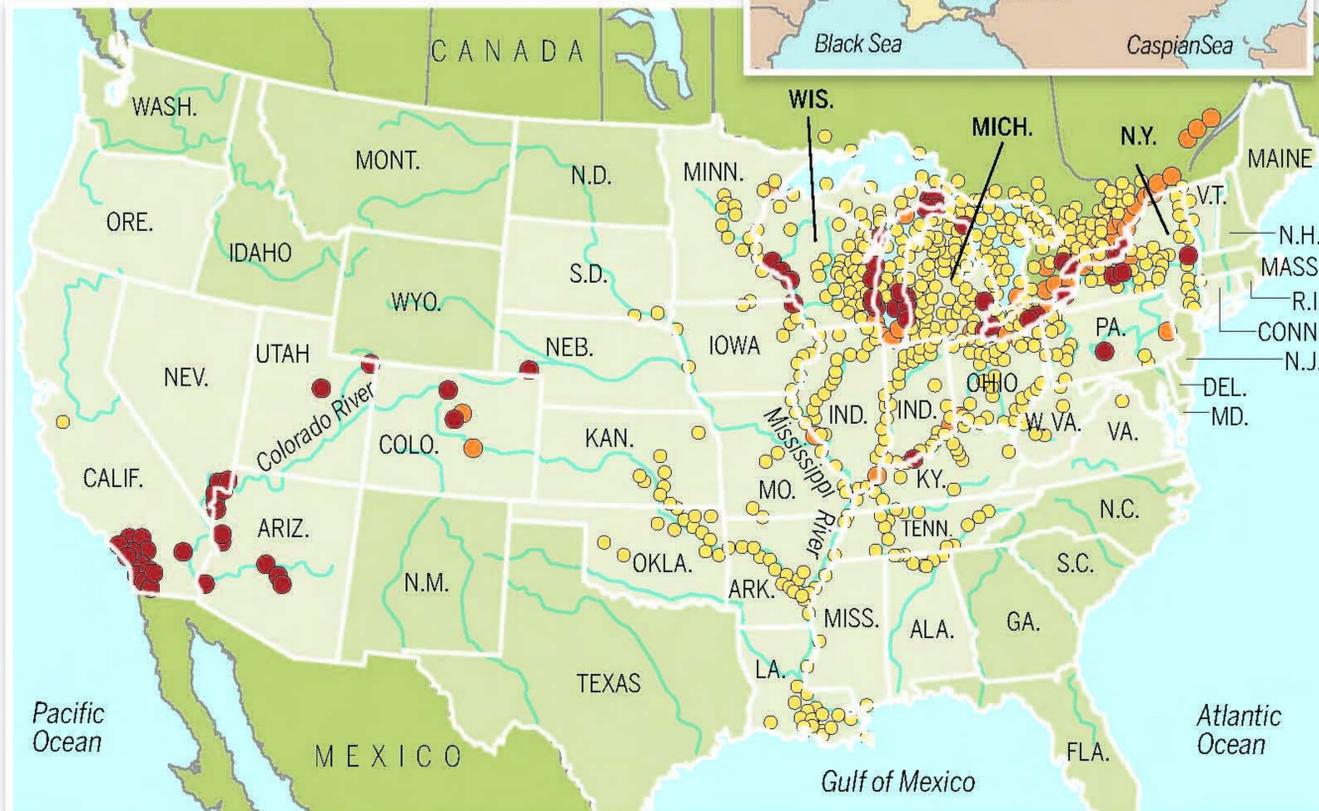


Mussels heading west

Zebra and quagga mussels first invaded the Great Lakes in the late 1980s, and it took more than two decades for them to make it across the Continental Divide. Quaggas were first discovered in the West in 2007, likely hitching a ride on a Midwestern pleasure boat towed west. They have since been spreading across the region like wildfire.

Current mussel sightings and distribution

● QUAGGA ● ZEBRA ● BOTH



Quaggas in Lake Mead

The first quagga mussel was discovered at a Lake Mead marina on Jan. 6, 2007. The fingernail-sized filter feeders are now so abundant they are clogging pipes at Hoover Dam and the drinking water intakes for the city of Las Vegas. Water officials predict they could become a \$250 million a year problem for the West.

