



*In the interest of maintaining the quality of the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir as a public drinking water supply, The Connecticut Water Company is providing this information on zebra mussels. Not only do zebra mussels pose a potential threat to fresh waters throughout the United States, they may also cause damage to boats used in infested waters.*

*Remember, Shenipsit Lake Reservoir is a public drinking water supply. Your cooperation is appreciated in taking these precautionary measures to ensure the continuous protection and quality of this drinking water supply source.*

## **Beware of Zebra Mussels**

- ❖ Zebra mussels are fingernail-size clams with yellowish or brownish shells marked with wavy bands. Their larvae are too small to be seen, but they live for weeks in any water left in your boat. As zebra mussels grow, they form clumps that damage your boat, kill native clams, foul beaches with stinky razor-sharp shells and clog water intake pipes.
- ❖ Zebra mussels are found only in fresh or brackish water, and are the only fresh water mollusk that firmly attaches itself to solid objects, including rocks, boat hulls or anything else.
- ❖ Zebra mussels can spread to inland waters as adults attached to boat hulls, engines, fish cages or any number of items. Waterfowl and other wildlife may also transport zebra mussels in wet fur or feathers. Adult zebra mussels are very hardy and with their shells closed can survive drying for several days. In moist environments they can survive out of the water even longer.

### **To minimize the threat of zebra mussels follow these precautionary measures:**

- ❖ Remove any visible aquatic vegetation from boat, paddles propeller, or anchor lines and discard in trash.
- ❖ Do not release aquatic bait into the water. Empty bait water on land before leaving the site. Empty and flush live wells with tap water on land.
- ❖ When moving your boat from lake to lake, dry it out for at least two days.