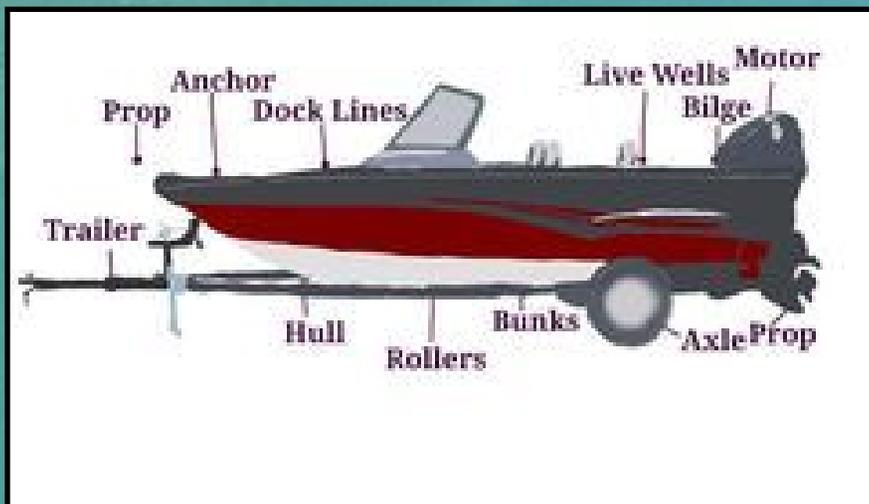
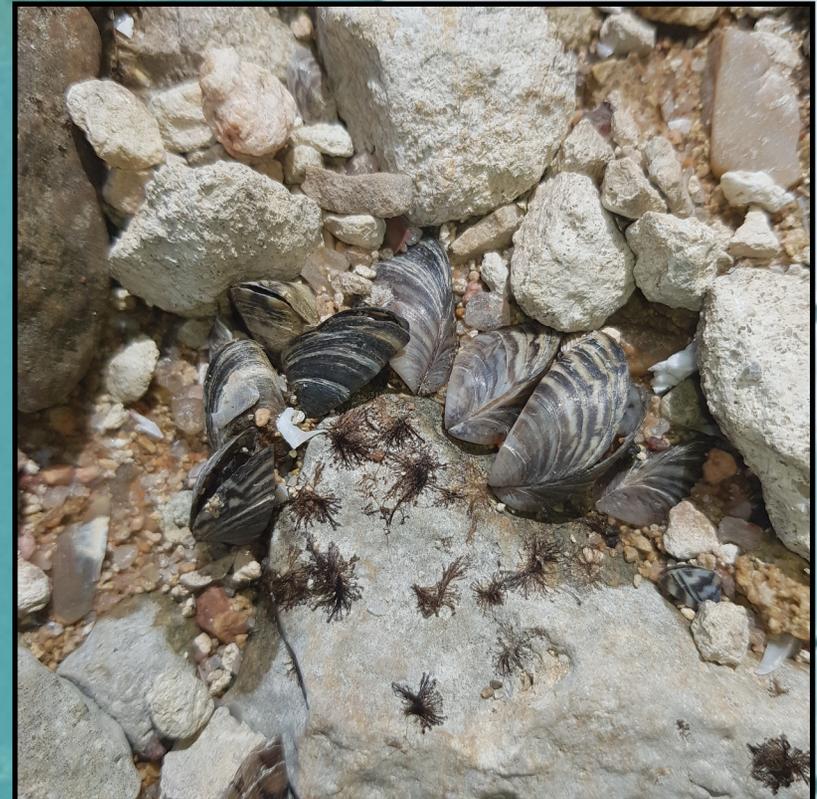


What you can do to stop the invasive zebra mussel from spreading:

- Whenever possible, wash your boat with warm, soapy water.
- Do not transport water, such as bait buckets, from one body of water to another. If possible, empty these containers on land and dispose of leftover bait in the trash. Most of the time, the baitfish are not native to this water, as are the zebra mussels.
- Inspect the boat, trailer, and other recreational equipment that has come into contact with water.
- Remove any foreign objects, plants, or animals.
- Drain all bilge water, bait buckets, and other water from your boat, engine, and equipment.
- In addition to washing all parts of your boat, wash your paddles and other equipment that has come into contact with water. Do not allow washing water to flow into bodies of water or storm sewers.
- Sun dry boats and trailers for five days before venturing into another body of water.



Zebra mussels



<http://stopthezebramussels.com>



Global Problem

In contrast to related life forms such as certain species of snail, the zebra mussel develops indirectly. It hatches from an egg as a free-swimming larva that settles on the bottom and transforms into a clam.

Due to its high reproductive performance and this indirect life cycle via free-swimming larvae, the species can spread particularly well and quickly build up large populations.

In the 1990s, there were massive incursions in the native fish fauna in the Great Lakes of North America. The zebra mussels successfully filter the water and quickly remove most of the planktonic nutrients from the water, which can be seen as the reason for fish deaths. The continuing intensification of worldwide shipping inevitably leads to the further spread of the zebra mussels. For example, in the North Sea (Germany), there are now more than 200 invasive species, most of which were introduced through shipping.

The invasion is not limited to specific regions but a global problem that now affects every country. In the long term, global homogenization will occur without effective countermeasures, which will also endanger regional ecosystems. Once invasive species have migrated, they are difficult to eradicate or control.

Local Problem

The zebra mussels first appeared in Austin's drinking waters in 2017. They particularly attacked Lake Travis and Lake Austin. Since then, the water supplier has been trying to keep the mussel away from the pipeline infrastructure with massive effort and maintain the drinking water quality. Among other things, the installation of a chemical system that feeds liquid copper sulfate pentahydrate into water pipes should prevent zebra mussels from infecting the pipes to the water treatment system again, as happened in 2019. At the time, this led to drinking water that smelled and tasted bad. The cost of building this facility was \$ 1.9 million and will run an additional \$ 800,000 annually. If you could have prevented the settlement of the zebra mussels, these investments would not have been necessary.

It seems all the more important to prevent further spread from preventing such investments in other regions!

