



FOR RELEASE

April 8, 2014

Aquatic invasive species awareness campaign launched

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is posting new signs to generate awareness about aquatic invasive species and to help safeguard Yukon's biodiversity.

"Invasive species are a challenge being faced by jurisdictions across North America," Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said. "While we're fortunate that most Yukon water bodies are free from invasive species, everyone needs to do their part to stop aquatic invaders from entering the territory."

This spring the Department of Environment will begin posting signs with aquatic invasive species information at major boating and angling access points in Yukon. As prevention is the most cost-effective means of controlling invasive species, the signs encourage residents and visitors to take these precautions when moving between bodies of water:

- check and remove mud, weeds and aquatic life from motors, boats, trailers and gear before leaving the area;
- drain water from bilges, pumps, coolers and buckets before leaving the area;
- clean your boat and trailer by power washing and drying in the sun, and freeze smaller gear overnight;
- don't move water, fish or plants from one body of water to another; and
- report all sightings of possible aquatic invasive species to the Department of Environment at 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5721 or fisheries@gov.yk.ca.

"Prevention and early detection can make a big difference in reducing the environmental, economic and social costs of aquatic invaders," Dixon added. "Anglers and boaters play an important role as stewards of Yukon's pristine lake and river systems."

Didymo algae, zebra mussels, New Zealand mud snails and waterweed are species that pose a high risk of introduction and spread in Yukon. In some parts of North America invasive species are responsible for habitat damage, loss of subsistence resources and economic loss.

Learn more:

www.env.gov.yk.ca/animals-habitat/Stop-Aquatic-Invasive-Species.php

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News Release #14-094



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