

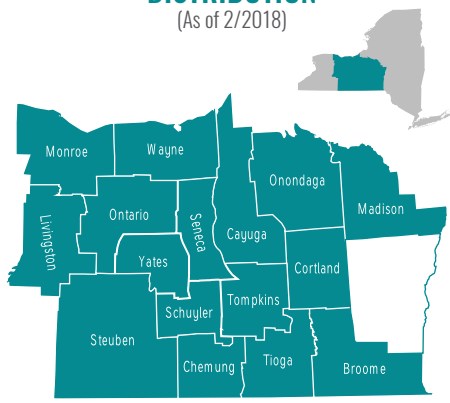
ZEBRA MUSSEL

Dreissena polymorpha
Origin: Eurasia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS
Very High

- MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
- Chemical
 - Mechanical
 - Physical
 - Biocontrol
 - Prevention

DISTRIBUTION
(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Zebra mussels are filter-feeding, freshwater, bivalve mollusks that attach to most surfaces in aquatic environments. Zebra mussels are small, up to 3 cm long, and D-shaped with light and dark yellow to brown alternating stripes. This species is similar in appearance to the quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*), but they can be distinguished by the presence of a flattened underside. When placed on a flat surface, zebra mussels will remain upright.

HABITAT

Zebra mussels inhabit freshwater lakes, rivers, reservoirs, streams, and ponds up to depths of widely varying depths. They attach to any stable substrate including sand, silt, cobbles, macrophytes, concrete, and metal. They do not tolerate salinity or low dissolved oxygen.

THREAT

Zebra mussels can outcompete and displace native species. Although they have some predators, they breed faster than they can be consumed. As filter feeders, they remove particles from the water, affecting the clarity, content, and ultimately the food chain of aquatic ecosystems. They can also attach to and cover many surfaces, which can cause slippery and sharp conditions, and clog intakes or other pipes.

MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is 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. Zebra mussels are very difficult to control once established. In closed systems such as water treatment plants, chemical, thermal, electrical, and biological controls may be used.

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

