

Aquatic Invasive Species (March 2016)

Rec #	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation Target	Last Status Update (Year provided)	2020 Status	Comments from Latest Update (Please include any new comments in track changes)
1	The Government of Alberta continue working with governments and national, regional and local partners to enhance the effectiveness of the provincial AIS program, focusing particularly on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention; • increasing public awareness of AIS and their potential impacts, targeting high-risk audiences; and • supporting AIS-related stakeholder communication and coordination networks. Significant progress should be evident over the course of 2016 and 2017.	Government of Alberta	Ongoing, with significant progress through 2016-2017	Implemented: As Written Ongoing, leveraged national scale tasks (2019)		<p>Initiated and ongoing. AEP participates in many local, regional, national and international organizations and groups to enhance collaboration and AIS program success. The Alberta program is the result of a collaboration of many different ministries, including Environment and Parks (Policy and Planning, Operations, and Parks Divisions); Agriculture and Forestry; and Justice and Solicitor General. Many non-government groups and industries are participating in program development including Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Alberta Invasive Species Council, Alberta Summer Villages Association, and the Alberta Lake Management Society.</p> <p>Other national and international partners include; the Crown Managers Partnership, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the Western Regional Panel, the Columbia River Basin AIS Working Group/100th Meridian, and the National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, and the AIS Working Group for Western Canada. The focus of all of these partnerships is prevention, as well as enhanced coordination, shared work plan items and awareness.</p>
2	The Government of Alberta collaborate with and support industry, non-government organizations, academia and other orders of government to develop and disseminate effective AIS tracking and control options for long-term management by the end of 2018.	Government of Alberta	December 31, 2018	Partially Implemented Implemented for Citizen science/Ongoing for response improvement (2019)	Implemented: As Written	<p>AEP partnered with the Alberta Invasive Species Council, to develop Alberta EDDMapS (Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System)- an easy, simplified reporting and tracking tool through a web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species distribution (terrestrial and aquatic). This system is functional and has been promoted at several events, such as the Alberta Recreational Lake Forum, and through social media.</p> <p>Adjustments have been made to allow for improved invasive species response through citizen science reporting. Recent additions allow for Prussian carp and whirling disease reports.</p> <p>Additionally, to support work on response/control efforts, an Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species has been finalized and is posted externally at: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460144602</p>
3	The Government of Alberta work with its partners to communicate success stories of AIS management.	Government of Alberta	Ongoing	Implemented: As Written Ongoing – Leverage social media to share the good news stories (2019)		<p>Information on numbers of inspected watercraft and numbers of confirmed mussel fouled watercraft are shared to partners throughout the inspections season.</p> <p>Awareness has also resulted in some unique opportunities in prevention. In June, flowering rush was intercepted from a knowledgeable citizen that discovered pots for sale in the garden section of a major retail store in Leduc. With quick reporting, all pots were confiscated prior to sale, as well as a dozen or more in British Columbia, through network connections. In the fall, Chinese Mitten Crab was intercepted at the Calgary Airport in collaboration with Canadian Border Services Agency and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, with investigation still ongoing.</p>
4	The Government of Alberta work with AEMERA to develop and begin implementing a provincial AIS monitoring plan for fish, invertebrates and aquatic plants, with assistance from stakeholders, including citizen scientists, by spring 2017.	Government of Alberta	Spring 2017	Implemented: As Written Ongoing (2019)		<p>Existing GOA-funded lake monitoring programs (water chemistry monitoring) are leveraged to collect samples for aquatic invasive mussels and spiny water flea. Monitoring is led by the Environmental Monitoring and Science Division (EMSD) and is a collaboration between AEP (EMSD, Parks, and Operations), Alberta Lake Management Society, and Alberta Irrigation Projects Association. In addition, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry provides some training and other support to AIPA for sampling irrigation reservoirs and outlet canals.</p> <p>The Environmental Monitoring and Science Division (AEP) coordinated the sampling of 48 lakes, 24 irrigation reservoirs, 8 outlet canals, and 3 sites on the Milk River. A total of 622 samples were collected for veliger assessment from these sites and all were negative</p>

						<p>for zebra and quagga mussels, as well as spiny water flea. In addition, 15 water samples collected from 7 watercraft inspection stations were submitted for veliger assessment. No veligers we found in any of these bilge water samples, but in one case a dead adult Dreissenid mussels was noted.</p> <p>Lastly, in addition to samples collected for veliger assessment, samples of adult mussels, unidentifiable invertebrates, and potentially invasive aquatic plants were obtained through watercraft inspections and submitted to EMSD for in-house identification. On more than 12 occasions, adult Dreissenid mussels were collected from watercraft and in other instances; invasive Eurasian water milfoil was present.</p> <p>GOA is collaborating with Alberta Lake Monitoring Society to monitor for Eurasian Water Milfoil in summer of 2019, for monitoring expansion into invasive plants.</p>
5	The Government of Alberta maintain the mandatory watercraft inspections element of the AIS program and also begin inspecting other vectors of potential introduction by 2017. This should include working with stakeholders where inspections are planned to raise the profile of the issue and increase buy-in from the public.	Government of Alberta	2017	Implemented: As Written Ongoing (2019)		<p>The <i>Fisheries (Alberta) Act</i> was amended in 2015 to provide for a more robust aquatic invasive species program including mandatory watercraft inspection stations (motorized, non-motorized, commercial haul). Alberta follows inspection and decontamination standards and protocols used throughout the west. This ensures that boaters traveling within western states and provinces will have a similar experience at inspection stations. Watercraft inspections in Alberta for 2018 saw over 31,000 watercrafts inspected, 15 intercepted with invasive mussels, and 17 intercepted with invasive plants. The Aquatic Invasive Species program will continue with mandatory watercraft inspections in 2019.</p>
6	The Government of Alberta have a protocol in place by the spring of 2017 to ensure that fishery officers and fishery guardians are educated and trained on their authority to enforce AIS legislation.	Government of Alberta	Spring 2017	Implemented: As Written Ongoing (2019)		<p>Training is provided yearly to all watercraft inspectors and those appointed as Fishery Guardians. AEP is working towards on-line training program delivery with Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Branch, as part of AIS programming.</p>
7	The Government of Alberta share information on enforcement activities and potential penalties with stakeholders and the public to raise the profile of the AIS issue.	Government of Alberta	Ongoing	Implemented: As Written Ongoing (2019)		<p>The Aquatic Invasive Species program works closely with Justice and Solicitor General. Creative solutions have been found to increase enforcement capacity through appointing RCMP, Traffic Sheriffs, and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement as Fishery Guardians. Specified penalties are in place as of June 2018. Now enforcement officials can issue \$310 fines for bypassing an open watercraft inspection station, as well as a \$172 fine for transporting a watercraft without removing bilge plug. Specified penalties, similar to speeding tickets, do not require a court appearance. Other offenses can lay fines up to \$100 000 for individuals and \$500 000 for corporations but will require a court appearance.</p>