



Zebra Mussels Could Threaten Okanagan Lakes

Anita Sthankiya

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The Okanagan Basin Water Board will begin preventative action to stop an invasive specie from taking over BC lakes.

Water Board Chair Stu Wells says the Zebra Mussel could devastate Okanagan Lakes and destroy ecosystems costing the region 43 million dollars a year.

"We just have to be very very diligent to make sure it doesn't establish here and we have that opportunity. Other parts of the country that first got infested they didn't have that opportunity"

The Great Lakes in Canada have already been infested by the creatures, which are transported on boats and water-related equipment.

Wells says it's only a matter of time before they make their way to BC and into our lakes.

"We're trying to coordinate with the Canadian Border Services because that's a real natural, looking at boats coming across the American Canadian Border."

Wells adds that they will begin with several awareness campaigns the first of which will take place in Osoyoos on April 4th.

A webinar for local government, media and affected industry (e.g. tourism, fisheries) is being organized and will be announced soon and a public outreach campaign is also being developed.