

ZEBRA MUSSELS

The ZEBRA MUSSEL poses a serious threat to the Western Lakes and could cost us millions of Euro

Zebra mussels expanded their range from rivers entering the Black Sea and Caspian Sea to much of Europe, attached to ships and boats, following the building of canals. The zebra mussel was established in Britain by 1830. In 1986 they were introduced to North America in ships' ballast water and now cause serious fouling problems there. They first arrived in Ireland in 1993. They are presently found in the Erne and Shannon catchments and are spread by boat movement. They have also been introduced into other water bodies including counties Clare and Cavan.

We must prevent boats from infested waters trailering to and launching in our lakes. Boats must not be launched unless we are absolutely certain that they are free from zebra mussels.

Download a brochure here for more information and best practice when boating and angling:

<http://www.galway.ie/en/Services/Environment/AlienSpecies/>

Relevant Contact Details:

The Western Regional Fisheries Board	T: 091 563110
The Northwestern Regional Fisheries Board	T: 096 22788
Shannon Regional Fisheries Board	T: 061 300238
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Other Web-Sites:

<http://www.shannon-fishery-board.ie/aboutus/zebramussels.htm>
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/freshwater/zebra/>