

**From:** Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mussel boats intercepted



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

## MUSSEL BOATS #35 AND #36 INTERCEPTED AT WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

On Sunday, June 27, watercraft inspection stations in eastern Montana intercepted two boats entering the state carrying invasive mussels, making it the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> mussel-fouled boats intercepted this year. This surpasses the total number of 35 mussel-fouled boats intercepted in 2020.

Shortly after noon on Sunday, the Wibaux station found mussels on a used inboard ballast boat that had been recently purchase in Michigan and was destined for Billings. Inspectors decontaminated the hull and locked the boat. AIS staff in Billings will flush the ballast tanks before removing the lock from the boat. The Wibaux station is operated by the Garfield County Conservation District.

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## BOATERS GEARING UP FOR JULY 4TH WEEKEND MAY NEED INSPECTION

As boaters flock to the amazing rivers and lakes across the state for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, keep in mind the rules aimed at preventing aquatic invasive species from spreading.

Just like in past years, watercraft owners must stop at all open inspection stations they encounter. Typically, these stops are very brief and include a short series of questions and an inspection of the boat and trailer. Watercraft owners can make this process quick and easy if they consistently practice **Clean, Drain and Dry**:

- Clean all mud and debris from the watercraft and trailer.
- Pull drain plugs and make sure all compartments, bilges and ballasts are drained.
- Dry out your watercraft, including dry wells, storage areas and compartments.

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