



Zebra Mussels/Quagga Mussels

Dreissena polymorpha & *D. bugensis*.



Above Photos: Dave Britton

What's the problem

These two similar species reproduce rapidly and in extremely high numbers. They attach to surfaces using basal threads and can colonize areas with up to 700,000/ m². They drastically alter food webs and water chemistry, compete with native species for space and resources, and impact infrastructure like water in-take pipes and power plants.

CHARACTERISTICS

Life cycle	Mussels produce free-floating veligers (larvae) that float in the water column before attaching to available surfaces.
Size	Very small; range in size from a few millimeters to 4cm. Much smaller than native mussel
Shell	Both species are triangular in shape. Colour ranges from white to dark brown, with zebra mussels having a zig-zag pattern. [See back for further details]
Habitat	Freshwater environments, including lakes, rivers, and human-made waterbodies. Will colonize surfaces including rocks, boats, docks, other aquatic plant & animal species, and infrastructure such as water intake pipes

Distinguishing invasive mussels:

Zebra and Quagga mussels are separate species and can be distinguished by their shell shape, pattern, and colour as outlined in the photo to the right. Zebra mussels have a flat underside while Quagga mussels have more of a curve.

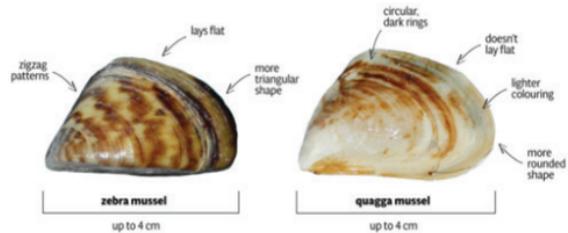


Photo: Invasive Species Centre

Prevent Zebra and Quagga mussels in New Brunswick



- Larvae are free floating in the water, and can be spread between waterbodies on hard surfaces like boat props and in standing water in bilge pumps, livewells, and on undried equipment.
- Clean, Drain, and Dry all watercrafts and equipment to prevent the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels.

REPORT ZEBRA/QUAGGA MUSSELS

Zebra and Quagga mussels are currently found throughout Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba. If you think you've discovered Zebra/Quagga mussels in New Brunswick:

- 1. Take photos**
- 2. Note:**
 - the exact location (GPS coordinates)
 - the observation date
 - identifying features
- 3. Contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada to report :**
 - Toll-free: 1-866-759-6600
 - Email: Invaders.glf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca