

BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program: 2023 Season Update

December 13th 2023
Columbia River Basin Meeting
Portland, OR

Invasive Mussel Defence Program



Watercraft Inspection Stations

- Launched in 2015, over 200,000 inspections completed
- Program operations delivered by Conservation Officer Service



Early Detection Lake Monitoring

- Sampling for presence of invasive mussels since 2011
- Sampling in priority waterbodies across the province



Outreach & Education

- Clean, Drain, Dry messaging for invasive mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species
- Over 400,000 outreach interactions at inspection stations

Thank You to Our Program Funding Partners!



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



FORTIS BC™



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship



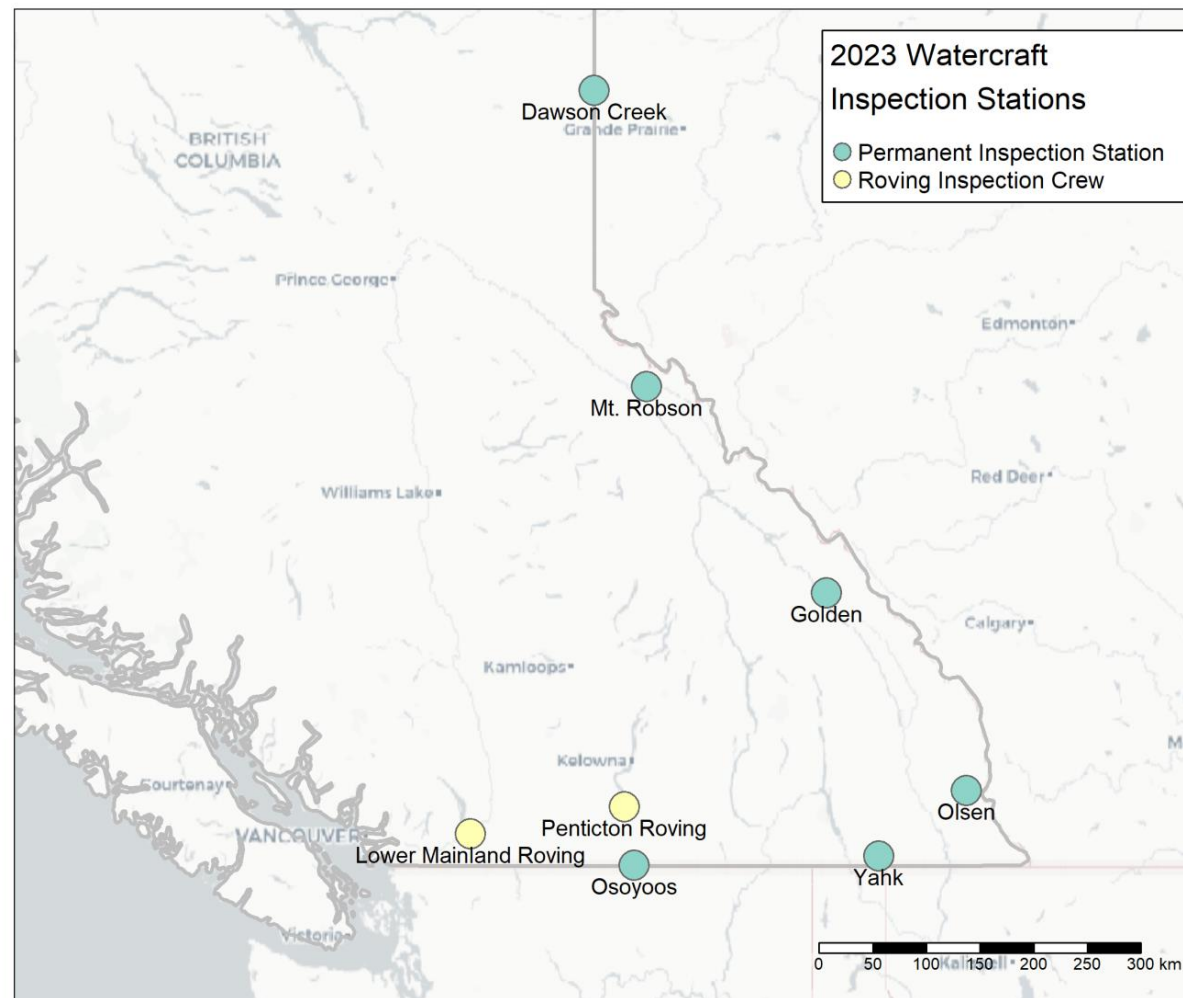
Ministry of
Agriculture
and Food

Other Partners include: PNWER, NAISC, Columbia River Basin, Western Regional Panel, HCTF, ISCBC, regional invasive species organizations

2023 Season Summary

2023 Watercraft Inspection Stations

- 43 Auxiliary Conservation Officers
- 6 stations & 2 roving crews (Okanagan & Lower Mainland)
- Operational April to October with increased operations from June to late August

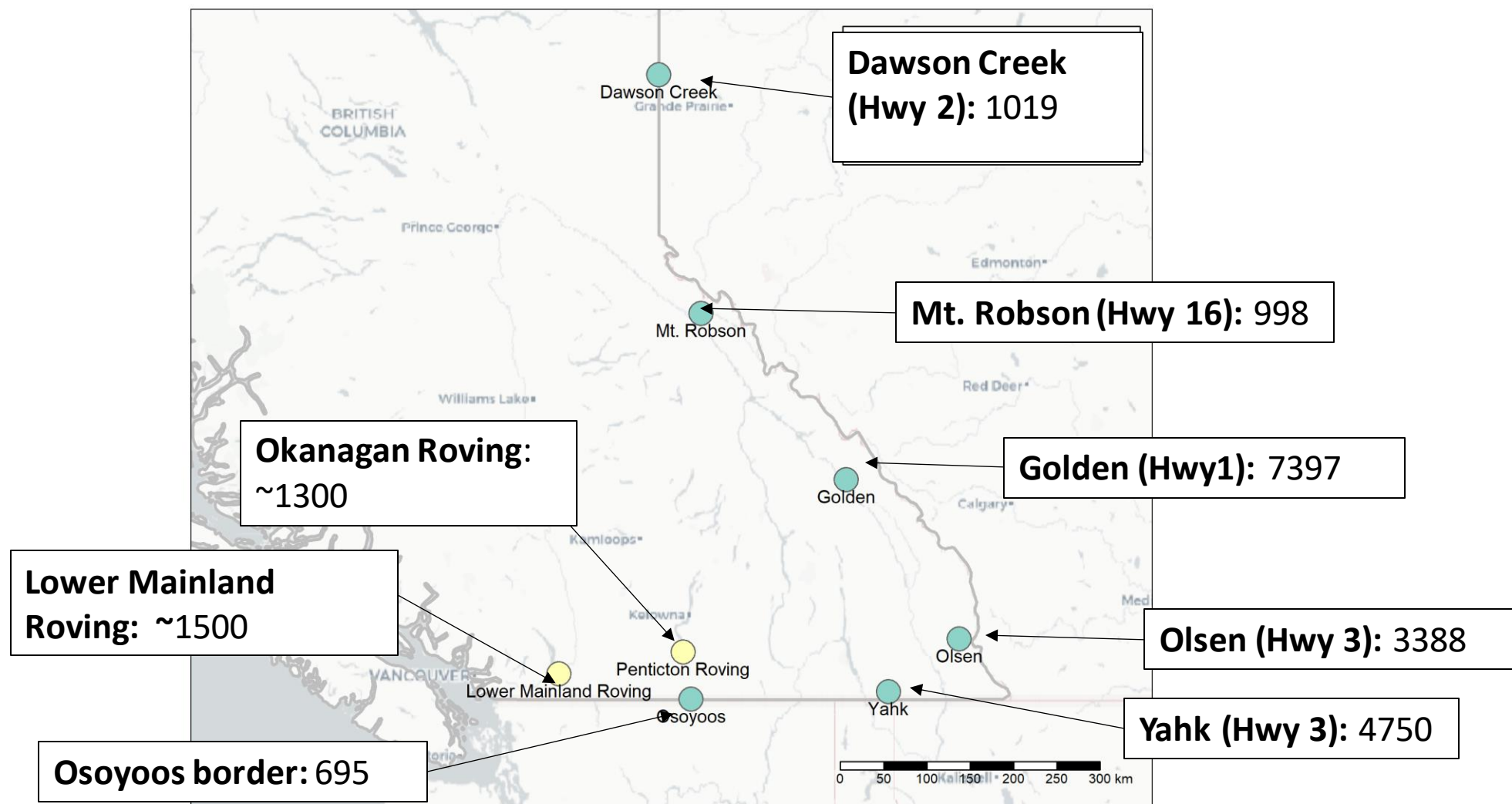


2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

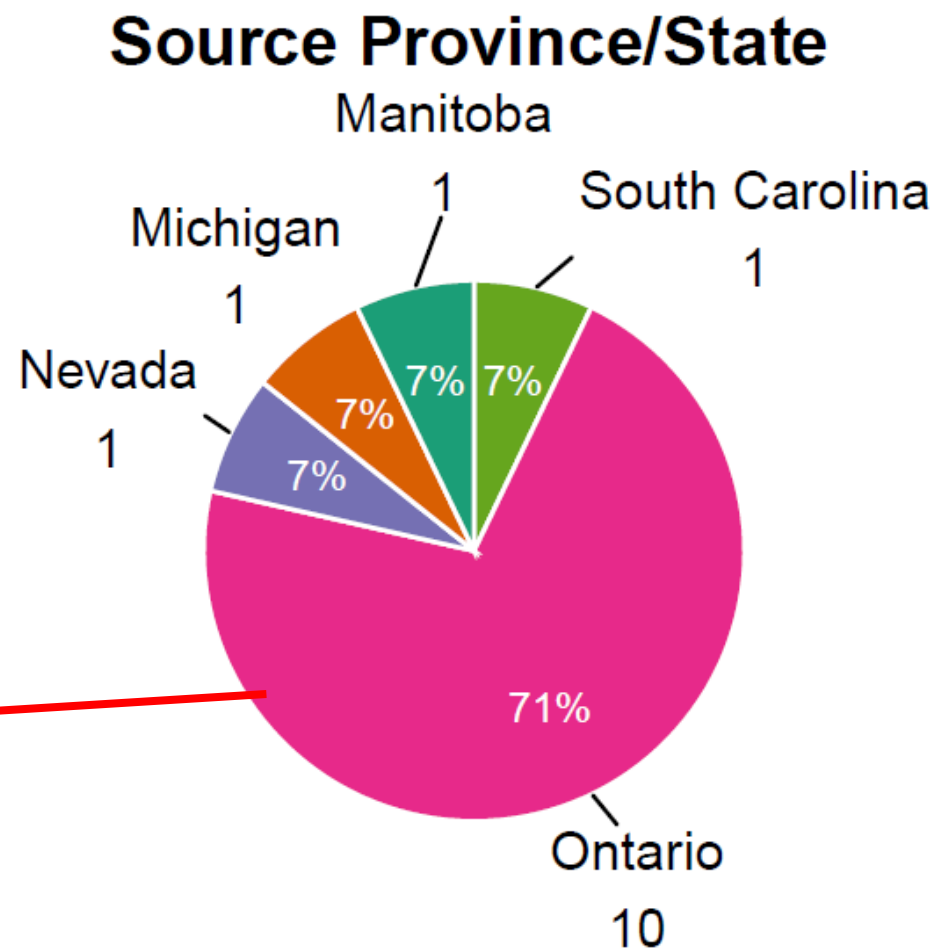


	2022	2023
Total Inspections	20,200	20,900
High Risk Inspections	122	155
Mussel Fouled Boats	13	14
Decontaminations Performed	65	78
Total interactions with the public	36,400	39,200
Compliance at inspection stations	88%	88%

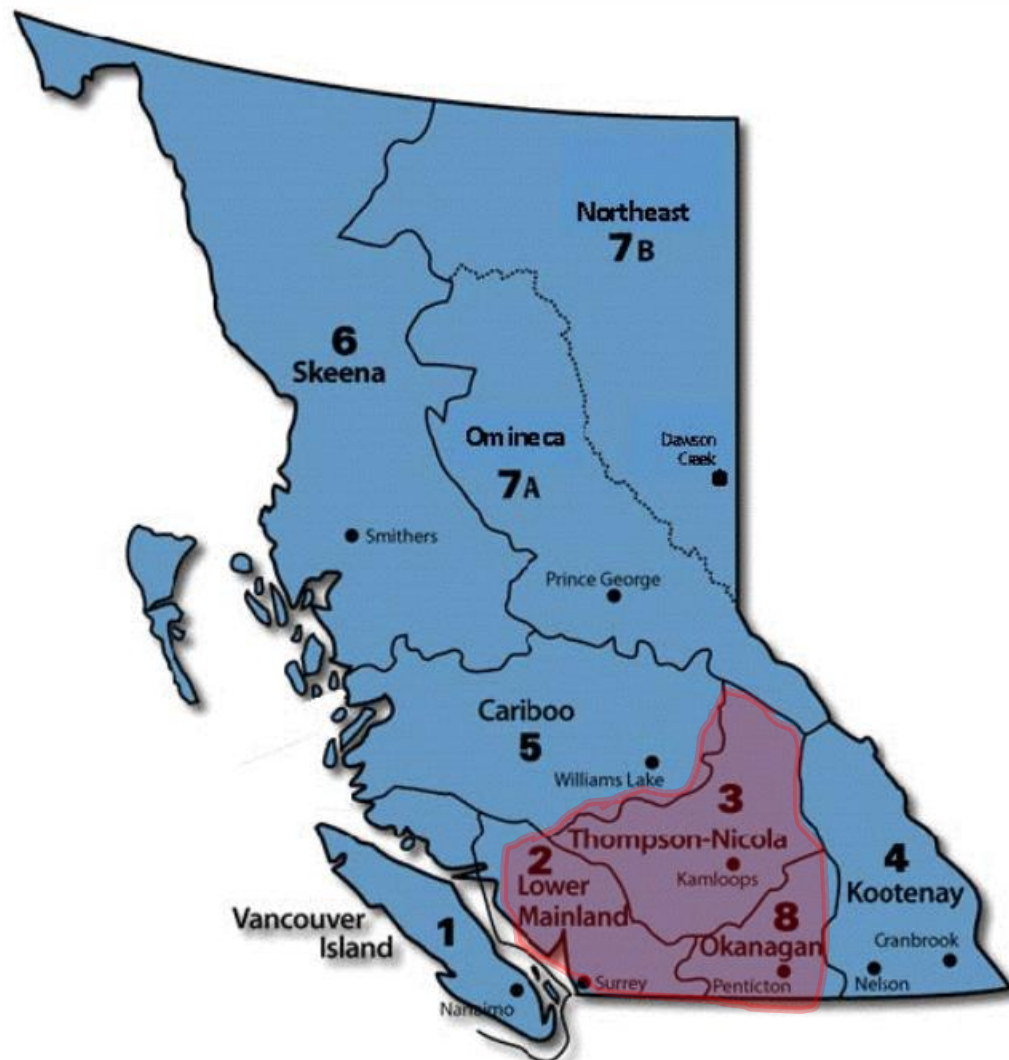
Watercraft Inspections by Station



Mussel Fouled Boats Source Jurisdiction

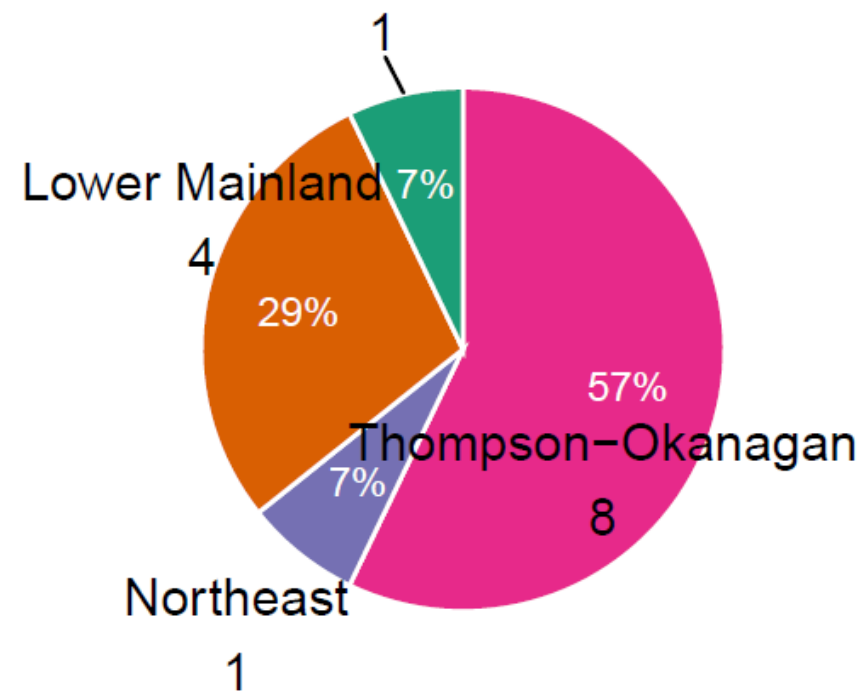


Mussel Fouled Boats Destination



Destination Region

Kootenay-Boundary



Highlight: Visit to Twin Falls, Idaho



Heightened Awareness on Invasive Mussel Prevention in BC

HOME BC CANADA WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS SHOWBIZ CLASSIFIEDS REA

URGENT CALL ON MUSSELS

Invasive mussels could cost BC economy \$129M annually if they take hold in province

Jon Manchester - Nov 6, 2023 / 4:00 am

ENVIRONMENT

Okanagan Basin Water Board calls for moratorium on out-of-province watercraft

By **Kathy Michaels** • Global News
Posted October 13, 2023 2:41 pm · Updated October 13, 2023 2:43 pm



mussels

on the community for help in monitoring invasive mussels –

URGENT: OBWB Calls for Moratorium on Out-of-Province Bo...
Why do we need a moratorium on boats coming to B.C.?



Watch on YouTube

Local News Now

Shuswap authorities call on province to tighten border controls over threat of invasive mussels

Paul James
Nov 10, 2023 | 7:09 AM



Zebra and Quagga Muscles/via National Biodiversity Data Center

A new call is being made to protect BC's borders from a potentially expensive and painful ecological invader.

The **Shuswap Watershed Council** has fired off a letter to the provincial government, calling for immediate action to protect BC's fresh water areas from Zebra and Quagga mussels.

"Pipes is the biggest concern," Erin Vieira with the Council told Radio NL. "What we would start to see is infestations in hydroelectric facilities, in water intake pipes for agriculture, for irrigation."

Vieira says their increased concern lies in the recent discovery of the

New Dreissenid Mussel Detections in Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and its partners confirm the arrival of Zebra Mussels, an aquatic invasive species, in New Brunswick

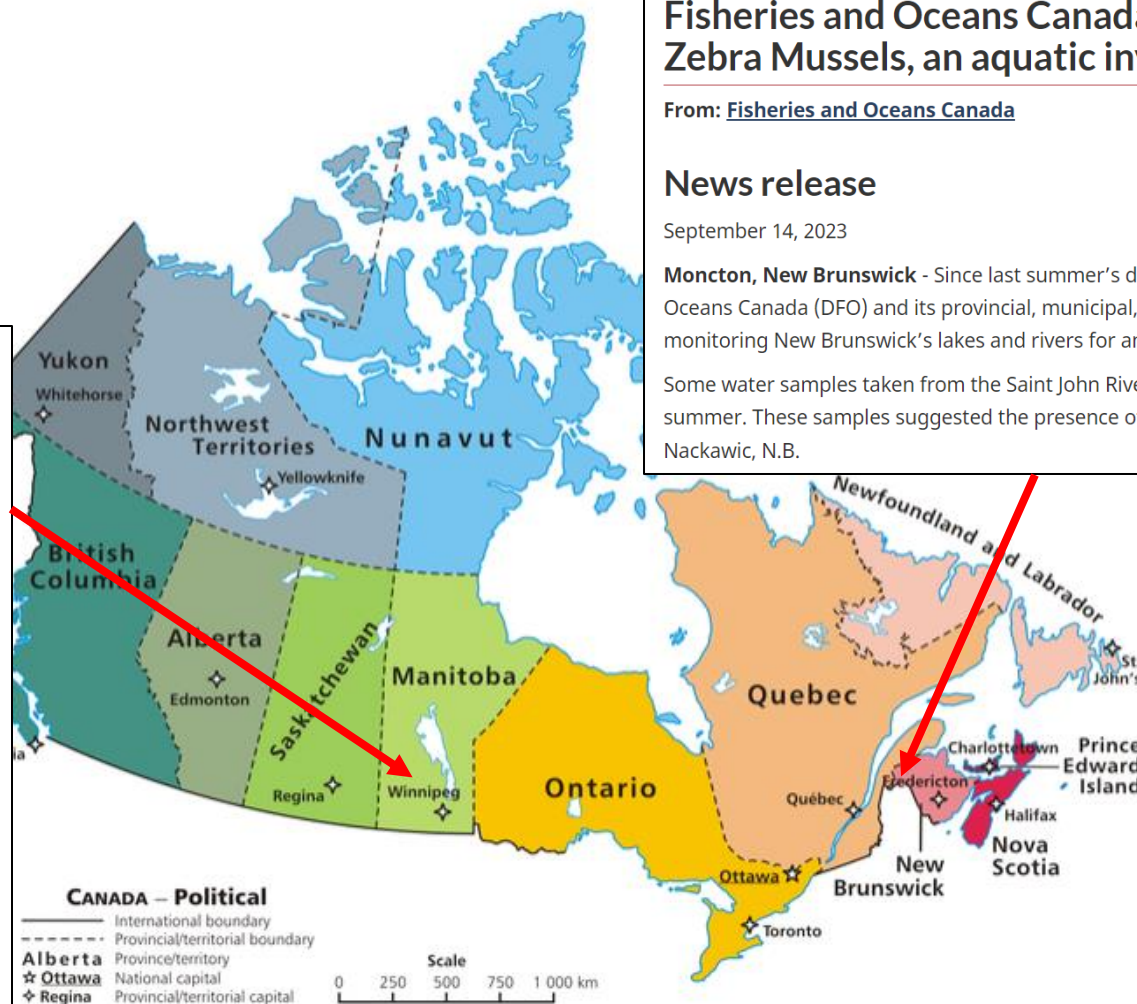
From: [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#)

News release

September 14, 2023

Moncton, New Brunswick - Since last summer's detection of Zebra Mussels in Lake Temiscouata, Quebec, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and its provincial, municipal, non-governmental and Indigenous partners have been closely monitoring New Brunswick's lakes and rivers for any new presence of the aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Some water samples taken from the Saint John River, N.B., were analyzed for environmental DNA (eDNA) by DFO over the summer. These samples suggested the presence of Zebra Mussels, notably in the areas of Edmundston, Grand Falls and Nackawic, N.B.



Manitoba

Live zebra mussels found in Clear Lake at Riding Mountain National Park, says Parks Canada

Public engagement sessions to be held this winter: Parks Canada

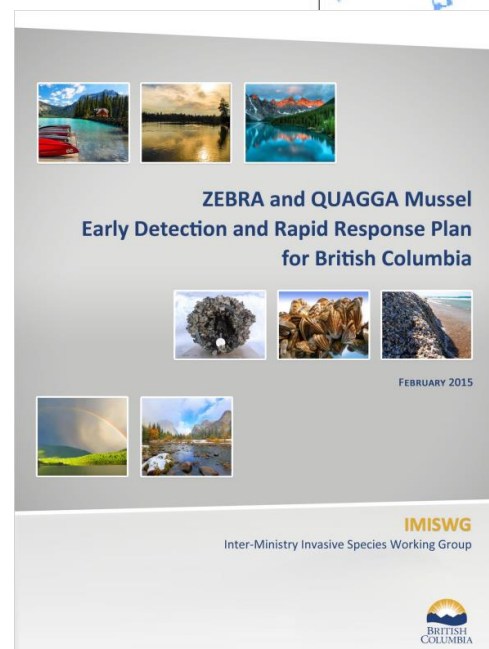
CBC News - Posted: Nov 21, 2023 8:52 PM PST | Last Updated: November 21



Zebra mussels are shown in a file image. Living zebra mussels were retrieved from Manitoba's Clear Lake, according to Parks Canada. (Austin Grabish/CBC)

Planning for 2024

- Joint BC-MT rapid response exercise June 2024
 - Lake Koocanusa
- Updating B.C. Dreissenid Mussel Early Detection Rapid Response Plan
- Planning for 2024 monitoring and watercraft inspection season



Questions?