

QUAGGA MUSSEL

Dreissena rostriformis bugensis
Dreissenidae, the freshwater mussel family

Madilyn Patterson, ISDA

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Quagga mussels have emerged alongside Zebra mussels as one of the most aggressive invasive species infecting the United States.
- Once introduced, quagga mussels reproduce exponentially to the point that they outcompete native species for resources.
- Attaches to substrate and infrastructure via byssal threads resulting in huge repair and control costs.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Small freshwater bivalve with a triangular shape.
- Rounded shell margin.
- Asymmetrical shell halves.
- Byssal threads protruding from shell.
- Brownish yellow to black in color.
- Some with varying stripes.

Introduction and Movement

- Native to the Dnieper river in Ukraine and first detected in the US in 1988. Introduced via ballast water.
- Occurs in mainly the same areas that Zebra mussels and is proving to be the more invasive of the two.
- Spreads easily to new areas due to movement watercraft and water related construction equipment.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that your watercraft and water related equipment is thoroughly cleaned, drained, and dry.
- When passing inspection stations during their hours of operations, make sure to stop for an inspection and decontamination.
- After visiting waters that are out of state, especially states with infested waters, ensure that your boat has been inspected or allowed dry time of at least 30 days prior to launching in Idaho waters. **CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY**
- Always Remember To: **DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/107770>.



Amy Benson, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org



Madilyn Patterson, ISDA



Nicholas Zurfluh, ISDA