

# GOLDEN MUSSEL

*(Limnoperna fortunei)*

## The highly invasive freshwater Golden Mussel was found in Stockton, California

This is the first discovery of the Golden Mussel in North America.

Golden Mussel collected in October 2024 at the Port of Stockton, California, USA.

Photo: Xavier Mascareñas (Dept. Water Resources)



### How to identify it?

- Found mainly in freshwater and brackish water
- Under 1.5 inches in length
- Attaches to hard surfaces
- Shell color is light golden to darker yellowish-brown
- Similar to quagga and zebra mussels



Photo: Xavier Mascareñas (Dept. Water Resources)

## Golden Mussel impacts

**Economic Impacts:** Golden Mussels are a **serious economic threat to California's infrastructure**. Mussels can clog water intakes, fish screens, irrigation pumps, and hydropower facilities.

**Environmental Impacts:** These freshwater mussels are filter feeders that consume large quantities of microscopic organisms, competing with native species and sportfish. **The balance of an entire waterbody can be disturbed.**

### Ballast water requirements\* to prevent the spread:

- Minimize or avoid the uptake of ballast water in areas known to have Golden Mussels, including the Port of Stockton
- Maintain and calibrate ballast water treatment systems
- Report any ballast water treatment system malfunction to the California State Lands Commission as soon as practicable

\*complete requirements and regulations can be found at <https://www.slc.ca.gov/misp/>

### Report a Sighting

Take good close-up photos (with an object for scale) and immediately report by phone: (866) 440-9530, email: [Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov), or [online](#).

