

# Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group

## 2007 Annual Report



### Who We Are

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) is a diverse group of agencies, community members and scientists dedicated to early detection and rapid response, prevention and control of aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Basin.

### Background

The LTAISWG originated as a subcommittee of the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG). As the subcommittee recognized the need to address all aquatic invasive species threatening Lake Tahoe, they formed a separate working group to better address this multi-species issue. The LTAISWG plans to continue to work in partnership with the LTBWCG, to coordinate efforts and comprehensively address common issues.

Successful collaboration and coordination by LTAISWG partners has enhanced the groups ability to:

- gather and share resources and information,
- educate a variety of audiences on methods to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species
- standardize methods for treatment and data collection
- coordinate and enhance early detection, control and eradication efforts.



Left: Quagga mussel  
Right: Zebra mussel

### 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative



### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

TRCD is recruiting volunteers for this summer to help protect Lake Tahoe against invasive species. For those interested, please contact Nicole Cartwright at 530-543-1501 ext 111.

### 2007 Program Highlights

The January 2007 discovery of quagga mussel contamination in Lake Havasu, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River Basin inspired one of the most exciting LTAISWG events this year: the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop, held May 2nd and 3rd at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in Incline Village, NV. Over 200 workshop participants prioritized prevention and control efforts of invasive species which are being used towards the development of an Integrated AIS Management Plan for Lake Tahoe. Other major accomplishments and milestones this year include:

- Watercraft Inspection training, presented by USFWS and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, over 50 attendees
- TRPA's governing board made an Emergency Declaration in May
- The 100th Meridian Initiative recognized the LTAISWG as an official team at their national conference in Las Vegas, NV
- TDC setup and began monitoring quagga substrate traps around the Lake
- TRPA purchased a pontoon boat and outfitted it for active removal
- TRCD and TBI conducted boat inspections 4th of July weekend
- Permanent boat wash facility was completed at Fallen Leaf Lake
- High and Dry Marina in Homewood received permits for boat wash construction in 2008
- Roundhill General Improvement District old intake pipes were inspected by TRPA and TRCD for possible quagga mussel presence

### Plans for 2008

The Working Group plans to continue education and outreach efforts, share resources and coordinate efforts. Major goals for 2008 include:

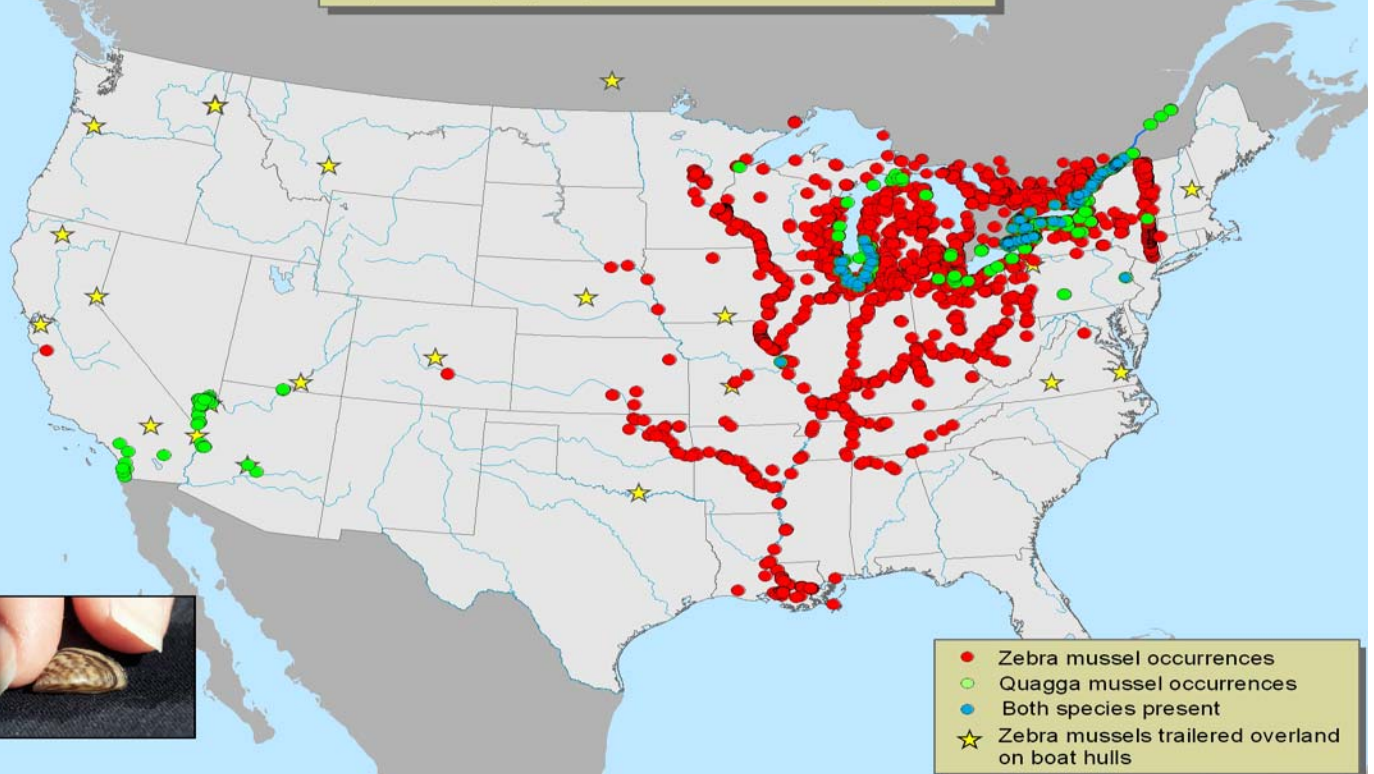
- Hire an AIS Coordinator (USFWS),
- Form an Executive Coordination Committee (TSC & TRPA)
- Development of an Integrated AIS Management Plan for Lake Tahoe (Corps & Tetra Tech)
- Conduct an Economic Impact Study (Corps & Tetra Tech)
- Implement an Outreach Campaign (TRCD & TRPA)
- Develop and Implement AIS base-line monitoring (TRPA & TSC)
- Conduct Invertebrate survivability analysis (TRPA & TSC)
- Initiate/Monitor Pilot Boat Wash Stations (TRPA)
- Develop and Implement a Watercraft Inspection Program (TRCD)
- Form an Emergency Response System (USFWS)
- Removal & Monitor of aquatic weeds in Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina (TRCD, TRPA, TDC, ReMetrix, and CSLC)
- Tahoe Keys Integrated warm water fish and aquatic weed control project (USFS, TSC, ARS)



Boat contaminated with Eurasian Water Milfoil



## Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *D. rostriformis bugensis*)



- Zebra mussel occurrences
- Quagga mussel occurrences
- Both species present
- ☆ Zebra mussels trailed overland on boat hulls



**Lake Tahoe Survey 2006**  
Area Coverages of *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Hectare)

## SPECIES OF CONCERN

### INVERTEBRATES

ZEBRA/QUAGGA MUSSEL  
NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL



### WARM WATER FISH

BLUE GILL  
LARGE MOUTH BASS



### AMPHIBIANS

BULL FROGS



### AQUATIC WEEDS

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL  
CURLYLEAF PONDWEED



For more information or to become a member, please contact Jenny Francis, Group Chair, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, 530.543.1501 ext 109 or check out the AIS webpage at:  
<http://www.tahoercd.org/AquaticInvasives.php>