

Aquatic Invader Species (non-fish) Policy

Policy No: 11-01

Policy Title: Aquatic Invader Species (non-fish)

Policy Statement: Steps must be taken to avoid accidental introductions of Aquatic Invader Species into Canadian waters.

Principles Applied:

- Aquatic Invader Species include non-native Algae, Plant, Mussel, Snail or Microscopic species outside their natural range.
- Native and naturalized trout populations are negatively impacted by Aquatic Invader Species.
- Freshwater Conservation Canada supports education and awareness campaigns to provide users with strategies that minimize the risk of inadvertent spread of Aquatic Invader Species.

Policy Rationale and Considerations:

Aquatic Invader Species are often very prolific, and they spread rapidly; Aquatic Invader Species typically lack natural predators, allowing them to colonize unchallenged;

The risk of introduction of Aquatic Invader Species can be minimized with proper gear inspection and practicing cleaning strategies;

A single gear cleaning technique can prevent the threat of transporting all Aquatic Invaders;

Aquatic Invaders impact native species by (examples):

- limiting or altering spawning grounds
- competition for food resources
- transmit disease that debilitates or kills native fish
- reduction of dissolved oxygen levels or alterations of water chemistry issues

Objectives of Policy Statement:

Freshwater Conservation Canada members and the general public should be made aware of the issue and threats of Aquatic Invader Species. Freshwater Conservation

Canada members should understand potential impacts, know how to (generally) identify them, be provided the tools to avoid spreading invaders with suitable cleaning techniques, and know where to access additional information about them.

Implications to Organization:

The National office will be responsible for maintaining information on current Aquatic Invader Species threats to Canadian coldwater resources and freshwater ecosystems. The NRB will also be consulted to ensure the most up-to-date research and information is available to provide science-based decisions. Chapters are urged to help by making their members and the local public aware of this issue.

Delivery:

Freshwater Conservation Canada will be responsible for developing an awareness program focusing on Invader species. This will be focused through brochures, signage components, and website resources for members and general public. These components will include information on identification of common threats, cleaning methodologies and links to additional resources.

Supporting Information:

Freshwater Conservation Canada has developed information and materials in conjunction with a variety of partners in Alberta and with the Federal Government (Parks Canada) on this issue. Materials and posters are available that can be posted on our website. Numerous other websites exist that were reviewed and support our direction.

Effective Date: April 25, 2011

Last Board Approval Date: April 25, 2011