



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Aquatic Invasive Species Update: September 6, 2017

Survey:

- State-wide over 800 plankton tow samples have been collected for zebra / quagga mussel larvae early detection analysis this season. To date, no mussel larvae have been verified in samples from Montana.
- Working cooperative with US Fish and Wildlife Services, divers were deployed on Tiber Reservoir to search for zebra / quagga mussel adults. No dreissenids were found.
- Snorkeling surveys and substrate monitoring has been conducted around docks and shorelines at Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs with no dreissenids found.
- This fall, dreissenid mussel sniffing dogs from Alberta will assist with drawdown surveys on Tiber and Canyon Ferry in an attempt to verify adult mussels.
- Surveys involve monitoring for all AIS including invasive snails, clams, crayfish and weeds. To date, no new AIS populations have been detected in the state this season.

Watercraft Inspection:

- Over 58,000 watercraft have been inspected this season in Montana.
- 16 vessels have been intercepted with zebra / quagga mussels.
- Over 80 citations have been issued this year related to invasive species.

Outreach and Education:

- AIS outreach has been ongoing this boating season including press releases, radio and television ads, Facebook updates and targeted outreach at watercraft inspection stations.
- FWP is in the process of seeking an advertising firm to assist with development and implementation of a comprehensive AIS marketing plan to improve AIS education and prevention.