



Invasive zebra mussels - Credit: Black Press File Photo

False alarm for invasive mussels found on boat at Osoyoos border

The mussels were already dead

CARLI BERRY / Apr. 26, 2018 6:30 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS



A mussel-fouled boat stopped at the Osoyoos border turned out to be a false alarm.

The boat was stopped last weekend after several attached mussels were found, according to the Okanagan WaterWise Facebook page. The boat owner had purchased the boat several years before with the mussels, which were already dead.

Okanagan WaterWise
on Wednesday

BC CO Service
@_BCCOS

Thanks to our partnership with CBSA, a boat on the weekend was denied entry in Canada until our AIS crew could attend the Osoyoos border crossing. Upon inspection the boat was found to have several mussels attached. A decontamination order was issued to the owner. #BCCOS

Following

UPDATE: The mussel-fouled boat stopped at the Osoyoos border crossing last weekend was in dry dock for a few years before it was purchased by the current owner so the mussels were dead. That said, be aware. Invasive zebra and quagga mussels are illegal in B.C., dead or alive.

Transporting invasive mussels into B.C. can cost first time offenders \$50,000.

If you are purchasing watercraft from an infested area, make sure it has gone through the Clean-Drain-Dry process. [Learn mor...](#) [See More](#)

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The Don't Move A Mussel initiative, with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, aims to prevent invasive zebra and quagga mussels from reaching B.C. waters.

This time last year, the province amplified measures to boost the initiative by adding [35 more auxiliary conservation officers](#) for boat and watercraft inspections.

Anyone suspected of transporting mussels into B.C. could have their boat or other watercraft quarantined for up to 30 days, and if found to be transporting mussels—dead or alive—could face fines of up to \$50,000 for a first offence.

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