

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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