## Are zebra mussels really invading?

In the mid-1980s a new species found its way to North America. The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), a small, clamlike mollusk that grows to about 25 cm as an adult, was introduced into the waters of the Great Lakes, probably carried in the bilge of a Russian freighter. The zebra mussel can reproduce in less than a year, and a single female can release 1 million eggs each year.



In the absence of their natural pathogens, parasites, and predators, the zebra mussel populations in the Great Lakes has grown enormously and are now invading eight major river systems, including the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, Susquehanna, and Arkansas rivers. The mussels are spread from one body of water to another by natural flow, carried on the feathers or feet of migrating waterfowl, or by human transport in balt buckets or on trailered boats. Most of the freshwater systems in North America are now threatened by invasion of the zebra mussel.

The zebra mussels grow in massive colonies, where nearly a half million individuals may grow on each square meter of substrate. These colonies encrust the hulls and rudders of ships, the hinges of lock gates, and block the drains and intake ducts used by industries and power stations. In 1990, for example, Detroit Edison spent over \$500,000 to remove zebra mussels from the intake pipes of its power plants.

The zebra mussels also have severe negative effects on the local ecosystem. As filter-feeders, they take in water and filter out algae as food, excreting their waste as sediment. A single individual can filter 1 liter of water each day, and a colony covering 1 square meter of substrate can filter 180 million liters of water per year. Enormous colonies of zebra mussels can reduce the algal populations of lakes and rivers, thus removing a significant portion of the base of the food chain and resulting in a decline in the fish populations. Thus, these mussels are a threat to the local biodiversity.

The tremendous filtering capacity of these organisms may have some positive consequences. Zebra mussels have been a major factor in cleaning Lake Erie after a century of pollution from fertilizers and sewage. After the first 10 years of zebra mussel existence in Lake Erie, light penetration in the water has increased from only a few centimeters to nearly 10 meters. If these organisms could be controlled, they may become a useful tool in the treatment of sewage and pollution.

# **Are Zebra Mussels Really Invading Answers**

**RC Schank** 

**Are Zebra Mussels Really Invading Answers:** 

Adopting the Song of Phrase: An Emotional Symphony within Are Zebra Mussels Really Invading Answers

In some sort of eaten by screens and the ceaseless chatter of quick transmission, the melodic beauty and emotional symphony developed by the prepared term usually diminish into the background, eclipsed by the constant noise and distractions that permeate our lives. But, located within the pages of **Are Zebra Mussels Really Invading Answers** a wonderful fictional prize brimming with organic feelings, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Constructed by a wonderful composer of language, this interesting masterpiece conducts viewers on a mental journey, skillfully unraveling the hidden songs and profound impact resonating within each carefully crafted phrase. Within the depths with this touching review, we will examine the book is main harmonies, analyze its enthralling publishing fashion, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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