

Welcome to the summer status report for the period of June 01 to August 17 2018. The Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) is a shared delivery between staff from the B.C. Conservation Office Service (COS) and the Environmental Sustainability & Strategic Policy Division (ESSPD) within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). The Program would like to recognize the ongoing funding provided by BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Columbia Power Corporation, and Columbia Basin Trust to support the delivery of the program. For more information about the Program please visit www.gov.bc.ca/invasivemussels

Program Operations

Watercraft Inspection Stations

Invasive mussel inspection stations opened on April 1, 2018. As of August 17th, just over 33,000 watercraft have been inspected and crews have interacted with approximately 65,000 people to promote Clean, Drain, Dry.

Of the total watercraft inspected, 1,412 were identified as high risk, 273 Decontamination Orders were issued, and 203 watercraft were issued quarantine periods to meet the required 30-day drying time. A total of 374 decontaminations have been performed to date.

Of the more than 33,000 watercraft inspected, 20 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels. These came from Ontario (10), Arizona (4), Manitoba (2), Michigan (2), Utah (2) and Nevada (1) and were destined for the Lower Mainland (8), Okanagan (3), Thompson-Nicola (4), Vancouver Island (4), and the Kootenays (1). The Program received advanced notification on 15 of the 20 mussel fouled boats either from another jurisdiction (e.g., AB, MT, ID, WA) or by Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA).

Between May 15 and August 17, 355 watercraft were inspected at night (10 p.m. to 5 a.m.) at the Golden inspection station on Hwy 1. Of those, 19 were identified as high risk and two of the mussel fouled watercraft have been intercepted between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.



Invasive mussels found on the trim tabs of a cabin cruiser from Michigan. The Surrey inspection crew completed a full decontamination of the watercraft.

	Aug 21 2017	Aug 17 2018
Total Watercraft Inspected	28,700	33,400
People Interacted with to promote CDD	59,000	65,000
High Risk Watercraft	1,627	1,412
Decontamination Orders Issued	184	273
Quarantine Periods Issued	156	203
Mussel fouled watercraft	17	20

Comparison of watercraft inspection totals as of mid-August for the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

Lake Monitoring

Monitoring is critical for early detection of new invasive species incursions in B.C. and is an important first step in the [Provincial Early Detection Rapid Response \(EDRR\) Plan](#). The Province has been conducting early detection lake monitoring for zebra and quagga mussels since 2011. For further information about the protocols used for early detection monitoring and details of the 2017 sampling efforts please visit the program [website](#).

For the 2018 season, sampling started in early June and to date 284 samples have been collected and from over 50 different waterbodies across B.C. Samples continue to be sent to the laboratory for analysis. Full results from the 2018 sampling season will be released in the year-end report.

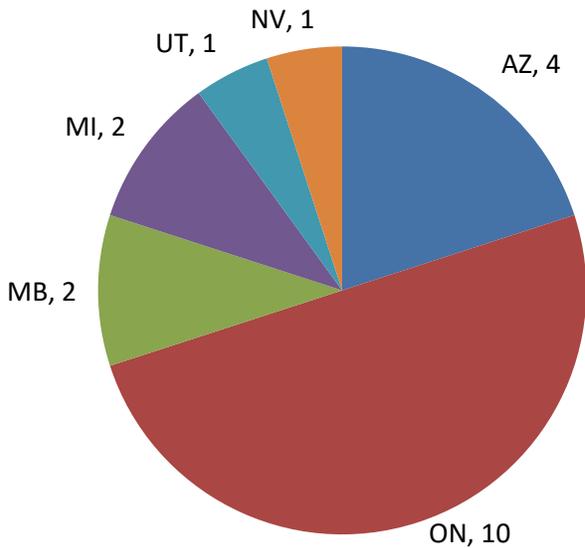


Figure 1. Source location of the 20 mussel fouled boats intercepted to date for the 2018 season.

Program Effectiveness

To date, of the boaters whose watercraft were inspected, approximately 60% had previous knowledge of [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) and/or aquatic invasive species. A total of 160 people without boats have voluntarily stopped at the watercraft inspection stations to get more information about invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Program has also received over 50 inquiries from members of the public about bringing their boat into BC and to learn more about the watercraft inspection stations.

Average compliance at the inspection stations for the 2018 season is 81%. Of the watercraft that failed to stop at the inspection station, 78% were non-motorized watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards which pose a much lower risk than motorized watercraft. To date for the 2018 season, 79 tickets and 44 warnings have been issued by Conservation Officers to motorists for failing to stop at inspection stations.

Watercraft operators who fail to stop at an inspection station are being reported to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline and full time Conservation Officers are responding and following up.

The Program continues to work with the CBSA to receive notifications of high-risk watercraft at the southern border crossings. To date during the 2018 season, CBSA has sent 284 notifications to the Program from the southern border crossings.

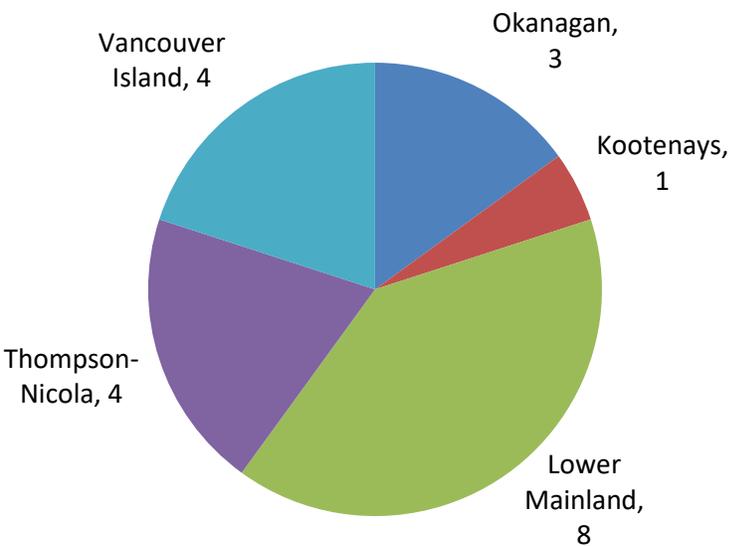


Figure 2. Destination location of the 20 mussel fouled boats intercepted to date for the 2018 season.

Highlights

On Friday June 29th Kilo (the invasive mussel detection dog) detected invasive mussels on a watercraft that had been in Lake Winnipeg one week prior. The Provincial inspectors at the Golden inspection station were able to visually confirm adult invasive mussels around the engine area. The watercraft was issued a quarantine period and prohibited to launch before the required 30 day drying time had passed.

The Program is very pleased to welcome Inspector Aaron Canuel from the Conservation Officer Service as the new officer in charge of program operations. Inspector Canuel will be working closely with ENV staff from the Ecosystems Branch on the shared delivery of partnerships and outreach/education. Ecosystems branch will remain the lead for the policy and science aspects of the program including the early detection lake monitoring. The Program would like to thank Inspector Joe Caravetta as the outgoing acting office in charge for all his time and dedication to the Program on top of his existing commitments.

AIS news and announcements

The Final Report for the 2017 season of the IMDP is now available on the program [website](#) and includes detailed data and metrics from the 2017 operating season with a focus on the three main program areas: watercraft inspection stations; lake monitoring, and outreach and education.

Ecosystems staff attended the [Pacific Northwest Economic Region \(PNWER\) summit](#) in Spokane, WA for the invasive species session on July 25th. This is one of several meetings that the Province attends annually to provide opportunities for cross-border collaboration and partnerships on invasive mussel prevention as well as other AIS prevention and research efforts. The program works very closely with western jurisdictions on collective priorities for invasive mussel prevention.

On August 6th the Government of Canada [announced](#) funding for research and education to prevent Zebra and Quagga mussel invasion in the Okanagan region. ENV staff will be working closely with DFO staff to discuss this new opportunity and how it will align and complement existing research and education work being done in the Province and its partners.



Watercraft being decontaminated (top) and inspected (bottom) at the Golden inspection station.

