



More Info: (760) 398-2651

Quagga Mussels

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A QUAGGA MUSSEL?
IMMEDIATELY CALL: COACHELLA VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:
(760) 398-2651**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[HTTP://WDFW.WA.GOV/FISH/ANS/INDEX.HTM](http://WDFW.WA.GOV/FISH/ANS/INDEX.HTM)
[HTTP://WDFW.WA.GOV/ENFORCEMENT/INDEX.HTML](http://WDFW.WA.GOV/ENFORCEMENT/INDEX.HTML)
[HTTP://WWW.PROTECTYOURWATERS.NET/](http://WWW.PROTECTYOURWATERS.NET/)
[HTTP://100THMERIDIAN.ORG/EMERSON.ASP](http://100THMERIDIAN.ORG/EMERSON.ASP)

WHAT ARE THEY?

- ❑ Quagga mussels are soft bodied animals that grow shells and live in freshwater such as lakes, rivers, streams, and water conveyance channels and pipes.
- ❑ Adult Quagga mussels are approximately 1 inch long and 1/2 inch wide
- ❑ Quagga mussels feed by filtering microscopic plants and animals from the water. This filtering can negatively impact native plants and animals inhabiting the water body.
- ❑ Quagga mussels multiply rapidly, with females able to produce 1 million eggs per year. Young Quagga mussels, or veligers, develop after fertilization, drifting in the water until finding a suitable place for attachment.
- ❑ Strong threads produced by the mussel attach the shell to most surfaces and often remain attached long after the mussel has died.

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

- ❑ Young Quagga mussels are found in the Colorado River and have colonized the Colorado River Aqueduct and All American Canal, Lake Jennings, El Capitan Reservoir and Lake Matthews in San Diego and Riverside County.
- ❑ Adult quagga mussels have not colonized water supply facilities used in the Coachella Valley including the Coachella branch of the All-American Canal (Coachella Canal) and Lake Cahuilla.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ❑ Water deliveries from the Coachella Canal will be disrupted when water intake pipes, valves, irrigation laterals, and meters become clogged by quagga mussels.
- ❑ Quagga mussels can be introduced to canals and lakes when transported on boats, boat trailers and fishing equipment coming from infected water bodies. Young Quagga mussels are too small to see and can survive for long periods in standing water.
- ❑ Young Quagga mussels can be transported unknowingly in bait buckets and bait previously used in infected waters, fishing reels, tackle, and hip waders or fishing floats that have not been cleaned and dried properly following use in infected waters.

QUAGGA RULES FOR FISHING GEAR, BAIT, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

- ❑ Any fishing bait brought into the park shall be in unopened and unused containers prior to being used in Lake Cahuilla.
- ❑ All bait buckets used at Lake Cahuilla shall be inspected by park staff to ensure they are clean and dry prior to being brought into the park.
- ❑ Empty all buckets and dispose of all bait in trash receptacles before you leave. Do not take bait home, or leave it on the ground or dump it in any waterway.
- ❑ Thoroughly rinse all fishing and recreational equipment (fishing nets, reels, tackle or any other gear that has contacted the water) prior to leaving the lake.
- ❑ No fishing waders or fishing float tubes shall be used in Lake Cahuilla.
- ❑ Failure to follow any of these requirements could result in:
 - a. Introducing invasive aquatic species to Lake Cahuilla;
 - b. Loss of individual fishing privileges at Lake Cahuilla;
 - c. Costly impacts to Coachella Valley agriculture; or
 - d. Fishing ban at Lake Cahuilla.