

HELLO ZEBRA MUSSELS. GOODBYE TEXAS BOATING.

Zebra mussels are a highly destructive invasive species threatening Texas waters. They have recently infested Lake Texoma, and have been found in a stream that feeds into Lake Lavon. They may spread throughout the Red and Trinity River systems and much of Texas if you don't take action now to stop them!

Why should you care?

Zebra mussels can attach to any hard surface and clog water intakes. They foul boat hulls and damage engines, as well as boat docks, ramps and navigational buoys. They wreak havoc on the environment, negatively impacting fish and native mussel populations as well as making beaches unusable. They also clog pipes to municipal water intakes, costing taxpayers lots of money. Invasive aquatic species cost the state millions of dollars and can cost you a hefty fine if you transport them to other water bodies.

Help prevent the spread!

You can prevent the spread of invasive zebra mussels by ALWAYS following these 3 steps prior to leaving any water suspected of having zebra mussels:

CLEAN

Inspect your boat, trailer and gear and remove all zebra mussels, vegetation and foreign objects that are found.

DRAIN

Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, livewells and bait buckets, before leaving the lake.

DRY

Open all compartments and livewells, and allow the boat and trailer to sit completely dry for a week or more* before entering another water body.

If you find zebra mussels on your boat or if it has been kept on a lake known to have zebra mussels it needs to be properly decontaminated at a marina or by a boat mechanic to ensure all zebra mussels are removed and to prevent damage to your boat.

**If you can not leave your boat and trailer out of the water for a week to kill microscopic zebra mussel larvae, you will need to wash your boat, trailer and gear at a commercial car wash using high-pressure and hot (140 degrees F) soapy water.*

Under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Penal Codes, possession or transporting of zebra mussels in Texas is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, jail time up to 180 days, or both.

**Zebra mussels are just one of many invasive species threatening Texas.
Learn more at www.texasinvasives.org**

