



El Dorado Irrigation District

2026 Update to Boating Restrictions at Sly Park Recreation Area to Prevent Invasive Mussel Introduction

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why did EID implement boat launch restrictions at Jenkinson Lake?

The District is taking an active approach to protect our local water supplies from the threat of golden mussels, an invasive species detected in late 2024 in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which has subsequently spread to other areas of California. These mussels reproduce rapidly and damage water infrastructure by clogging pipelines and treatment systems. Boat launch restrictions are a precautionary measure to prevent their introduction into our water supply.

2. What are golden mussels, and why are they a concern?

Golden mussels are small freshwater mussels that reproduce rapidly, attaching to hard surfaces, which can clog intake pipes, filters, and other water infrastructure. Unlike other invasive mussels, golden mussels can survive in a wide range of environmental conditions, including water with low calcium levels, such as Jenkinson Lake, located at Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA).

3. When did boat launching restrictions go into effect?

Since April 21, 2025, boaters have been required to either complete a 30-day quarantine period with an EID-issued seal or show proof of decontamination from an EID-approved station. (See Question 4 for approved locations)

4. What are my current options for launching a boat at SPRA?

Boat launching is permitted if one (1) of the following conditions is met:

- The boat was tagged by EID and a 30-day quarantine period was completed, during which boats must remain sealed with an EID tag and kept out of the water, or
- The boat was last launched at SPRA and has an intact exit tag that was applied by EID on departure.

-OR-

- The boat was tagged by another agency. In such a case, ALL the following criteria must be met in order to launch at SPRA:
 - EID must be able to verify the tag number, boat identification number, and date installed in the national Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) database, and
 - The tag must connect the boat to the trailer in a way that the boat cannot be launched without removing the tag, and
 - The tag was installed in a waterbody that is not considered “positive” for invasive mussels, and
 - The tag must be installed for more than 30 days, and
 - The tag is intact and not damaged or tampered with as determined by EID, and
 - The boat is clean, drained, and dry.

-OR-

The boat has an intact decontamination seal and receipt from an approved inspection/decontamination station. Currently, EID only accepts decontaminations from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). For current information on their Program, visit [TahoeBoatInspections.com](https://www.tahoebotinspections.com). ***Please visit their website for the latest information on current and seasonal hours.*** You must work directly with TRPA to seek decontamination services; EID does not maintain an agreement with TRPA for decontamination. Please be considerate and follow all TRPA guidelines, including ensuring that your boat is ready for inspection upon arrival and free from camping or other gear that would prevent a thorough inspection. Boats not entering TRPA-managed waterbodies are decontaminated on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointments are allowed. Please refer to the District’s dedicated webpage at [EID.org/Boating](https://eid.org/Boating) for additional locations that may be added in the future.

5. What boats/watercraft are affected by the restrictions?

The restrictions apply to **all** trailered or motorized boats and sailboats. Exempt (Not affected):

- Non-motorized watercraft (e.g., kayaks, canoes, paddleboards) that are determined to be clean, drained, and dry and can be hand-launched (no trailer enters the water).

6. What is the 30-day quarantine protocol?

The 30-day quarantine ensures any invasive mussels or larvae that have the potential to be present from visiting an infected waterbody die off before a boat is launched. Here is how it works:

- Bring your boat to SPRA to have a red quarantine seal applied by EID Staff.
 - You do not need an appointment to obtain a red quarantine seal.
- Bring your boat to another waterbody to have a quarantine seal applied. Please see Question 4 for a detailed list of the criteria that must be met for an outside tag to be accepted.
- After completion of a 30-day quarantine (or verification of decontamination or intact seal from another waterbody as described in the preceding question), boats that last launched at SPRA may be sealed before exiting and may re-enter without additional quarantine if the EID seal remains intact.

7. Where and when can I get an EID quarantine seal?

Red quarantine seals will be issued at:

SPRA Entrance Station:

4771 Sly Park Rd, Pollock Pines

Daily: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8. How much does it cost to get a quarantine seal?

Currently, there is no cost to obtain a quarantine or exit seal.

9. What if I launch my boat at another lake after launching at SPRA?

If your EID-issued seal is broken, removed, or no longer intact, your boat must either:

- Be re-sealed and quarantined for 30 days, or
- Be decontaminated at an approved station and return with a valid seal.

10. What if I have a mooring slip at SPRA?

Boaters with a mooring slip who do not have a valid quarantine or exit tag from SPRA or another agency (as detailed in Question 4 above) are subject to the same quarantine process as all other boaters. Please note that should you remove your boat from SPRA, future launches will be subject to the then-current restrictions.

11. What if I want to avoid the quarantine process?

You can take your boat to an approved boat decontamination station, as identified in Question 4 above, to receive a boat decontamination. If your boat has a valid, intact seal, you may launch at SPRA.

12. How will I know if my non-motorized boat (e.g., kayak, canoe, paddleboard) is considered “Clean, Drained, and Dry”?

EID staff may perform visual inspections of non-motorized watercraft. Boats must show no standing water, no visible mussels or other invasive species, including aquatic vegetation, and no mud or moisture in any compartments. Boats that do not pass a visual check may be denied access or asked to quarantine.

13. What if my non-motorized boat is on a trailer?

Trailers that are not subject to quarantine will not be allowed to enter the water. Any non-motorized boat would need to be hand-launched in such a case, or the vessel and trailer should be quarantined and subsequently sealed if that is not feasible.

14. Will boating fees be impacted?

EID periodically reviews all its fees to ensure operational costs are covered. The additional program costs continue to be evaluated, and fee adjustments may be required in the future to reflect the costs to implement the program.

15. Will the program change over time?

EID anticipates that the program will continue to be refined over time as additional information from our partner agencies regarding the invasive mussels becomes available and we continue to coordinate with other regional water managers.

16. Where can I get more information?

Please go to EID’s dedicated webpage, [EID.org/Boating](https://eid.org/Boating), for more information, resources, and updates as they become available.

17. Do I need a tag to access Caples and/or Silver Lakes?

At this time, there are no launching restrictions at either reservoir. Due to water quality conditions that are less conducive to the establishment of golden mussels, control efforts at these locations are focused on outreach and education. Boaters can expect to see posted materials and may interact with District staff while accessing the reservoirs. As additional guidance from state and federal authorities becomes available, existing access procedures are subject to change without notice to protect the District's drinking water supplies.

18. If I launch at Caples and/or Silver Lakes, can I also launch at Sly Park/Jenkinson Lake?

Boaters who launch at Caples and/or Silver Lakes—or any other reservoir—must undergo another 30-day quarantine (as detailed in Question 6) or be decontaminated at an EID-approved decontamination station prior to launching at Sly Park/Jenkinson Lake.