

# Don't Move a Mussel!

SAVE OUR LAKE AND OUR ENVIRONMENT! PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIE.

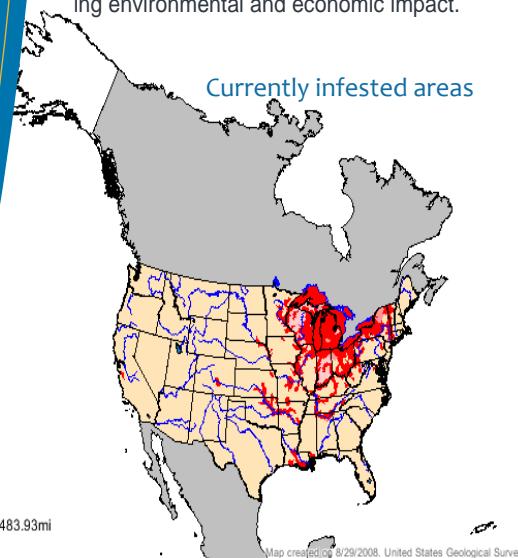
## WHAT ARE QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSELS?

Quagga and zebra mussels are destructive invasive aquatic species that grow to about an inch in diameter. They are native to freshwater rivers and lakes in Europe and Asia.



## WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT QUAGGA/ZEBRA MUSSELS IN CALIFORNIA?

They reproduce quickly and in large numbers. Once established, eradication is extremely difficult. Its introduction into our water system has devastating environmental and economic impact.



483.93mi

Map created on 8/29/2008. United States Geological Survey

## WHAT IMPACT DO THEY HAVE ON THE ECO-SYSTEM AND ECONOMY?

- They reproduce by the thousands and they take over the habitat of native mussels.
- Most people assume that because the visibility of the water improves when zebra mussels are present, the water is cleaner. Not true, the mussels have filtered out the algae which normally feeds other organisms. They alter the food chain.
- They clog power-plant and public water intakes and pipes, thus increasing our utility

## How do they spread?

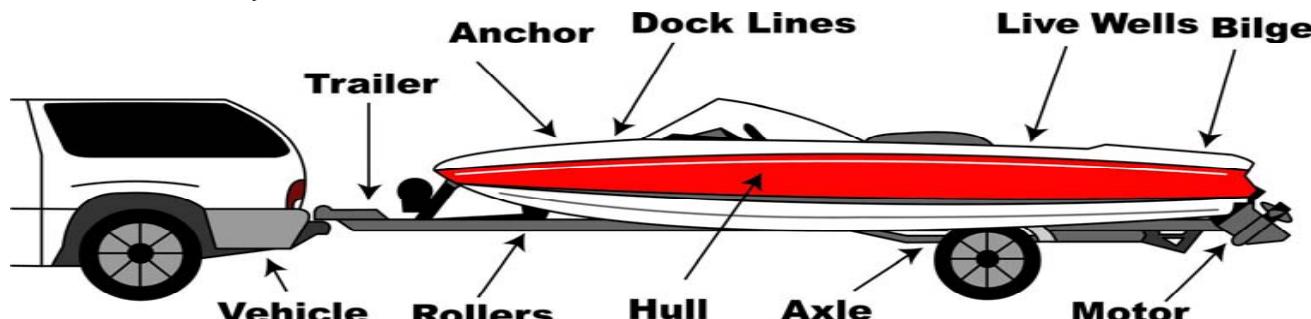
- Eggs and larvae will naturally flow downstream of established populations.
- Larvae and adults can also be transported in water carried by recreational boats, trailers and other aquatic equipment
- Adults can survive out of the water for weeks if temperatures remain cool and humidity remains high.
- Live bait water



Photo Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## WHY BOAT INSPECTIONS?

Water Crafts are potential vectors for spreading aquatic nuisance species. Boat inspections are an essential part of preventing the inadvertent transfer of alien species from one body of water to the next.



## WHERE HAVE THE MUSSELS BEEN DETECTED IN CALIFORNIA?

Quagga mussels have been detected in the Colorado River system. Any facility, reservoir, lake or stream receiving raw Colorado River has been exposed. Quagga mussels are currently found in water from the Nevada border to San Diego County. Zebra Mussels were found in San Justo Reservoir, San Benito County in January 2008. They are the only known population of Zebra mussels in the state.

## How can we prevent the additional spread?

- Cleaning recreational boats and equipment before transporting them to new waters is essential.
- Simple steps are necessary every time a boat is removed from a lake or body of water:
  - ◊ Remove all aquatic plants, animals and mud from everything that came in contact with water.
  - ◊ Drain all water, including bilges, live-wells, cooling water from motor.
  - ◊ Clean and dry everything that came in contact with water.
  - ◊ Dispose of any live bait.
- If mussels are seen attached to a boat or other recreational equipment, it must be decontaminated using special guidelines.



**City of Watsonville**  
For additional information please call  
**(831)768-3240**

Additional resources:  
[www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org)  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)  
[www.usgs.com](http://www.usgs.com)