

# Quagga Mussel

## *Dreissena bugensis*

**Identification** Small, 13mm – 4cm; fan-shaped shell with pointed edges at either side; light tan with mottled lines or narrow stripes.

**Why is it a Problem?** Causes problems to boats, power plants, and harbors by latching onto them; destroys native mussel populations



**Range/Habitat** Prefer silt- and sand-bottomed lakes; found primarily in Great Lakes and lakes bordering the Colorado River; not yet found in Maryland

**Similar Species** Striped like the zebra mussel (also invasive), but unlike the zebra mussel, the quagga mussel shell has a rounded angle or carina.

**Legal Status** Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

**Method of Introduction** Most likely arrived in the Great Lakes as stowaways in the ballast water of ocean going ships.

**Control and Prevention** Thoroughly clean boats and angling equipment, particularly when moving between bodies of water or when coming from an area known to be infected with quagga mussels.

**Want to know more? Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.**