

Eurasian milfoil mechanical harvesters on a tighter leash

By [Contributed - Kelowna Capital News](#)

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The Okanagan Basin Water Board continues to fight the same battles up and down the valley and has a few new fronts as well.

Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB executive director, told District of West Kelowna councillors Tuesday that new regulations and staff at the B.C. Ministry of Environment are making the job of controlling Eurasian milfoil more difficult.

The OBWB uses expensive machines to harvest the milfoil but new regulations prevent them from going within a half kilometre of previously unknown sensitive areas.

Mayor Doug Findlater said he would write a letter to the province supporting the continued use of the mechanical harvesters and stressing the importance of clean beaches to tourism.

The problem is also heightened by the fact that the American approach to the problem is heavy use of herbicides.

On the U.S. side of Osoyoos Lake, water authorities have applied to begin a herbicide treatment, something the OBWB is trying to fight.