

BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program Status Report

CLEAN DRAIN DRY

Reporting Period July 28-August 29, 2016

Program Operations

Watercraft Inspection Stations

As of August 29th 2016 just over 21,800 watercraft have been inspected and the crews have interacted with approximately 44,000 people to promote Clean, Drain, Dry. The watercraft inspected to date have been identified as traveling into B.C. from 55 different provinces, territories and states.

Of the total watercraft inspected 600 have been identified as coming from a high risk province or state, 82 watercraft have been issued Decontamination Orders, and 62 watercraft have been issued quarantine periods to meet the required 30 day drying time. Of the total watercraft inspected, 11 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels, and 10 were coming from Ontario and one from Lake Mead, Nevada. Of the 11 mussel fouled boats, 8 were commercially hauled.

Of the 11 mussel fouled boats, 8 had been through an inspection station in another jurisdiction and BC received advanced notification of their arrival. Of the remaining 3 boats, 2 were being hauled together (same trailer) by a commercial hauler early in the season prior to Alberta's inspection stations being fully operational. The final boat from Ontario appears to have not been intercepted by any other inspection station. This demonstrates the efficacy of the staggered, perimeter defence approach to protecting the western provinces and states from these invasive mussels.

Lake Monitoring

Water samples are being collected from lakes across the province by Ministry staff and partner agencies for invasive mussel veliger early detection monitoring. To date a total of 81 samples have been collected and sent for analysis and sampling will continue throughout the fall. We will report on results once we have them



*To date, 11 mussel
fouled watercraft have
been intercepted.*

Program Effectiveness

It is estimated that inspection crews have interacted with approximately 44,000 people to date to promote the message of Clean, Drain and Dry.

To date a total of 341 people without boats have voluntarily stopped at the watercraft inspection stations to get more information about Invasive Mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species.

The number of vehicles that fail to report at an inspection station is being recorded for every shift at each inspection station as a measure of compliance. To date, the average compliance rate for watercraft stopping at inspection stations for the 2016 season is 81%. This represents an increase in compliance by 9% from the 2015 pilot season average of 72%, and is above the compliance rates for similar programs in other jurisdictions.

To date a total of 45 tickets and 35 warnings have been issued to motorists for failing to stop at a watercraft inspection station.



The season record for most boats in a day was 217 boats at the Golden inspection station on Saturday July 30th

Highlights

The BC Day long weekend surpassed the Canada day long weekend by 356 boats with a total of 1,763 boats inspected between July 29th and August 1st. This included a new record for the most boats in one day of 217 boats at the Golden Inspection station on Saturday July 30th.

The Chilliwack Inspection crew attended two of the Cabella's fall events on August 20th and 28th and interacted with the local boating community to educate them about invasive mussels and the Program.

A nighttime inspection trial was conducted on Wednesday Aug 24th at the Golden inspection station. The station was open from 10pm-5am to see how many boaters are traveling at night. A total of 3 boats came through the station, none of which were coming from a high risk province or state.



Invasive mussels on boat from coming from Ontario that was intercepted at the Golden inspection station on August 11th.

Lessons Learned

The first night inspection trial that took place on August 23rd provided the opportunity to identify appropriate lighting and safety procedures for operating at night. Future night trials will be conducted during both weekdays and weekends to further assess the number of boaters traveling at night.

Feedback to date from boaters indicates some confusion and frustration when procedures do not align between jurisdictions. The Program is continuing to work with the western provinces to streamline watercraft inspection and decontamination protocols.

Key Upcoming Dates

Sep 3rd-5th – Labor day long weekend, last long weekend of the summer.

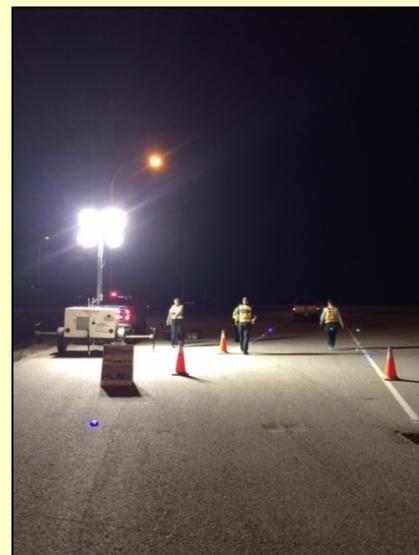
Sep 4th – Last day of operations for the Dawson Creek and Valemount stations.

Oct 8-10th – Thanksgiving weekend, final long weekend of the season.

Oct 15th – All remaining inspection stations operations close.



Crews continue to see watercraft being transported in all kinds of unique ways.



Nighttime inspection trial at the Golden Inspection Station on August 23rd.