

# Quagga mussel

*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*

## Invasive Species Alert

Presence confirmed in Lower Lough Erne



### What is the quagga mussel?

The quagga mussel is an invasive freshwater mussel, native to the Ponto-Caspian region, and now established in lakes, rivers & estuaries across Europe. They have been known to replace zebra mussels in invaded habitats due to their higher rates of water filtration, capacity to colonise softer substrates & greater tolerance of a broader depth range, enabling dense populations that significantly alter freshwater ecosystems.

### How does it spread?

- Hull fouling on boats & boat bilge water
- Hitch-hiking on equipment brought from infested areas, such as canoes, angling gear & trailers
- Dispersal of the planktonic larvae downstream from infested areas

### How can I stop it spreading?

If you are a water user, ensure all equipment/clothing/trailers/ropes are **Checked, Cleaned & Dried** before their next use.

**CHECK**

Check equipment, clothing, boat & trailer after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animal & plant material. At a freshwater site, remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

**CLEAN**

Clean everything thoroughly, as soon as possible, ideally with hot water. Pay attention to hard to reach areas & places that could remain damp.

**DRY**

Dry everything for as long as you can before using again elsewhere, ideally for a minimum of 48 hours.

For more guidance visit: <https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/>

Boat owners should ensure hulls are cleaned when boats are removed from the water for maintenance/winter storage, and use antifouling paint to keep hulls and equipment free of fouling.

### REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS



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