

Dear Competitive Angler:

The Government of Saskatchewan is working to protect Saskatchewan waterways from harmful aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels. The movement of recreational watercrafts, gear and bait have been identified as main pathways contributing to the spread of aquatic invasive species. Competitive Fishing Events (CFEs) often attract anglers from many locations to transport watercrafts over large distances to numerous waterbodies, increasing the potential for spread.

To help protect Saskatchewan waters, competitive anglers **must** understand and adhere to all regulations pertaining to Clean, Drain, Dry best practices, watercraft inspection, and bait use. The following provides an overview of these regulations and best practices aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species:

#### Clean, Drain and Dry Guidelines:

##### CLEAN

- ✓ Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer, equipment, and all related gear.
- ✓ Inspect the trailer and vehicle, and remove all visible plants, animals, and mud.
- ✓ Inspect the hull, all drains, water in-takes, transducers, motors, anchors, ropes, and propellers (including trolling motors).
- ✓ Wash, scrub, or rinse using hot water away from storm drains, ditches, and waterways.

##### DRAIN

- ✓ Ensure to drain all on-board water: motor, live wells, bilge, bait containers, and ballast tanks, etc.
- ✓ Remove the boat drain-plug during transport – **it is the law!** Make sure the lowest point of the hull is raised above the bilge drain. You may need to raise the bow of the boat, to ensure that water from the the lowest part of the hull drains any standing water in the bilge.

##### DRY

- ✓ Dry your watercraft, live wells, equipment, and all related gear completely.

#### Watercraft Inspection:

Prior to launching in Saskatchewan waters, your watercraft may require inspection and decontamination by a provincial inspector. To avoid delays, please ensure that your watercraft meets the requirements above. **If your watercraft was last used in a jurisdiction with invasive mussels you must contact the Ministry of Environment at 1-800-567-4224 or at [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca) to make inspection arrangements well in advance of your travel, regardless of whether your watercraft was already inspected in another jurisdiction.**

#### Invasive Mussel Jurisdictions:

**Canada:** Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick

**United States:** Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

#### **Bait Use:**

As a competitive angler, you should be aware that the movement of your bait can be a vector for spreading aquatic invasive species. In addition to the bait being potentially invasive, microscopic invertebrates, zebra mussel veligers (larvae), and fish diseases can also be transported in the bait water. Remember that live bait is prohibited in Saskatchewan (excluding leeches and worms) and all unwanted bait should be disposed of in the trash and never released into any lakes, rivers, or wetlands.

Also note that the use of crayfish, frogs, or salamanders for bait is prohibited under *The Fisheries Regulations* and **all leeches used must be sourced from a Saskatchewan supplier, as the importation of leeches from anywhere outside of the province of Saskatchewan is strictly prohibited.**

#### **Reporting Invasive Species:**

Never release suspected invasive species back into the environment. Collect the specimen or capture a photo, and immediately report suspected invasive species by calling the Saskatchewan's Turn In Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561. Please note that Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*), Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), and Koi (*Cyprinus rubrofasciatus*) are non-native alien species that are present in certain Saskatchewan waters and all sightings of these species should be captured by photograph, if possible, and reported to [reportais@gov.sk.ca](mailto:reportais@gov.sk.ca).

Thank you for helping keep Saskatchewan waters free of harmful aquatic invasive species. For more information about aquatic invasive species and what you can do to help prevent the spread, contact the Ministry of Environment's inquiry line at 1-800-567-4224 or visit our website at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species>