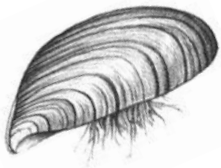


Curb the Spread of Zebra Mussels

Since 1988, zebra mussels have been spreading rapidly through the Great Lakes, clogging water pipes and smothering fish spawning grounds. These black and white striped Mollusca consume large quantities of plankton - a vital link in the food web of any aquatic habitat. Unfortunately, zebra mussels have few natural predators in Canada, and there is no known environmentally safe way to get rid of them.



Reports show that this aquatic menace is spreading into other Canadian lakes and waterways. In 2013 zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. Yet all of us, including urban dwellers, can take steps to help curb the invasion. Slowing the spread of zebra mussels will buy time for scientists who are looking for safe and effective ways to control them.

Use the following checklist to do your part in the battle against zebra mussels!



Be informed. Tell others about the dangers of zebra mussels.



Clean any boat thoroughly before moving it from an infested waterway to another body of water.



If you see zebra mussels on your boat, remove them with a paint scraper before leaving the vicinity of the infested waterway. Be careful: Zebra mussel shells are sharp and can cut you.



If it's hot and dry, leave your boat out of water for two or three days. The mussels will die. Some may drop off; some may need scraping. Dispose of them in a garbage container or dump them a good distance away from sewers or waterways.



If you live near the Great Lakes, never use its water to transport live bait, and never transfer Great Lakes water to another body of water.



If you live inland and have a boat or other equipment, clean the equipment and dump any water on dry land, well away from any water supply to help prevent accidental spread.

For additional resources visit:

CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education