

STOP THE INVASION



UNWANTED INVADERS

Once Zebra Mussels establish in Manitoba, they are here to stay!

Origin

Zebra Mussels are small, fingernail-sized, clam-like aquatic animals native to the Black, Caspian and Azov Seas of Eurasia.

Status

Zebra Mussels were first introduced to Lake St. Clair in 1986 through discharge of fresh-water ballast from an ocean-going ship. They have quickly spread throughout the Great Lakes and southeastern North America. Recently, Zebra Mussels were found in the United States portion of the Red River watershed in Pelican Lake, Minnesota.

Impacts

- Aggressively invade almost any hard surface including boat hulls, motors or anything immersed in the water and can interfere with cooling systems.
- Females can produce between 40,000 and one-million eggs a season.
- Negatively impact water-based infrastructures such as public drinking water supplies.
- Reduce habitat and food availability for fish and native aquatic species.
- Costly nuisance to boaters, commercial fishers, anglers.
- Reduce recreation potential of beaches by and the accumulation of sharp shells.



Look For:

Adults:

- **1-3 cm** (0.4 – 1.2”) long
- Most have **dark and light bands on shell**
- **Triangular or D-shaped shell**
- Hinge side is flattened with very strong hair-like filaments, called byssal threads
- Usually grow in **dense clusters**
- Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mussel that **firmly attach to solid objects**.

Young:

Called veligers, are free-swimming, and microscopic

PREVENT THE SPREAD INTO MANITOBA. IT IS OUR BEST DEFENSE!

CLEAN and inspect watercraft, trailer and gear. Remove all plants, animals and mud. Rinse using high pressure, hot tap water.

DRAIN all water from watercraft including the motor, livewell, bilge and bait bucket.

DRY watercraft for at least 5 days in the hot sun (if rinsing is not available). Young Zebra Mussels die quickly out of water; adults survive for several days in damp conditions.

DISPOSE of unwanted live bait and worms in trash and dump bait bucket water on land. Never release live bait into any waterbody!

To report a sighting,

Call: **1-87-STOP AIS-0** or 1(877) 867-2470

Visit: **Manitoba.ca/StopAIS**



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EDD MapS Prairie Region
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

<http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

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