



It's Another Sunny Day in Paradise

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

If you help prevent
the spread of

**Alien Aquatic
Invaders!**

ALIEN PLANTS & ANIMALS

Observe
Record
Report

1-800-663-9453



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Keep BC Waters Healthy

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS NATURAL WONDERS.

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

Recreationists

- **Don't** release household plants or animals into the wild (e.g. aquarium species or garden pond plants).
- **Don't** move live fish, amphibians, turtles, plants or invertebrates from one water body to another.
- **Don't** use live bait or fish parts for bait.
- **Do** put fish remains in landfill or burn/bury where caught.
- Rinse, scrub and dry equipment and gear before leaving an area.
- Drain water from equipment and your bilge before leaving.

Tourism Outfitters

- Provide hose near boat ramps and popular fishing spots.
- Post information on alien species, including preventative measures.



Photo: Furee Haycock

New aliens nearby...

Whirling Disease, zebra mussel and spiny water flea. What do they have in common? These species have all caused havoc elsewhere: the mussel clogged industrial and municipal water intakes, the flea ate food that fish and other organisms depend on and Whirling Disease caused disastrous declines in trout populations.

Once established, recovery is not always possible...

Trying to contain invaders once they are here is labour intensive, expensive, long-term and not always possible. Containment of zebra mussels in the Great Lakes region may soon reach \$5 billion annually. Aquatic invaders have been eliminated with the use of chemicals. But the chemicals are expensive, potential environmental hazards, kill other organisms and are minimally effective. Our best strategy is education. Recreationists will adopt good practices if they are informed.

Keep it wild...

Freed from their own natural predators, parasites and diseases, aliens often thrive!

They may compete with native species: eating them and their food and crowding or altering habitat. The decline of native species is bad for business too! Residents and tourists alike travel just to see our native species.

Life just wouldn't be the same without our native species!

**Stop
the
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