



Flylines

SPRING 2017 April 7, 2017



Photo submitted by Jesse Blake

Welcome to Joe Marko and the Rocky Mountain Anglers in Cranbrook, new member club! We look forward to working with you. Hope you will find time to send some articles for the newsletter. Even some photos of people fishing, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Annual General business meeting, will be held Saturday, **May 6**, at 10:00 am, at **Sunrise Ridge Resort**, Parksville. All members welcome. Also you are invited to meet and greet, Friday May 5 and dinner May 6. See further info below, and map on last page.

CONTACTS

Board of Directors

Rich Ronyecz	President
Phil Rogers	Vice-president
Jesse Blake	VP/Webmaster
Peter Caverhill	Past Secretary/director
Brandon Charlesworth	Treasurer
Ken Burgess	Membership/Gilly Fund
Kyle Sawayama	Past president
Lloyd Erickson	Newsletter
Dean Houston	Director
Len Piggin	Director
Trystan Willmott	Director
Don Grimway	Family Fishing Weekend
Art Lingren	BCFFF Historian

Affiliated Clubs

Cariboo Chilcotin Flyfishers
Comox Valley Fly Fishers
Cowichan Fly Fishers
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Assn
Island Waters Fly Fishers
Kalamalka Fly Fishers
Kamloops Fly Fishers
Long Beach Flyfishers
Loons Flyfishing Club
Mid Island Castaways
Osprey Fly Fishers
Penticton Fly Fishers
Totem Fly Fishers
West Coast Fly Fishers
Rocky Mountains Anglers

Mail: PO Box 41023, RPO Woodgrove, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M7

Email: general@bcfff.bc.ca

Newsletter editor email: acre5age@gmail.com

Website: bcfff.bc.ca or [Facebook.com/BCFFF](https://www.facebook.com/BCFFF)

Membership: Open to all persons, and associated clubs. Direct memberships are \$20.
Contact membership director, Ken Burgess at 250-545-4012

March 2017 BCFFF Presidents Update

As spring blossoms in BC, the rivers become alive, the birds are heard everywhere, and the fish become active in our beloved lakes and rivers. We hope you have had a great winter, and some warm days down South if you so desired. I know I desire to migrate South more than I did this winter, but the snow was fun on Vancouver Island.

We invite you to our **BCFFF annual general meeting in Parkville** at the Sunrise Ridge Resort **May 5-6 2017**. <http://www.sunriseridge.ca/>

For accommodations call:

Phone: 250-248-4674 Ext. 2000 Jack - Guest Services.

Toll-Free: 1-877-977-8669 group code= ISLCST .

119.00 per night for Studios and Junior Suites

\$169.00 per night for full 1-bedroom suite

20% off rack rate for any other room style

Based on a 2-night minimum. Applicable taxes are additional.

For the following see our website for contact/payment details-link to be posted.

*Friday Reception 20\$ Appetizers and Refreshments.

*Saturday Dinner/Auction \$40 (first 70 people choose sitting time– if needed) 5:30pm

*Saturday business meeting 10am

*Saturday afternoon casting 2pm (more events to be determined)

Management of BC's Freshwater Fisheries needs a dramatic overhaul.

Check our website or dropbox

(<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/18321027/BCFFF%20Reinstate%20MoF.pdf>) for our pre-election desires regarding Quality Angling and Conservation in B.C. steadily eroded over the past 15 years.

Corbett Lake April 29-30 . This fish out is nearing capacity quickly. We support Corbett Lake as one of the few well managed Quality Angling Opportunities in the interior. Book an RV spot with Corbett Lake directly, or get on their cancellation list for a room if needed. 250 378 4334 phone -Anne manager.

<http://bcfff.bc.ca/news.php> scroll down for info and special rates.

Totem Flyfishers' 50th Anniversary Party

Notice: To all current and past members. **Please contact Totem50@shaw.ca** to reserve or buy your tickets. Significant others welcome as well. Make cheques payable to The Totem Fly fishers and

send to:

Ron Grantham, 12 Arrow-Wood Place, Port Moody, BC, V3H 4E9
or Art Lingren at 3588 west 38th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6N 2Y1.

Totem Fly fishers' 50th Anniversary Party

Date: May 16th, 2017 Time: 5 to 9 pm

Where: Accent Inn Banquet Room

3777 Henning Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5C 6N5

Cost and Venue: \$25. This is cocktail party and not a dinner.

Upcoming dates 2017

Early 2017. BCFFF on tour to the member fly clubs. Contact us or we will contact you.

April 29-30 *Corbett Lake annual fish out/social. Limited accommodation and fishing. Details to follow shortly.*

April 8, 2017 Saturday. *Michael and Young annual Spey Day.*

April 12 *Haig-Brown Fly Fishing association 40th Anniversary. Contact Ken Marsh 250-656-9429*

May 16, *Totem Fly Fishers 50th Anniversary, see above.*

May 5-6 *BCFFF AGM Parksville hosted in conjunction with the Mid Island Castaways.*

August 13 *Sunday Pink-fest Haig-Brown House fishing and social. We have booked on a Sunday this year and later, so more pinks will be available.*

To receive monthly news updates from BCFFF , click on the following link

<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/index.php/list>

Cheers Rich Ronyecz,



BCFFF has become increasingly distressed at the lack of management of fisheries in BC, in spite of strong representations at interactive committees such as PAAT. This can be directly accountable to government downsizing and reorganization, and the subsequent loss of employee positions. Furthermore, enforcement of fisheries regulations has become a very low priority for the Conservation Officer service. It is no exaggeration to say this will result in loss of some fish stocks, and loss of enhancement opportunities. The following document further clarifies our concerns. It is also posted on our website.. The changes to quality angling deterioration are included

An important opportunity is immediately ahead of us: **the upcoming provincial election May 9, 2017**. It is important to bring these concerns to the attention of all candidates who are wishful of being elected. Their acceptance of these concerns and reaction to them may influence who you will vote for. We believe we need to educate leaders about the huge economic and cultural/social values that quality angling opportunities present to all British Columbians.

MANAGEMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FRESHWATER FISHERIES REQUIRES A DRAMATIC OVERHAUL

Anglers and fisheries conservationists are dismayed by the dysfunctional state of freshwater fisheries management in British Columbia (BC). Provincial Governments have a fiduciary responsibility to conserve and manage fish, their habitats and related ecosystems. The current government's dereliction of duty has allowed this responsibility to slip to an unacceptable level of care and non-compliance. The BC Fisheries Section (FS) staff numbers are now critically low and budgets continue to be severely curtailed.

As the BC population grows, tourism expands and development continues unabated. Land, habitat and water are constantly removed from watersheds. Remaining productive angling rivers such as in the Skeena system are experiencing over-crowding due to a concentration of anglers moving from other locations caused by the deterioration of river recreational fisheries across the province and the world. The dramatic decline in Thompson River steelhead is an example. Quality angling opportunities are in a state of general decline across the province.

A 2013 analysis of the economic importance of Freshwater angling in BC was valued at \$957 million. Steelhead angling alone represents \$100 million to the province. Interior Fraser River steelhead, including the world-renowned Thompson River strain appears to be approaching extirpation as little is being done to change the pace of decline, never mind improving their prognosis.

Stock assessment programs, fisheries studies and research are now rarely undertaken to better understand freshwater fish numbers, dynamics and habitats. Instead American foundations and other external financial sources contribute to

funding vital scientific projects in BC while the government's regional fisheries budgets are constantly being juggled and eroded.

To expect a skeleton FS staff across the province to carry out the provincial mandate without adequate budgets and guidance is unconscionable. The result is a decline in staff morale and productivity, possibly the worst in 60 years and even representing a health risk to affected employees.

The FS is lost within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the ministry components that overshadow the importance of freshwater fish and angling recreation to BC. It is time to bring fisheries management out of the shadows to become a discrete, proud and separate new **"MINISTRY OF FISHERIES"**.

Solutions:

- Funding for this new ministry would have to emanate from general revenue with businesses and industries impacting freshwater fisheries and those benefiting from healthy fish stocks, such as tourism, could provide supplementary contributions through enhanced taxes or dedicated fees on the sale of fishing tackle and related supplies.
- A requirement is for strong core management, oversight and administration in Victoria to make critical decisions on policy, planning, regulations, and matters of provincial scope. Regions should continue to implement the bulk of the workload with support from the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC that will receive directed funding from the BC Government through the sale of all fishing licenses.
- Stock assessment of most fish species is a necessity. It is essential to know, or to be able to estimate, with some accuracy the number of fish that are in lakes and rivers across BC to be able to manage the recreational fishery, respond to issues, and to work with First Nations and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans when cross-jurisdictional matters arise.
- Meaningful and respected fishery studies and research such as BC undertook in the past should be reinstated, including relationships with universities, colleges, Federal Research institutions and other countries.

To unlock the promise of "best managed fisheries, bar none," British Columbia needs to protect and rejuvenate the freshwater fisheries of this magnificent province.

Respectfully, the BC Federation of Fly Fishers March 2017

MEET AND GREET

I would like to introduce you to Ken Burgess. Ken lives in Vernon, the heart of lakes country, and is a member of Kalamalka Fly Fishers. He was previously the President of that club, but now devotes his time to teaching fly tying courses.



Ken Burgess at the 2014 AGM

Ken is a long time member of BCFFF. He is the chairman of the Membership committee. If anyone has inquiries about membership they should contact Ken by phone (250-545-4012) or snail mail at PO Box 43, Vernon V1T6M1. Ken also

is the contact for questions about our insurance policy. (See later article about insurance.) .

Ken is also chairman of the Gilly Fund. The Gilly Fund is primarily a source of funding for BCFFF members and member clubs to use to benefit a fishery by enhancement, protection or restoration of habitat, including education. It was initially financed through the sale of a book, "*The Gilly*", and continues via a sustainable investment. The Gilly committee can provide a guidance document and application form, and a process for requesting funding.

Ken has also served in other positions on the Board of Directors.

Since Ken is retired he has more time to take his boat out to mountain lakes and fish for rainbows. His favourite flies, depending on time of year and hatches are the Mikaluk sedge, pheasant tail nymph, and Werner shrimp.

Ken has done some beach fishing on Vancouver Island, and mooching for salmon, in his past, and would love to do that again.

QUESTIONS ABOUT INSURANCE

Insurance coverage is one of the benefits of membership in BCFFF. It is compulsory, in that the cost is included in the price for dues. The reason is that combining the purchasing power of all members allows for a very reasonable cost, \$5 per member.

The type of coverage we have is called "third party liability" insurance. This differs from other types of insurance such as theft insurance or accident insurance. The following letter explains this type of insurance very well, in one page. The insurance company, Westland Insurance Group Ltd provided this information following a request by Ian Stewart, on behalf of the Island Waters Fly Fishing Club. Ken Burgess can provide a digital copy of our insurance policy, but it is many pages long and is written totally what we call legaleese.

One of the concerns expressed by members is how our coverage compares with the policy provided for members of the BC Wildlife Federation. So I checked the BCWF website. Capri Insurance provides what is called "Excess Third Party General Liability Coverage" (ETPL). ETPL insures against your legal liability for unintentional bodily injury or property damage to someone other than yourself or your property and arising out of your personal activities (coverage up to \$2,000,000.) This coverage does not include accident benefits to the member. That has to be obtained separately.

There is a lot of information about liability insurance on the internet. Browse under : "third party liability insurance", or "excess liability insurance": or ask the question "why have liability insurance".

Here's the letter from Alan McNulty.

Dear Sir

IWFF Insurance Coverage through BCFFF

Hello. Our coverages for Fly Fishers has two parts: \$5/MM limit GLiability & \$2/MM limit for Directors & Officers coverage.

General Liability - GL

Covers you for negligence-damages caused to 3rd parties. Not damages caused to you; damages Fly Fishers cause. All vols, directors etc covered.

Coverages for property damages; bodily injury; personal injury [includes breach of privacy; defamation; libel] and tenants legal liability.

Directors & Officers – D & O

Malpractice insurance for non-doctors, or board members. Covers for alleged and real negligence caused in the course of your broad-oversight duties. [You did not have, in retrospect, [always after the fact] proper safety-security measures in place, and damages were a result] D & O also covers members for serving on other non-profits Boards.

Do You Need Insurance?

Insurance is a means to transfer financial risk. If another party agrees to accept the risk, and the financial consequences of that risk on your behalf, [should be in writing] the need for insurance is reduced. Some associations [huge] and companies self-insure. They are their own insurance company. They premiums finance their own fund not paid to insurers. Reserves backstop the risk. Insurance by another name.

If you have no insurance or do not have the reserves to self-insure, **you are not relieved of legal liability** for damages you may cause. **The organization and the individual will be sued personally for the damages.** Many cases of members also suing the Board for negligence in not having proper insurance or risk mitigation measures.

A claim is likely to occur under the GL policy. A plaintiff will often sue the Board for alleged negligence. The D & O is designed to be a barrier so **the Board members' personal assets are protected.** Side A coverage in a D & O policy pays expenses directly. It does not require the Board member to upfront the costs and be re-imbursed.

Without insurance, most facilities will not allow you on the premises, traverse their property or rent you space. No municipality will and they all want \$5/MM GL coverage now.

This is a tool for manage risk, always present in organizational activities, so you can contribute to the community without bearing the burden and cost of financial risk. We provide certificates of coverage, as part of our service, on an ongoing basis at no charge. Happy to answer your questions. Thx

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Alan McNulty
Commercial Producer
Westland Insurance Group Ltd.
Your best coverage is our only policy

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website: www.westlandinsurance.ca

ENIGMA

Once again the BCFFF AGM will be held on Vancouver Island (May 5-6). Hopefully members from many different areas will choose to attend, and also to partake of some of the many flyfishing opportunities available at this time of year. There are two obvious types of opportunities: lake fishing for rainbows, requiring a boat; or wading the beach or a river for cutthroat trout, requiring waders. Last year the venue at Corbett Lake allowed for fishing in the lake for rainbows, so I will try to entice visitors to the cutthroat trout option.

The first decision, to fish for cutthroats was the easy one. Decisions immediately get more difficult regarding where to go to find the elusive cutthroat. Cutthroat can definitely be found off the beaches at this time of year. One might be guided most by consideration about the weather, how rough the waves are, and what tides are available. During the week of May 6, daytime lows of 1 meter occur in midday. Morning and evening tides are high. To maximize my time on the water, I think I will look at some rivers.

Cutthroat trout indubitably can be found in streams during April/May, having come into rivers to spawn, or to feed on pink or chum salmon fry as they emerge from the gravel. I think the Englishman, the Oyster and the Quinsam Rivers are worth checking out. Thin, flashy fry imitations will work, as will traditional flies such as the Rolled Muddler, the Alevin fly, a sparse blue and green bucktail, Teal and silver, or Haig Brown's Mysid shrimp. Other flies such as Mickey Fin, yellow and white bucktail, various wooly buggers can also be effective. The main trick is to get the fly down in front of the fish. (Isn't it always?) This can be accomplished in many ways from using a dry line with a long leader (and weighted fly) to a heavy sinking tip and short leader.

Of course, success in rivers can depend on water height/colour, depending on the amount and proximity of rainfall. But you can always try the ocean.

LJE



Some cutthroat trout flies at 2015 AGM



FOLLOWUP Two new invasive mussel inspection sites near border

British Columbia is focusing on preventing invasive mussels from entering the province by opening two new invasive mussel inspections stations near the border at Yahk and Midway, and extending the hours of all inspection stations throughout the province.

These new operations are part of new funding announced by Premier Christy Clark, as the Province continues with efforts to keep B.C. free of zebra and quagga mussels.

The new funds are also going toward turning B.C.'s busiest inspection station at Golden into a 24-hour operation, and extending the hours for British Columbia's, nine other stations from dawn to dusk. To support the new extended hours, the Province is also adding 35 inspection officers to the program, bringing the total to 68 auxiliary conservation officers.

The Province is unleashing a new and unique tool to fight invasive mussels - Kilo, Canada's first and only multi-purpose mussel-sniffing dog.

Kilo, a German shepherd dog, is undergoing training to sniff out mussels as well as firearms and bear parts. Kilo also will be used in evidence-recovery cases. He will be "paws on the ground" July 1, and is part of an elite group of dogs in North America to have this training.

The Province is providing the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation with three years funding to expand government's ongoing invasive-mussel lake monitoring to detect potential invasive mussel larvae. This will help build capacity for local stewardship groups to become involved in early detection; a critical first step in preventing them from becoming established in B.C.

Funding announced today is valued at approximately \$3 million. It includes:

- \$2.45 million, primarily for the increased staffing;
- \$450,000 over three years to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for the lake monitoring program; and
- \$170,000 for equipment for the enhanced program.

This brings the total program funding to \$4.5 million annually, with partner funding from BC Hydro, Columbia Power, Fortis BC and the Columbia Basin Trust.

It is illegal to transport invasive mussels anywhere in British Columbia. It is mandatory for motorists with watercraft to report to an inspection station during operating hours. Motorists who fail to stop at an inspection station can be fined \$345.

Outside of operating hours, signage will direct motorists to report information about where they are arriving from, their destination in B.C. and to what extent they have taken steps to ensure they are not transporting invasive mussels.

Conservation officers will be increasing enforcement of existing penalties, which can include fines up to \$50,000 for a first offense for illegally transporting mussels anywhere in B.C.

The Province will also continue to work with the Canada Border Services Agency to strengthen the screening of all watercraft entering from the United States, and intercept high-risk watercraft at border crossings.

Zebra and quagga mussels can significantly alter the food web, resulting in the collapse of native fish populations including sockeye salmon. They can clog pipes and water systems and ultimately can affect municipal and industrial water supplies.

The economic impact of invasive mussels to hydropower, agricultural irrigation, municipal water supplies and recreational boating has been estimated to be \$43 million annually. They also have a reputation of decreasing the quality of the recreational experience, impacting tourism.

Quote:

Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines –

“We recognize the potential impact of invasive mussels, and so have ramped up our prevention measures. The adding additional inspection stations with extended hours will help us to keep our waterways free of these devastating mussels.”

Quick Facts:

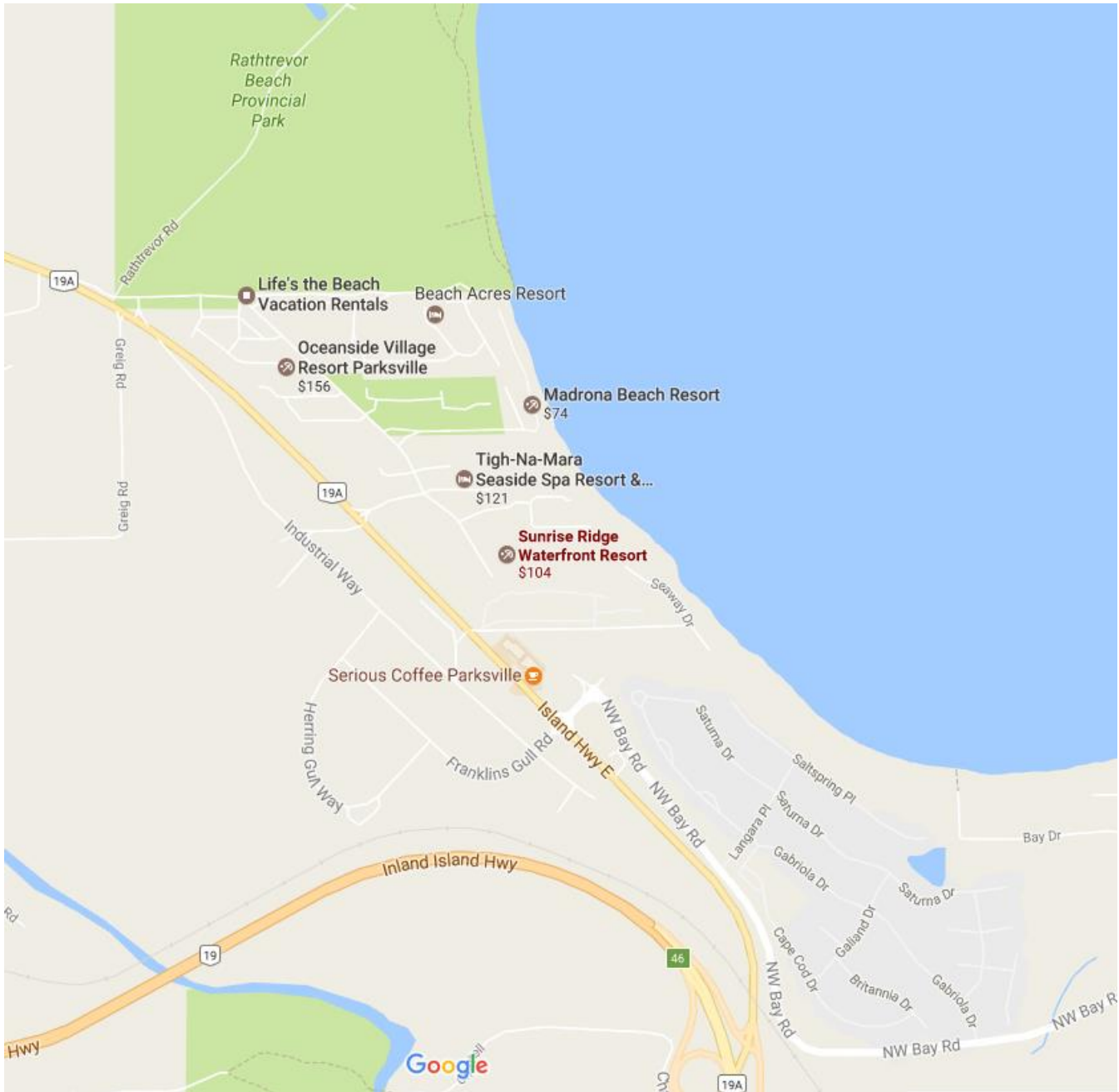
- A mobile trailer featuring visuals of the Clean, Drain, Dry program is travelling throughout B.C. providing public awareness about invasive mussels.
- The Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program launched in March 2016 with annual funding, including:
 - Support from BC Hydro \$1.25 million, Columbia Basin Trust \$250,000, Columbia Power \$250,000, and Fortis BC \$250,000, and Ministry of Agriculture \$200,000. Ministry of Environment provides significant in-kind scientific, program administration, and Conservation Officer Service (COS) support.
- During the 2016 boating season, the program inspected 24,500 boats and interacted with 50,000 people at the inspection stations.
- Boats were identified as travelling into B.C. from 58 different provinces, territories and states.
- The program intercepted 685 boats from high-risk provinces or states and intercepted 17 mussel-fouled boats.

Learn More:

For more information about The BC Invasive Mussel Program:

www.gov.bc.ca/invasivemussels

To learn about invasive species, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species



Map showing location of Sunrise Ridge Resort.