

# STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

## Zebra and Quagga Mussels

### Background:

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are invasive organisms that live outside of their natural geographic area. Due to lack of natural controls in their new habitats, ANS species grow exponentially posing a grave threat to ecology, commercial and recreational activities. Their financial impact can reach billions of dollars. Of several invasive species known to exist in the US, zebra and quagga mussels are the most problematic.

### Why Are Zebra & Quagga Mussels a Concern?

#### 1. They grow and reproduce rapidly:

They can multiply from a few mussels to covering a lake bottom in just a few years.



#### 2. They clog water facilities:

They attach to most underwater structures and can form dense clusters that impair facilities and impede the flow of water.



#### 3. They have significant ecological impacts:

They out compete native Species and lead to decrease in fish and other aquatic organisms due to their interference in the food chain.



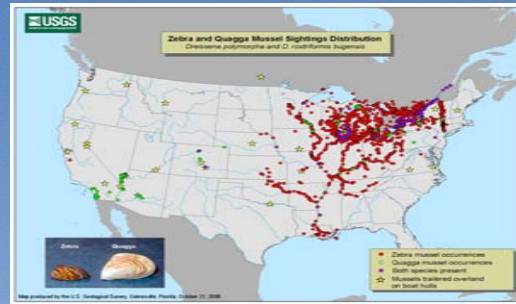
#### 4. They also spread quickly to other water bodies:

By attaching to boat hulls, anchors and trailers, the mussel larvae can be transported in bilge water, ballast water or live bait wells.



5. It is very difficult to get rid them: Eradicating or treating them in a large body of water is impossible, so prevention is very important.

### Current Distribution of zebra & Quagga mussels in the US



Colorado water bodies that are believed to be infested with ANS



Colorado State Parks and the Colorado Division of Wildlife have implemented a statewide education and inspection program. The program educates boaters and water users about Aquatic Nuisance Species and how people can stop the spread by keeping boats and trailers 'Clean, Drained and Dry.'

Boat inspection protocols have been developed and are now being implemented at lakes and reservoirs.

For more information please call:

Parks: - Rob Billerbeck at 303-866-3203 ext. 4341

CDOW: - Elizabeth Brown at 303-291-7362

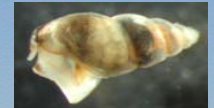
A. Eurasian water milfoil and New Zealand mud snails are other organisms on the ANS list. Eurasian water milfoil is an aquatic water plant that forms thick underwater stands and vast mats of vegetation on the surface. Near the shore, their dense growth interferes with recreation, swimming and fishing.

Distribution in Colorado:  
Boulder Creek,  
Lathrop, Chatfield,  
Rio Grande River,  
St. Vrain and few other places



B. New Zealand mud snails are rapidly spreading in the western US. This species can reach a density of more than 100,000 per square meters. Their potential impact on fisheries and on the entire ecosystems is significant.

Distribution in Colorado:  
Boulder Creek,  
South Platte River, and  
Snake River.



### How to help prevent spread of ANS!

Before moving your boat to another body of water:

- CLEAN** 🚮 Remove all plants, animals and mud. Thoroughly wash everything that comes into contact with water.
- DRAIN** 🚮 Drain all water before leaving the area, including live wells, bilge, ballast and any other areas of your boat that hold water.
- DRY** 🚮 Allow everything to completely dry before launching into another body of water.
- BAIT** 🚮 Dispose of unused live bait.
- PWC** 🚮 Personal Watercraft
  - Do not drive through aquatic plants.
  - When loading, push or winch the PWC onto the trailer without running the engine.
  - After loading, run the motor for 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water and contaminants.