

## TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Cowen, Community Liaison, (775) 589-5278

For Release Immediately

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### **BOAT INSPECTIONS THIS SUMMER WILL HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AT LAKE TAHOE**

**Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV** – From May 16 until Labor Day this year, boaters in the Tahoe Basin should expect random mandatory watercraft inspections at all public launch sites around Lake Tahoe. Inspections are designed to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into Lake Tahoe, and to prevent the spread of existing aquatic invasive plants from Lake Tahoe to Fallen Leaf and Echo Lakes.

The free inspections will take place at marinas before boaters launch watercraft and they will take about 5-10 minutes. It is important for local and out of town boaters to participate in order to prevent these invasive aquatic hitchhikers from traveling unknown and unseen on watercraft, fishing lines, animals, and in bilge and bait water. It is illegal to transport zebra and quagga mussels in California and Nevada, and it only takes one tiny mussel to infest a body of water.

If brought to Lake Tahoe, these invasive mussels will threaten recreation and be impossible to remove. To prevent the spread of harmful aquatic species, it is important to Clean, Drain & Dry your boat every time before entering a new body of water. To report a zebra or quagga mussel sighting, call 1-888-TAHO-ANS. For more information visit: <http://www.tahoercd.org/AquaticInvasives.php>. To help stop the spread and become a volunteer boat inspector contact Nicole at 530-543-1501 ext 111 or [ncartwright@tahoercd.org](mailto:ncartwright@tahoercd.org).

## Photos



Clean boats mean clean waters. To report a zebra or quagga mussel sighting, call 1-888-TAHO-ANS. For more information visit:

<http://www.tahoercd.org/AquaticInvasives.php>.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Jeff Cowen, Community Liaison, at (775) 589-5278 or email to [jcowen@trpa.org](mailto:jcowen@trpa.org).

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