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# Community Bulletin

## CAUTION BOATERS - INVASIVE MUSSELS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION --

We need your help to keep Waterton safe from invasive aquatic species! If you or your guests are arriving in Waterton with a boat brought from outside of Alberta, B.C. or Montana please contact us! (*use phone or e-mail information below*)

We are seriously concerned about tiny mussels (zebra and quagga mussels) that are quickly spreading around North America, usually hitching a ride on boats and trailers. Without natural predators to keep them in check, the mussels reproduce and spread at astonishing rates, blanketing shorelines, marina piers and boat hulls.

They also jam boat engines, block water intake pipes and consume food and oxygen needed by native animals. When the mussels overpopulate and die, they foul beaches with razor sharp shells and a putrid stench. Once the mussels arrive it is virtually impossible to get rid of them. We want to ensure they don't come to Waterton.

### **Before entering the park, please:**

- wash your boat, motor, trailer, and other boating equipment
- remove any aquatic plants, animals, and mud
- drain any water from your boat, motor, bilge, and live wells
- thoroughly dry all equipment

Boaters entering the park or launching their boat in park waters may be asked about where they have recently used their boat and a boat inspection may be required.

Anglers should also clean and dry their fishing equipment (including waders and wading boots) before coming to the park.

We are also on the lookout for other aquatic invasive species, including Eurasian water milfoil, New Zealand mudsnails and purple loosestrife.

### **For Further Information:**

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