

UNWANTED



Photo : www.introduced-species.co.uk

THE ZEBRA MUSSEL (*Dreissana polymorpha*)

The Zebra Mussel is a native of eastern Europe and the Black Sea region that grows up to about 2cms in length. It is an incredibly prolific species which can start breeding when only 5mm in length and can reach densities of over 700,000 per square metre : Its planktonic stage settles on any available hard surfaces, including water intakes and pipes, creating major problems for water and sewerage services - and considerable costs that are passed on to the consumer. They were first identified in the UK in London in 1824 and are now a considerable problem on Merseyside and in some other areas. While not a threat to the faster flowing rivers of this area, they could establish themselves in lochs and reservoirs and create problems there. Once established, alien freshwater species of any sort are extremely difficult to eradicate and their presence permanently changes the natural identity of the area, making it less distinctive and more like any other place. TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE NATURAL IDENTITY AND THE FISHERIES OF THE TWEED, **PLEASE :**

*** DO NOT BRING ANY LIVING COLD FRESHWATER FISH, SHRIMPS, CRAYFISH OR OTHER PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD INTO THE CATCHMENT:- IF IN DOUBT, PHONE SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE, 01896 756652**

*** DO NOT TIP WATER BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT INTO ANY POND, LOCH OR STREAM - POUR IT AWAY ON THE GROUND**