


Zebra mussels can attach to anything firm, including water intakes of power generating plants and municipal water systems. They can accumulate 6 inches deep, severely reducing the flow of water and posing a multibillion-dollar threat to industry, agriculture, and municipal water supplies.

Because of the sheer numbers, (females can produce 100,000 eggs per season), zebra mussels can smother native freshwater mussel beds. Other wildlife are vulnerable, too. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, gleaning fine particles of organic food from the surrounding water. Some observers fear they will deplete the supply of food available to shad, paddlefish and other native species. Add the cost of damage to boats, motors, docks, and other marine equipment, and you have a very expensive scenario.



Preventing Their Spread



Boaters and anglers can prevent the spread of zebra mussels to other Kansas waters by carefully checking their boats and trailers. Any water in the bilges or live wells should be drained before leaving the lake. Mud attached to anchors or ropes should be removed, as should any vegetation on boats or trailers. You should dry your boat for 5 days or wash it thoroughly with hot water (140 degrees F.). If hot water is not available, a 10% bleach solution can be used to kill any zebra mussels, disposing of the bleach water properly. Unused bait should be poured onto dry land. Never release bait into a lake and don't take bait from one lake to another. Anglers who wade should clean their boots after leaving an infected lake.



Gathering Pond

Milford Hatchery

**Open Daily To Public:
7a.m. - 10 p.m.**

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:

1. No boats beyond gate booth.
2. No live aquatic bait allowed.

Artificial lures & nightcrawlers are permitted.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 07/13


Kansas
Department of Wildlife, Parks
and Tourism





Why Are Zebra Mussels A Problem?



Zebra mussels are because they filter water, up to a liter a day, to eat plankton. The clear water they leave behind will often lead to algal blooms that are harmful to people. The clear water can also let UV rays damage fish eggs laid during the spawn.

Larval fish and native mussels rely on this same plankton to survive.

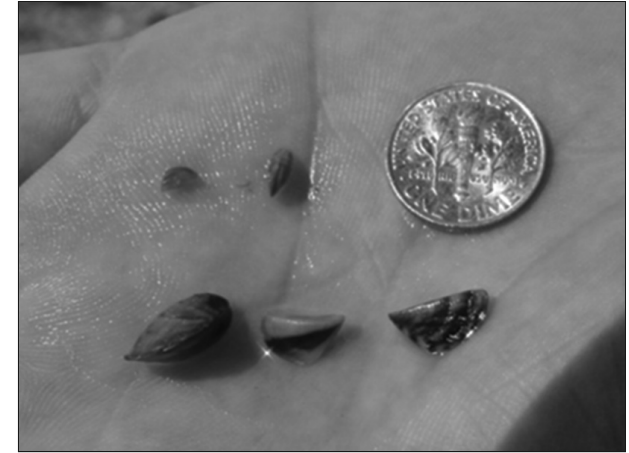
Zebra mussels also clog pipes by forming colonies inside of the pipes. Then the water cannot flow through the pipes as easily (a problem for the Hatchery).

Nationwide expenditures to control zebra mussels in electric generating plants are estimated at \$145 million/yr.

What Do I Do If I Find Zebra Mussels?



If you find a zebra mussel, do not release it back into the water, note the date and location, and call the Emporia Research Office at (620) 342-0658. Public assistance in reporting zebra mussel sightings at new locations is essential to help prevent its spread to other inland lakes and rivers.



How Do Zebra Mussels Spread?



Transport by people is the primary vector for the spread of zebra mussels to unconnected waters.

Zebra mussels will attach to a solid substrate and can be easily transported on recreational equipment.

Zebra mussel larvae (veligers) are about the diameter of a human hair and are so small you can't see them without a microscope.

The veliger floats in a water column for 1-5 weeks and then as it grows it begins to sink and search for a hard surface on which to live and grow.

Why Access Restrictions:

1. Prevent the spread of zebra mussels to Milford Fish Hatchery supply water.
2. Prevent zebra mussel access to Milford Fish Hatchery.

The Milford Fish Hatchery raises thousands of fish annually that are stocked into public waters to help maintain stable fish populations for Kansas anglers. The Gathering Pond is the primary water source to operate the hatchery. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is currently in the design phase to improve hatchery equipment to deal with the possibility of a zebra mussels invasion into the Gathering Pond. Restrictions are needed to reduce the chance of zebra mussels getting into the Hatchery supply water before equipment improvements are completed.

**Report any illegal dumping of bait.
Protect fishing for future anglers.**