



MONTANA HAS ALREADY STOPPED MORE MUSSEL-FOULED BOATS THIS YEAR THAN ALL OF 2020

JULY 8, 2021

On Sunday, June 27, watercraft inspection stations in eastern Montana intercepted two boats entering the state carrying invasive mussels, making it the 35th and 36th mussel-fouled boats intercepted this year. This surpasses the total number of 35 mussel-fouled boats intercepted in 2020.

Shortly after noon on Sunday, the Wibaux station found mussels on a used inboard ballast boat that had been recently purchased in Michigan and was destined for Billings. Inspectors decontaminated the hull and locked the boat. AIS staff in Billings will flush the ballast tanks before removing the lock from the

boat. The Wibaux station is operated by the Garfield County Conservation District.

Sunday evening the Hardin inspection station detected mussels on an inboard/outboard motorboat last used in the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. The recently purchased boat was being commercially transported to Washington state. Inspectors removed the visible mussels, locked the boat to the trailer and notified officials in Washington for further action. The Hardin station is operated by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

FWP staff reminds anyone transporting motorized or nonmotorized boats into Montana that an inspection is required before launching, and stopping at ALL open watercraft inspection stations is required. Failing to stop at an inspection station can result in a fine of up to \$500.

Boaters should ensure their watercraft, trailer and all equipment that is in contact with water (anchor, lines, swim ladder, etc.) is clean, drained of water, and dry.

A draft report earlier this year by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission shows that funding for watercraft inspection stations in the four Northwest states in 2020 remained nearly the same as levels spent in 2019. However, interceptions of small watercraft infested with zebra or quagga mussels at the states' borders rose by 15 percent.

This is the fifth year that Northwest states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have shared the costs of inspection stations at borders to stop the spread of the invasive mussels into the Columbia River basin. PSMFC in 2020 distributed some \$10 million for the Corps to the states.

— CBB, April 30, 2021, REPORT SHOWS NORTHWEST WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS IN 2020 INTERCEPTED 107 MUSSEL-FOULED BOATS, UP FROM 2019

Also see:

— CBB, May 13, 2021, WITH NORTHWEST BOATING SEASON JUST BEGINNING WDFW ALREADY FINDS 11 WATERCRAFT FOULED WITH INVASIVE MUSSELS
<https://www.cbbulletin.com/with-northwest-boating-season-just-beginning-wdfw-already-finds-11-watercraft-fouled-with-invasive-mussels/>

— CBB, Nov. 20, 2020, INTERIOR ISSUES REPORT DETAILING ACTIONS
'SAFEGUARDING THE WEST' FROM INVASIVE MUSSELS WITH FOCUS ON
COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN [https://www.cbbulletin.com/interior-issues-report-
detailing-actions-safeguarding-the-west-from-invasive-mussels-with-focus-on-
columbia-river-basin/](https://www.cbbulletin.com/interior-issues-report-detailing-actions-safeguarding-the-west-from-invasive-mussels-with-focus-on-columbia-river-basin/)

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