

## ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

The fingernail-sized zebra mussel poses a multibillion-dollar threat to North America's industrial, agricultural, and municipal water supplies, and it could become a costly nuisance for freshwater shipping, boating, fishing, and clamming. First found in 1988 in the Great Lakes, this invader could become more widespread than the common carp and cause far more economic damage than the Mediterranean fruit fly.

**Public assistance in reporting zebra mussel sightings at new locations is essential to help prevent its spread to other inland lakes and rivers.**

Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish-brown D-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark- and light-colored stripes. They can be up to 2 inches long, but most are less than an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet), algae-rich water.

Zebra mussels are the **only** freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects such as submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, aquatic vegetation, and water intake pipes.

If you discover zebra mussels, note the date and precise location where they were found. Take one or more mussels with you and store them in rubbing alcohol.

**Do not throw them back in the water!**

Immediately contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Research and Survey Office, 1830 Merchant, P.O. Box 1525, Emporia, KS 66801, (620) 342-0658, or any of the department's regional offices or other offices listed on this brochure.

## NEWS FOR ELDORADO RESERVOIR USERS:

Zebra mussels are in El Dorado Reservoir, the Walnut River, and Winfield City Lake. Anyone using these waters **MUST** drain and clean their equipment before launching in a new water body. Swimmers and waders should wear protective clothing to prevent direct contact with the zebra mussel's razor-like shell.

**Remember:** It is illegal to import or release zebra mussels in Kansas.

## PARK AND RESERVOIR OFFICES

PARK	ADDRESS	OFFICE PHONE #
CEDAR BLUFF	Box 76A Ellis, 67637	(785)726-3212
CHENEY	16000 NE 50th St. Cheney 67025	(316) 542-3664
CLINTON	798 N. 1415 Rd. Lawrence 66049	(785) 842-8562
CRAWFORD	1 Lake Rd. Farlington, 66734	(620) 362-3671
EISENHOWER	29810 S. Fairlawn Rd. Osage City 66523	(785) 528-4102
EL DORADO	618 NE Bluestem El Dorado 67042	(316) 321-7180
ELK CITY	4825 Squaw Creek Rd. Independence 67301	(620) 331-6295
FALL RIVER	144 Highway 105 Toronto 66777	(620) 637-2213
GLEN ELDER	Box 162A Glen Elder 67446	(785) 545-3345
HILLSDALE	26001 W. 255th St. Paola, 66071	(913) 783-4507
KANOPOLIS	200 Horesthief Rd. Marquette 67464	(785) 546-2565
LOVEWELL	RR 1, Box 66A Webber 66970	(785) 753-4971
MEADE	13051 V Rd. Meade 67864	(620) 873-2572
MILFORD	8811 State Park Road Milford 66514	(785) 238-3014
PERRY	5441 Westlake Rd. Ozawie 66070	(785) 246-3449
POMONA	22900 S. Highway 368 Vassar 66543	(785) 828-4933
PRAIRIE DOG	Box 431 Norton 67654	(785) 877-2953
SAND HILLS	4207 E. 56th, Route 5 Hutchinson 67502	(620) 663-5272
SCOTT	520 W. Scott Lake Dr. Scott City 67871	(620) 872-2061
TORONTO	144 Highway 105 Toronto 66777	(620) 637-2213
TUTTLE CREEK	5020-B Tuttle Cr. Blvd. Manhattan 66502	(785) 539-7941
WEBSTER	1210 Nine Rd. Stockton 67669	(785) 425-6775
WILSON	RR 1, Box 181 Sylvan Grove 67481	(785) 658-2465

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327 02/07

# ZEBRA MUSSELS



## STOP THE INVASION **ALERT!**

**ZEBRA MUSSELS HAVE BEEN FOUND  
IN EL DORADO RESERVOIR,  
THE WALNUT RIVER, AND  
WINFIELD CITY LAKE.**



**KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

## WHAT'S A ZEBRA MUSSEL?

The zebra mussel is a fingernail-sized mussel that conservationists fear could threaten aquatic ecosystems and damage industry. According to recent information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, a "Zebra Mussel Watch" has been issued for midwestern states.

## WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Zebra mussels look like small clams with yellow-brown shells, usually with dark- and light-colored stripes. Most are smaller than 1 inch long. The microscopic larvae can live in a teaspoon of water.



## HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

The zebra mussel escaped from its homeland in the Black and Caspian seas in the 1700s and emigrated to western Europe. From there, it hitched a ride in the ballast tanks of ships across the Atlantic and through the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Great Lakes. Then adults and larvae spread to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers by barge and boat traffic.

**In Kansas, zebra mussels are now present in El Dorado Reservoir, the Walnut River, and Winfield City Lake.**

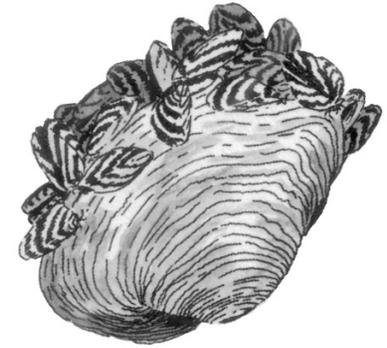
Unlike other freshwater mussel larvae, zebra mussels don't attach to fish or other hosts prior to adulthood. Consequently, they can easily spread anywhere that water currents, wildlife, or human activities take them. One of the zebra mussel's most effective means of dispersion is traveling in bilge water of boats.

## WHY WORRY?

If the zebra mussel's invasion follows the pattern observed elsewhere, the creature's population in the El Dorado lake will peak in a few years. For the zebra mussel, "peak" population is thousands per square foot, covering every inch of solid surface.

Zebra mussels can attach to anything firm, including water intakes of power generating plants, municipal water systems, and boats. They can accumulate 6 inches deep, severely reducing the flow of water and posing a multi-billion-dollar threat to industry, agriculture, and municipal water supplies.

Because of their sheer numbers (females can produce 1,000,000 eggs per season), zebra mussels can smother native freshwater mussel beds. Other wildlife are vulnerable, too. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, gleaning tiny particles of organic food from the surrounding water. Some observers fear they will deplete the supply of food available to shad, paddlefish, and other native species. Add the cost of damage to boats, motors, docks, and other marine equipment, and you have a very expensive scenario.



*zebra mussel cluster on native mussel*

## CAN WE STOP THEM?

Kansas boaters who move their vessels from ANY body of water to another can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels in Kansas by taking the following protective measures before moving their boats from one body of water to another:

- 1) drain the bilge water, live wells, and bait buckets;
- 2) remove any attached vegetation or mud;
- 3) inspect the boat and trailer for attached zebra mussels;
- 4) scrape off any zebra mussels;
- 5) dry boat and trailer for five days before entering another waterway, OR  
5a) wash boat parts and trailer with 104-degree water, a 10-percent chlorine and water solution, or hot saltwater solution.  
**Do not wash at boat ramps.**

Finish with a clean-water rinse.

**For more information on zebra mussels, go to [kdwp.state.ks.us](http://kdwp.state.ks.us)**