

# ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS

## Invasive Mussel Prevention for Moored Vessels



### HOW MUSSELS CAN AFFECT YOUR BOAT

Non-native mussels, such as golden, quagga, and zebra mussels, can negatively impact waterways and can **damage your boat**, leading to costly repairs by attaching to the surfaces of your watercraft. They can block your engine cooling systems, resulting in overheating and damage, clog hoses, seacocks and strainers, and jam steering equipment. Encrusted hulls increase drag, adding to your boat's fuel consumption. In addition to what mussels can do to your boat, they can also impact water access.

You can help prevent this. **Clean, Drain,** and **Dry** practices are well known around the country. Here in California, boaters and anglers know these practices are not just crucial for limiting the spread of invasive mussels, but also for protecting their boats.



***Golden Mussel***



***Quagga Mussel***



***Zebra Mussel***

## MUSSEL PREVENTION TIPS FOR MOORED WATERCRAFT

- Lift your outboard motor out of the water when moored to prevent mussels from colonizing the intake grate.
- Run your engine regularly or at least twice a week. Running your watercraft at slow speeds (~4.5 mph) mussel larvae and young mussels.
- Monitor your engine for abnormal temperature increases, as this may mean that mussels are clogging your cooling system.
- At a minimum, inspect your boat monthly, including the hull, bilges, thru-hull attachments and water shut-off valves. Scrub around water intakes with a brush.
- Check the "Boater's Guide to Using Hull Paint in California" when selecting a bottom hull paint. This easy-to-read brochure provides key considerations and is available at [dbw.parks.ca.gov/mussels](https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/mussels) under the "For Boaters" section.

## IF MOORED WATERCRAFT ARE MOVED

Moored watercraft may harbor colonies of invasive mussels. These mussels can survive for days on watercraft removed from the water. Fish and Game Code Section 2301 prohibits the possession and transport of invasive mussels. Before removing moored watercraft from the water, contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for guidance on actions necessary to ensure compliance with the law.

Contact your next California destination for launch requirements:  
**[dbw.parks.ca.gov/inspections](https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/inspections)**

If moving the watercraft to another state, contact your destination state for their entry requirements: **<https://www.westernais.org/callbeforeyouhaul>**

## HOW TO REPORT INVASIVE MUSSEL SIGHTINGS

If you observe invasive mussels where you haven't seen them before, immediately report their location to the CDFW Invasive Species Program by sending an email to **[invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:invasives@wildlife.ca.gov)** or by calling 866-440-9530.

Please take clear, close-up photos that include a size reference (such as a pencil or hand).