

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO WATER DEPARTMENT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR VESSEL INSPECTIONS FOR QUAGGA MUSSELS
SUTHERLAND RESERVOIR**

Date Issued: January 1, 2009 Effective Date: March 7, 2009

1. Policy & Procedure

The policy and procedures in this document will focus on staff expectations of inspection criteria of vessels entering Sutherland Reservoir. This vessel inspection procedure is being implemented to ensure that invasive species do not enter Sutherland Reservoir and impact conveyance infrastructure and threaten the lake's ecosystem.

Sutherland Reservoir staff will follow a zero tolerance policy for inspection criteria. If at anytime during an inspection a vessel fails any part of the Vessel Inspection Checklist, the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(a) Reservoir employees have been directed to provide educational materials to the boating community and general public. Two handouts are given to each vessel operator/owner who enters the recreation area. The first hand out is a City of San Diego generated flyer called "We Need Your Help To Prevent The Spread" and the second is a red and white "Don't Move A Mussel" flyer made by the California Department of Fish and Game.

(b) Staff will inform the owner/operator that an inspection will be completed and that Sutherland has a zero tolerance policy for any water, debris, or growth found on any vessel or trailer due to possible transportation of invasive species by vessels and trailers. By informing the owner/operator of the policy he/she should not be surprised if the vessel is denied access to Sutherland Reservoir.

(c) Request the owner/operator of the vessel to open all compartments: The owner/operator is requested to open all compartments rather than Reservoir Staff due to safety concerns. Compartments on vessels open differently for each style of vessel and can be locked or difficult to open.

(d) The vessel, trailer and vehicle inspection will include looking for water, debris or growth on or in any inspected area. Surfaces will also be touched to see if growth or mussels may be attached. The inspection should be completed the same way each time starting at one side of the vehicle and ending up at the other side.

2. Vessel Inspection Checklist

The following list of items states what Reservoir staff should be looking for:

(a) **Trailer Structure, Railings and Spare Tire:** The trailer, railings and spare tire may have mud, grass, weeds, debris or standing water. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then this vehicle and vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(b) **Vessel Hull:** The vessel hull should be inspected for growth and debris. Growth may be visible if it has recently come from being in the water for an extended period of time. Small mussels attached to a boat can feel like sandpaper or sesame seeds. If a vessel's hull has any type of growth or debris, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(c) **Outdrive:** The outdrive is attached to the transom on stern drive vessels and the lower unit on outboard vessels. It has intricate parts that make it easy for mussels to attach, hide and grow. The inspector should feel and look for any signs of growth, debris or texture of sandpaper. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(d) **Propeller/Shafts:** Mussels can attach and live on or around where the propeller attaches to the lower unit of drive shaft. Mussels can also attach to the shaft or connecting points of the vessel. These can be hard to see and should be inspected with a flashlight to verify if any mussels, debris or water is present. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(e) **Bilge Plug:** If the bilge plug is pulled when the vessel arrives at the lake, there should be no fluid or debris coming from it. By carefully putting your finger in the plug hole, it can be determined if debris is blocking water from exiting. If the bilge plug is not pulled, have the owner operator pull the plug. If water exits, place the plug back it to prevent it from coming out. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(f) **Bilge:** The bilge is at the bottom of the inside stern of the vessel. It may not be visible in all boats due to various boat designs. The bilge should be clean from all water and debris. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

(g) **Bait Tank/Live Well/Compartments:** Bait tanks, live wells and compartments should be dry and clear of all water and debris. Some compartments do not drain completely due to the way they are manufactured. Any debris in compartments is not acceptable. Common debris often found includes; fish scales, weeds, small pebbles and trash. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be denied access to the reservoir.

Denying a customer access to his/her favorite fishing lake can be very frustrating for both customer and staff. The following statement has been developed to help staff inform the customer of the results of his/her vessel's failure of the inspection.

“Your vessel has not cleared the inspection due to water and/or debris in one or more areas. Your vessel will not be allowed on Sutherland Reservoir today. This zero tolerance policy has been established to protect the reservoir's ecosystem (fishery), water quality, and its water distribution system. Thank you for your cooperation.”