



# PROTECT **our** WATERS

## STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



LAKES AND RIVERS IN ALBERTA HOST INCREDIBLE AND BELOVED NATIVE SPECIES LIKE LAKE STURGEON AND BULL TROUT. HOWEVER, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BOATING, ANGLING OR WATERFOWL HUNTING MAY SPREAD AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROTECTING OUR WATERS - HELP STOP THE SPREAD!



Aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil can easily hitch a ride on boats and propellers, survive in ballast tanks, and hide in mud on equipment used in water. Here's how you can help protect our waters:

### 1. CLEAN DRAIN DRY

- **CLEAN** - Remove all visible plants, mud, and sand before leaving the shore. Rinse, scrub, or pressure wash your boat and equipment away from storm drains, ditches, or waterways. Use hot water if possible.
- **DRAIN** - On land before leaving the water body, drain all water from boats by removing the bilge plug and removing water from livewells, buckets, internal compartments, etc. It's illegal to transport watercrafts (motorized and non-motorized) with the drain plug in.
- **DRY** - Allow all parts of your boat and equipment to dry completely before entering another water body. Leave compartments open and sponge out any standing water.



## 2. NO FREE RIDE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

- Many aquatic invasive species are very difficult to eradicate once they are established, so prevention is essential.
- Aquatic invasive species come in all forms. There are 52 prohibited species listed in the Fisheries (Alberta) Act - all of which are illegal to import, transport, sell, and possess in Alberta.
- Zebra and quagga mussels, curly leaf pondweed, and spiny water flea are all listed species that pose a major threat to our ecosystems and can easily hitch a ride on watercraft and equipment.
- Watercraft inspections are **mandatory** while transporting a watercraft when entering Alberta from the south or east borders, and when passing an open inspection station.



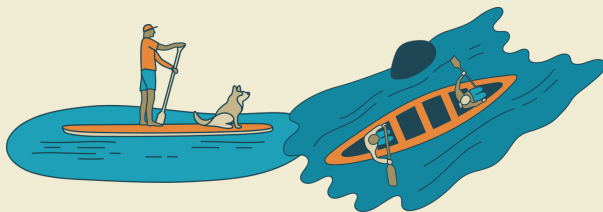
## 3. DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL

- Invasive mussels can cause millions of dollars in damage to water-dependent infrastructure, disrupt natural food chains, create toxic algal blooms that can kill fish and birds, decrease property values and reduce recreation enjoyment of natural areas.
- Zebra and quagga mussels are filter feeders that attach themselves to any hard surface - **an ATTACHED mussel is an INVASIVE mussel and must be reported.** These mussels can survive out of water for up to 30 days.
- Invasive mussels can produce up to one million offspring (veligers) per year, which are microscopic and can spread through standing water in watercraft and gear. This is why Clean, Drain, Dry practices are essential!



## 4. IF IT FLOATS, IT'S A BOAT

- Objects like air mattresses, inflatables, paddle boards, rafts and dinghies are all considered a small vessel or boat and must be inspected for aquatic invasive species.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ABINVASIVES.CA](http://ABINVASIVES.CA)