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# News Release



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## Invasive Aquatic Species Public Service Announcement To help prevent Lewis and Clark visitors from contributing to the problem

This year the nation is celebrating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Boaters visiting the West for this special celebration should be extra vigilant about cleaning their boats and trailers where harmful zebra mussels and invasive aquatic species attach and can live for up to 4 days out of water.

Zebra mussels are an exotic nuisance species native to the Caspian region of western Russia. They were most likely introduced to the United States in the late 1980's in the ballast water of a foreign vessel.

There are an estimated 6,300 plants and animals in the United States that are not originally from here. And while most of these non-native species are harmless a small percentage leaves over a \$100 million trail of damage every year.

Some, like the zebra mussel, wreak havoc by damaging water intake equipment for cities, boat engines and more. Others, like sea lamprey, inflict serious damage on fish and other native aquatic life.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program leads the effort within the Service to implement aquatic nuisance species (ANS) control and prevention activities authorized under the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Through cooperative activities of the ANS Task Force the Service works with other federal agencies, state, tribes and private landowners to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species.

The campaign against invasive aquatic species will only be successful if people make a personal commitment:

- If you find an aquatic species that seems out of place contact your state natural resources agency
- Clean your boat and gear before leaving the body of water where you just recreated
- Don't toss left over bait into the water
- Volunteer with your local Fish and Wildlife Service facility and contact your local pet store with questions about exotic aquarium pets.

The ANS Task Force produced a radio public service announcement to help recreators understand the importance of helping prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species. The well-known spokesmen share tips on how to clean your boat and gear before leaving your favorite body of water. Both PSA's are approximately 1 minute in length.