



It's an Angler's Life

Long lazy days by the river, in a stream, on a lake...

If you help prevent
the spread of

**Alien Aquatic
Invaders!**

WHIRLING DISEASE

**Observe
Record
Report**



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

1-800-663-9453

Keep BC Waters Healthy

See wapwww.gov.bc.ca and search for "Alien Invaders"

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ANGLING OPPORTUNITIES.

We can all do our part to keep it that way...

Anglers and Boaters

- **Don't** move live fish, amphibians, turtles, plants or invertebrates from one water body to another.
- **Don't** use live bait or parts of fish for bait.
- **Do** put fish remains in landfill or burn/bury where caught.
- Rinse, scrub and dry equipment and gear.

Special Precautions When Fishing in Suspected Waters:

Dip, wipe or spray with 1 part bleach and 1 part water OR soak with 1 part bleach and 10 parts water OR pour nearly boiled water over equipment.

Outfitters

- Provide hose near boat ramps and popular fishing spots.
- Post maps of infected waters so anglers can identify if they're carrying the parasite.
- Post preventative recreation practices.



Photo: Russ Harwood

Whirling Disease is near...

Whirling Disease has not been observed in British Columbia. An extensive study conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in widely separated localities in B.C. found no evidence of the disease. Whirling Disease has reached 22 states including all western states south of British Columbia and the parasite has been detected in the Columbia River Basin. In Montana and Colorado severe impacts on wild trout populations have been documented.

Once established, it's a long road to recovery.

Once the parasite is in the stream there is no way to remove it. Fish populations may be able to recover over a long period of time. Our best strategy for B.C. waters is to adopt good recreational practices and keep the parasite out.

Keep it wild and healthy.

Whirling disease affects all species of trout, salmon and whitefish, especially young fish. If a wild population becomes infected with Whirling Disease, stocking with hatchery fish is not a solution. B.C. is famous for its wild trout and salmon. Hatchery fish are stocked where natural production is limited, not where they may compete with a wild population already weakened by Whirling Disease. Rainbow trout appear to be the least resistant to the disease.

So let's all do our part
and keep BC fish wild.



1. Spores from dead infected fish enter the water and can infect other fish for up to 30 years!
2. Microscopic parasite found in river bottom. Tubifex worm eats parasite
3. Parasite released by worm into water. Parasite works into fish's nervous system.
4. Fish may have a darkened tail, twisted spine and shortened, twisted jaw. Young fish may 'whirl'.



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Stop
the
Alien Aquatic
WHIRLING DISEASE
Invaders!