

# Aquatic Invasive Species

## NOTICE TO BOATERS

FOR YOUR MOTORIZED BOAT TO BE LAUNCHED AT THE FALLEN LEAF LAKE MARINA YOU MUST HAVE A FALLEN LEAF LAKE SEALED BOAT AND TRAILER. IF YOUR MOTORIZED BOAT AND TRAILER ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH A FALLEN LEAF LAKE SEAL YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE YOUR BOAT DECONTAMINATED AT AN APPROVED DECONTAMINATION STATION IN MEYERS, HOMEWOOD, OR ANY OTHER APPROVED LOCATION WHICH MAINTAINS GREEN SEALS FOR THE FALLEN LEAF LAKE LAUNCH FACILITY. FOR INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT THE STORE @ 530-544-5323 OR THE MARINA @ 530-544-2628. WITHOUT A FALLEN LEAF LAKE SEAL YOUR BOAT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER FALLEN LEAF LAKE.

AS FOR NON MOTORIZED VESSELS (KAYAKS, CANOES, PADDLEBOARDS, FLOAT TUBES AND THE LIKE), THEY MUST BE CLEAN, DRAINED AND DRY UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MARINA PRIOR TO LAUNCH. THEY WILL THEREAFTER BE INSPECTED AT THE MARINA AND HOT WASHED BY MARINA STAFF PRIOR TO LAUNCH. IF ANY NON MOTORIZED CRAFT ARE NOT CLEAN, DRAINED AND DRY, THE MARINA STAFF MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, REFUSE PERMISSION TO LAUNCH AND SEND THEM TO AN APPROVED LOCATION FOR DECONTAMINATION.

THE REASONS WHY THE ABOVE NOTED PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE ARE THE FOLLOWING: In January, 2007, authorities discovered that Lake Mead near Las Vegas Nevada had been infested with Quagga mussels. Within the following five years those few initial few mussels had grown, just in that one body of water, to more than 1.5 trillion adults and over 320 trillion babies known as veligers.

Each mussel filters over a liter of water per day, thereby removing phytoplankton and other food sources which they then expel in an unusable form of waste pollution which ultimately affects entire ecosystems. In addition, they attach themselves to hard surfaces, clogging intake systems, pipes, screens, docks, buoys,

boats and other equipment and infrastructure. They have covered everything from beer cans to the wreckage of a submerged B-29 bomber. Worse yet, they (and particularly their veligers) are highly adaptable and have been known to survive in the engine compartments, ballast tanks, and other storage areas of boats and watercraft for up to 27 days. Literally billions of dollars and countless man hours have been spent since 2007 in cleaning and restoring fouled and colonized turbines, piping systems and other affected devices.

When the Mussels are young they are actually considered plankton and almost microscopic in size. There are only two things that can kill them - heat and chemicals. If the Mussels are sucked into a boat engine and the engine is flushed with water at less than 140 degrees in temperature, they can live indefinitely if the environment they find themselves in remains moist. In such a case, when the boat is next launched, and the engine started, those microscopic veligers can be expelled out the exhaust system, thereby irretrievably infesting and polluting the new host water body.

Populations of Quagga and Zebra mussels are on the move, and they have been confirmed in a number of lakes and reservoirs in California. To date Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe basin appear to be mussel free; however, Tahoe does have other forms of aquatic invasive species including Asian Clams and Eurasian Watermilfoil. Furthermore, Tahoe is a popular destination for boaters who travel from all across the country, including places which are infested. So, the need to be vigilant remains high.

Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District places a high priority on keeping our lake pristine and free from any forms of AIS. For many years now, we have assumed an active role alongside TRPA, TRCD and other organizations that have been working to keep the basin, and more specifically Fallen Leaf Lake, free of mussels and other forms of AIS. All residents of Fallen Leaf should be proud of the proactive stance their community has taken on this issue. We have truly been in the forefront in initiating proactive measures to control the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers.

As a resident of Fallen Leaf, if you see someone getting their boat washed at the Boat Wash, please take a moment and thank them for participating in our program.

Encourage them to read the literature that is provided at the Boat Wash location. A large part of our State winning the battle against AIS is public education.