

Know the Invaders!

One of the first steps to preventing the spread of invasive species is being able to identify them. Below are some high priority species in our area:



Photo credit: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Zebra Mussel



Photo credit: T. Anderson

Yellow Flag Iris



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

American Bullfrog



Photo credit: J. Baxter & C. Talará

Northern Pike



Photo credit: C. Frankom

Fragrant Water Lily



Photo credit: T. Woolf

Flowering Rush

Visit columbiashuswapinvasives.org to learn more about the other high priority species in the in the Columbia Shuswap.



Clean, Drain, Dry

ALL Watercraft & Equipment!



CLEAN off all plants, animals, and mud from watercraft & related equipment (e.g. waders, fishing gear, life jackets)



DRAIN onto dry land any item that can hold water (e.g. bilge, ballast, wells, buckets)



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

Report Invaders

- Contact columbiashuswapinvasives.org
- Use 'Report-Invasives BC' & 'Report-a-Weed' Apps
- Call **RAPP** line 1-877-952-RAPP for zebra and quagga mussels and fish
- Call provincial hotline 1-888-WEEDSBC

For more information



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY

1-855-785-9333



columbiashuswapinvasives.org



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funded by:



Protect Our Waters

from aquatic invasive species!



It would only take 1 boat carrying Zebra or Quagga Mussels to cause a devastating lake infestation. Let's work together to keep these destructive mussels out of BC!



What are Aquatic Invasive Species?

► **Aquatic Invasive Species** are **non-native plants and animals** that have been introduced into an ecosystem where they **do not belong**. They are able to reproduce and spread quickly through waterways causing negative

impacts on our environment, communities and infrastructure. **Humans** are the **#1-way invasive species are introduced and spread**. Learn what simple actions you can take to protect our waters!

How do they spread?



Unwashed watercraft & equipment

Invasive species like Zebra & Quagga Mussels can travel undetected on boats and trailers. Even their larvae can survive up to 30 days in standing water.

What are their impacts?



Environmental

- Cause toxic algae blooms
- Introduce parasites & diseases
- Reduce biodiversity & weaken aquatic ecosystems
- Out-compete native species for space and resources

Bullfrogs will eat ANYTHING that fits in their mouths, destroying natural ecosystems.

What can I do to help?



Clean, Drain, Dry

- Properly clean ALL your watercraft AND equipment
- Remember to drain any standing water in hoses, tanks or bilges
- To find a boat wash location near you contact us at: columbiashuswapinvasives.org



Releasing pets & plants into natural environments

Invasive species drastically disturb the natural web of life when people dump their aquariums into the "wild". Releasing pets into the wild is both inhumane and dangerous.



Economic

- Decrease in tourism
- Higher utility bills, taxes, & maintenance costs
- Reduce waterfront property values

Infestations can cause massive damage to infrastructure like this hydro-electric dam pipe clogged with invasive mussels.



Don't Let it Loose!

- Know a pet's long-term needs before purchase
- Find a new home for your unwanted pets
- Drain aquariums on dry land
- Find alternatives to release by contacting us at: columbiashuswapinvasives.org



Planting invasive species & improper disposal of garden waste

Invasive species can quickly spread along waterfronts and creek banks. Even tiny plant clippings can spread unwanted plants.



Social

- Contaminate drinking water
- Reduce swimming, fishing & boating opportunities
- Threaten local fisheries
- Cause health problems

Dense patches of invasive species can make it difficult to fish, swim or even paddle a canoe.



Be PlantWise!

- Choose non-invasive plants for your garden
- Never compost invasive plants
- Dispose of invasive plants responsibly
- For proper disposal methods contact us at: columbiashuswapinvasives.org

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