

Glacier National Park Frequently Asked Questions

Lake Use and Quarantine Procedures for Motorized Watercraft

Q. Will I be allowed to launch my boat on Lake McDonald immediately after my initial inspection?

A. No. The boat will be sealed to its trailer and the boat and trailer will sit idle outside the park during a 30-day “quarantine” period that will ensure all live quagga or zebra mussels and any larvae that may not have been detected during inspection, have died.

Q. During the quarantine period, can I launch my boat on other waters?

A. No. If you intend to launch in Lake McDonald you may not launch your boat in any other waters during the quarantine period. The seal between your boat and its trailer must be intact when you return at the end of the quarantine period or you will not be permitted to launch.

Q. After my boat has been quarantined for 30 days and I do launch on Lake McDonald, what if I want to launch on other waters, especially if they are currently considered mussel free, and then I want to launch on Lake McDonald again? Do I have to have my boat inspected, resealed, and quarantined for another 30 days?

A. Yes, if you launch in any other waters including those currently classified as mussel free, you will be required to have your boat inspected, resealed, and quarantined for 30 days before you may launch in Lake McDonald again.

Q. After my boat has been quarantined for 30 days and I do launch on Lake McDonald, what if I want to launch on Lake McDonald at other times throughout the year? Will I have to have my boat inspected, resealed, and quarantined for another 30 days?

A. As long as Lake McDonald is the only lake you wish to launch on, you will not have to have another inspection or be subject to another 30 day quarantine period. Upon removing your boat from Lake McDonald, inform the NPS inspector that you would like to have your boat resealed so you can launch again on the lake without an inspection or quarantine period. You may have your boat resealed as many times as you like as long as you return with the seal intact before your next launch.

Q. If I have my boat inspected, sealed, and quarantined for 30 days, can I launch on any other lakes in Glacier National Park?

No, the only lake where public motorized boating will be allowed this year is Lake McDonald. As part of the park’s interim emergency response to the detection of invasive mussels within the State of Montana, the park continues to assess its motorized watercraft program to determine what additional steps are reasonable to take to protect park resources and provide for recreation opportunities on park lakes.

Q. At the end of the boating season, if I intend on storing my boat all winter and not launching in any other waters, will I be required to have another inspection and 30 day quarantine period next spring before I launch in Lake McDonald?

A. No, if you will not be launching your boat on any other waters over the winter, you can have an NPS inspector reseat your boat at the end of the boating season after you remove it from Lake McDonald. When you decide to launch again in the spring, an NPS inspector will inspect and remove the seal and it

will be free to launch. If the seal is broken, you will be required to have another inspection and 30 day quarantine before launching.

Q. Why is Glacier National Park's AIS prevention program using a 30 day quarantine period rather than hot water decontamination or a simple inspection? Isn't inspection and decontamination sufficient to prevent zebra or quagga mussels from infesting a water body?

A. Although inspection and decontamination (sometimes called hot water rinsing) can be effective deterrents to mussel infestation, there are a significant number of variables to both processes that can dramatically reduce their effectiveness. A 30 day quarantine period eliminates those variables and is as close to a mussel free guarantee as is currently possible. The quarantine ensures that any mussels or mussel larvae that were not detected during an inspection or cleaned during a decontamination (hot rinse) process are dead.