

TAKE ACTION



to Save Our Lakes from Quagga Mussels

The Problem

The recent infestation of California's waterways by invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels has created a crisis situation. The migration of Quagga mussels to California's scarce water supplies will be devastating. Quagga mussels can:

- Clog water treatment and distribution infrastructure.
- Cause negative changes to water quality and destruction of lake fisheries.
- Attach to every square inch of hard surface within a water body and to soft surfaces such as plants.
- Reproduce quickly and in large numbers.

The Solution

Stop the spread of infestation of Quagga mussels into California's uninfected waterways. To accomplish this task, it will take a huge coordinated effort from local, state, federal agencies, and recreational boaters. This emergency should require:

- Monitoring of California's waterways to detect infestations as soon as possible.
- Implement recreational boating measures to monitor and control the spread of infestation. Provide decontamination facilities and control ramp access.
- Implement controls on bass tournament permits.
- Government agencies need to act now by enforcing strict controls and measures where necessary to prevent the spread of mussels from one water body to the next.
- Develop funding to implement the preventative measures needed at federal, state and local levels.

Recreational boaters can make a difference too, for example, they need to adopt certain practices that will prevent the spread of mussel infestation to include monitoring, cleaning and disinfecting their boats and water equipment.

Swift and strategic action may still protect the future of California's waterways. Ecological, economic and recreational impacts to all state waters could be severe if this infestation is not halted.