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## Pushing for mussel action

### Okanagan Basin Water Board presses province for stronger action on invasive mussels

Jon Manchester - Mar 4, 2022 / 1:00 pm



Photo: OBWB

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is pressing the province for stronger invasive mussel action.

At its meeting this week, the water board voted to send a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy with calls for action to prevent invasive zebra and quagga mussels from entering the province.

The board is asking that core program funding be maintained and that the province implement "pull-the-plug" legislation, requiring all watercraft to remove drain plugs before travelling on B.C. roads.

The water board is also urging the province to review and update its early detection, rapid response plan and allow for public input.

It would also like to see resources for local governments to address water infrastructure vulnerability, additional funding for water monitoring and outreach to boaters, along with legislation requiring all out-of-province watercraft be inspected before launching in B.C. waters.

Last year, 17 mussel-infested boats were stopped at inspection points before entering B.C. waters.

A cost analysis from 2013 estimated that mussel infestation in B.C. would cost at least \$43 million annually, affecting recreation and tourism, infrastructure and even property values.