

DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL

CERTIFIED SCREENER'S 2012 REFRESHER MATERIAL

Thank you for your efforts, along with the efforts of your community, its residents, and its boaters, to protect Lake Nacimiento. We now have over 200 people trained as Level I Certified Screeners – helping to protect our local lakes, educate boaters, and protect against a Quagga or Zebra Mussels invasion. This letter is to provide refresher information for the 2012 Prevention Program so that Lake Nacimiento remains MUSSEL-FREE.

Why am I receiving this material?

Our records show that you are among the 200 Certified Level I Screeners for Lake Nacimiento. This material has been prepared for you as a refresher to:

- Provide informational resources and relevant contact information
- Remind you of the potential devastating impacts of a mussel infestation
- Help identify high-risk vessels that may be carrying invasive mussels
- Notice **NEW 2012 PREVENTION PROGRAM ELEMENTS** that will affect your screening activities

Remind me about the basics of the Mussel Prevention Program

Out-of-area boaters unwittingly transport mussels from infested lakes, exposing local lakes to the devastating effect of mussels when they travel here to boat. Monterey County Parks and Water Resources Agency, San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (SLO District), and Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee have partnered with private communities, and Certified Screeners like yourself, around Lake Nacimiento to identify and reject high-risk boats from launching.

Your role as a Certified Screener is to help your community to check boats as they approach the lake, to sign and stamp a permit for those vessels that you deem OK to launch, and to reject high-risk vessels altogether.¹



Quagga and Zebra Mussels cause irreparable damage by reproducing at an alarming rate:

1 MILLION EGGS per each female mussel per spawning season

- Polluting lakes
- Littering beaches with smelly, sharp mussel shells
- Increasing drag on boats and clogging engine intakes
- Clogging water delivery pipes and increasing costs to operate/maintain lake and facilities
- Devastating lakes' ecosystem
- Negatively impacting on economy
- Permanently altering lake's water chemistry and increasing algae growth at great depths

¹ Some private ramps will send questionable boats to the public ramps for Level 1 Inspection and possible rejection.



What's new for 2012?

Communities provided helpful feedback on last year's program that resulted in several changes:

- Vessel Screening Permits valid for 21 days and can be re-verified and re-stamped/signed up to three times
- Resident Vessel Program set up for boats that do not leave the lake and meet eligibility/ enrollment requirements
- Nacimiento Mussel Prevention Hotline in place to keep in touch about the program -- (805)-788-6006

How will this year's program work?

- All vessels must be CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY.

CLEAN - Absent of attached vegetation, dirt, debris or surface deposits including mussel shells or residue on the watercraft, trailer, outdrive or equipment that could mask the presence of attached mussels.

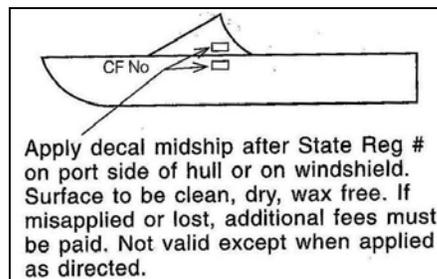
DRAIN - To the extent practical, all water drained from any live-well, bait-well, storage compartment, bilge area, engine compartment, floor, ballast tank, water storage and delivery system, cooler or other water area of the watercraft, trailer, engine or equipment.

DRY - No visible sign of standing water on or in the watercraft, trailer, engine or equipment.

- All vessels will be required to complete a "Vessel Screening Permit" (attached) unless they are enrolled in the Resident Vessel Program. Each ramp will keep these in stock, plus the permit form can be downloaded from:
www.SLOCountyWater.org (click on *Nacimiento Lake Program link*)
www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us www.vivaeldragon.org
- All vessels must be properly screened/inspected, permits must be signed and stamped by a Certified Screener, and stamped permits must be carried on the vessel at all times. One exception is "Resident Vessels" (page 3). Find out who you should contact to understand your community's protocol and stamps issuance (page 5).
- Vessels that have been on infested lakes within the past 30 days and/or are not CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY will be required to undergo a Level 1 Inspection.

- **Vessels CANNOT launch if they have been on infested lakes within the past 10 days or fail inspection.**

- Vessels participating in the Resident Vessel Program will display Resident Vessel Program stickers on the hull. Allow these vessels to launch as long as the Vessel Owner complies with the rules and regulations of the Resident Vessel Program.



- You may be asked to "band" Resident Vessels who wish to leave the watershed area for maintenance and repair, which involves:
 - Notifying your community's Mussel Coordinator of all required information for tracking (log of Resident Vessel) and reminding Vessel Owner that they must leave a message with details on hotline (805)-788-6006;



- Screening Resident Vessel (verifying intact band, unless notified otherwise by SLO District) and removing band upon re-entry
- Notifying your community's Mussel Coordinator of re-entry and necessary information.

My role as a Certified Screener

Here are the steps to follow. These are illustrated on the attached flowchart:

- 1) Boaters displaying the Resident Vessel Program sticker are clear to launch, unless banded (see #7 below).

Follow the procedures below for all other vessels:



SCREENING A VESSEL:

- 2) For all other boaters, ask for the completed Vessel Screening Permit or offer to help complete it.
- 3) Review the form for completeness and for any red flags.
- 4) Walk around the vessel and trailer looking and feeling for any evidence that contradicts the verbal information provided. Verify a CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY condition.
- 5) Once you verify CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY and if you have not found any problems, you can clear the vessel for launch, sign and stamp (with official program stamp) the form, and note the date of the screening and the expiration date (maximum of 21 days from screening date), and remind the operator to carry the permit in the boat at all times on the lake.

IF VESSEL FAILS SCREENING AND REQUIRES INSPECTION:

- 6) Reasons vessel would require a Level 1 Inspection:
 - A. Vessel fails to arrive in a CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY condition
 - B. Vessels fail screening
 - C. Vessels report being on an infested lake in the past 30 days
 - D. If you locate any evidence or information that causes you reasonable concern that the vessel might be harboring an invasive species and that there is a risk of infection



- E. DISHONESTY: If you have reason to believe that the vessel owner/ operator is not being honest or has provided questionable information

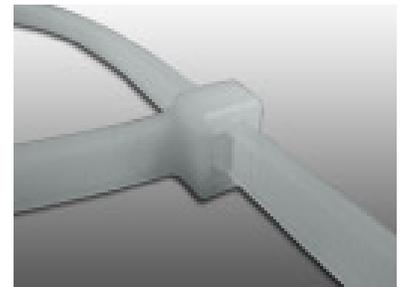
Direct these vessels to the nearest Level I Inspection Station. Some private ramps will be set up to conduct Level 1 Inspections (Contact to Mussel Coordinators for location of Level 1 Inspection availability). Others will route questionable vessels down to the public ramps for Level 1 Inspections. Yes, boaters sent to the public ramps for inspection also have to pay the launch fees.

Complete the Notice of Launch Prohibition form (attached) and follow the contact information on that form.

BANDING RESIDENT VESSELS:

- 7) This year Certified Screeners will be asked to screen and band Resident Vessels prior to Resident Vessel being authorized to leave the community for maintenance and repair of the vessels.

The 2012 bands are natural in color and have "NACIMIENTO RESIDENT VESSEL - ID NO. XXXXX" imprinted on them and look like this:



- Notify your Mussel Coordinator and track all required information for community's log of Resident Vessels including the band identification number, CF number or description of vessel if other form of watercraft without CF number, Vessel Owner name, and date issued. Keep track of bands issued.
- Loop the bands through the bow eye of the vessel and the bow support of the trailer in such a way that the boat cannot be removed from the trailer without breaking the band.
- Keep written record of bands you use, including the band identification number, CF number or description of vessel if other form of watercraft without CF number, Vessel Owner name, date issued,
- Submit written records to your community's Mussel Coordinator

Remind Resident Vessel Owners to contact the SLO District Mussel Prevention Hotline (805) 788-6006 prior to departure from the community. Have them include the following information:

- Their name (spell if helpful to SLO District staff)
- Resident Vessel Certificate and Affidavit Number and the vessel CF number
- Reason for leaving lake area
- Dates vessel will be out of community

If the band will be removed to complete the necessary maintenance or repairs on the vessel, state the anticipated reason (Vessel Owner should be prepared to submit evidence of such maintenance work, dates conducted, etc.)

RE-ENTRY OF BANDED RESIDENT VESSELS:

- 8) Only you or another Certified Screener may remove bands as Resident Vessels return to the lake. If you find a band intact and it has not been altered or broken, remove the band from the vessel, keep note of which vessel has returned, and allow the vessel to launch. Notify your community's Mussel Coordinator of its return, so they may record this in the log and notify SLO District.

WHAT IF A RESIDENT VESSEL RETURNS WITHOUT ITS BAND?

- 9) If a Resident Vessel has left the community and returns without an intact band, then check with your community's Mussel Coordinator to see if this Resident Vessel band removal was approved and verified by SLO District prior to allowing its re-launch. That person may have made advance arrangements for re-entry without an intact band. If not, Certified Screeners are obligated to reject that vessel and to remove its Resident Vessel Program Sticker. Alert your community's Mussel Coordinator so that he/she may take steps necessary to remove that vessel from the Resident Vessel Program.

WHAT IF IT IS RAINING?

- 10) Rainy Season Protocol

Since the mussel prevention program is now a year-round program, some vessels will be inspected during rainy weather. All vessels are expected to comply with the current screening/inspection protocol. All vessels are still required to be cleaned, drained and as dry as possible depending on current weather conditions.

- Screeners to use judgment regarding dry
 - a. What is the weather? Is it currently raining?
 - b. Vessel plugs shall be pulled prior to arriving at launch ramp.
 - c. All vessels shall be cleaned and drained prior to arriving at launch ramp.
 - d. **During Rainy Weather Only** - If ponding water is identified in the hull or anywhere in the vessel, the vessel will be moved to an area where water can be drained or removed from vessel. **NOTE:** Area where water is drained from vessels shall not allow water to drain back into Lake Nacimiento or San Antonio.



- Review form paying close attention to the following:
 - a. Where did they last come from? Did they just come from an infested lake?
 - b. Where is their Residency? Do they reside near an infested lake?
 - c. Is the Vessel Screening Permit completed correctly? Does the information provided make sense? Is the form signed and dated by vessel owner?

If after going through the above information you feel that the vessel is cleaned, drained and to the best of vessel owner's ability dry under the current weather conditions and has not recently been on an infested lake; the vessel is ready for launch. If you should have any concerns or questions regarding whether or not a vessel should launch you can either call the ranger station at (805) 472-2311 or send the vessel to the public ramp for further screening/inspection and launch.

REJECTION OF VESSELS:

- 11) You must reject boats that have been on an infested lake within the past 10 days plus any boats that fail Level 1 Inspection. Perhaps direct rejected vessel owners to a boat rental location, such as the Nacimiento Marina: (800) 323-3839 or (805) 237-4924

Who do I contact for questions, to report suspected mussels, or unlawful behavior?

IF you suspect you have FOUND QUAGGA OR ZEBRA MUSSELS, call a Park Ranger at (805) 472-2311

Anytime you reject a vessel from launching, provide vessel operator the "Notice of Launch Prohibition" form.

For other general program questions, refer to the contact information on Page 6.

IF BOATERS LAUNCH WITHOUT PERMISSION, or for other unlawful behavior, call a Park Ranger at (805) 472-2311

REVOCAION OF Resident Vessel Certificate and Affidavit/ Removal of Sticker, call SLO District at (805) 788-6006

Remind me of what is involved in a Level 1 Inspection

If you are assisting your community with more in-depth Level 1 Inspections, we recommend that you review the Don't Move a Mussel video (revised since you were last trained). It is two parts, available at

<http://www.aquaticnuisance.org/video>

Part 1: Education on Invasive Mussels (44 minutes)

Part 2: Inspection and Decontamination (28 minutes – 1st 15 minutes relevant to inspection)

How do I renew Vessel Screening Permits?

Beginning in 2012, Vessel Screening Permits will expire after 21 days. You are likely to be asked to sign and stamp renewals – **boats need not be removed from the water** for you to renew a Vessel Screening Permit. Note that each 2012 Vessel Screening Permit can be signed and stamped a total of 3 times. Verify Vessel Screening Permit has been completed by the vessel operator. Ask to see old Vessel Screening Permits and collect those that have them from vessel operators. Renewal of Vessel Screening Permits will not be required for vessels participating in the Resident Vessel Program.



[How do I get bands or the stamp to OK people to launch?](#)

Vessel Screening Permits require not only your signature as the Certified Screener, but also an official stamp. Boaters must carry a current SIGNED AND STAMPED Vessel Screening Permit with them and renew it every 21 days, or run the **risk of being fined up to \$2,000**. As a Certified Screener, you will use an official stamp to signify your clearance to launch and occasionally place bands on Resident Vessels as described above.

Each community has determined the best method to meet the program requirements; therefore, issuance of official stamps and bands is coordinated through your community Mussel Coordinator. Below is a list of the current Mussel Coordinators. Contact your community coordinator.

Cal Shasta - Phil Humfrey
Christmas Cove – Claire Simoulis
Happy Landing – Dennis Stinnette
Heritage Ranch HOA - Martin Rowley
Laguna Vista Boat Club - Bill Capps
Northshores S & B – Ray Green

Oak Shores - Dennis Javens
Rancho Del Lago - Russ Johnson
Running Deer Ranch - Chuck Enterline
South Shore Village - Debbie Kopack
Tri Counties Club – Eric Gamble

Private Ramps include:

Don Andre
Dave Dellamora
Dave Kinman
Bart Matta
Mike McDermot

Ronald Stephenson
Jay Slater
Mike and Lina Vaughn
Tom Vaughn

[Got questions?](#)

Feel free to give us a call on the Nacimiento Mussel Prevention Hotline -- (805)-788-6006, or

Robin Dickerson
(661) 831-8782 x217
(661) 364-5523 (cell)
rdickerson@tjcross.com

Carolyn Berg
(805) 788-6006
cberg@co.slo.ca.us

Christine Halley
(661) 831-8782 x195
cmhalley@tjcross.com

Thank you for your vital role in keeping Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio free from invasive mussels!

