

Welcome to the summer status report for the period of June 1st to July 31 2019. The Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) is a shared delivery between staff from the B.C. Conservation Officer 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

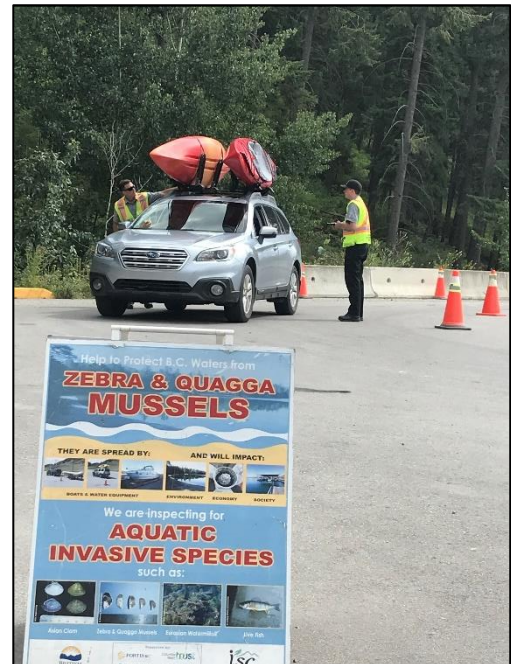
Program Operations

Watercraft Inspection Stations

As of July 31st approximately 31,000 inspections have been performed and crews have interacted with approximately 57,000 people to promote Clean, Drain, Dry.

Of the total watercraft inspected, 810 have been identified as high risk, 52 decontamination orders with quarantine periods have been issued to meet the required 30-day drying time. A total of 208 decontaminations have been performed by provincial inspectors.

Of the 31,000 inspections, 14 have been confirmed to have adult invasive mussels. These came from Ontario (9), Michigan (2), Utah (2) and North Carolina (1) and were destined for Vancouver Island (4), Lower Mainland (3), Okanagan (3), Kootenays (2), Skeena (1) and Alaska (1). The Program has received advanced notification on 10 of the 14 mussel fouled boats either from another jurisdiction (e.g., AB, MT, ID, WA) or by Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA).



Auxiliary conservation officers conducting an inspection at the Golden station.

Lake Monitoring

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy provided grants to eleven community organizations in 2019, to fund lake monitoring efforts for invasive freshwater mussels. Lake monitoring is another prevention tool that provides early detection of invasive mussels, an important element to facilitate a rapid and successful response.

The monitoring looks for both the juvenile stage of the mussel with plankton sampling and the adult stage with substrate samplers. Lake monitoring started in early June and to date 316 plankton samples across 61 lakes have been collected, all have tested negative for the presence of invasive mussels.

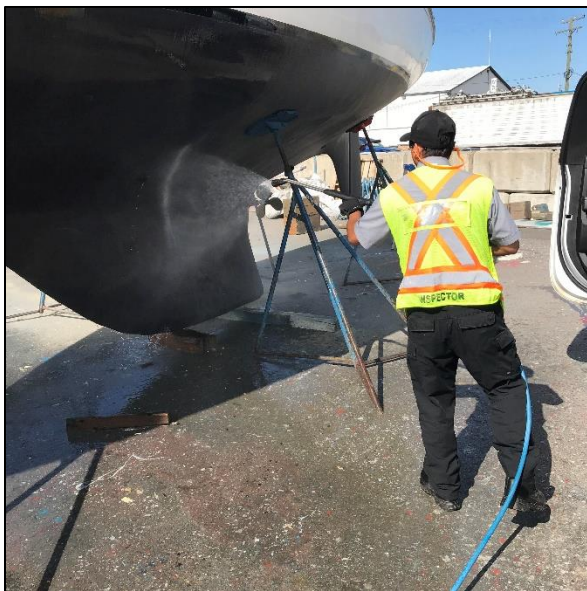
In addition, 84 substrate samplers have been deployed across 51 lakes and will be checked for adult invasive mussels throughout the summer.

	July 30th 2018	July 31 2019
Total Watercraft Inspected	25,000	31,000
People Interacted with	49,000	57,000
High Risk Watercraft	1,130	810
Decontamination Orders Issued	202	52
Quarantine Periods Issued	180	52
Mussel fouled watercraft	18	14

Comparison of watercraft inspection totals as of end of July for the 2018 and 2019 seasons.



Penticton (top) and Laidlaw inspection crews (bottom) performing decontaminations on high-risk watercraft which includes non-motorized boats such as canoes and kayaks.



Program Effectiveness

To date, of the boaters whose watercraft were inspected, approximately 57% had previous knowledge of [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) and/or aquatic invasive species. A total of 110 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 2019 season is 83%. Of the watercraft that failed to stop at the inspection station, 84% were non-motorized watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards which pose a much lower risk than motorized watercraft. To date for the 2019 season, 63 violation tickets and 55 written 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.

Highlights:

The Canada Day Long weekend was the first long weekend of the summer season and was very busy with 3,600 inspections conducted between Thursday June 27th and Monday July 1st.

In addition to operating at the watercraft inspection stations the inspectors have attended several local outreach events such as Sail Nelson, Christina Lake Homecoming, Jet Boat Poker Rally and the World Jet Boat Race Championship in Taylor, BC (Peace Region).



Sergeant Mann and K9 Major conducting a search demonstration at Christina Lake, July 22nd.