

ATTENTION RECREATIONAL SUCTION DREDGERS

Please help prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species within the State of Idaho. Recreational suction dredges could be carrying aquatic invasive species, specifically Quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) and Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*). Quagga/Zebra mussels are highly destructive because they reproduce quickly and in very large numbers, coat submerged surfaces such as piers, pilings, rocks, cables, boat ramps, docks, lines, pipes, fish screens, etc., and if introduced into the State of Idaho could result in infested waters being closed to dredging, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities altogether. The Idaho Invasive Species Law makes it illegal to import, transport and possess invasive species.

Recreational suction dredge operators are now required to decontaminate their dredge before they come to Idaho or before returning to Idaho after dredging out of state. The Idaho Department of Water Resources also strongly recommends all recreational suction dredge operators decontaminate their dredge when moving into another watershed. See website: <http://www.100thmeridian.org/> for information on decontamination of equipment.

Recreational suction dredge operators shall ensure all internal and external surfaces of their equipment are cleaned and free of all bacterial growth by circulating hot water internally and thoroughly pressure washing all exterior surfaces. Cleaning should ensure that all rough or gritty spots (microscopic mussels feel like sandpaper) are cleaned using high pressure 140+ degree Fahrenheit water and thoroughly drying dredge for a minimum of 24 hours prior to use.