



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
691 Scenic View Road  
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Page, Arizona 86040



In Reply Refer to:

Dear Lake Powell Boater:

Quagga mussels, a sister species of the better known zebra mussel, have been found along the Colorado River System at Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu. They have not been found at any of the established marinas at Lake Powell, and we would like your help to keep it that way. Quagga mussels are an aggressive aquatic nuisance species and can cause significant trouble to boat owners once they become established in a favorite boating area. They attach to almost any surface using tough, fibrous threads, which are extremely hard to remove. These threads then allow other quagga mussels to attach themselves to the same surface, causing a thick carpet or clump of mussels to form. Quagga mussels have a larval stage of development and during this stage they can easily enter the intake manifold of most any boat and become established, fouling the motors and causing extensive damage and expensive repair bills. They can most easily become established on boats that are stored with their hulls in the water. Riding on boats, they can be transported and established in Lake Powell. At other lakes, they have been found on all kinds of boats, from large houseboats to canoes and personal watercraft.

As a responsible boat owner, we would like your help in making sure this damaging species does not get into Lake Powell. You can assist us by reviewing the following check-list each time you plan to visit Lake Powell:

- ✓ Has your boat or any of your boating and/or fishing equipment been in quagga or zebra mussel infested waters in the last 30 days (see attached map)? Boating and/or fishing equipment can include rods, reels, coolers, live wells, bait, bait buckets, canoes, kayaks, personnel watercraft (PWC), water skis and tubes, ski ropes, and paddles.

If the answer is yes, thoroughly wash all items including motor and bilges with hot soapy water, being sure to remove all mud and vegetation. Let all washed items thoroughly air dry for at least 5 days before heading to Lake Powell. Be sure to throw away all natural baits after each fishing trip and thoroughly wash all artificial baits after each trip. Completely inspect your equipment, removing all visible mussels. Feel for any rough or gritty spots on the hull. These may be young mussels that can be hard to see.

- ✓ Be vigilant. Look at the vessel you are using as well as those around you. Contact a ranger or the park dispatch at (928) 608-6301 if you suspect your boat or other boats are carrying mussels.
- ✓ Thoroughly wash all your boating and fishing equipment once you return home. Be sure to let it air dry at least 5 days before heading back out to play. Quagga and zebra mussels can live out of water for an extended period of time and drying out your equipment is the only sure way of killing them!