



**TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY**



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## **LAKE TAHOE PRESENTS QUAGGA/ZEBRA MUSSELS WATERCRAFT INSPECTION TRAINING MAY 16**

### **Attendees to see K-9 Quagga detection team demonstration**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency will hold a Watercraft Inspection Training for marina operators, agency staff and citizens May 16, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“We will use inspections to prevent the spread of Zebra and Quagga mussels and other species of concern to Lake Tahoe, as well as prevent the spread of existing aquatic invasive plants from Lake Tahoe to other surrounding lakes,” said Nicole Cartwright, Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

Starting in May, Lake Tahoe boaters should be prepared for boat inspections at all public launch sites around the lake.

“In California we have been stressing the importance of ‘clean, drain and dry your boat’ – it’s good for your boat and critical to the environment,” said Susan Ellis, California Department of Fish and Game Invasive Species Coordinator.

Attendees will receive training in the morning. During the “hands-on” vessel inspection portion around noon, representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Nevada Department of Wildlife, and certified inspectors will speak briefly. Attendees will also see a demonstration of DFG’s new K-9 enforcement units which specialize in detecting Quagga/Zebra mussels.

The training will be held at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 123 Market Street, Lake Tahoe, NV.

Quagga mussels infested Lake Mead, the Colorado River and several other waters in Nevada. In California, Quagga mussels were first detected in the Colorado River system in January 2007 and were later found in San Diego and Riverside counties by state and local water agencies. Zebra mussels were discovered in San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County in January of 2008.

Both species of mussel are non-native aquatic mollusks that wreak havoc with the environment by disrupting the natural food chain and releasing toxins that affect other aquatic species. Although they range in size from microscopic to the size of a fingernail, they are prolific and attach themselves to hard and soft surfaces. Boats are the primary transporters of Zebra and Quagga mussels. The Zebra mussels inhabit water depths from 4 to 180 feet, with Quagga reaching depths more than 400 feet. They can attach to and damage boat trailers, cooling systems, boat hulls and steering equipment. Mussels attached to watercraft or trailers can be transported and spread to other water bodies. Water in boat engines, bilges, live wells and buckets can carry mussel larvae (veligers) to other water bodies as well.

For more information on California's Quagga mussel response, visit the DFG Web site at [www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel).

In California public toll-free number, 1-866-440-9530, has been established for boaters and anyone involved with activities on lakes and rivers seeking information on the invasive and destructive Quagga/Zebra mussels. The toll-free number is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To report a zebra or quagga mussel sighting in Tahoe or for more information, call the Tahoe Aquatic Nuisance Species hotline at 1-888-TAHO-ANS. This toll free number is available seven days a week, during daylight hours.

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