

## QUAGGA MUSSEL

*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*  
Origin: Eurasia

### INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

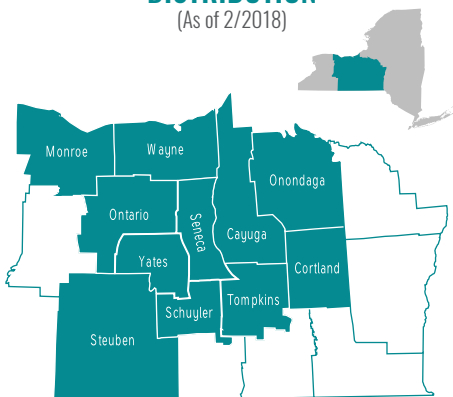
Very High

### MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- Chemical
- Mechanical
- Physical
- Biocontrol
- Prevention

### DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



[www.fingerlakesinvasives.org](http://www.fingerlakesinvasives.org)

Quagga mussels are filter-feeding, freshwater, bivalve mollusks. Their appearance is variable, but shells usually have dark concentric rings that fade toward the hinge. Shells can grow to about 4 cm and are rounded, with a slightly bowed bottom that causes the mussel to tip over if set on its flattest surface.

### HABITAT

Quagga mussels inhabit freshwater at varying depths depending on temperature, where they are sheltered from wave attack. They can live on a wide variety of soft and hard surfaces.

### THREAT

Quagga mussels can outcompete and crowd out native species. As filter feeders, they remove particles from the water, which affects water quality and the food chain of aquatic ecosystems. They also cover many surfaces and can be a nuisance to humans due to their sharp shells.

### MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As these species are most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body. Not much can be done once established. Manual removal may be performed on small, accessible populations. In closed systems, such as water treatment plants, other control methods can be used, including chemical, thermal, electrical, and biological controls.

**REFERENCE** - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/7/2017].

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