

Zebra Mussel



WATCH

Zebra Mussel ALERT

The barnacle-like zebra mussel poses a multibillion-dollar threat to North America's industrial, agricultural and municipal water supplies, and it could become a costly nuisance for freshwater shipping, boating, fishing and clamming as well. First found in 1988 in the Great Lakes, this invader could become more widespread than the German carp and cause far more economic damage than the Mediterranean fruit fly.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN REPORTING ZEBRA MUSSEL SIGHTINGS AT NEW LOCATIONS IS ESSENTIAL TO HELP PREVENT ITS SPREAD TO OTHER LAKES AND RIVERS!

How to Identify It

- ▼ Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with dark- and light-colored stripes (hence the name "zebra").
- ▼ They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals (see photo) and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet), algae-rich water.
- ▼ Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusc that can firmly attach itself to solid objects — submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.

What to Do

- ▼ Note the date and precise locations where the mussel or its shell(s) were found;
- ▼ Take the mussel with you (several, if possible) and store in rubbing alcohol (in any case, **DON'T** throw it back in the water); and
- ▼ **IMMEDIATELY** call the Lake Champlain Basin Program 800-468-5227 (toll-free in New York and Vermont), or the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Div., (802) 241-3777, 103 S. Main Street, Waterbury VT 05671-0408.



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