



BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program



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BC Ministry of Environment
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Legislation

BC Wildlife Act

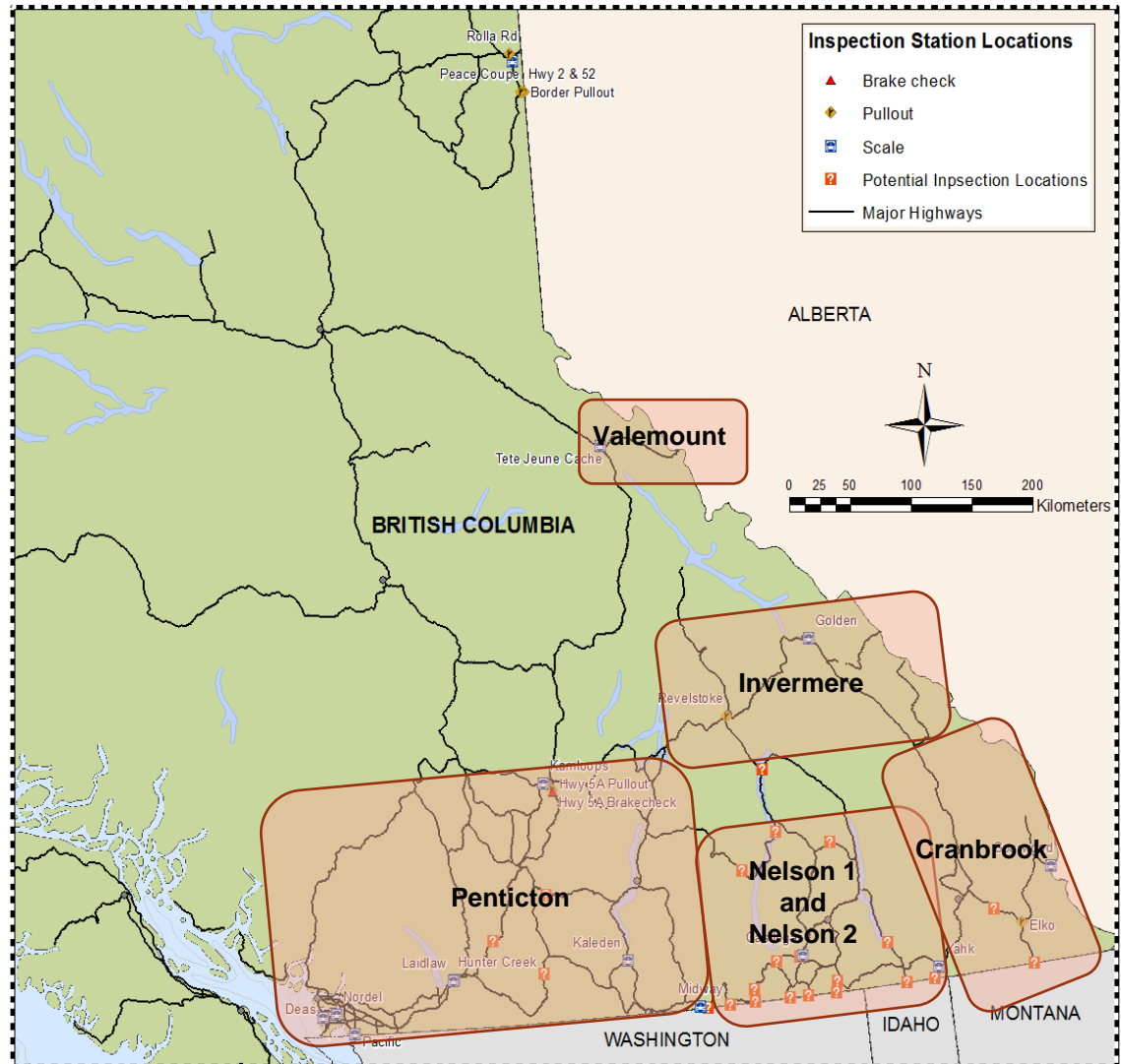
- Controlled Alien Species Regulations created in 2009
 - List of exotic animals such as tigers, lions, caimans, hot snakes and primates that can not be brought into, sold or breed in BC.
 - Reason- human health risks and ecological consequences

2012

- List expanded to include a number of aquatic invasive species that pose a significant risk to BC's native species, environment and, in some cases, infrastructure
- Prohibiting the possession, breeding, release or transportation of high-risk aquatic species such as the snakehead. Releasing a live snakehead into local waters could result in a fine of up to \$250,000.
- Requiring that no invasive zebra or quagga mussel, alive or dead, be present on boats or related equipment. Failure to clean mussels off boats or equipment could result in a fine of up to \$100,000

BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program

- **Six trained inspection crews** (2 auxiliary conservation officers/crew) with mobile decontamination units.
- Based out of **Nelson, Penticton, Cranbrook, Invermere and Valemount.**
- Operational from late May to October 2015.



BC's Inspection Crews Priorities 2015

- **Roadside Inspections** – target location and times with highest number of boaters, preferably out of Province, identify suitable inspection locations for permanent stations.
- **Education/Outreach** of the boating community to follow Clean Drain and Dry of their boats to prevent AIS spread.
- **Collaboration**– other government agencies, Conservation Officers, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Alberta and neighbouring jurisdictions.



Watercraft Inspection

See the 100th Meridian Initiative website inspection and decontamination video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX8TmwTx-tU>



HIGH RISK (ANS) INSPECTION FORM

For use on High Risk Trailered Watercraft

Inspection Location: _____ Date/Time: _____ Water Code: _____

Vessel Registration# (CL#): _____ Vehicle Tag #: _____ Trailer Tag. #: _____

REASON FOR HIGH RISK INSPECTION (check all that apply)

- ☐ Out of state registered or used out of state within last 30 days.
- ☐ Been in infested waters within last 30 days: _____ (Name/State of water). Days since in infested: _____
- ☐ Leaving infested waters after more than 24 hours at an infested reservoir
- ☐ Big/Complex boat ☐ Standing water present ☐ Vol Request ☐ Dirty/Crusty/Slimy below waterline
- ☐ Entering/Leaving marina ☐ Other: _____

VESSEL INSPECTION (Inspect very methodically and carefully)

Overall look and feel of the hull (check box):

- ☐ Clean/Smooth ☐ Bumpy/Sandpaper feel ☐ Other: _____
- (If bumpy/sandpaper feel, then look at bumps with magnifying glass to see if mussels)

☐ Vessel Exterior Checked

- ☐ Entire hull ☐ Trim tabs (top and bot.) ☐ Through hull fittings
- ☐ Transom ☐ Transducers ☐ Pitot tubes
- ☐ Anchors and ropes ☐ Depth sounders ☐ Water intakes/Outlets
- ☐ Water holding pockets ☐ Recessed bolts ☐ PWC—foot recesses
- ☐ Motor well ☐ Cavitations plate(s) ☐ Lights

Sailboats:

- ☐ Centerboard box
- ☐ Rudder and transom
- ☐ Keel
- ☐ Fittings

☐ Motor Checked

- ☐ Exterior housings ☐ Propeller and assembly ☐ Propeller shaft ☐ Prop., shaft supports ☐ Propeller guards
- ☐ Rudders ☐ Propulsion system ☐ Lower unit ☐ Gimbel area ☐ Water intake/Outlets

☐ Trailer Checked

- ☐ Rollers, bunks, pads ☐ License plate ☐ Trailer lights ☐ Trailer wiring ☐ Trailer axles
- ☐ Trailer springs ☐ Fenders ☐ Pockets and hollows ☐ Wheels and tires ☐ Hangers

☐ Interior/Equipment Checked

- ☐ Bait and live wells ☐ Internal ballast tanks ☐ PFD's ☐ Float cushions/belts ☐ Rope and equipment lockers
- ☐ Anchors ☐ Waterfowl decoys ☐ Nets ☐ Water skis and ropes ☐ Other equipment

☐ Vessel Thoroughly Drained

- ☐ Bilge plug or pump ☐ Bait and live wells ☐ Ballast tanks ☐ Drain lower unit on outboard
- ☐ Drain inboard motors fully by pulling plugs. ☐ Drain water cooled generators, swamp coolers with plugs

☐ Large boats, ask driver to activate bilge pump.

☐ If entering a reservoir with any standing water and from infested or out-of-state waters in last 30 days, send to decontamination!

☐ If entering a reservoir with standing water, require draining. If vessel cannot be drained and has more than 5 gallons, send to decontamination. For lesser volumes of water, assess risk to determine whether to decontaminate.

☐ If leaving, drain and educate about Clean/Drain/Dry.

☐ Closeout (if nothing is found)

- ☐ Ask owner to replace bilge or other plugs ☐ Yell "stand clear" ☐ Thank them for cleaning/draining/drying

VESSEL INSPECTION FINDINGS (check all that apply)

- ☐ Did not find any identified or suspected ANS species
- ☐ Found: ☐ Large volume of water ☐ Suspected ANS in water ☐ Mussels ☐ Vegetation
- ☐ Other: _____ ☐ Location(s): _____

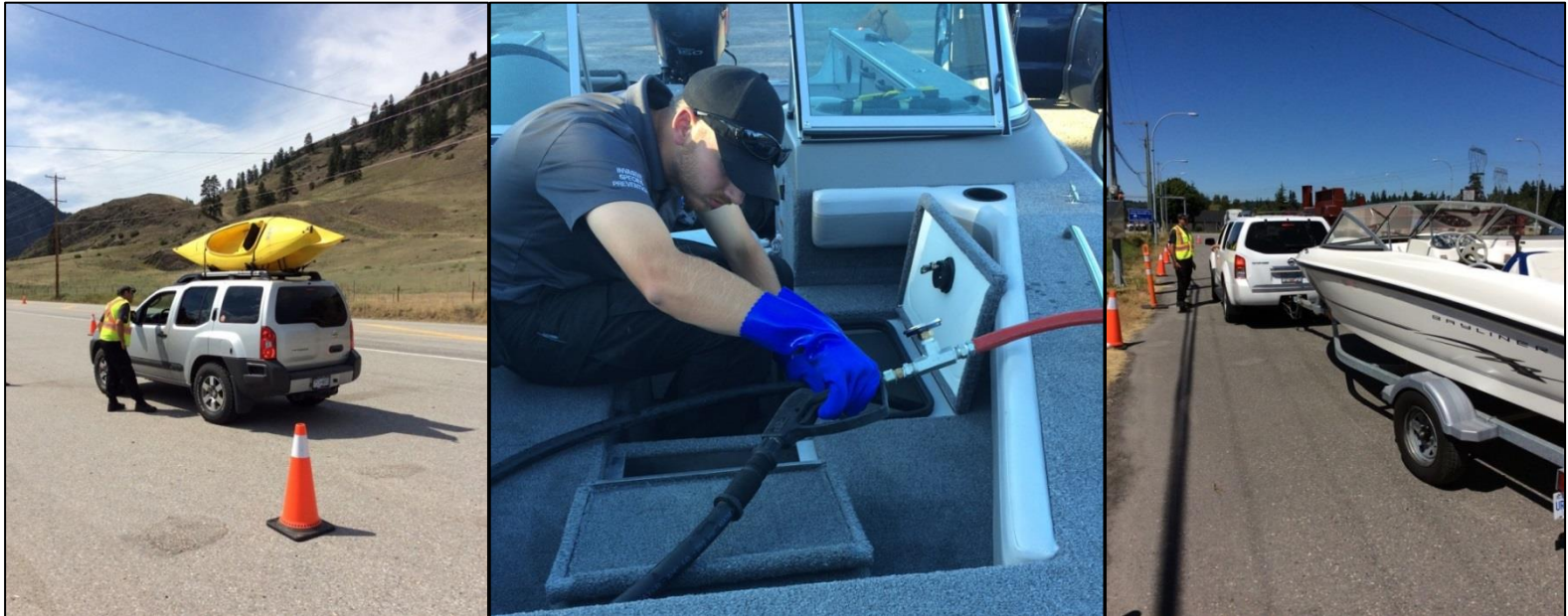
INSPECTION COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE PROCEDURES:

Inspected by (print # and name): _____

Inspected by (signature): _____

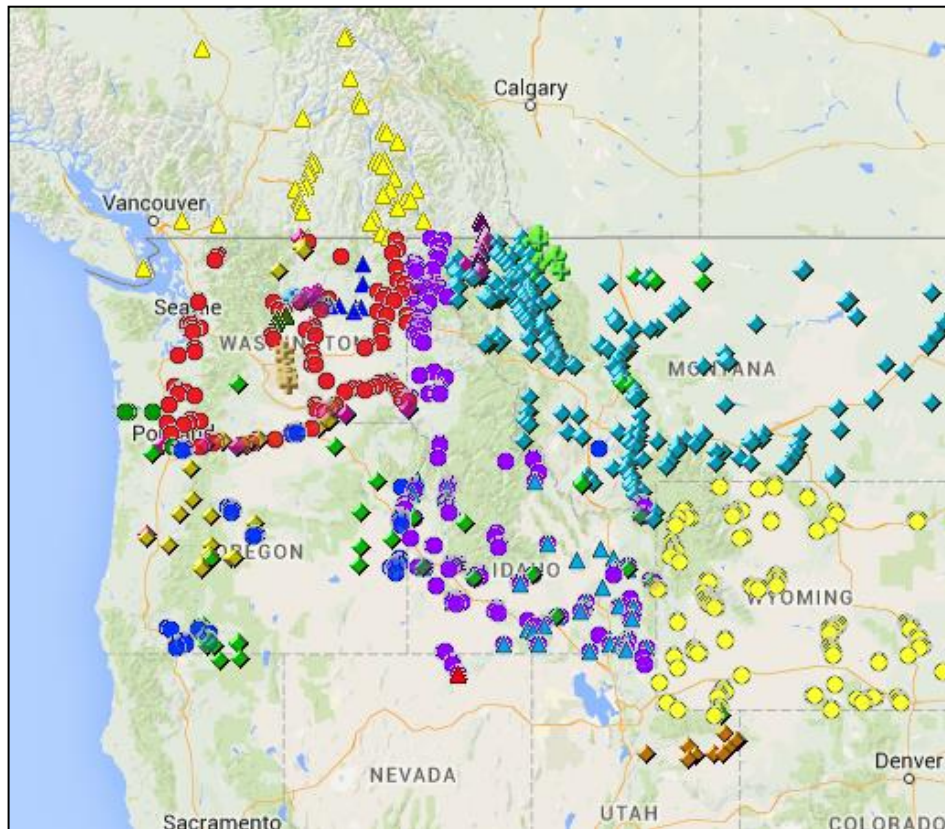
Inspection Crew Data

- As of September 29th over 4,000 watercraft inspected across all 6 inspection crews and the crews interacted with over 9,400 people to promote CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY.
- 33 watercraft required decontamination, of which 15 watercraft contained invasive mussels or standing water and 6 were issued a 30-day quarantine order due to risk of live mussels.



2015 Mussel Veliger Monitoring

- Expanded monitoring this year with plankton tow samples being collected by regional committees and ministry staff in lakes across the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Okanagan, East and West Kootenays, Columbia-Shushwap and Cariboo regions.

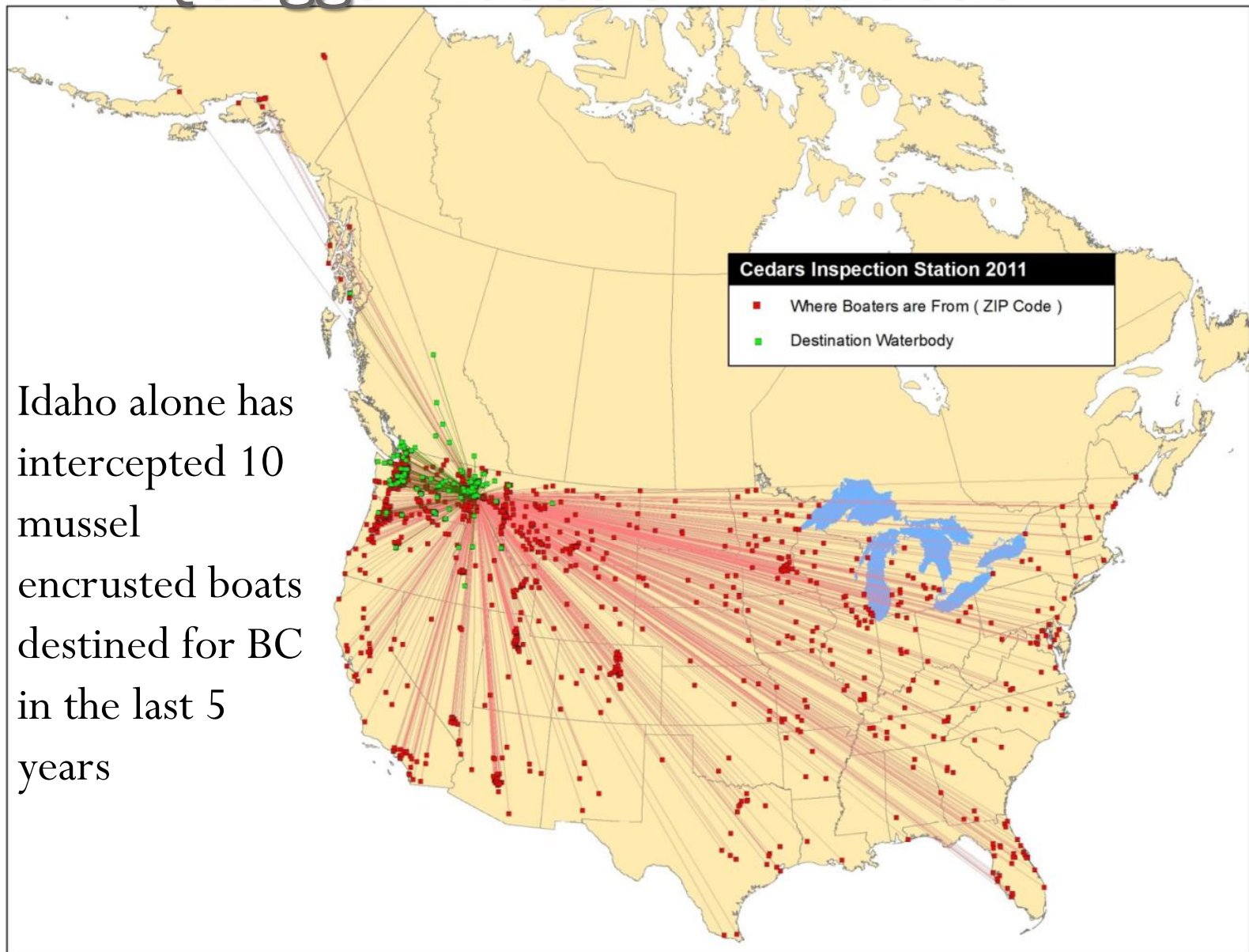


Columbia River Basin Interagency Zebra and Quagga Mussel Rapid Response Plan

- Idaho
- Montana
- Oregon
- Washington
- British Columbia
- US Fish and Wildlife
- NOAA Fisheries
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission (US)



Issue: Increasing threat of Zebra and Quagga Mussels introduction



Outreach efforts

Shared messaging across the western provinces, and the Pacific Northwest **Clean, Drain, Dry**



ATTENTION BOATERS
PROTECT BC WATERS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES



CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY YOUR BOAT

CLEAN off all plants, animals and mud from your boat and equipment (e.g. boots, waders, fishing gear). Use available power washing stations.

DRAIN onto land all water from bait buckets, live-wells, pumps, motor, bilges, and remove drain plugs.

DRY all items completely before launching the watercraft into another body of water.

CHECK HIDING SPOTS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES:



PROP ANCHOR DOCK LINES HULL TRAILER AXEL BILGE MOTOR
BAIT BUCKET ROLLERS BUNKS LIVE WELLS

REPORT MUSSELS TO THE B.C. CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE:
1-877-952-7277 (RAPP)

Report invasive species to:
www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species
For more information:
www.bcinvasives.ca | 1-888-933-3722

isc
Invasive Species Council
of British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Aquatic invasive species (AIS) threaten aquatic habitats, fisheries and valuable recreational resources. They can spread through water and by attaching to watercraft, related equipment and gear, and aquatic plants.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY**

Summary

- Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program has had a busy year.
- Inspection crews will remain operational until the end of October.
- Collaborations across jurisdictions and agencies will continue to grow for both the invasive mussel and AIS programs.



Questions?

