

RE: Important Information affecting ALL boats entering British Columbia

B.C. has launched an Invasive Mussel Defense Program in order to prevent the introduction of invasive zebra and quagga mussel species to B.C.

Inspection stations are operational in 8 locations along B.C. borders with staff conducting mandatory boat inspections and possible decontamination of all watercraft. ALL watercraft must report to a mandatory inspection station.

Please familiarize yourself with the new laws in British Columbia at this [website](#).

For more information, and to schedule your inspection, please contact Matthias Herborg (250-356-7683) or Martina Beck (250-356-0819).

FAQ

1. Can I schedule an Inspection?

Yes. Contact one of the #'s listed to minimize wait time.

2. What can I expect if I come from a province or state that is not infested?

You will be asked a series of questions, your watercraft will be inspected, and then you can proceed.

3. What can I expect if my boat has been through the “Clean, Drain, Dry” procedure?

If your boat is coming from an infested province or state, the province may require a certificate of storage, or other proof of being out of the water. They will elaborate depending on each boat's circumstance in conversation with the owner directly when inspection is scheduled.

4. What can I expect if decontamination is required?

Every inspection station will be equipped with decontamination equipment. The process involves a high pressure, hot water wash. If decontamination is required, the estimate for this type of boat is approximately 2 hours (but may vary), and it is free.

[Additional Information from the Aquatic Invasive Species Ministry of Environment Department of B.C.:](#)

[The Pacific Northwest, including British Columbia \(B.C.\) is the last part of North America that is still free of invasive zebra and quagga mussels.](#)

*Should these freshwater invasive mussels become established in B.C. the economic impacts are estimated at \$43M annually. ***

The B.C. Invasive Mussel Defense Program wants to work with all boaters to minimize the impacts on their recreational activities. If you are bringing your boat from an infested jurisdiction (please visit the Provincial [website](#) for the complete list) and it has been out of the water less than 30 days and any signs of standing water or invasive mussels are found during inspection, you may not be able to launch your boat into B.C. waters. In order to minimize any impacts on your recreational activities this please practice Clean, Drain, Dry (see [website](#) for more detail).

For further information on the mussels, the risks to the Okanagan, and prevention tips, please visit www.DontMoveAMussel.ca. Help 'Spread the message. Not the mussels.'

** An earlier and more comprehensive study was conducted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) in 2012 and includes the cost to hydropower generation, agriculture, local water utilities and recreational boating, but also the impacts to local fisheries, tourism and property values. The OBWB study estimates the cost would be at least \$42 mill./yr. to the Okanagan alone to just manage. (http://www.obwb.ca/fileadmin/docs/2013_obwb_ais_report.pdf) For more information, visit www.DontMoveAMussel.ca.

