## **QUICK FACTS**

- The first case of whirling disease in B.C. was confirmed in Yoho National Park on December 6, 2023 (Columbia River Watershed).
- Ontainment and prevention is critical.
- ② It can be transmitted through spores that attach to equipment (used for swimming, paddling, boating, water pumping, fishing), pets, or through infected fish (alive or dead) and fish parts.
- There is currently no treatment available to eradicate whirling disease without also causing significant ecological impacts.
- There are no health concerns for people swimming in or drinking water that contains whirling disease.
- Whirling disease can cause significant mortality in susceptible fish populations (trout, salmon, whitefish).
- Not all fish populations are affected the same way.
- Whirling disease is caused by a parasite that has two hosts: a fish and a freshwater worm.
- Once inside the fish, the parasite affects cartilage, leading to deformities of the spine or skull, a whirl in movement, and/or a blackened tail.
- Diagnosing whirling disease requires laboratory testing.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Response to Whirling Disease is a combined effort from both provincial and federal governments.

- **3** B.C. Whirling Disease https://gov.bc.ca/WhirlingDisease
- Parks Canada <a href="https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/mtn/eaux-waters">https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/mtn/eaux-waters</a>
- CFIA Whirling Disease https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/aquatic-animals/ diseases/reportable-diseases/whirling-disease/fact-sheet

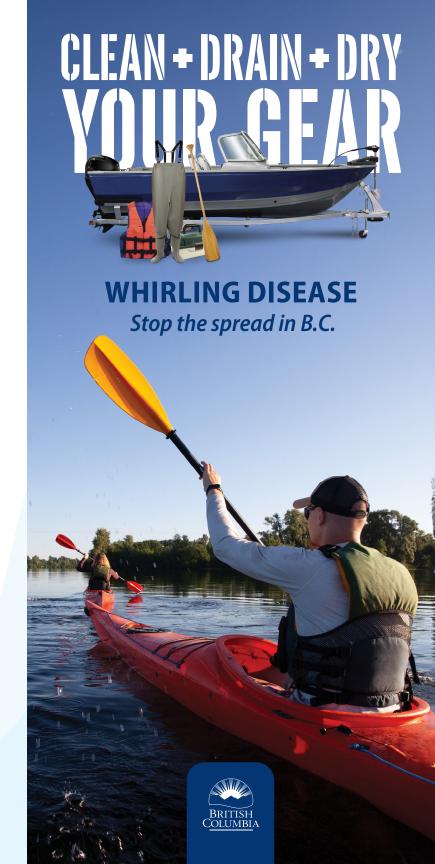
### **FURTHER CONTACTS**

- B.C. e-mail WhirlingDisease@gov.bc.ca;
- Conservation Officer Service Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line: 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

# **RAPP**

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24-hr Hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

rapp.bc.ca



### WHIRLING DISEASE —

# Stop the spread in B.C.

- Pull the plug! It's the law! In B.C., it is now illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug still in place.
- Before moving a boat or any equipment between water bodies, be sure to Clean Drain Dry.

#### More than Boats

The movement of infected fish, mud, and water can spread whirling disease.

- Boats
- Motors
- Boots
- Waders
- Bait buckets

- Swimming floats
- Coolers
- Kayaks
- Stand-up Paddleboards
- Swimsuits





# **CLEAN DRAIN DRY**

#### CLEAN

- Clean and inspect all watercraft, trailers, and equipment on dry land away from storm water drains, ditches and waterways.
- Remove all mud, sand and plant materials before leaving the shore.
- Rinse or wash your boat and equipment away from storm drains, ditches or waterways.
- Bathe pets before allowing them to enter another water body.
- Never move fish or fish parts from one waterbody to another.
- Use fish-cleaning stations where available or put fish parts in the garbage. Do not dispose of fish parts in a kitchen garburator or down a drain.

#### DRAIN

- Defore leaving a waterbody, drain all water on dry land (including all internal compartments such as ballasts, bilges, and livewells), coolers, life jackets and other gear.
- Raise and lower outboard engines several times to ensure all water has drained out.
- Drain non-motorized watercraft by inverting or tilting the watercraft, opening compartments and removing seats if necessary.
- Pull the plug! It's the law! In B.C. it is now illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug still in place.

#### DRY

- Dry the watercraft and equipment completely between trips and allow the wet areas to air dry.
- It is recommended to allow for a minimum of 24 hours of drying time before entering new waters.
- Leave compartments open on boats and equipment.