

The Heavy Lift to Muscle Out Invasive Mussels

Invasive species such as **golden, quagga** and **zebra mussels** are affecting communities across the state by negatively impacting water delivery and operations, the natural ecosystem and recreational opportunities.



What is at risk?

Water delivery and operations: These mussels attach to infrastructure in dense clusters, clogging water conveyance systems, pipelines, pumps, filters, hydropower facilities, agricultural operations, and other critical infrastructure.

Environment: They degrade water quality, alter food webs and nutrient cycles, outcompete native species, threaten fisheries, and impact recreational opportunities.

Recreation: Once these invasive mussel populations are established in a water source, they are difficult to control. Therefore, protecting uninfested systems is critical. This includes safeguards such as boat launch closures and inspection, decontamination and quarantine of watercraft and other equipment.



Drinking Water



Flood Management



Fisheries & Ecosystems



Agriculture



Hydropower



Recreation





What are local officials doing to help?

Water agencies throughout the state continue to work closely with state and federal agencies, research institutions, and other water managers to try to prevent infestation in rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Where infestation has occurred, they are tracking the spread and studying best practices for decontamination and treatment. Treatment plans must balance costs with local conditions, unique challenges and individual system needs, as well as be flexible to evolve as research advances.

Ongoing prevention and treatment efforts require significant upfront and ongoing funding to protect water storage and delivery for all Californians. Unfortunately, many of these costs will ultimately fall on ratepayers. Local water agencies are working with state and federal agencies to identify diverse and sustainable funding sources to help keep water rates affordable.

What can residents do to help?

Clean, Drain & Dry Your Watercraft

When using watercraft in California waterways, residents can help prevent the spread of mussels by practicing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) **Clean-Drain-Dry** procedure, plus any local protective procedures.



Check & Clean Your Gear

Anglers can help by using the same steps with fishing equipment, including waders, anchors and bait traps.



Report Mussels

If you observe mussels in California, take close-up photos and report your sighting to the CDFW Invasive Species Program.

By email:
Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov

By phone:
(866) 440-9530

