

Aquatic Invasive Species

What Can You Do To Protect EID Reservoirs From Aquatic Invasive Species?

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native animals or plants that have been brought from other places into Alberta waterways. If you are transferring a boat, jet ski, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, etc., or equipment used in water between waterbodies, make sure to:

Clean

- Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer, and equipment.
- Remove all mud, sand, and plant materials before leaving the shore.
- Rinse, scrub, or pressure wash your boat away from storm drains, ditches, or waterways. Use hot water if possible (maximum of 60°C).
- **Do not use commercial car washes to clean your boat—water is not hot enough and mussels may survive and spread.**

Drain

- On land before leaving the waterbody, drain all water from bait buckets, ballasts, bilges, coolers, internal compartments, live wells, etc.
- For non-motorized watercraft, drain by inverting or tilting the watercraft, opening compartments, and removing seats if necessary.
- Pull the Plug! It's illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug in. Pulling the plug reduces the risk of transporting invasive species and diseases in standing water.

Dry

- Dry the watercraft and gear completely between trips and allow the wet areas of your boat to air dry.
- Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water.



ZEBRA MUSSELS



QUAGGA MUSSELS



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL



DON'T LET THEM CATCH A RIDE
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

The Eastern Irrigation District has established an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program to protect EID reservoirs from the harmful spread of aquatic invasive species, such as Zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil. All watercraft must fill out a Watercraft Information and Commitment form and receive their sticker before launching into any EID reservoir.

Failure to participate in, or abide by the protocols set out by, the EID AIS Program will result in loss of access to EID lands & reservoirs.

QUICK FACTS:

- The EID contains 13 irrigation reservoirs, over 4000 kilometers of canals, pipelines, drains, and tens of thousands of water control structures. The introduction of aquatic invasive species could severely compromise EID operations and cost millions of dollars per year to mitigate.
- Invasive species pose a threat to the management and operation of water conveyance/irrigation infrastructure, permanent maintenance will be required to unclog irrigation outlets/intakes, pipelines, screens, etc., deplete the quality of water (risking food and crop production), and will restrict availability of water for municipalities and rural residences.
- Trailered watercraft pose a greater risk of spreading aquatic invasive species and must only be launched from EID approved boat launches. Boaters must register their watercraft and present their EID sticker to the campground offices or District Office prior to launching in any EID reservoir including Lake Newell Reservoir, Crawling Valley Reservoir, and Rolling Hills Reservoir.
- Many aquatic invasive species are impossible to eradicate once they are established, so prevention is essential.
- Have your boat inspected if you have left the province— it is mandatory for all watercraft to STOP for an inspection upon returning to Alberta; prior to launching in any EID reservoir a valid Alberta provincial inspection form must be presented.
- If you suspect aquatic invasive species are present on any watercraft call the AIS 24 hour hotline and report it at 1-855-336-BOAT (2628).

For More Information Call: 403-362-1400

