

Chris Taggart

From: Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>
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To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AIS inspectors encounter unusual situation at Wibaux



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

AIS inspectors encounter unusual situation at Wibaux

Mussels found hydrostatically clinging to boat

Watercraft inspectors at the Wibaux inspection station intercepted a motorboat entering Montana with mussels attached. The Wibaux inspection station, located on the Montana-North Dakota border on Interstate 94, has intercepted 12 of the 54 mussel boats intercepted so far this year. This boat was unique in *how* the mussels were attached to the boat.

Invasive mussels have byssal threads they use to attach to underwater surfaces. The threads or “hairs” are an adaptation found on invasive zebra and quagga mussels but are not found on North America’s native freshwater mussel species. Invasive mussels can move from one waterbody to another when their threads attach to the hull or motors of trailered watercraft or when microscopic mussel larvae floats in standing water inside vessels.

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1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200701 · Helena, MT 59620-0701 · (406) 444-2535



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