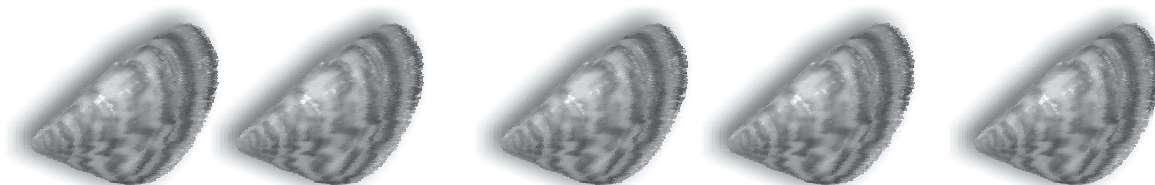


# **BOATERS**

## **HELP STOP ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM COMING TO MARYLAND**



The zebra mussel is an exotic and harmful species that is trying to hitchhike into Maryland waters on boats, trailers, anchors, SCUBA gear and in engines, live wells, bilge areas, bait buckets, and coolers. Zebra mussels are a form of biological pollution. They can multiply quickly and clog drinking water and power plant cooling water intakes. They damage aquatic ecosystems by out-competing and crowding out native fish and mussels. Fortunately, zebra mussels haven't yet made it to Maryland. You can help keep them out.

### **Why should boaters be concerned about zebra mussels?**

Zebra mussels are bad news and can:

**Ruin your engine** by blocking the cooling system and causing overheating.

**Jam steering equipment** or the centerboard wells on sailboats.

**Increase fuel consumption** when mussels attach to the hull and increase drag.

**Require scraping and repainting** of hull bottom.



#### **How to identify them?**

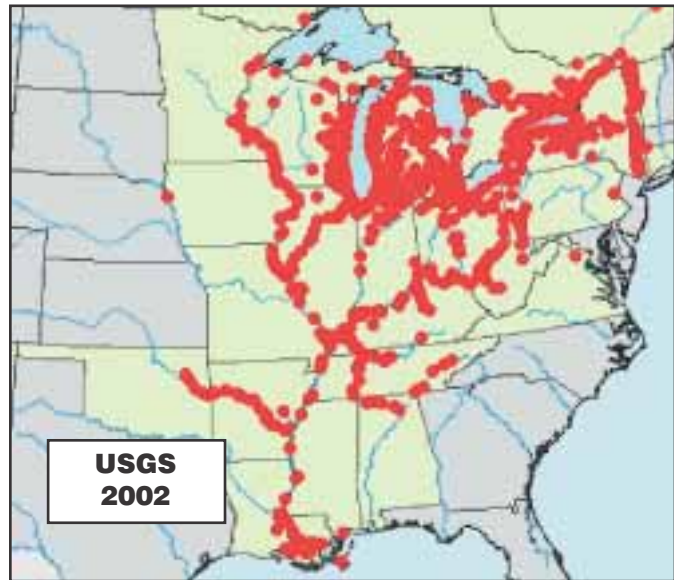
They look like small clams; yellow or brown with stripes, usually about thumbnail size, often occur in clusters



**DON'T LET ZEBRA MUSSELS HITCHHIKE WITH YOU!**

## What can you do?

Zebra mussels can sneak into Maryland with boaters, canoeists, jet skiers, anglers, and divers who travel from infested waters (see map) to the State's still uninfested waters. If your boat or trailer or dive gear has been used recently in a water body outside MD that is known to be or might be infested with zebra mussels, here's what you can do to help stop their spread. Before you launch your boat into Maryland waters,



- REMOVE** all visible mussels and aquatic plants from your boat, drive unit, propeller, trolling plates, anchor, and trailer; put debris in a trash can.
- DRAIN** all waters from live wells, bilge areas, bait buckets, scuba gear, and coolers.
- FLUSH** engine cooling system, drive unit, live wells, bilge areas, bait buckets, and coolers with hot water, if available. If not, use tap water. **DO NOT** use chlorine bleach.
- RINSE** boat hull, trailer, and scuba gear with hot water or a hard spray from a garden hose.
- DUMP** leftover bait in a trash can; do not release it to the water body.
- DRY** your boat and trailer in the sun for 3-4 days between outings. Adult zebra mussels can close up and survive for up to a week on a hull, outboard engine, or trailer frame.

If you spot a suspected zebra mussel, freeze it in a plastic bag or preserve it in a small bottle of rubbing alcohol, then call Maryland Department of Natural Resources (410-260-3540). For more information, check our website:

[www.dnr.state.md.us/irc/zebra/mussel1.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/irc/zebra/mussel1.html)

**ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE ON MARYLAND'S  
NOT-WANTED LIST**

**FUNDING PROVIDED BY MARYLAND SEA GRANT**