

## Lake weed harvest in Osoyoos halted by ice

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The Eurasian milfoil harvester in Osoyoos Lake has been frozen in place by ice, halting work by crews to kill the environmental invader this winter.

**Photo Credit:** Jeff Martin, CHBC News

A major Eurasian milfoil problem in Osoyoos Lake has kept removal crews busy this winter.

The overgrown lake weed overwhelmed the South Okanagan lake this summer but now ice has halted work to remove the environmental invader.

"We came eager to go to work today," says Dave Caswell, milfoil removal boat operator Tuesday. "We've had a weather event and we've got a bit of ice on the water but it shouldn't slow us down for too long."

The north end of Osoyoos Lake is littered with piles of harvested milfoil, demonstrating Caswell and his crew's work up until the ice-related stoppage.

"We've been focusing on a dense bed in the north end, hoping to limit its ability to fragment and further spread and infest other areas of the lake," says Caswell.

Eurasian milfoil can significantly disrupt all recreational lake activities, including waterskiing, swimming and boating.

When the ice melts, crews will return to finish their work before the lake level rises in the spring.

If the harvesting rig is still frozen in, it will be dug out of the ice and moved to an area of Osoyoos Lake that's not so affected by frigid temperatures.