



Jill Thompson <jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca>

URGENT - Call for Immediate Action to Prevent Invasive Mussels

Amanda Burnett <Amanda.Burnett@obwb.ca>

25 October 2023 at 15:35

To: Amanda Burnett <Amanda.Burnett@obwb.ca>

Cc: James Littley <james.littley@obwb.ca>, Corinne Jackson <corinne.jackson@obwb.ca>

To Fellow Water Stewardship Councils and Organizations,

My name is Amanda and I work with the Okanagan Basin Waterboard. We are emailing to let you know that **we are in the midst of calling for a moratorium on boats coming to B.C.** The Okanagan Basin Water Board is on high alert after invasive mussels were discovered in the Snake River in Twin Falls, Idaho. We are calling on swift and coordinated efforts to prevent invasive mussels from coming the B.C.

We are sending letters to local, provincial, and federal governments, as well as key stakeholders, to request a moratorium on boats coming to B.C.

Please find attached a complete document containing all letters that have been sent out.

Also, please note the following correction to our previous letter regarding invasive species prevention in B.C. The correct email contact for the Federal Minister of Public Safety is ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca

We would be really appreciative of any support, input, or feedback you can provide.

You can also view a recording of the presentation James Littley has been giving to local governments about the discovery in Idaho and the outcomes and implications for us in B.C. → [\(2\) URGENT: OBWB Calls for Moratorium on Out-of-Province Boats to Prevent Invasive Mussels' Infestation - YouTube](#)

Thank you for your past, present and future work on water stewardship.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns,

Sincerely,

Amanda.

Amanda Burnett — Communications Coordinator

Okanagan Basin Water Board

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4

Office: 250-469-6272

www.obwb.ca

www.okwaterwise.ca

Stay connected! Follow us on   

I respectfully acknowledge that the Okanagan Syil'x peoples are the original land and water stewards, and that I am fortunate to live and work as a guest within the traditional and unceded territory of the Syil'x people.



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Local Governments in British Columbia

Oct 18, 2023

Re: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT INVASIVE MUSSEL INTRODUCTION TO B.C.

Dear B.C. Local Government Boards and Councils,

We are writing to request your support; calling on senior governments for immediate action to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels into B.C. If senior governments fail to act, local governments and First Nations in B.C. will bear the brunt of managing and paying for the costs of invasive mussel mitigation.

On September 18th, the State of Idaho announced that invasive quagga mussels had been found in the Snake River, a tributary to the Columbia. The location of the discovery at Twin Falls is less than an 11-hour drive from the B.C. border.

Based on water chemistry analysis, every major population centre in B.C. is at moderate to high risk from invasive mussels. These rapidly spreading species are expected to cost the province more than \$129 million annually, based on costs for infrastructure, maintenance for boats and marinas, lost profits and provincial revenue and loss in residential property values and lost property taxes. These costs do not include the devastating effects on fish – especially Pacific salmon, and aquatic ecosystems in general. Invasive mussels can create toxic algae blooms, litter beaches with razor-sharp shells, clog water intakes and boat motors, and corrode concrete and metal in the water. In the Great Lakes region, invasive mussels have cost more than \$500 million per year just to manage the effects.

In response to the mussel detection in Idaho, state officials released more than 116,000 litres – almost four large tanker-trucks – of a copper-based pesticide into a 26 km stretch of the Snake River, killing invertebrates, algae, plants, and fish, including 2-meter-long sturgeon. This will be followed up with another chemical treatment and a biocontrol treatment. This was considered a better option than allowing the mussels to take hold, but there is still no guarantee that it will have the desired affect. It is possible that mussels have already escaped the containment area, and if so, they will spread through the Columbia Basin over the next several years.

Chemical treatments in most large lakes in B.C. are unlikely to be effective. We do not wish to have such treatments as a public-relations exercise.

The OBWB has provided a detailed memorandum to the Province of B.C. and will provide a letter to both levels of government this week summarizing our Calls to Action (attached). We ask that local government boards and councils provide a letter or resolution of support for these calls to action and send them to the Ministers listed below. We have also prepared a short video presentation outlining the threat of invasive mussels, the current situation in Idaho, and the reasons behind the calls to action. You can view this video on our YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/j255iBHtzLg>

Actions to be taken immediately by the Province of B.C.:

1. Introduce a temporary moratorium on out-of-province watercraft entering B.C., until the full status of the infestation in the Columbia Basin is assessed, and until the effectiveness of the chemical and biocontrol treatments in Idaho is known.
2. Introduce “pull-the-plug” legislation to be in effect prior to the 2024 boating season, and before the moratorium is lifted, requiring all watercraft owners to remove drain plugs prior to vessels being transported on public roads.
3. Ask Canada’s Minister for Public Safety to issue direction for all watercraft entering Canada at all border crossings, from Saskatchewan to B.C., to be inspected prior to allowing entry.
4. Commit funding to the Invasive Mussel Defence Program of no less than \$4 million per year (all sources), indexed to inflation for at least 10 years going forward.

Following these immediate actions, we call on the province to fill the following gaps in the current inspection and prevention system, and in planning for response and long-term mitigation:

5. Enhance funding to recruit and retain B.C. Conservation Officers, Auxiliary Conservation Officers, and other Invasive Mussel Defence Program staff as needed to 2019 levels (64 inspectors).
6. Update the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan, including a round of consultation with partner organizations prior to finalization.
7. Lead a planning process to create long-term response, containment, and control plans in regions at high risk of introduction and vulnerable to infestation, including the Okanagan, Shuswap, and Kootenay Regions.
8. Promote vulnerability assessments by utilities, local jurisdictions, and private entities.

Finally, we call on the province to reconsider our previous call to action to require inspection for all watercraft entering B.C., both at federal and provincial borders.

Actions to be taken immediately by the Government of Canada:

1. We ask that the Minister of Public Safety issue immediate direction to all Canada Border Service Agency locations between Saskatchewan and the Pacific that all watercraft entering Canada in that region be inspected for invasive mussels following provincial protocols.
2. We have asked the Government of B.C. to issue a temporary moratorium on out-of-province boats until the full extent of the infestation is known, and until the success of chemical treatments in Idaho is determined. And so, we also ask that the federal government use its authority to support any such temporary moratorium.

Since 2012, the Okanagan Basin Water Board has run the Don’t Move A Mussel public awareness campaign, including the message to boaters to Clean, Drain, Dry their watercraft before launching in B.C. waters. We are also developing a guide for vulnerability assessments for in-water infrastructure which will allow all facility operators to assess the vulnerability of their source waters and understand specific risks to infrastructure



components, how to mitigate those risks, and will allow for advanced capital planning for changes or retrofits as needed. The guide should be ready by the end of this year and will be freely available for all users.

We appreciate your consideration and support protecting the waters of B.C.

Yours truly,

Anna Warwick Sears, Ph.D. — Executive Director
Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Email : anna.warwick.sears@obwb.ca
Office: 250.469.6251

Addressees for Letters of Support:

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8
iga.minister-ministre.aig@pco-bcp.gc.ca

Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Honourable Nathan Cullen
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6
WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca



CC:

- Okanagan MLAs: Harwinder Sandhu, Norm Letnick, Renee Merrifield, Ben Stewart, Dan Ashton, Roly Russell
- Okanagan MPs: Mel Arnold, Tracy Gray, Dan Albas, Richard Cannings
- Okanagan Nation Alliance, Chiefs Executive Council
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region: Matt Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
- Invasive Species Council of B.C.: Gail Wallin, Executive Director
- Okanagan Chambers of Commerce
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

Attachments:

- Letter to Province: Call for Immediate Action to Prevent Invasive Mussel Introduction to B.C.
- Letter to Federal Govt: Call for Immediate Action to Prevent Invasive Mussel Introduction to B.C.
- Memorandum to Deputy Minister: Recommendations for Invasive Mussel Prevention

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Oct 18, 2023

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Re: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT INVASIVE MUSSEL INTRODUCTION TO B.C.

Dear Ministers,

We are writing to again express our extreme concern over the threats posed by invasive mussels to B.C. waters, recognizing the September 18th announcement that invasive quagga mussels have been found in Idaho in the Snake River. On September 25th, following meetings with Minister Cullen at UBCM, we provided a memorandum with specific recommendations and details to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to this threat (attached). The calls to action here are a summary of that memorandum.

We are writing to ask for the following actions to be taken immediately by the province of B.C.

1. Introduce a temporary moratorium on out of province watercraft entering B.C. until the full status of the infestation in the Columbia basin is assessed, and until the effectiveness of the chemical and biocontrol treatments in Idaho is known.
2. Introduce “pull-the-plug” legislation to be in effect prior to the 2024 boating season, and before the moratorium is lifted, requiring all watercraft owners to remove the drain plug prior to vessels being transported on public roads.
3. Ask Canada’s Minister for Public Safety to issue direction for all watercraft entering Canada at all border crossing from Saskatchewan to B.C. to be inspected prior to allowing entry.
4. Commit funding to the Invasive Mussel Defence Program of no less than \$4 million per year (all sources), indexed to inflation for at least 10 years.

Following these immediate actions, we ask you to fill the following gaps in the current inspection and prevention system, and in planning for response and long-term mitigation:

5. Enhance funding to recruit and retain B.C. Conservation Officers, Auxiliary Conservation Officers, and other IMDP staff as needed to 2019 levels (64 inspectors).
6. Update the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan (EDRR), including a round of consultation with partner organizations prior to finalization.

7. Lead a planning process to create long-term response, containment, and control plans in regions at high risk of introduction and vulnerable to infestation, including the Okanagan, Shuswap, and Kootenay Regions.
8. Promote vulnerability assessments by utilities, local jurisdictions, and private entities.

Finally, we ask you to reconsider our previous call to action to require inspection for all watercraft entering B.C., both at federal and provincial borders. Again, the attached memorandum provides details for how this can be accomplished.

In response to the mussel detection in Idaho, state officials released more than 116,000 litres – almost four large tanker-trucks - of a copper-based pesticide into a 26 km stretch of the Snake River, killing invertebrates, algae, plants, and fish, including 2-meter-long sturgeon. This will be followed up with another chemical treatment and a biocontrol treatment. This was considered a better option than allowing the mussels to take hold, but there is still no guarantee that it will have the desired affect. It is possible that mussels have already escaped the containment area, and if so, they will spread throughout the Columbia Basin over the next several years.

Chemical treatments in most large lakes in B.C. are unlikely to have the desired effect, and the Province must take strong immediate action to close the obvious gaps in inspections and legislation to prevent invasive mussels in the first place.

We will also be writing to federal ministers to call for their support in your efforts, especially enhanced inspections at federal border crossings. We will also continue our own efforts in public awareness and education, providing a vulnerability assessment guide to prepare infrastructure, and working with local governments and First Nations to promote these calls to action, and the Clean, Drain, Dry message for boat owners.

The critical time to act is now.

Yours truly,



Anna Warwick Sears, Ph.D. — Executive Director
Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Email : anna.warwick.sears@obwb.ca
Office: 250.469.6251



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Dear Ministers,

We are again writing to express our extreme concern over the threats posed by invasive mussels to B.C. waters, recognizing the September 18th announcement that invasive quagga mussels were found in Idaho in the Snake River, a tributary to the Columbia River. A May 2023 report by the Province of B.C., *Potential Economic Impact of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in B.C.*, shows that both the Fraser River and Columbia River watersheds are at moderate to high risk of a mussel infestation based on water chemistry. In order to protect Pacific salmon habitat in both of these major river systems, and protect the economy of the west, the Government of Canada must act now.

1. We ask that you issue immediate direction to all Canada Border Service Agency locations between Saskatchewan and the Pacific that all watercraft entering Canada in that region be inspected for invasive mussels following provincial protocols.
2. We have asked the Government of B.C. to issue a temporary moratorium on out-of-province boats until the full extent of the infestation is known, and until the success of chemical treatments in Idaho is determined. We ask you to use your authority to support any such temporary moratorium.

In response to the mussel detection in Idaho, state officials released more than 116,000 litres – almost four large tanker-trucks - of a copper-based pesticide into a 26 km stretch of the Snake River, killing invertebrates, algae, plants, and fish, including 2-meter-long hatchery sturgeon. This will be followed up with another chemical treatment and a biocontrol treatment. This was considered a better option than allowing the mussels to take hold, but there is still no guarantee that it will have the desired affect. It is possible that mussels have already escaped the containment area, and if so, they will spread throughout the Columbia Basin over the next several years.

Chemical treatments in most large lakes in B.C. are unlikely to be effective. Instead, we need senior governments to take strong immediate action to close the obvious gaps in inspections and legislation to prevent invasive mussels in the first place.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board will continue our own efforts in public awareness and education, providing a vulnerability assessment guide to prepare infrastructure, and working with local governments and First Nations to promote these calls to action, and the Clean, Drain, Dry message for boat owners.

The critical time to act is now.

Yours truly,



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MEMORANDUM

To: Deputy Minister Lori Halls
From: Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB Executive Director
Date: September 25, 2023
Subject: **Recommendations for Invasive Mussel Prevention**

Background

This report is a follow-up to our September 21, 2023 meeting with Minister Nathan Cullen and Parliamentary Secretary Kelly Greene, regarding our recommendations on how to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from invading B.C. waters. We discussed the news that there had been positive tests for quagga mussel veligers in Twin Falls, Idaho on the Snake River, a tributary to the Columbia River.

According to the Idaho news media, there were multiple 'positive samples' along a 6 km stretch of the Snake River, in the vicinity of Centennial Park, in Twin Falls. The river in this reach is moving at greater than 15.5 m³/s, and this is not likely to be a candidate for applications of potash or other pesticides to control mussels – so there is little hope for eradication.

At the meeting, we discussed the importance of taking a 'disaster management' approach, including the four pillars of **mitigation, preparation, response** and **recovery**. We have updated our recommendations specific to each of these categories. The minister specifically requested that we send you more information on 'pull-the-plug' legislation, and inspection sticker programs. Our analysis of these is given below (pages 5 – 10).

OBWB Recommendations for WLRS

Mitigation:

1. Ask the Canada Minister of Public Safety to have the CBSA stop and inspect ALL watercraft coming to B.C. from the U.S., consistently at ALL border crossings from Saskatchewan to B.C.

In the past, we have noted that some border crossings take this duty more seriously than others.

2. B.C. should consider a temporary moratorium on out-of-province boats until the full status of the infestation of the Columbia Basin is assessed.

As the boating season is close to ending for the season, this would have limited economic impact.

3. Commit funding to the IMDP of no less than \$4 million per year (all sources), indexed to inflation for at least 10 years.

The 2019 budget for the IMDP, the year the program conducted the most inspections, was \$3.5 million, equivalent to \$4.04 million today. This is the minimum level of funding the program should receive. In 2023, the IMDP ran only six inspection stations, with a reduced staff of 43 inspectors, (down from 12 stations and 64 staff in 2019).

4. Enhance funding to recruit and retain B.C. Conservation Officers, Auxiliary Conservation Officers, and other IMDP staff as needed to 2019 levels (64 inspectors).

Do whatever is necessary to recruit and retain seasonal staff for the IMDP. This may require increasing pay levels to attract qualified candidates. It is also important to meet the housing needs of staff who are sometimes deployed to remote locations during the height of tourist and fire-fighting seasons, when competition for accommodations is highest.

5. Introduce “pull-the-plug” legislation to be in effect prior to the 2024 boating season.

Since July 2019, we have called for “pull the plug” legislation, requiring all watercraft owners to remove the drain plug prior to transporting vessels on public roads, to ensure that vessels have been cleaned, drained, and dried before launching in B.C. waters. All other Western Canadian provinces have put this legislation in place, with B.C. as the only exception.

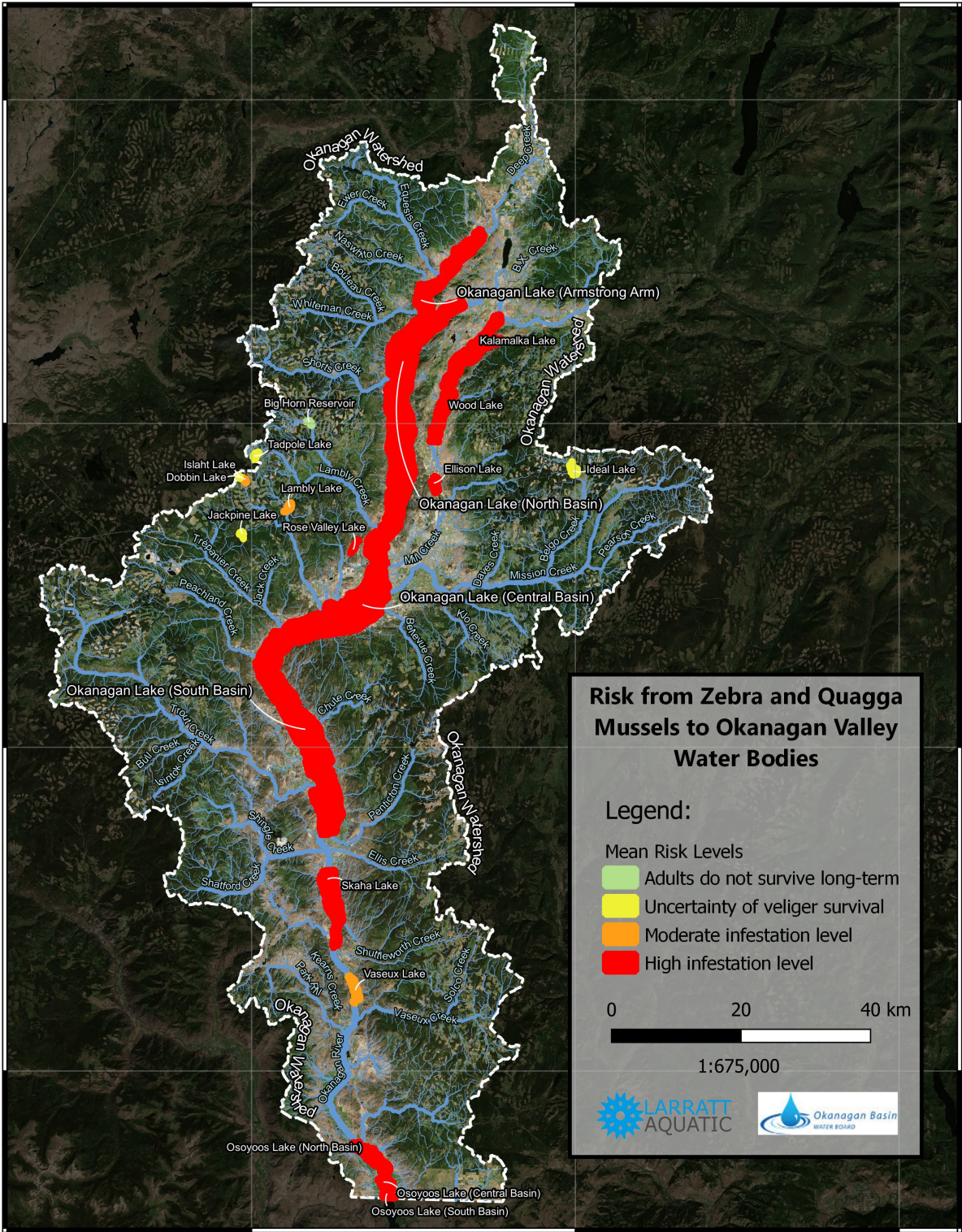
Preparation:

6. Promote vulnerability assessments by utilities, local jurisdictions, and private entities.

The OBWB has been working with PNWER and other partners to develop a Vulnerability Assessment Guide for freshwater infrastructure, including dams, wastewater and drinking water treatment plants, bridges, docks, intakes, etc. This guide is based on one developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is currently under technical review. It contains information on how to assess the vulnerability of a waterbody to infestation, based on water chemistry, and vulnerability of specific forms of infrastructure, as well as proactive mitigation measures such as coatings or cleaning procedures. The guide is expected to be completed by January 1, 2023.

OBWB hired Larratt Aquatic Consultants to analyze the Okanagan water quality database against the Vulnerability Assessment Guide’s criteria for determining levels of infestation by invasive mussels. Larratt produced the map on the following page, showing the expected level of infestation by water body where water chemistry data was available. A similar map could be produced for anywhere in B.C., showing the expected infestation level for specific streams, and by sections of lakes, since not every site is expected to have the same level of infestation throughout a given lake.

This analysis shows that the Okanagan’s large valley-bottom lakes are generally expected to experience a more severe infestation than higher mountain lakes and reservoirs.



Response:

7. Update the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan (EDRR), including a round of consultation with partner organizations prior to finalization.

The current EDRR was published in 2015. Since then, B.C. has gathered significant information on watercraft travel patterns, at-risk lakes, and economic factors. B.C. has also had to respond to several near misses with contaminated vessels. The new EDRR should incorporate all lessons learned and look to longer-term options for ongoing regional containment, quarantine, and control methods.

8. Lead a planning process to create long-term response, containment, and control plans in regions at high risk of introduction and vulnerable to infestation, including the Okanagan, Shuswap, and Kootenay Regions.

With new information on watercraft travel patterns and water chemistry, we know which regions are at most risk of introduction due to the high number of watercraft travelling there, and which water bodies are at greatest risk due to water chemistry. With this information, it is possible to create plans which could reduce the time for containment of a lake from days to hours and reduce the time for attempted eradication from weeks to days. This planning process could also help to identify regional gaps in prevention, prepare infrastructure, solicit public engagement and feedback, and identify resources for long-term control.

Recovery

9. In our more than ten years tracking this issue, we have not heard of any jurisdiction that has 'recovered' from invasive mussels, once they have taken hold. At best, local jurisdictions have had to absorb costs, and learn to live with the societal and environmental damage. Many (but not all) of these costs are given in the WLRS's report from May 2023: [Potential Economic Impact of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in B.C.](#)

Aquatic Invasive Species – Pull the plug legislation

British Columbia is the last remaining Western province without pull-the-plug legislation in place. Most Northwestern States also require drain plugs pulled prior to transport on roadways. Here is the relevant legislation/regulation for each Western province.

Alberta Fisheries Act Regulation 220/1997 (2016)

Transportation of watercraft 6.1

A person shall not transport an item of watercraft on a highway by means of a conveyance if the watercraft has a drainage hole in the lower hull or bilge that is blocked with a plug. AR 45/2016 s8

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/regu/alta-reg-220-1997/latest/alta-reg-220-1997.html#sec6.1>

Saskatchewan The Fisheries Regulations 88.6 (2018)

Transportation of watercraft

No person shall transport a watercraft on a highway by means of a conveyance if the watercraft has a drainage hole in the lower hull or bilge and that drainage hole is blocked with a plug. 6 Apr 2018 SR 22/2018 s12.

<https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/1869/F16-1r1.pdf>

Manitoba The Water Protection Act AIS Regulation (2015)

3(3) When transporting a watercraft on land, a person must (a) ensure that the drain plug and all valves or other devices used to drain water from the watercraft are removed or left open, other than plugs used in kitchen or washroom facilities on the watercraft; and (b) ensure that the motor vehicle and any trailer transporting the watercraft are free of aquatic invasive species and aquatic plants.

https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=173/2015

Inspection/Sticker Program Summary

Overall, stopping at an open inspection station is mandatory in all cases. Oregon, Idaho and Montana require boaters to be inspected and pay certain fees when coming from out of state. These fees are used to pay for inspection programs and monitoring. Out of state boaters pay more than resident boaters.

Alberta

No passport or sticker system all boats must stop every time they come to an inspection station. No special rules depending on where you live.

Fees

- Seems to be a free service.

Requirements

- **Watercraft inspections are now mandatory.** All passing watercraft, including non-motorized, commercially hauled and privately-hauled watercraft, **must stop every time, regardless of where you are coming from or going to**
- When highway signage indicates that a watercraft inspection station is open, it is mandatory.
 - Bypassing an inspection station results in a \$324 fine
 - Failing to pull the plug leads to a \$180 fine
- When arriving at a station, boaters are required by law to answer a few simple questions to help establish the risk factor.

Relevant legislation

- Bill 13: Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2015
- Ministerial Order 30/2015
- Section 32 (14) of Fisheries (Alberta) Act

Inspection

- An inspection of your watercraft and trailer will be conducted and sometimes these inspections are supported by trained K-9 inspectors. All areas of boat inspected and you will be asked to show hold is dry.

Miscellaneous

- [K9 teams search shorelines and boats](#)
- [Inspection webpage](#)
- [2017 Report](#)

Saskatchewan

We could not find an in-depth provincial plan for boat inspections. Inspections are stated to be mandatory in the province. There was a lot more documentation of the clean drain dry program.

The only references we could find were as follows:

- **Watercraft inspection is mandatory in Saskatchewan** - even if you are just passing through. They work with neighbouring provinces, states and the Canada Border Services Agency to coordinate inspection efforts. So far, Saskatchewan has been successful in preventing the introduction and establishment of AIS.
- Provincial regulations allow **conservation officers to inspect, quarantine and decontaminate watercraft known or suspected to contain invasive species.**
- The province works with other agencies and jurisdictions to coordinate inspection and other prevention measures.
- The ministry will take a risk-based approach to watercraft inspection, focusing on high-risk pathways and targeted enforcement of violations related to aquatic invasive species.

Washington

There are different requirements for residence and non-residence. A Washington resident pays a \$2 fee and gets a sticker. A non-resident pays a \$24 fee and must obtain a permit.

Requirements

- Out-of-state boat owners- must get a permit before going to Washington
 - Watercraft operators **not registered in Washington State**, seaplanes, and commercial transporters of specified vessel types **must purchase aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention permits** to help prevent the spread of AIS in Washington.
 - Permits are valid for one year.
 - It can be purchased online.
 - Each watercraft is given a **registration number** to prove it has been legally registered and is generally **displayed on both sides of the boat's bow**.

Fees

- **Non-resident \$24 fee** (\$20 permit plus transaction and dealer fees) support the department's efforts to keep Washington's waters free of AIS.
 - AIS prevention permit sales are expected to generate about \$412,000 annually by 2023.
- **Washington residents pay a \$2** annual fee to support the department's AIS program when registering boats.
 - **A valid registration sticker is proof of payment, and an AIS prevention permit is not required.**

Relevant legislation

- [SB 5303 - 2017-18](#)
- [Aquatic invasive species prevention permit—Operators of vessels and aquatic conveyances.](#)

Inspection

- Inspections seem to be mandatory but there was no clear documentation.
- [General information](#)
- Exemptions from needing a permit.
 - Residence with a sticker
 - Small watercraft from out of state e.g. canoes
 - Federal and military vessels or watercraft registered as “tenders”

Miscellaneous

- To access some waters, you need a vehicle access pass – related to hunting regulations.
- [Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations](#) – has historical AIS budgets for states and provinces.
- [Link to the permit website](#)

Oregon

There are two different permits and inspections are mandatory. A waterways access permit is required for everyone and a special permit for out-of-state boatowners; this permit funds the inspection program. Within the state, boatowners must comply with mandatory inspection.

Requirements

- **Any operator** of a boat or paddle craft 10ft or longer need a **Waterway Access Permit**
 - The Waterway Access Permit is transferrable to another non-motorized watercraft.
 - The 10ft watercraft includes kayaks, canoes, rafts and other inflatables, stand-up paddle boards, et.
- Out-of-state boat owners must get a **Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit**
 - Anyone traveling through Oregon and not launching watercraft in state waters DOES NOT need a permit.
 - Children 13 and younger do not need a permit.
- Oregon motorized boaters must have valid registration decals displayed on their motorboats

| Type of Boat | Requirements |
|--|--|
| Out-of-state motorized boat | Out-of-state Aquatic Invasive Species Permit |
| Oregon and out-of-state non-motorized watercraft 10 feet or longer | Waterway Access Permit |
| Out-of-state sailboats 12 feet or longer | Out-of-state Aquatic Invasive Species Permit |
| Oregon sailboats 10 feet to 11 feet 11 inches long | Waterway Access Permit |
| Oregon sailboats 12 feet or longer | Oregon sailboat title and registration |

- **Mandatory inspection**
 - **All vehicles towing watercraft into Oregon must stop at an inspection station.**
 - There are 6 stations.
 - All boaters must stop if a station is open.
 - Inspection teams are made up of specially trained personnel employed with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - After the inspection boaters are given an inspection report that is the proof of compliance. – if the boat is contaminated it will be decontaminated on site.

Relevant legislation

- SECTION 1. ORS 570.855

Fees

- **The AIS Prevention Permit costs \$20** and failure to have one results in a \$50 fine.
 - **The permit costs fund the inspection stations.**
- **Waterway Access Permit:** price depends on permit which are all based on the number of days you want access. Failure to show the Waterways Access Permit to law enforcement can lead to a \$115 fine.

Miscellaneous

- [2022 report of inspection program](#)

- During the 2022 fiscal year, revenue collected from permit sales totaled **\$768,435** . Oregon motorized permit revenue from boater registrations was \$254,975; non-motorized watercraft \$377,905; out-of-state motorized \$128,940; liveries and guides \$6,615.
 - **The program provided full or partial funding for seven full-time positions, and ten seasonal or part-time positions.**
 - We received additional funding from the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) for \$572,277; these monies help fund additional inspectors and hours of operation at the inspection stations.
- In 2022 the program completed 14,462 watercraft inspections.
- [Webpage for general information](#)
- [Waterways Access Permit](#)
- [AIS Permit](#)

Idaho

In Idaho there is a mandatory sticker program that funds the inspection stations. It is mandatory to stop at inspection stations.

Requirements

- **Mandatory to stop at inspection stations.**
- Idaho law requires the owner of any boat and any non-motorized vessel to **buy and display an Idaho Invasive Species Fund sticker** to legally launch and operate the boat in Idaho.
 - This includes nonmotorized boats, rafts, canoes, etc. .
 - Does not include inflatable, non-motorized vessels less than 10 feet long
 - Stickers can be bought online
 - Work with law enforcement to make sure of compliance

Fees

- The sticker program funds the inspection stations.
 - A one-year sticker is **\$12.0** or a two year sticker is **\$22.50**.

Inspections

- In 2022, the program performed over 100,000 watercraft inspections and **intercepted 36** mussel-fouled watercrafts. Throughout the history of the program Idaho stations have performed over one million inspections intercepting 413 mussel-fouled watercrafts prior to launching.
- Idaho's inspection stations are placed on major highways at or near the Idaho state line

Montana

It is mandatory to stop at inspections stations and out of state owners or people crossing the continental divide must get an inspection before launching. There are passes that must be purchased if you are from out of state.

Requirements

- It is **mandatory to stop at an inspection station**. Motorized and nonmotorized watercraft.
 - Out-of-state boats must be inspected before launching in Montana.

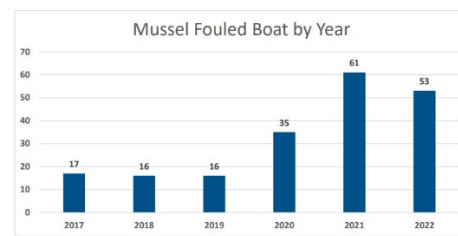
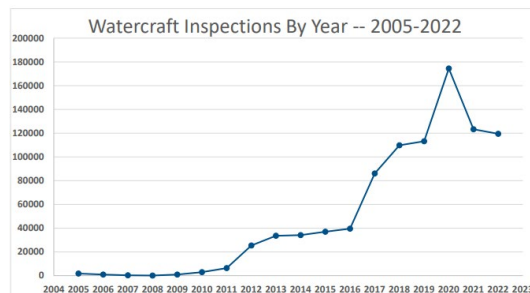
- Must carry a **proof on inspection.**
- Must stop at all inspection stations you encounter.
- If you cross a Continental Divide, you must have your boat inspected before launch.
- **Purchase a AIS Prevention Pass**
 - **Non-resident** watercraft launching in Montana must purchase.
 - Motorized watercraft fee is \$30.
 - Nonmotorized watercraft fee is \$10.
 - Not transferable between vessels

Fees

- The fee for a permit is \$10 to \$30 deepening on boat type.

Inspection

- [2022 AIS report](#) – very good report
 - Over 119,000 watercraft inspections
 - **53 zebra and quagga mussel fouled vessels intercepted.**
 - Stations placed on major highways near state borders.



- Inspections are done by the Ministry of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as well as other partner groups.

Miscellaneous

- [Inspection information](#)
- [Traveling to Montana](#)
- [Summary of Laws and regulations.](#)