

Aquatic Invasive Species

What Is an Invasive Species?

An invasive species is any form of life that is not traditionally native a location. This means both they and their surroundings have not had time to adapt and evolve to include them in the environment. Invasive species can be plants, insects, mammals, fish, or any other form of life.

Why Are Invasive Species Bad?

Since invasive species have been introduced without time for the environment to adapt, the invasive species will often have an advantage over native species. It may have

- Few or no native predators
- Predators have no knowledge of new species defenses (toxins, barbed appendages)
- Prey may be susceptible to invasive species
- May damage ecosystem

The new invasive species may also consume a food that other species also rely on. Since they have the listed, their population may reproduce rapidly and consume large amounts of food that the other species eat, reducing the food available for native species.



Which Invasive Species Are We Concerned With?

The main concern of the Lower Souris Watershed is the potential introduction of the zebra mussel to our waters.



- Originally from Asian waters
- Introduced to Great Lakes (1980s)
- Discovered in Lake Winnipeg (2015)
- Filter algae removing food from water
- A female can produce 1 million offspring
- Rapidly grow and layer on surfaces such as dams and boats
- Nearly impossible to remove once established

How Can I Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species?

You can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels by [Cleaning, Draining, and Drying](#) your boat and equipment before changing lakes. You can also help by reporting invasive species [Here](#) or learning more about invasive species through the province of [Saskatchewan](#).