

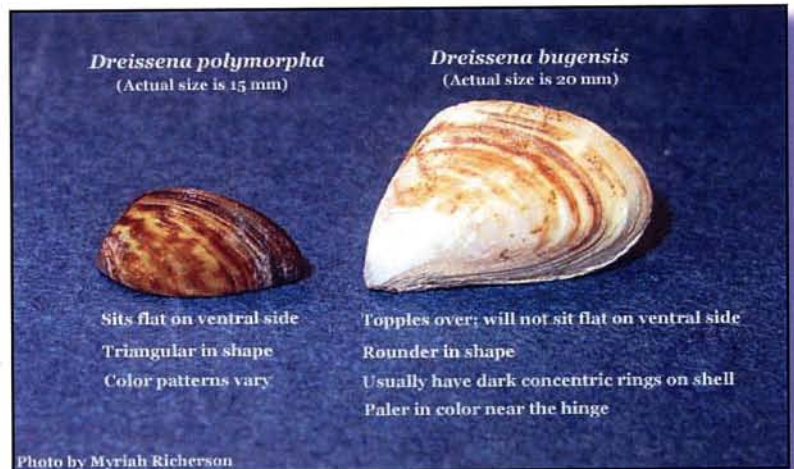
HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE MUSSELS

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is asking boaters and anglers to help prevent the spread of invasive mussels that have been found so far at lakes Mead, Mohave and Havasu.

The *Dreissena* species of mussels, which include two closely related mussels (the zebra and quagga), can disrupt aquatic ecosystems and are a serious threat to water delivery systems, hydroelectric power operations, recreation, and fish and wildlife resources.

These small invasive mussels, which originally came from Eastern Europe, have been causing multimillion-dollar problems in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin.

These mussels can survive in a few inches of water in the bilge or livewell of a boat, can attach to boat trailers, or even cling to the hulls of boats and other flat surfaces. The juvenile form or



larvae of this aquatic menace is microscopic and not visible to the eye.

Boaters (including personal watercraft, canoe and kayak users), divers and anglers should take the following precautions to help ensure their boats, vehicles, trailers and other equipment do not become the means of infecting other waters.

- Ⓢ Remove any mud or vegetation from your boat or trailer — mussels can hide and hitchhike with this material.
- Ⓢ Drain the water from your boat motor, livewell and bilge on land before leaving the immediate area of the lake.
- Ⓢ Flush the motor and bilges with hot, soapy water or a 5-percent solution of household bleach.
- Ⓢ Inspect your vessel and trailer, removing any visible mussels, but also feeling for any rough or gritty spots on the hull. These may be young mussels that can be hard to see.
- Ⓢ Wash the hull, equipment, bilge and any other exposed surface with hot, soapy water or use a 5-percent solution of household bleach.
- Ⓢ Clean and wash your trailer, truck or any other equipment that comes in contact with lake water. Mussels can live in small pockets anywhere water collects.
- Ⓢ Air-dry the boat and other equipment for at least five days before launching in any other waterway.



**MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT AZGFD.GOV,
PROTECTYOURWATERS.NET AND 100THMERIDIAN.ORG.**