

Invasive Species: Quagga Mussel

Scientific name: *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*

Native to: Estuaries in Ukraine

Habitat: Freshwater rivers and lakes, estuaries

Description: Bivalve mollusc similar to the non-native invasive Zebra mussel

Quagga mussels colonise natural and artificial surfaces and may be found in a range of water conditions - hot to cold, shallow to deep. They can even settle on soft substrates in lakes and reservoirs.

Spreading throughout Europe (Ireland, England, Germany, Netherlands, Romania, Russia). Highly invasive in North America where Quagga mussel has caused significant ecological and economic impacts.

Impacts are similar to Zebra mussel. Quagga mussels filter planktonic organisms from the water, increasing water clarity, reducing food sources for native species and taking over fish spawning areas.

Large colonies may foul water treatment plants, hydroelectric power stations, boat hulls, and pipes abstracting water.

Prevention & Mitigation: Check, clean, dry policy of all boat craft

Eradication: No effective eradication method



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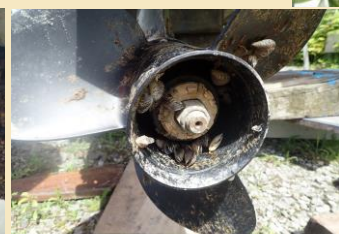
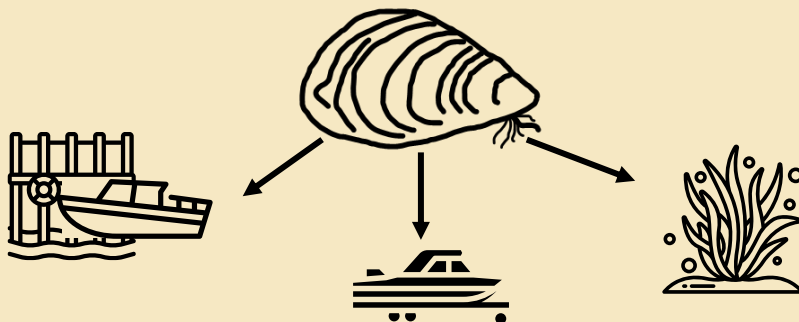
Colours and patterns vary between individuals



Juveniles may be < 1mm in size. Adult individuals grow up to 40mm long. Individuals often cluster together



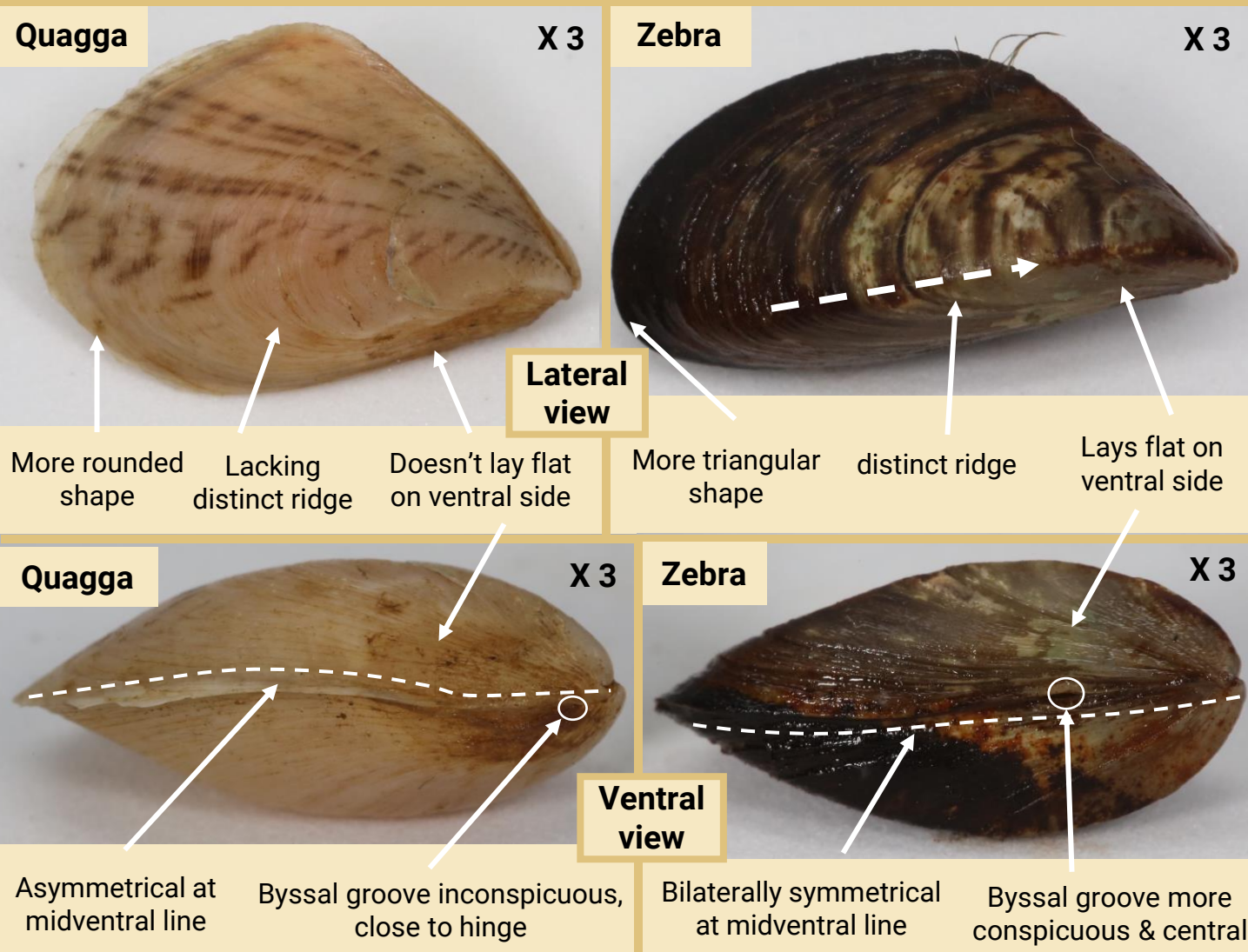
Quagga mussels on a native Swan mussel (*Anodonta cygnea*)



Identification

While Quagga mussels are easily distinguished from native species, they may be confused with the non-native invasive zebra mussel.

COLOURING AND PATTERNING ARE GENERALLY NOT RELIABLE CHARACTERISTICS FOR IDENTIFICATION



Quagga + Zebra = ?...

- Greater biomass
- Greater filtration rates
- More habitat occupied
- More fouling

Quaggas + Zebra = ↑ Ecological & Economic Impact ↑

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For further information please refer to the National Biodiversity Data Centre

www.biodiversityireland.ie/quagga-mussel-alert