



Tourism Industry Association of BC
#200 948 Howe St.
Vancouver BC V6Z 1N9

Dear Walt Judas,

It has come to the attention of Boating BC Association that the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) is recommending a total ban on boats entering the province to combat the potential importation of the invasive species of Zebra Mussels.

The research that has been used for the purpose of the recommendation states that the mussels have been detected in Idaho, over 1000 km away from the BC border. While mussels have been detected on boats from other Canadian provinces, inspection stations are there to intercept and provide information to boaters entering the province.

There is no question that Zebra Mussels are invasive and can spread quickly with very detrimental effects. However, banning the movement of boats across provincial and national borders is an over-reaction to a problem that does not yet exist in the province. Inspection stations and educational programs have to date, dealt effectively with combatting the spread of these mussels.

By banning boats entering the province tourism will be drastically affected. Many Alberta residents choose to recreate in BC's interior and on our waterways. Many of those residents own and rent property in BC and spend significant time and money throughout our communities.

We urge the provincial government through the Ministry of Lands, Water & Natural Resources to carefully consider all the ramifications of such a blanket ban. We would also urge the provincial government to step up inspections at our border crossings, invest in more targeted information campaigns and look to see how other jurisdictions throughout Canada and US are dealing with the issue.

Boating BC does and can continue to assist with delivering information to the recreational boating community through our various social media channels to help spread the message regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Hayne'.

Bruce Hayne
Executive Director, Boating BC Association