

QUICK FACTS

- Ⓞ The first case of whirling disease in B.C. was confirmed in Yoho National Park on December 6, 2023 (Columbia River Watershed).
- Ⓞ Containment and prevention is critical.
- Ⓞ It can be transmitted through spores that attach to equipment (used for swimming, paddling, boating, water pumping, fishing), pets, or through infected fish (alive or dead) and fish parts.
- Ⓞ There is currently no treatment available to eradicate whirling disease without also causing significant ecological impacts.
- Ⓞ There are no health concerns for people swimming in or drinking water that contains whirling disease.
- Ⓞ Whirling disease can cause significant mortality in susceptible fish populations (trout, salmon, whitefish).
- Ⓞ Not all fish populations are affected the same way.
- Ⓞ Whirling disease is caused by a parasite that has two hosts: a fish and a freshwater worm.
- Ⓞ Once inside the fish, the parasite affects cartilage, leading to deformities of the spine or skull, a whirl in movement, and/or a blackened tail.
- Ⓞ Diagnosing whirling disease requires laboratory testing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Response to Whirling Disease is a combined effort from both Provincial and Federal Governments.

- Ⓞ B.C. Whirling Disease — <https://bit.ly/4bAxr4T>
- Ⓞ Parks Canada — [Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention - Yoho National Park \(canada.ca\)](#)
- Ⓞ CFIA - Whirling Disease — [Fact sheet - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

FURTHER CONTACTS

- Ⓞ B.C. e-mail — WhirlingDisease@gov.bc.ca;
- Ⓞ Conservation Officer Service Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line: 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24-hr Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

rapp.bc.ca

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CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR GEAR



WHIRLING DISEASE

Stop the spread in B.C.



WHIRLING DISEASE —

Stop the spread in B.C.

- ⦿ *Pull the plug!* It's the law! In B.C., it is now illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug still in place.
- ⦿ Before moving a boat or any equipment between water bodies, be sure to *Clean Drain Dry*.

More than Boats

The movement of infected fish, mud, and water can spread whirling disease.

- ⦿ Boats
- ⦿ Motors
- ⦿ Boats
- ⦿ Waders
- ⦿ Bait buckets
- ⦿ Swimming floats
- ⦿ Coolers
- ⦿ Kayaks
- ⦿ Stand-up Paddleboards
- ⦿ Swimsuits



Whirling disease-clinical signs in trout



CLEAN DRAIN DRY

CLEAN

- ⦿ **Clean and inspect all watercraft, trailers, and equipment on dry land away from storm water drains, ditches and waterways.**
- ⦿ **Remove all mud, sand and plant materials before leaving the shore.**
- ⦿ **Rinse or wash your boat and equipment away from storm drains, ditches or waterways.**
- ⦿ **Bathe pets before allowing them to enter another water body.**
- ⦿ **Never move fish or fish parts from one waterbody to another.**
- ⦿ **Use fish-cleaning stations where available or put fish parts in the garbage. Do not dispose of fish parts in a kitchen garburator or down a drain.**

DRAIN

- ⦿ **Before leaving a waterbody, drain all water on dry land (including all internal compartments such as ballasts, bilges, and livewells), coolers, life jackets and other gear.**
- ⦿ **Raise and lower outboard engines several times to ensure all water has drained out.**
- ⦿ **Drain non-motorized watercraft by inverting or tilting the watercraft, opening compartments and removing seats if necessary.**
- ⦿ **Pull the plug! It's the law! In B.C. it is now illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug still in place.**

DRY

- ⦿ **Dry the watercraft and equipment completely between trips and allow the wet areas to air dry.**
- ⦿ **It is recommended to allow for a minimum of 24 hours of drying time before entering new waters.**
- ⦿ **Leave compartments open on boats and equipment.**