

Zebra Mussels

Dreissena polymorpha

USGS Nonindigenous
Aquatic Species (NAS)
Database



Zebra mussels are small bivalve shellfish that grow together in a colony. They are from the Caspian Sea, but were introduced to the Great Lakes from ship water and have traveled through waterways all around the United States. These small mussels cause big problems, as they cover any surface under the water that they come in contact with, including boats and other animals!

What is a non-native or invasive species?

If an organism is introduced to an area where it is not historically known to live, it is considered non-native. A species is considered invasive if it establishes a breeding population and causes harm to the native ecosystem, human health, or the economy.

