

# Protect Our Reservoirs

Access to Rancho Murieta's reservoirs is a benefit of residents and their guests, not only for their aesthetic qualities, but for their recreational possibilities. One of the most popular forms of recreation is fishing.

It is a concern of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District that an invasive species may be accidentally introduced into the reservoirs, such as quagga or zebra mussels, from fishing boats that have been in infected waters. These invasive species of mussels have been spreading westward causing extensive damage to the ecology as well as infrastructure of reservoirs. Infestation of the mussels threatens water delivery systems, plugging up pipes and equipment.

**Be aware that transferring a boat that has been in infested waters will allow the spread of quagga mussels, or the closely related zebra mussels!**



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### Zebra & Quagga mussels:

- Produce young (larva) that are too small to see with the naked eye, but newly settled young feel like sandpaper on smooth surfaces
- May release over 40,000 eggs in a reproductive cycle and up to 1 million in a spawning season
- Attach to aquatic plants, boats, motors, trailers, and recreation equipment or can be present in water (in addition to substrates, docks, buoys, anchors, etc)
- As they grow, can be seen on boat hulls, especially around trim tabs, transducers, along keels, and on lower units and propellers
- Can be found in bilges, live wells and motors
- Can survive three to five days out of water depending upon temperature and humidity in summer, longer in the winter - up to 30 days

See Internet Links for more information:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>

<http://www.100thmeridian.org/>

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

