

QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSEL INFESTATION PREVENTION FEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What are quagga and zebra mussels?

Dreissena rostriformis bugensis (quagga) and *Dreissena polymorpha* (zebra) are two species of non-native freshwater mussels from Eurasia that can disrupt the ecological balance of waterbodies and reduce their recreational value, and impede distribution of water supply systems by encrusting water intakes, pipes, and other structures. To minimize further impacts to the state it is important to prevent them from being spread.

What is the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee and how is the money going to be used?

In September 2012, Governor Brown signed into law legislation ([AB2443](#)) that requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to collect an additional fee on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) on vessels used in freshwater and subject to registration in the State of California. Proof of fee payment will be demonstrated by display of a unique sticker alongside the registration sticker. The fee will fund prevention programs at uninfested reservoirs open to the public for recreational activities. These grants will help water managers develop prevention programs, implement programs, or expand upon an existing program. For more information on the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee and the local assistance grant program, visit [DBW's website](#).

What is a Prevention Program?

A prevention program, per the Fish and Game Code Section 2302, is a program intended to prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels. Section 2302 applies to entities that own or manage reservoirs open to the public. Prevention programs must include an assessment of the vulnerability of the reservoir for the introduction of mussels, public education, monitoring for mussels, and management of the recreational activities allowed at the reservoir.

Does this new fee allow me to bypass watercraft inspections and fees at my local waterbody?

No. Payment of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee does not entitle vessels to bypass inspections or fees for inspections conducted by individual water managers. Please contact the particular waterbody directly for information regarding their program and requirements prior to your visit. [Click here](#) to view watercraft inspection programs in California and their contact information.

Do I need to pay the fee if I only boat in marine waters?

No. Boats used only in marine waters are not subject to the fee. For the purposes of this law marine waters are defined as California coast and bay waters, which include Suisun Bay. Marine waters do not include inland waterways, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Do I need to pay the fee if I only boat at one waterbody or only in waterbodies already infested with quagga and zebra mussels?

Yes. All boaters in California that boat in freshwater, whether they only boat in a single body of water or in infested bodies of water, are obligated to pay the new mussel fee.

As a boater, what can I do to avoid spreading mussels?

You can prevent spreading quagga and zebra mussels by remembering to always Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat after every use. For detailed information on how to Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat, review the [What Boaters Can Do to Help](#) and the [Boat Cleaning Guide Book](#) documents available on the CDFW website.