



Photo credit: Crystal Brindal

# Management of Invasive Mussels at Lake Powell

Lake Powell was predicted to be the first western water body infested with zebra or quagga mussels. In 2000 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area began screening boats at park entrance stations to identify high-risk boats and provide free decontamination. Glen Canyon began the “mussel free” certification program in 2007 and further expanded prevention efforts after quagga mussels were found in Lake Mead. Glen Canyon’s rigorous screening program prevented the introduction of invasive mussels for several years.

Mussel larvae (veligers) were first confirmed in Lake Powell in late 2012. Adult mussels were first reported in March 2013 when a local marine services business discovered 4 adult mussels on a boat that had been pulled for service. Since then, more adult mussels have been found and removed from Lake Powell. To date, no mussels or veligers have been found up-lake of Navajo Canyon. Recent water sampling results have detected additional veligers in the lake and indicate mussel reproduction.



## What Happens Next?

A Quagga-Zebra Mussel Management Plan (QZMP) is needed to support the change from a mussel-prevention focused program to a sustainable management program now that mussels exist in Lake Powell. This new management approach will identify appropriate prevention efforts, and will also address control, containment, and operational changes, including the need for a sustainable program funding source.

