

ATTENTION BOATERS

ZEBRA MUSSELS AND EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL ARE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES THAT MAY BE ACCIDENTALLY SPREAD BY WATERCRAFT USERS.

Once established in lakes, ponds and other freshwater environments, these non-native species can:

- ★ curb recreational use of freshwater bodies
- ★ block water flow for drainage, irrigation, and power generation
- ★ damage municipal and industrial water systems
- ★ degrade water quality and fish and wildlife habitats
- ★ displace native animals and plants.

ZEBRA MUSSEL

These non-native shellfish are usually less than an inch long, with D-shaped, brown shells that are striped. They can attach to any hard surfaces in the water, forming dense carpets of shells. Efforts to control Zebra Mussels have already cost billions of dollars in other states.



EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

Most of this plant is submersed. Its stems are reddish brown to pale pink and can grow to lengths of nine feet. Leaves are soft and feathery, about an inch long. In western Washington, lakefront property owners have already spent millions of dollars to eliminate this weed.

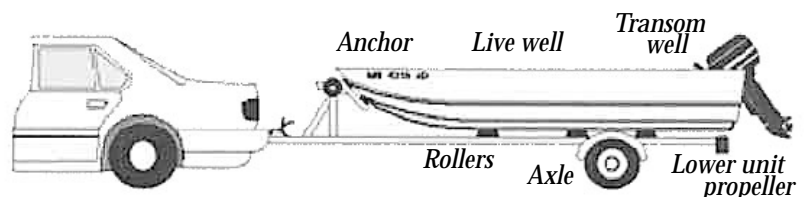


IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO TRANSPORT OR POSSESS THESE AND OTHER AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES IN WASHINGTON.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THEIR SPREAD

- ★ Remove any mussels, plants and other growth from your boat and trailer, and dispose of them on land.
- ★ Wash boats, trailers and equipment with hot water, rubbing down gritty areas or spraying with a high-pressure hose. Allow all equipment to dry between uses.
- ★ Drain all water from bilges, live wells, bait buckets and coolers, and discard excess bait on dry land.
- ★ Flush motors and engines on land— *not* in the water.
- ★ Wash all tackle before using again.

BOAT CHECK POINTS



Young Zebra Mussels can collect in small cracks and crevices, eventually forming noticeable clusters, like these on a boat's propeller.



Knowledge for Use in the Marine Environment

HELP COMBAT ZEBRA MUSSELS AND MILFOIL!

To report sighting of aquatic nuisance species, call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-902-2200.

For more information, contact Washington Sea Grant Program at 206.543.6600 or wsg@u.washington.edu.

Check this Web site for more information on invasive species: <http://www.sgnis.org/>