

Dear Competitive Angler:

The Government of Saskatchewan is working to protect Saskatchewan waterways from harmful aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, rusty crayfish, spiny waterflea, and Eurasian watermilfoil. Aquatic invasive species represent an ecological and economic threat to aquatic habitats, fisheries, valuable recreational resources, and water-related infrastructure. Zebra mussels have been confirmed in many of our neighboring jurisdictions, which has heightened concerns about the potential spread of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species across the western provinces and territories.

In Saskatchewan, *The Fisheries Regulations* prohibit the importation, possession, transportation or selling of aquatic species considered to be a significant risk to Saskatchewan waters.

To help protect Saskatchewan waters, please ensure to complete the following best practices when transporting watercraft, before returning home from out-of-province, coming to visit, or moving between waters within the province.

CLEAN

- ✓ **Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer, equipment, and all related gear.**
- ✓ **Inspect the trailer and vehicle, and remove all visible plants, animals, and mud.**
- ✓ **Inspect the hull, all drains, water in-takes, transducers, motors, anchors, ropes, and propellers (including trolling motors).**
- ✓ **Wash, scrub, or rinse using hot water away from storm drains, ditches, and waterways.**

DRAIN

- ✓ **Ensure to drain all on-board water: motor, livewells, bilge and ballast tanks, etc.**
- ✓ **Remove the boat drain-plug during transport and storage. Make sure the lowest point of the hull is raised above the bilge drain.**

DRY

- ✓ **Dry your watercraft, livewells, equipment and all related gear - completely.**

***Remember to remove the drain plug while transporting watercraft – it is the Law!**

Prior to launching in Saskatchewan waters, your watercraft may require inspection/decontamination by a provincial inspector. To avoid delays, please ensure that your watercraft meets the requirements above. If you are coming from one of the infected jurisdictions listed in the table on page 2 of this letter, you must contact the Ministry of Environment at 1-800-567-4224 or at centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca to make inspection arrangements in advance of your travel.

Prior to participating in your competitive fishing event, you may receive a package by email and/or upon arrival at the event location that includes the province's ***Stop Aquatic Invasive Species***

information pamphlet. Additionally, event organizers should have this information available for viewing on any event-specific website or social media sites. Please take the time to read the information. You can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the CLEAN+DRAIN+DRY principles.

As a competitive angler, **you should be aware** that the movement of your bait can be a vector for spreading aquatic invasive species. In addition to the bait being potentially invasive, microscopic invertebrates, zebra mussel veligers (larvae), and fish diseases can also be transported in the bait water. **Remember** that all unwanted bait should be disposed of in the trash and **never released** into any lakes, rivers, or wetlands. Also note that the **importation or possession** of any live fish, crayfish, frogs, or salamanders for use as bait is prohibited under *The Fisheries Regulations* and the **importation** of leeches for use as bait from anywhere outside of the province of Saskatchewan is also prohibited.

Please be aware that any angler bringing watercraft and fishing equipment into Saskatchewan after visiting waters within an Alberta whirling disease decontamination risk zone, should practice the Province of Alberta’s Whirling Disease Decontamination Protocols to avert any possibility of disease transfer. For more information, please visit the following Government of Alberta website: alberta.ca/stop-whirling-disease.aspx

For more information about aquatic invasive species, contact the Ministry of Environment’s inquiry line at 1-800-567-4224 or visit our website at by using the following link: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species>

To report suspected invasive species, call Saskatchewan's Turn In Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at **1-800-667-7561** or **SaskTel Cell #5555**.

Current AIS Infected Jurisdictions					
Canada	United States				
Manitoba	Montana	North Dakota	South Dakota	Nebraska	Minnesota
Ontario	Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado
Quebec	Connecticut	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas
	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan
	Mississippi	Missouri	Nevada	New Mexico	New York
	Ohio	Oklahoma	Pennsylvania	Tennessee	Texas
	Utah	Vermont	West Virginia	Wisconsin	

