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Invasive zebra mussels found again.

For the second time in less than two months, invasive zebra mussels have been found on a boat that was being prepared for launch in Lake Mead.

Last week, a boat was transported from Chicago, Ill to be launched in Lake Mead. It was brought to a local marine dealer for a tune up before launch. The service people were all aware of the threat of zebra mussels coming in on boats from back east. From all outward appearances, the boat was very clean and appeared to be no threat. When the service people started the engines, they noticed that one of the prop shafts was bent. Although the hull, trim tabs and outdrives were clean with no sign of zebra mussels, they were found inside both outdrives when they were opened up for the repair.

This confirms the need for all boats coming into western states to be completely decontaminated before launching in order to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into our waters.

We were very lucky that the prop shaft was bent on this boat and that it was noticed by the alert service people. Had it not been noticed, the boat would have been put into Lake Mead with zebra mussels in it. That is how easily these invasive mollusks can get into our lake.

We all need to be alert to this threat and do all that we can to prevent invasive species from getting into our waters.