

total from the state's portion of Lake Michigan. But Jerde added that if Asian carp DNA were commonly spread by bird feces, boat hulls and other means besides live fish, other positive samples would be noted from across the

Despite the discovery of positive DNA in Lake Erie and even a couple of live carp over the years, no evidence has been found of a breeding population.

ROBERT MONTGOMERY

Anti-mussel weapon

BELLVILLE, Ohio — A small foam disk shows promise as a mussel repellent around boats and docks.

Even better, the disks “are non-toxic, no electricity required, no bacteria released and safe for all species, in any environment, including humans, waterfowl, fish and fauna,” said James Gregath of 060Bio, a company formed to produce and market the repellent.

With a diameter of 7.5 inches, the Dock

Disk contains a proprietary blend of substances that repel both quagga and zebra mussels, he added.

The degree of effectiveness depends on such factors as temperature, alkalinity and flow patterns.

Keeping mus-

sels away not only will protect boats and docks from damage, but also prevent them from hitchhiking from one water body to another on hulls and in bilge water.

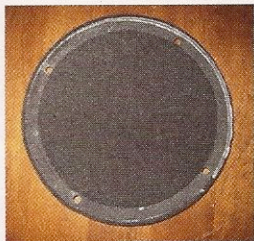
“As we chose the boating industry as our first market, we devised the disk and the hanging system to serve boat owners and marinas,” Gregath said. “The idea is to hang the disks so that they extend some 3 to 4 feet in the water, approximately 12 to 15 feet apart.”

Thus, a 40-foot slip would require six disks — one in each corner and one midway along each side.

“One can expect the general area to be mussel free for up to eight months,” Gregath continued. “Then, you simply pull up the disks and replace them with new ones.”

Should findings continue to be as positive as they have been thus far, 060Bio will craft the repellent for other applications, including protecting water intakes for utilities, manufacturing, water supplies and irrigation.

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The Dock Disk reportedly keeps docks and boats free of mussels.

Photo by James Gregath

CONSERVATION BRIEFS

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