

Invasive non-native species ID Series

Quagga Mussel



Reducing and Preventing
Invasive Alien Species Dispersal

The Quagga Mussel is a Ponto-Caspian species that poses a significant risk to ecosystems and infrastructure where it colonises. It is a freshwater species but is capable of living in brackish water too, where it will attach to anything solid.

As a filter feeder, in large numbers it has the ability to filter huge quantities of nutrients from water bodies, taking this resources away from native species. It can also cause problems to infrastructure through clogging pipes, fouling hulls and other structures.

To record your sightings, visit www.nonnativespecies.org/recording

Quagga Mussel. Known from a small area in west London but is considered highly likely to spread.

Very similar to another invasive mussel, the Zebra Mussel, but can be separated on a few key points (see pictures)

At cross section, is more rounded and has a deep keel

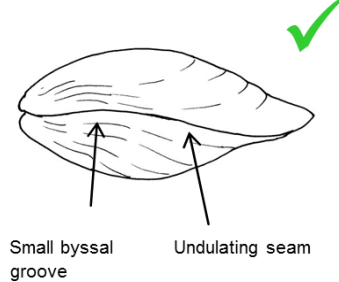
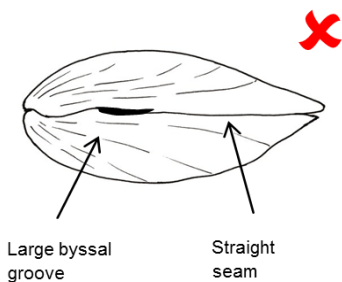
Can show an obvious central stripe vs zigzag pattern on Zebra Mussel

Has an undulating seam and small basal groove vs straight seam and large basal groove on Zebra Mussel



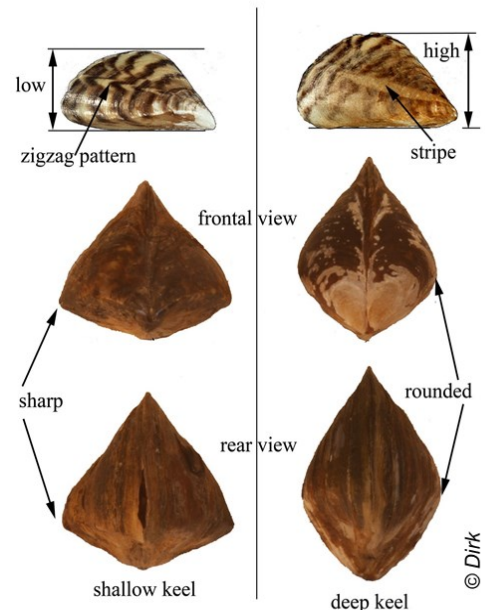
Zebra Mussel

Quagga Mussel



Zebra mussel

Quagga mussel



For more information on this and other non-native species visit <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

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