAGE

Mussels do harm that's hard to stop. They pollute shorelines, recreation areas and the environment, destroy aquatic wildlife and ruin boats, equipment and infrastructure.



THE MOUNTING COST

Mussels reproduce quickly, they can spread to other lakes, living in the water that collects in boats and equipment and traveling with boaters to new waters. It can cost millions of dollars to control, contain and eradicate, resulting in higher utility bills and taxes.

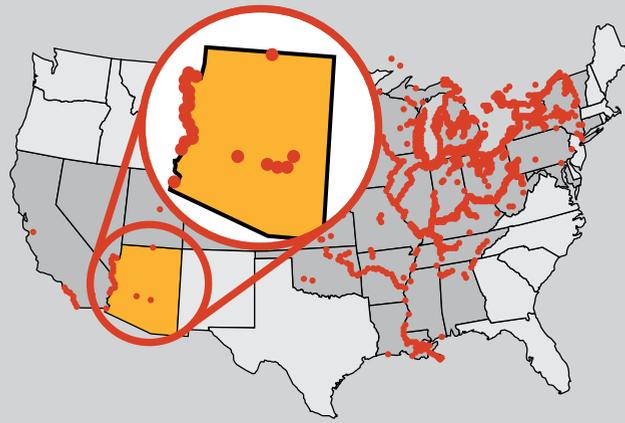


PROTECTING ARIZONA WATERS

The boating public is essential in the fight against the spread of mussels. **Clean, drain and dry your watercraft and equipment** to prevent these aquatic invaders from moving into new waters.



Check out azgfd.gov/ais for further information on quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species.



QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSEL DISTRIBUTION - 2017

Since quagga and zebra mussels were first found in the Great Lakes in the late 1980's, they have spread throughout much of the eastern United States and limited areas in the Western states. Lake Powell, Mead, Mohave, Havasu, Apache, Canyon, Saguaro and the lower Colorado River drainage, including Lake Pleasant, are now heavily infested with mussels.



PLEASE REPORT MUSSEL SIGHTINGS

Call 1-800-352-0700 (Operation Game Thief hotline) or e-mail aiscomments@azgfd.gov immediately if you see mussels on a boat in or coming into Arizona. Please note details, including vehicle license plate, boat type, registration number and mussel location.



Arizona Game and Fish Department
AZGFD.GOV/AIS

PULL THE PLUG ON MUSSELS

CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY YOUR WATERCRAFT



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Quagga and zebra mussels were first found in the Great Lakes in the late 1980's. Since then they have spread throughout much of the eastern United States.

In 2007 divers discovered quagga mussels in Lake Mead. Most likely this aquatic invasive species arrived in Arizona in 2004 or 2005, attached to a boat from back East without the owner's knowledge.

An adult female mussel can produce up to a million eggs each spawn, allowing them to spread quickly. They now threaten many areas in the West, including Arizona's rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Because mussels can get into boats and can easily attach to almost any surface in the water, they have spread across the state due to carelessness.

PULL YOUR DRAIN PLUG EVERY TIME

INSPECT AND DECONTAMINATE YOUR BOAT. IT'S THE LAW.

When leaving listed aquatic invasive species (AIS) waters in Arizona such as Lake Powell, Mead, Mohave, Havasu, Apache, Canyon, Saguaro and the lower Colorado River drainage, including Lake Pleasant, you must inspect, clean, drain and dry your boat.

IF IN WATER 5 DAYS OR LESS, FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY.



CLEAN

Remove mud, plants and animals from every part of your boat, trailer, anchor, lines and equipment. If it gets wet, it could harbor mussels.



DRAIN

Pull your drain plug every time you take your watercraft out of the water. Before you leave the recreation area, eliminate ALL water from your boat, including livewells, ballast and engine-cooling water.



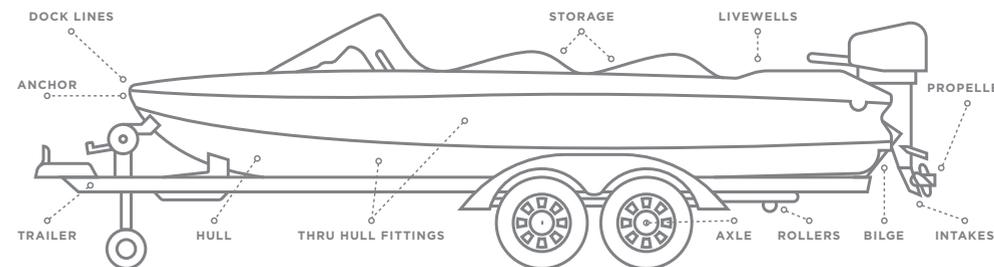
DRY

Allow time for your boat and all equipment to dry before launching in other waters. Dry time may vary depending on humidity and temperature.

IF IN WATER MORE THAN 5 DAYS, FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR DECONTAMINATING.

If your watercraft or equipment has been in AIS waters for more than five consecutive days, there is a very good chance you have live mussels attached and you must follow these additional protocols below. **Visit azgfd.gov/ais for information on how to schedule a decontamination.**

- 1 Schedule a professional decontaminator to flush engine and cooling system and any other through-hull fittings. Visit azgfd.gov/ais to find a professional decontaminator.
- 2 Prior to scheduled decontamination, remove any clinging material such as plants, animals and mud from anchor, boat, motor, equipment and trailer.
- 3 Pull the plug and drain the water from the bilge, livewell and any other compartments that could hold water. Drain water from engine and engine cooling system(s).
- 4 Physically remove all visible attached mussels from boat surfaces, motors, impellers, outdrives, rudders, anchor(s) and through-hull fittings.
- 5 Keep the boat out of the water and ensure all areas of the boat are dry, including bilge, through-hull fittings and engine, for a minimum of 18 consecutive days between November and April, or 7 consecutive days between May and October. Also, prior to transport, fill out and submit AISBIR form to AGFD at azgfd.gov/ais.



Check out azgfd.gov/ais for more information.