

Asian Clam Removal Pilot Project in Marla Bay and Lakeside Beach

As part of the ongoing effort to keep Lake Tahoe free of destructive aquatic invaders and manage populations of those already in the Lake, a pilot project for removal of Asian clams is occurring in the South Shore of Lake Tahoe and will be continuing through **March 2010**.



Asian clam, *Corbicula fluminea*

During this time, equipment including a barge, crane and other research vessels will be visible from the beach and US Hwy 50. Some swimming areas may be temporarily impacted. Buoy fields will be avoided as much possible. This work is necessary to help protect Lake Tahoe not only from the Asian clam, but other invaders as well, including quagga and zebra mussels.



Asian clam bed in Lake Tahoe

The Asian clam is a relatively new aquatic invasive species that is becoming established in Lake Tahoe and is causing environmental impacts. Asian clam can impact Lake Tahoe by:

- Releasing nitrogen and phosphorus to the lake resulting in nuisance algal blooms.
- Potentially negatively impacting drinking water by clogging intake pipes.
- Their sharp shells litter beaches, negatively impacting recreation.
- Possible adverse impact to native lake organisms that live on the lake floor.

This pilot project will test the feasibility of control measures that could reduce Asian clam populations and the impacts of this introduced species on water quality in Lake Tahoe.

This phase of the Asian clam removal pilot project involves a combination of two methods:

1. Bottom barriers: large plastic sheets used to cover and terminate Asian clam populations by reducing oxygen and food availability.
2. Diver assisted removal: physical removal of clams from the lake bottom.

Although the Asian clam population cannot be eradicated, if action is taken now it can be controlled and other aquatic invasive species can be prevented from entering the Lake.

For more information, contact Nicole Cartwright at 530.543.1501 ext 111 or ncartwright@tahoercd.org

Project Partners include:



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