

# Portland State researchers say Columbia River conditions suitable for invasive mussels

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The researchers told the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on Thursday that the water chemistry and temperatures are suitable for quagga and zebra mussels to grow if they get introduced. The Willamette River is marginal due to lower calcium levels. The researchers are also experimenting with paints that would make it tougher for the mussels to form thick crusty mats on submerged surfaces.

The mussels have wreaked havoc on docks, dams, and freshwater ecosystems from the [Great Lakes](#) to the Southwest, but so far have not invaded the Northwest.

Oregon and other states inspect boats crossing their borders to prevent an invasion.

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