



## Office of the Governor

### State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

August 10, 2018

Dear Boat Owner,

You are on the front lines of Utah's battle against a dangerous and invasive species known as quagga mussels. The situation at Lake Powell has grown increasingly serious, and I need your help. If not handled correctly, these mussels may threaten our water supplies and popular recreation areas.

**This is what I am asking you to do:**

- Professionally decontaminate your vessel when leaving Lake Powell. If you choose to clean, drain, and dry your boat rather than have it decontaminated, pay close attention to and inspect both the anchor and sea strainer before you leave the area.
- Flush and inspect your boat's cooling intake or water system and pull all the bilge plugs.
- Dry your boat thoroughly. The dry time for boats with ballast tanks and inboard motors is **thirty days**.

Utah has seen an infestation of quagga mussels in Lake Powell. Lake water levels are dropping, and mussel numbers have increased substantially. If you boat at Lake Powell – even for a few hours – your vessel likely has quagga mussels onboard. Decontamination personnel are regularly finding mussels on *and* in boats that have only been in Lake Powell for a short period of time, which is something we have not observed in the past.

Quagga mussels are being found during secondary boat inspections statewide. Mussels are getting lodged further inside many boats' intake and water systems and becoming dislodged during travel. If you visit other lakes or reservoirs after a trip to Lake Powell, your boat **will be inspected again** and then decontaminated and quarantined, if necessary.

Although the wait to decontaminate your boat as you leave Lake Powell may be inconvenient to your summer plans, I urge you to follow through with the above-mentioned precautions. Failing to do so creates a serious threat to Utah's water supply as the mussels will transfer into our drains, clogging our pipes, and blocking our precious water supply.

You are the key to keeping Utah's other lakes and reservoirs free of invasive mussels. I urge you to get your boat professionally decontaminated after visiting Lake Powell. To find a decontamination station near you or to contact decontamination personnel visit [www.wildlife.utah.gov/mussels](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/mussels). Also, watch for more information in the coming months from the Division of Wildlife Resources on how you can provide feedback on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor