

## Idaho Aquatic Invasive Species Program Summary 2015 Idaho State Department of Agriculture

### 2015 Program Highlights

- ISDA worked cooperatively with local partners around the state to operate 20 watercraft inspection stations.
- Over 64,157 watercraft inspections were conducted. This is the highest number of watercraft inspected in Idaho during a single season.
- Over 311,000 watercraft inspections have been conducted in Idaho since the program began in 2009.
- A roving inspection crew was operated for the first time this season inspecting watercraft and educating boaters at high use boat ramps around the southwestern part of the state.
- 25 zebra / quagga mussel fouled vessels were intercepted.
- 145 zebra / quagga mussel fouled vessels have been intercepted in Idaho since the program began in 2009.
- 690 veliger samples for zebra / quagga mussels early detection monitoring were collected from 70 high-risk waterbodies throughout the state.
- To date, no evidence of zebra or quagga mussels has been found in the waters of Idaho.
- To date, zebra / quagga mussels have not been observed anywhere in the waters of the Columbia River Basin, including Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, British Columbia and Alberta.
- ISDA staff provided 12 watercraft inspection trainings and presented invasive species information to over 30 stakeholder groups.
- Educational materials reinforcing the Clean Drain Dry message were distributed to over 100,000 boaters in 2015.
- ISDA continues to work with regional partners to improve the efficacy, efficiency and consistency of invasive species prevention and education initiatives in the region.



65 foot houseboat intercepted with mussels in Post Falls, ID as the result of notification from Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Introduction**

Invasive species are responsible for causing billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure and the environment every year. Many of the invasive species that cause problems nationally are not yet found in Idaho, presenting an exceptional opportunity to prevent the introduction of these species. The Idaho Invasive Species Program at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is addressing this threat through a program that focuses on prevention, survey, treatment and education.

**Watercraft Inspection**

Watercraft inspection is the primary method ISDA utilizes to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The 2015 season was the seventh year of Idaho’s watercraft inspection program with 20 inspection stations operated state-wide (Map 1). Over 64,000 vessels were inspected representing the highest number of inspections in a single season since the program began in 2009 (Figure 1). The rise in inspection numbers was due to several factors including the operation of additional stations, expansion of hours of operation, and mild weather during the 2015 boating season.

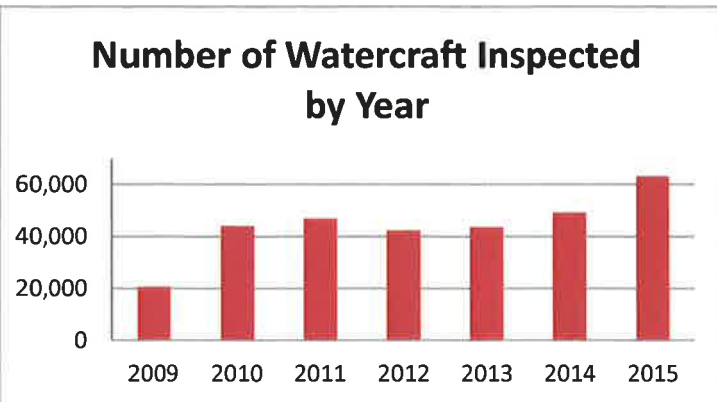
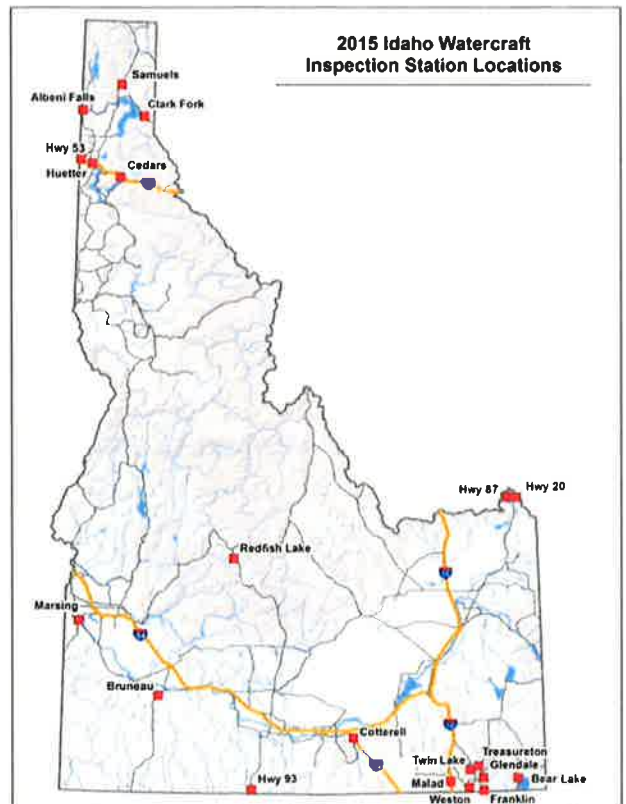
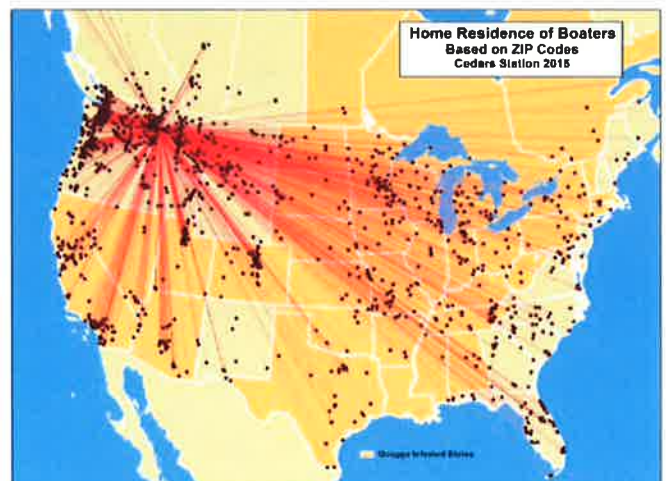


Figure 1: Watercraft inspected by year.



Map 1: Watercraft inspection station locations 2015.

Watercraft inspection stations check boats to make sure they are not transporting AIS. Inspection stations also educate the boating public to clean, drain and dry their boats. When boaters follow these three easy steps, they do their part to prevent the movement of AIS and help protect our waters from invasive species. Boats were inspected from all 50 states and southern Canadian provinces in 2015. The Cedars (I-90 westbound) station alone inspected boats from over 1,500 zip and postal codes this season (Map 2). A summary of 2015 inspection data can be found below in Table 1 and in more detail in Appendix 1.

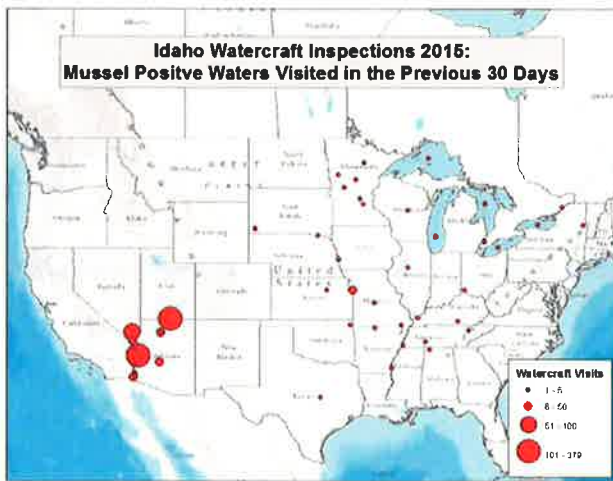


Map 2: Zip codes of watercraft inspected at the Cedars (I-90 westbound) watercraft inspection station during the 2015 season.

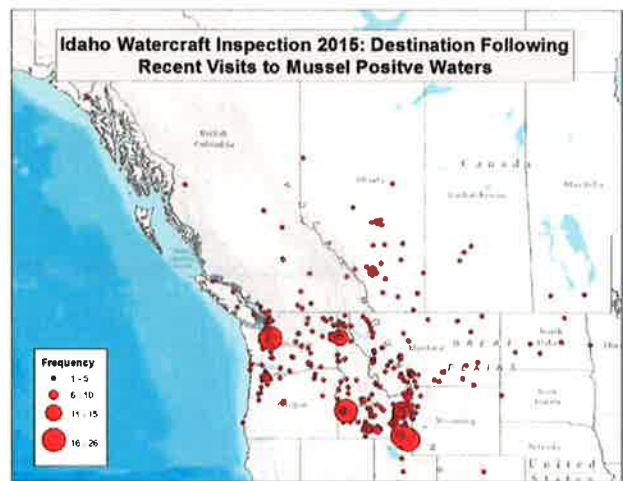
2015 Inspections	Number of Watercraft
Vessels Inspected	64,157
Passport Inspections	13,106
Vessels Recently In Mussel-Infested Waters	839
Vessels Hot Washed	660
Vessels with Vegetation	296
Mussel-Fouled Vessels	25

Table 1: 2015 watercraft inspection data summary.

**High Risk Inspections:** Over 800 high risk vessels had visited waters with adult zebra / quagga mussel within the previous 30 days (Map 3). These watercraft represent the highest risk for transporting live zebra / quagga mussels into the state. Less than 30% of these vessels were inspected prior to coming to Idaho and most were out of the water for only a week (Appendix 2). These vessels received a thorough high-risk inspection and many were hot washed to ensure that they were free of AIS. Following inspection, over half of these boats traveled to destinations in Idaho, with the remainder destined to locations throughout region (Map 4).

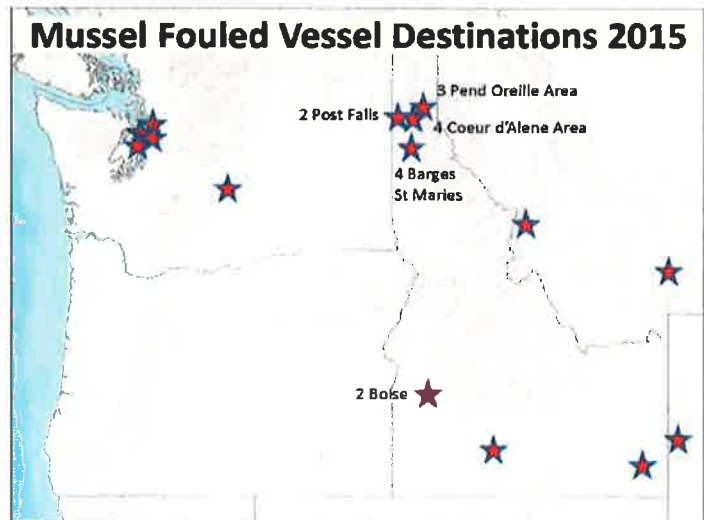


Map 3: Mussel waters visited in the previous 30 days.



Map 4: Destination of vessels coming from mussel impacted waters.

**Mussel Fouled Watercraft:** Twenty five vessels were intercepted transporting zebra or quagga mussels in 2015. These vessels originated from lakes, Havasu, Pleasant, and Mead as well as from waters in 9 other eastern states (Appendix 3). Seventeen of these vessels were destined for Idaho, with the others heading to waters in the neighboring states (Map 5). Vessels that were destined for Idaho were thoroughly decontaminated by ISDA staff and remained out of the water for a minimum of 30 days. A total of 145 mussel-fouled vessels have been intercepted in Idaho since the program began in 2009 (Figure 2).



Map 5: Destinations for mussel fouled vessels intercepted in Idaho, 2015.

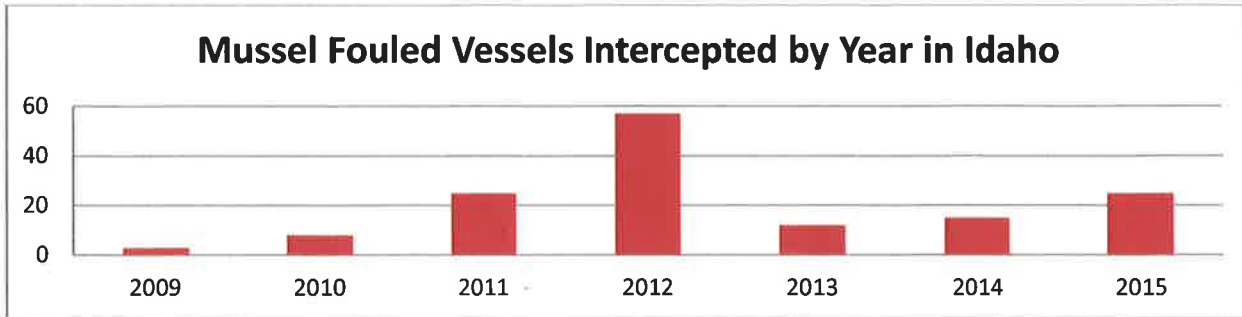
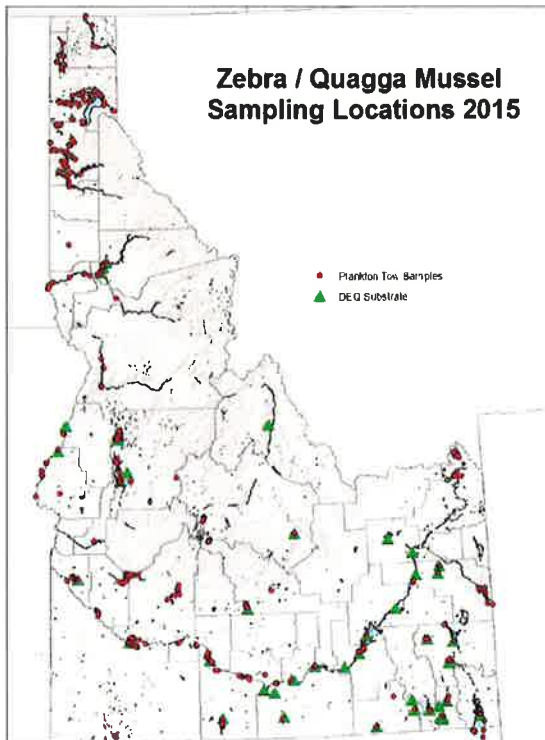


Figure 2: Number of mussel fouled vessels intercepted by year by the Idaho Watercraft Inspection Program.

The number of mussel fouled watercraft increased in 2015 due in part to the increased level of notification provided by state and regional partners. Notifications that led to the interception of vessels with mussels were provided by Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife (NDOW), Arizona Department of Game and Fish (AZGF), Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP), Utah Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (UTDWR), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) (Appendix 3). Over 60% of the mussel vessels this season were intercepted due to notification from state and regional partners. These vessels represent the highest risk for live mussel transport and notification allows ISDA staff to follow up with the boat owner to ensure adequate dry time and to verify that all AIS are removed. ISDA is working with regional partners to further improve notification to help identify and intercept these vessels as they travel to Idaho. More watercraft inspection information can be found at: [www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov).

### Invasive Species Early Detection Monitoring



Map 6: Zebra / quagga mussel sampling locations 2015.

ISDA’s early detection monitoring program collected 690 plankton samples from 70 waterbodies in Idaho in 2015. A number of partners also assist with mussel early detection monitoring including the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), The Shoshone Piute Tribe, The Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Idaho Power Company, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, lake associations and various canal companies and irrigation districts around the state. To date, no evidence of mussels has been found in Idaho or anywhere in the Columbia River Basin.

Monitoring conducted by ISDA also involves survey for invasive plants, snails, clams, mussels, and crayfish. Surveys in 2015 identified new populations of Eurasian watermilfoil in the Hagerman area (Twin Falls County) and in Oxbow Reservoir (Adams County), flowering rush in Blackfoot Reservoir (Caribou and Bingham Counties), curlyleaf pondweed in Mud Lake (Jefferson County), Chinese mystery snails in Spirit Lake (Kootenai County), and Asian clams, channeled apple snails and hydrilla in geothermal waters in Twin Falls County.

## **Education**

Education is a major component of the ISDA invasive species prevention program. The watercraft inspection stations play an important role in education through one-on-one interaction with the public and reinforcing the “Clean Drain Dry” message. Inspectors also provided a variety of invasive species related educational materials to the public.



ISDA staff participated in a number of events this season which helped educate the public on invasive species issues and the importance of “Clean, Drain, Dry.” Events included the Burley Boat Regatta, the Saint Maries Jet Boat Races, the Coeur d’Alene Wooden Boat Show, the Twin Falls County Fair, the Idaho State Fair, and the Idaho Horticultural Show. Staff provided 12 watercraft inspection trainings, educating over 100 individuals on the threats of invasive species and watercraft inspection protocols. Staff also presented on invasive species issues to noxious weed professionals, counties, tribes, master naturalists, marine deputies, ITD staff, DEQ staff, IDFG staff, lake associations, and student groups.

## **Idaho Invasive Species Council**

The Idaho Invasive Species Council (IISC) was created by Executive Order in 2001 as a forum for coordinating invasive species related efforts and initiatives in the state. The IISC holds biannual meetings to discuss AIS issues and projects and in 2015 approved the “Idaho Response Plan for Invasive Insect and Disease Tree Pests” and the updated “Idaho Rapid Response Plan for Detection of Dreissenid Mussels.”

## **A State-wide Effort**

The invasive species program in Idaho would not be possible if it weren’t for the support of partners throughout the region. Partners that operate watercraft inspection stations include: the Bonner, Bruneau, Franklin and Oneida Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Twin Falls and Fremont Counties; the City of Bloomington; and the US Forest Service. Support for the program also comes from partners around the state including: County Sheriffs, County Noxious Weed Departments, canal companies and irrigation districts, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Idaho Office of Species Conservation (OSC), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho State Police (ISP), Pend Oreille Basin Commission, Idaho Power, Idaho Water Users Association, Idaho Aquaculture Association, US Forest Service (USFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA APHIS, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Idaho Conservation League (ICL), lake and homeowner associations, local civic groups and dedicated members of the public. Thank you for your continued support.

**Appendix 1: Idaho Watercraft Inspection Numbers by Station 2015.**

<b>Stations 2015</b>	<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>Weeds</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Hot Wash</b>	<b>In Mussel Waters in Previous 30 Days</b>	<b>Mussel Fouled Vessels 2015</b>	<b>Mussel Fouled Vessels 2009-2015</b>
Albeni Falls	6,104	2	1	2	4	1	2
Bear Lake	3,300	2	7	23	24		
Bruneau	2,870	6	1	7	8		3
Cedars	7,256	56	418	29	61	5	43
Clark Fork	3,284	12	4	5	7	2	2
Cotterell	2,436	5	258	107	201	1	10
Franklin	2,659	3	6	16	26	1	2
Glendale	1,584	9	1	3	11		
Huetter	9,943	65	90	5	7		3
Hwy 20	5,199	53	4	5	17		
Hwy 53	3,225	16	0	1	1		
Hwy 87	2,374	3	11	11	6	1	1
Hwy 93	1,423	0	32	167	161	1	16
Malad	3,699	1	14	231	274	2	17
Marsing	1,126	13	8	13	19		2
Redfish Lake	1,799	23	0	26	3		1
Roving Crew	928	13	0	3	2		
Samuels	3,165	11	3	3	0		
Treasureton	22	0	0	0	0		
Twin Lake	1,562	3	3	2	4		
Weston	199	0	0	1	3		
Port of Entry / House Calls						11	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,157</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>145</b>

## Appendix 2: Summary of High Risk Inspections 2015

### Final Watercraft Inspection Data 2015: Vessels that Visited Mussel Positive Waters in the Previous 30 Days

Waterbody	Number of Boats	Percent of Total High Risk	Percent Previously Inspected	Average Days In	Average Days Out	Percent Non-Motorized
Lake Powell	381	46	27	5	6	7
Lake Havasu	165	20	16	25	7	8
Colorado River Above Mead	60	7	5	11	7	73
Colorado River Below Mead	53	6	13	26	8	28
Lake Mead	56	7	14	18	9	9
Lake Pleasant	23	3	9	46	13	4
Lake Mohave	19	2	11	12	11	5
Eastern Waters	73	9	23	20	11	26

## Appendix 3: Summary of Mussel Fouled Vessels Intercepted in 2015

Date	Origin	Destination	Vessel Type	Out of Water for Less Than 30 Days	Vessel Recently Purchased	Commercial Transport	ISDA Notified Prior to Interception
1/21/2015	Mead Lake, NV	Hagerman, ID	Cabin Cruiser		yes		NDOW
2/20/2015	Mead Lake, NV	Bozeman, MT	Cabin Cruiser 31'	yes	yes		NDOW
3/4/2015	Mead Lake, NV	Post Falls, ID	House Boat 65'	yes	yes	yes	NDOW
3/14/2015	Lake Havasu, AZ	Hope, ID	Pontoon 21'	yes			AZGF
3/17/2015	Lake Pleasant, AZ	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Cabin Cruiser 31'	yes	yes		AZGF
3/23/2015	Lake Havasu, AZ	Hamilton, MT	Pontoon 21'	yes			CDFW
4/19/2015	Clinton, TN	Hayden, ID	Pontoon 26'	yes	yes	yes	
5/5/2015	Mead Lake, NV	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Cabin Cruiser 34'		yes	yes	NDOW
5/26/2015	Lake Michigan, MI	Pend Oreille, ID	Fishing Boat 18'		yes		
5/31/2015	Long Lake, MN	Alpine, WY	Ski Boat		yes		
6/5/2015	Illinois	Vashon Island, WA	Pontoon Boat		yes	yes	
6/16/2015	Erie, PA	Hope, ID	Cabin Cruiser	yes	yes	yes	MTFWP
6/17/2015	Dubuque, IA	St Maries, ID	Floating Barge			yes	ITD
6/17/2015	Dubuque, IA	St Maries, ID	Floating Barge			yes	ITD
6/17/2015	Dubuque, IA	St Maries, ID	Floating Barge			yes	ITD
6/17/2015	Dubuque, IA	St Maries, ID	Floating Barge			yes	ITD
6/19/2015	Bay City, WI	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Pontoon Boat 27'		yes	yes	
6/20/2015	Mullet Lake, MI	Port Orchard, WA	Ski Boat 23'	yes	yes	yes	
7/10/2015	Lake Michigan, MI	Seattle, WA	Sail Boat 32'		yes	yes	MTFWP
7/14/2015	Lake Mead, NV	Wooley, WA	Cabin Cruiser 27'	yes	yes		NDOW
7/20/2015	Lake Mead, NV	Boise, ID	Cabin Cruiser		yes		UTDWR
7/23/2015	Lake Mead, NV	Soda Springs, ID	Pontoon 24'			yes	
9/11/2015	Hudson Lake, IN	Naches, WA	Pontoon	yes	yes		
9/22/2015	Lake George, NY	Boise, ID	Fishing Boat		yes		
10/1/2015	Cheboygan, MI	Post Falls, ID	Cabin Cruiser 31'	yes	yes	yes	ITD
<b>Total: 25</b>				<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>