

# BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program Fall 2017 Status Report



Reporting Period August 21 – October 16, 2017

## Program Operations

### Watercraft Inspection Stations

Invasive mussel inspection stations opened on April 1, 2017. As of October 16, over 35,000 watercraft have been inspected and crews have interacted with approximately 73,300 people to promote Clean, Drain, Dry.

Of the total watercraft inspected, 2,045 were identified as high risk, 276 Decontamination Orders were issued, and 192 watercraft were issued quarantine periods to meet the required 30-day drying time. Between June 11 and October 16, 121 watercraft were inspected at night (10 p.m. to 5 a.m.) at the Golden inspection station. Of those, seven were identified as high risk and came from Saskatchewan (4), Manitoba (2), and Ontario (1). No mussel fouled watercraft have been intercepted during nighttime operations.

Of the more than 35,000 watercraft inspected, 24 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels. These came from Ontario (14), Michigan (2), Texas (2), Quebec (2), Arizona (1), Ohio (1), Illinois (1), and New York (1); and were destined for the Lower Mainland (11), Okanagan (7), Vancouver Island (3), Kootenays (1), Thompson-Nicola (1) and Alaska (1). The Program received advanced notification on 20 of the 24 mussel fouled boats either from another jurisdiction or by Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA). For two of the boats the owners contacted the Program in advance to arrange for inspection when they arrived in BC.



*Mussel fouled watercraft from Michigan was intercepted at the Lower Mainland inspection station on Sep 24<sup>th</sup>.*

	Oct 13 2016	Oct 16 2017
<b>Total Watercraft Inspected</b>	24,500	<b>35,000</b>
<b>People Interacted With</b>	49,200	<b>73,300</b>
<b>High Risk Inspections</b>	683	<b>2,045</b>
<b>Decontamination Orders</b>	92	<b>276</b>
<b>Quarantine Periods</b>	69	<b>192</b>
<b>Mussel fouled watercraft</b>	17	<b>24</b>

*Comparison of watercraft inspection totals as of mid-October for the 2016 and 2017 seasons.*

## Program Effectiveness

A new initiative for 2017 to help expand Program effectiveness is the use of electronic reader boards to increase the visibility of high-volume inspection stations. Messaging is being displayed outside of inspection operating hours that directs motorists to report where they are arriving from and their destination in B.C. Inspectors then follow-up to arrange for watercraft inspection/decontamination, if necessary.

To date, of the boaters whose watercraft were inspected, approximately 63% had previous knowledge of Clean, Drain, Dry and/or aquatic invasive species. A total of 474 people without boats have voluntarily stopped at the watercraft inspection stations to get more information about invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Average compliance at the inspection stations for the 2017 season is 81%. Of the watercraft that failed to stop at the inspection station, 76% were non-motorized watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, which pose a much lower risk than motorized watercraft. This metric illustrates that compliance of higher risk motorized watercraft at inspection stations is very high. To date for the 2017 season, 59 tickets and 86 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.



*Engine flush being performed by inspectors at the Yahk inspection station as part of the decontamination of a high risk pontoon boat.*



*Conservation officer apprehending a high risk watercraft from Ontario that failed to stop at the Golden inspection station on August 30<sup>th</sup>.*

## Lake Monitoring

Sampling for the early detection lake monitoring program is ongoing for the 2017 season. Samples continue to be sent to the laboratory for analysis. To date, all samples have come back negative for invasive mussel larvae. Full results from the 2017 sampling season will be released in the year-end report.

## Collaboration

The Program continues to work with the CBSA to receive notifications of high-risk watercraft at the southern border crossings. To date during the 2017 season, CBSA has sent 304 notifications to the Program from the southern border crossings.

The Program worked with event organizers from the 2017 Mobility Cup sailing event to arrange for inspection of boats coming from across the country (BC, AB, MB, ON, QUE, NB, SK) that were participating in the event on Okanagan Lake. Sailboats arrived via train and were offloaded in shipping containers to the decontamination site, and 12 sailboats were decontaminated. Kilo, the mussel detection dog, was also on site to assist with inspections.

Program manager Martina Beck attended the Western AIS Summit meeting in mid-September, along with representatives from across the western states. This is one of several meetings that the Province attends annually to provide opportunities for cross-border collaboration and partnerships on invasive mussel prevention and other AIS prevention and research efforts.



*Decontamination of sailboats for the 2017 Mobility Cup that took place in Kelowna Sep 11-15.*

## Highlights

On August 30, 2017 a motor vehicle transporting a watercraft from Ontario failed to stop at the Golden inspection station. Inspectors immediately notified the COS using the RAPP hotline. The watercraft owner was later apprehended by a Conservation Officer near Sicamous and, upon visual inspection, the CO observed adult invasive mussels. The boat was sealed to the trailer and the driver was issued a violation ticket for failing to stop at the watercraft inspection station. The driver was ordered to report to invasive mussel inspectors in the Lower Mainland where a complete decontamination of the watercraft was performed. This is just one of many examples of the strong collaboration between the COS and the Invasive Mussel Defence Program.

Sgt. Josh Lockwood and Kilo attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention on September 27<sup>th</sup>. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the new invasive mussel detection tools being used by the Program.



*Kilo inspecting a mussel fouled watercraft from Michigan that was intercepted on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lower Mainland inspection station.*