

# Calling All Tourism Operators!

Protect BC's Nature—Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

## Invasive Species and Tourism—What's the Connection?

BC is known worldwide for its amazing biodiversity and variety of natural landscapes. The tourism industry is the most important sector to BC's economy and generates billions of dollars annually. Invasive species can damage BC's ecosystems and wildlife—the very things that attract visitors and make this province such a wonderful place to live.

Tourist operations such as fishing lodges, hiking and biking operations and rafting companies can be pathways for the introduction and spread of invasive species. When travelling, visitors can unknowingly spread invasive species hitchhiking on their clothing, gear, camping equipment, watercraft and vehicles.

## What Are Invasive Species?

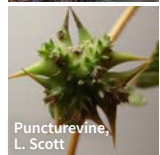
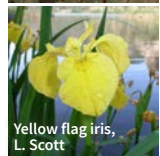
Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that negatively impact BC's environment, economy and human health. They can rapidly establish and spread, outcompete native species, damage ecosystems and cost millions of dollars annually.

## What Can I Do?

Tourism operators are key partners in preventing the spread of invasive species as they are familiar with their work regions, routinely visit sites and are important eyes on the ground to spot any changes. Help protect BC from invasive species by following the Best Practices Checklist.

## Become an Invasive-Wise Tourism Operator. It's Free!

Contact ISCBC for information, training and resources.



Turn over for the Best Practices Checklist to help protect BC from invasive species! »



## Operator Best Practices Checklist

### BEFORE ANY ACTIVITY:

- ✓ Encourage guests to arrive with clean gear
- ✓ **CHECK** that all watercraft and vehicles are **CLEAN** and **DRY** prior to use
- ✓ Plan to **BURN LOCAL** firewood only—insects and diseases in firewood can destroy our forests

### DURING YOUR TRIP:

- ✓ **STAY** on designated trails and roads
- ✓ **CHECK** for invasive species hitching a ride on clothing, watercraft, vehicles, equipment and gear
- ✓ **REPORT** any invasive species using the Report Invasives BC app

### AFTER YOUR EXPERIENCE:

- ✓ **CLEAN** all plant parts and mud from boots, gear, watercraft and vehicles
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from your watercraft and gear onto land, including all internal compartments, ballast tanks, live wells, bilges, bait buckets, motors, etc.
- ✓ **DRY** all parts of your boat and gear completely and pull the plug when storing or transporting your watercraft
- ✓ **CHECK** your clothing, gear and equipment and remind your guests to always check themselves and their gear for any hitchhikers



## Watercraft Inspections in BC

All watercraft must stop at designated watercraft inspection stations in BC. **It's the LAW!** Sightings of Zebra or Quagga mussels must be reported to the RAPP hotline 1-877-952-7277.

All watercraft that have been operated outside of BC must be reported to the BC Conservation Officer Service RAPP hotline prior to entering BC waters.

## Report!



Download the free Report Invasives BC app:  
[bcinvasives.ca/report](https://bcinvasives.ca/report)

Report invasive species to ISCBC: 1-888-933-3722 or  
[bcinvasives.ca/report](https://bcinvasives.ca/report)