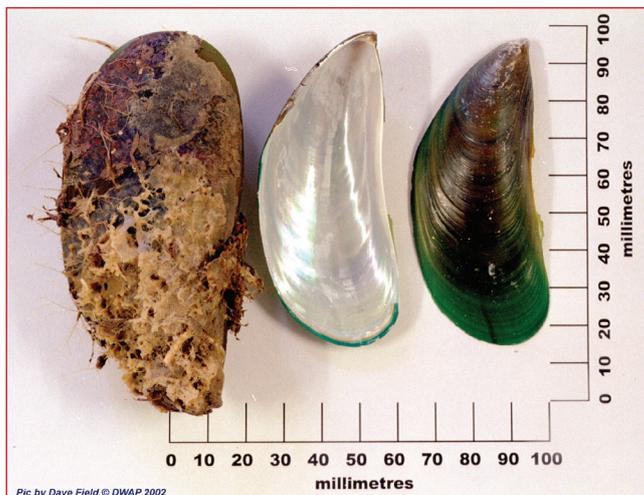




Asian green mussel



Clusters of Asian green mussels heavily fouling man-made structures. Photo: Chris Gazinski, Mote Marine Laboratory

Non-native to Australian waters, the Asian green mussel (*Perna viridis*) poses a serious threat to Western Australia's aquatic environment, economy and human health. These mussels have recently been found on a vessel at Barrow Island and a vessel at Henderson. If you see this pest please call **FishWatch** on **1800 815 507**.

Key features

- Adults commonly 80-100 mm in length but can reach up to 160 mm.
- Juvenile shells can be vivid green or brown with zigzags.
- Adult shells can be bright green to greenish brown.
- Can occur individually or in massive clusters.

Impacts

- Grows rapidly in a broad range of conditions and can out-compete native species.
- Heavily fouls industrial and other man-made structures.
- Can accumulate high levels of toxins and heavy metals linked with shellfish poisoning in humans.
- Has significant potential to establish itself in WA waters and to become a major pest.

Where to find it?

- Hard surfaces, vessel hulls and their seawater systems, structures, floating equipment, debris, wharves, buoys, channel markers, industrial intake pipes and aquaculture equipment.
- Can settle in water depths down to 20 metres.
- Tropical waters but tolerates an extreme range of salinities and temperatures.

What you can do

If you think you have found or seen an Asian green mussel:

1. **Make a note of when and where you found or saw it including GPS readings if possible.**
2. **Take photographs of the mussel from above as well as the location where you found it.**
3. **Please keep a sample of the mussel and contact **FishWatch** on **1800 815 507**.**

Thoroughly check and clean vessel hulls and niche areas such as internal seawater systems. Operators of vessels recently returned from areas where this mussel is established, such as South East Asia, should be extra vigilant.

FISHWATCH



1800-815-507

Further information:

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