

SNAKE RIVER UPDATE FALL 2024

//// NEW QUAGGA MUSSEL DETECTION

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced September 24, the detection of a small number of quagga mussels in the Snake River near the City of Twin Falls.

Current monitoring results show a decrease of quagga mussel presence in the affected stretch of river since the pre-treatment surveys in 2023. Recent positive detection locations include the Shoshone Falls pool, Pillar Falls, and the Twin Falls Reservoir behind Twin Falls hydroelectric facility.

2023 RESPONSE

Quagga mussels were first identified in the Snake River near Twin Falls in September 2023. ISDA implemented a treatment of the river with a chelated copper product. It was the first treatment of this type and scale ever attempted in North America. Sampling results indicate the chelated copper treatment was effective in reducing the mussel population.

In addition to the treatment, ISDA implemented a closure to a small stretch of the Snake River along with a mandatory Inspection and Decontamination Station at Centennial Waterfront Park. The mandatory Inspection and Decontamination Station has inspected and washed 11,000 boats throughout the 2024 season and continues to operate.

RIVER ACCESS

ISDA does not expect major impacts to the public with the new detection. Access from Broken Bridge to Pillar Falls remains open with mandatory inspection and decontamination for all watercraft at Centennial Waterfront Park. Pillar Falls to Twin Falls Dam remains closed.

An additional temporary closure from Pillar Falls to Auger Falls will take place in mid-October for approximately 15 days to facilitate a treatment. Visit idaho.gov/quagga for closure updates.

SAMPLING

From April 23 to today, over 3,000 quagga mussel samples have been taken statewide. This was part of a more aggressive statewide monitoring campaign that more than doubled the number of routine monitoring samples from 2023. ISDA is currently conducting delimit sampling in the affected stretch of the Snake River to better understand the scope of the current infestation.

//// WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

Watercraft Inspection Stations across the state are open and operating. Any citizen traveling past a watercraft inspection station with a watercraft or conveyance must stop. The ISDA watercraft inspections and decontaminations are free to the public.

So far throughout 2024, ISDA Watercraft Inspection Stations have inspected more than 145,000 watercraft.

WATERCRAFT AND CONVEYANCES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Motorized boats
- Unmotorized boats
- Kayaks
- Paddleboards
- Inflatable rafts
- Duck decoys
- Waders
- Fishing tackle
- Life jackets
- Any device used in the water

For a free decontamination wash, call 1-877-336-8676

WHAT ARE QUAGGA MUSSELS?

Quagga mussels are a non-native freshwater mussel that attach to hard surfaces. They spread rapidly and clog pipes that deliver water for drinking, energy, agriculture, recreation, and a variety of other uses. They also can negatively affect fish populations and wildlife habitat.

If left to spread untreated, they form dense colonies that damage and hinder infrastructure so severely it would cost Idaho hundreds of millions of dollars in actual and indirect costs. This would affect every irrigator, power user, and recreator in Idaho.



*Photos are from Lake Michigan, a quagga mussel infested waterbody.
PC: National Parks Service

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY ALL WATERCRAFT AND ITEMS THAT GO IN THE WATER – Anyone who has watercraft or items you put in the water must be vigilant in practicing the steps of **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** before putting your watercraft or item back in the water. This includes boats, kayaks, paddleboards, oars, waders, boots, lifejackets, fishing gear, buckets, nets, and other items.

////// MORE INFORMATION

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