

NOT WANTED



QUAGGA MUSSEL
ALIAS: *DREISSENA BUGENSIS*

Distribution: Native to the Dnieper River drainage of Ukraine. Now found in the U.S. Great Lakes.

Size: Up to 4 cm (1.6 inches).

Description: Striped like the zebra mussel, but unlike the zebra mussel, the quagga mussel shell has a rounded angle or carina. The quagga is light tan to almost white, with narrow stripes or mottled lines. It is fan-shaped, with pointed edges at either side. The ventral side of the quagga mussel is convex which makes the quagga mussel topple over when placed ventral side down on a flat surface.

Look Alikes: The related Maryland native species *Mytilopsis leucophaeata*, or dark false mussel, is smaller (up to 20 mm), narrower, and more elongate. Internally, the shell of this species possesses a small tooth (apophysis) at the narrow, pointed end or beak; this is absent in the quagga mussel. The dark false mussel is a brackish water species, whereas the quagga mussel occurs in freshwater, although there may be some overlap at the lowest end of the salinity range (less than 5 ppt).

Impacts to Aquatic Ecosystem: Causes problems for boats, power plants, and harbors by attaching to them. Native mussel populations are smothered. It is also displacing native burrowing amphipod (*Diporeia hoyi*) from the deep waters of Lake Erie. Quagga mussels like silty or sandy lake bottoms. They can live in waters ranging from warm and shallow to deep and cold. They are also able to tolerate brackish water. Since zebra mussels cannot survive this range of conditions, they can thrive in areas that zebra mussels cannot. But because they prefer silt- and sand-bottomed lakes, quagga mussels may be able to successfully invade inland lakes with those characteristics including some lakes not suitable for zebra mussel establishment.

Means of Introduction: They most likely arrived in the Great Lakes as stowaways in the ballast water of ocean going ships.

Status in Maryland: Currently not in Maryland.



Legal Standing: Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

*Special provisions for delivering specimens to authorities, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

For more information on invasive species in Maryland visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

