



**City of Kerrville**  
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## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City Taking Steps to Combat Zebra Mussels**

**Kerrville, Texas (Nov. 14, 2017)** - A tiny but highly invasive species may be the next threat to area water supplies.

Zebra mussels measure only 1-1/2 inches long, but their diminutive size belies the environmental and economic damage they can wreak upon municipal water systems. Originally from Eurasia, zebra mussels have already infested several north and central Texas lakes and rivers, where they disrupt water supplies by attaching themselves to the inside of pipes, thus restricting water flow.

“Once the zebra mussels have been introduced into a river system, water supplies on that body of water are at risk,” said Scott Loveland, assistant public works director for the City of Kerrville. “They get sucked into the water treatment plant intake and invest the plant. They can infest the whole drinking water plant, becoming so abundant that the pipes become blocked by their sheer numbers. If this happens, a considerable amount of money and effort must be spent controlling them.”

The mussels can also damage boat motors and hulls, harm native fish and mussel species, and litter shorelines with their small, sharp shells.

“They can also disrupt an entire aquatic ecosystem,” Loveland said. “Once established, their populations can explode. They can consume much of the plankton in a lake, thus drastically effecting the base of the food chain and the organisms relying on that food source. This in turn can affect the top of the food chain, the fish.”

Zebra mussels are spread by boaters, kayakers and other recreational water users who do not clean, drain and dry their boats and equipment before leaving an infested body of water. Lake Travis and Canyon Lake have already identified zebra mussel populations.

Loveland is spearheading a campaign locally by the City of Kerrville to try and inform area boaters of the dangers of zebra mussels and how to combat their spread.

“Our approach is to educate those using the upper Guadalupe River about the threat and risks associated with spreading zebra mussels,” Loveland said. “Before you come and launch in area lakes and rivers, make sure that you’ve cleaned everything. ‘Clean, Drain and Dry’ before using the upper Guadalupe.”

For additional information, contact Stuart Cunyus, Public Information Officer, at 258-1116 or via email to [stuart.cunyus@kerrvilletx.gov](mailto:stuart.cunyus@kerrvilletx.gov).



Please help us to prevent them from spreading to the Upper Guadalupe River. If you have visited another lake or body of water, make sure that you have already cleaned, drained and dried your boat before launching here!

- 1 **CLEAN** your boat, anchor and gear. Remove any plants, animals and foreign objects.
- 2 **DRAIN** all water from your boat and completely empty your bait buckets. Microscopic zebra mussels could be in the water.
- 3 **DRY** everything for a week or more before entering another water body. If unable to dry completely, wash it with high-pressure, hot (140<sup>o</sup> F), soapy water.



**WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE CAN HURT OUR TEXAS LAKES AND DRINKING WATER**

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