

# Federal AIS Regulations in Canada: Finally!

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# NAISC



- Canadian Council of Fisheries & Aquaculture Ministers created
- Representation from all provinces and territories
- NAISC has been an effective forum for:
  - federal-provincial-territorial coordination on the development and implementation of the federal AIS Regulations
  - information exchange on best practices in the management of aquatic invasive species



# Federal AIS Regulations

- Under Federal *Fisheries Act*
- Passed June 17, 2015 –now in force!
- Provide a framework that can be used by DFO, provinces and territories to manage AIS issues in Canada.
- Significant gaps addressed
- Federal and provincial Fishery Officers
- Provinces are encouraged to identify species of risk in their jurisdiction and use the new enabling authorities in the Regulations to manage these risks



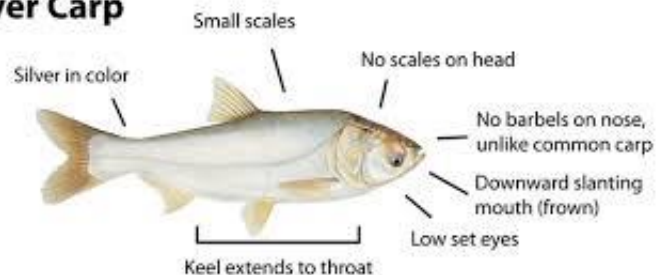
# Overview of Federal AIS Regulations

- The Regulations are national in scope and it's purpose is to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS into/within Canada
- **The Regulations:**
  1. Prohibit actions (i.e. importation, possession, transportation and release);
  2. Provide exemptions to the prohibitions; and
  3. Allow interventions in response to aquatic invasive species issues

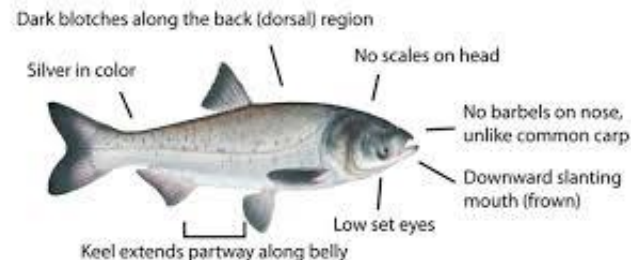


# Listed Species\*

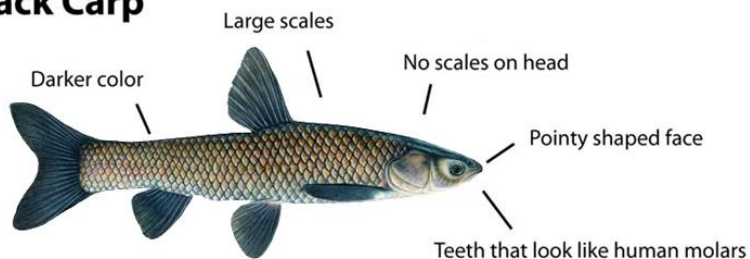
## Silver Carp



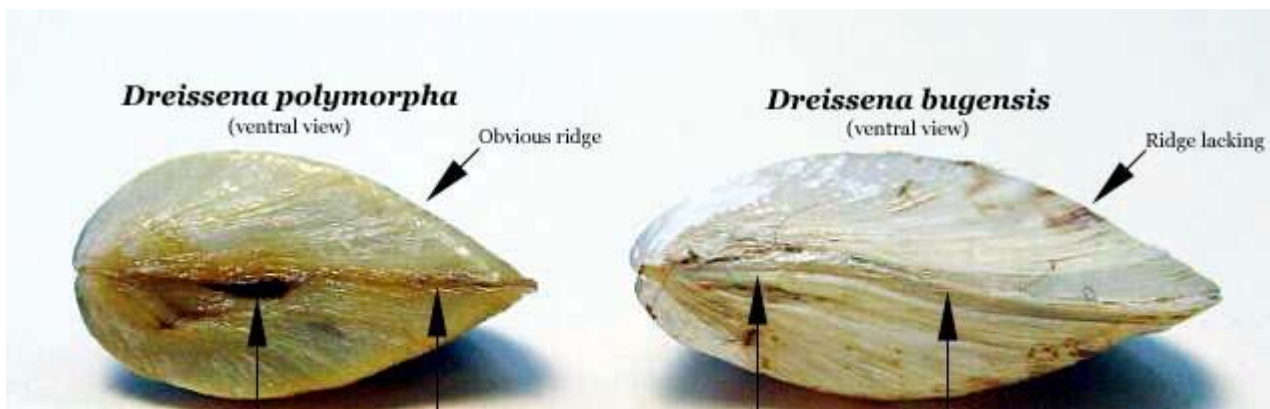
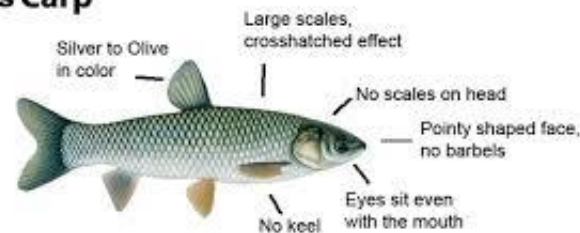
## Bighead Carp



## Black Carp



## Grass Carp





# Prohibitions

- It is prohibited to import, possess, transport or release species listed in Part 2 of the schedule:
  - Includes genetic material capable of propagating the species
  - Applies in the geographic area defined in the schedule unless species is in condition (e.g. dead) set out in the schedule
- It is prohibited to introduce species where they are not indigenous
  - Unless authorized by federal or provincial law
  - Applies to any aquatic species that are not indigenous





# Exemptions

- Fishery officers, fisheries guardian or persons operating under their direction carrying out their duties under the Regulations
- For persons operating any vehicles, vessels or aircraft engaged in emergency, search and rescue or firefighting operations
- Scientific, educational or AIS control purposes
- The time required to take immediate measures to destroy the species in a manner that ensures that it and the genetic material capable of propagating the species cannot survive
- Ballast water and sediments and biofouling of a vessel that is over 24m in length







# Control and Eradication – Ministerial Measures

## DEPOSIT OF DELETERIOUS SUBSTANCES

Prescribed Ministers\* may authorize deposit of deleterious substances to prevent introduction/spread or to control/eradicate a species or treat or destroy any member of a species:

- listed in Part 2 of the Schedule in the areas where they are prohibited
- listed in Parts 2 or 3 of the Schedule where they are not indigenous and may harm fish, fish habitat or the use of fish
- or any other aquatic species where they are not indigenous and may harm fish, fish habitat or the use of fish

LICENCE FISHING: Prevent spread or to control/eradicate AIS

CATCH: No products currently registered for open water use (mussels) ☹️



# BC Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations

- Controlled Alien Species Regulations under the BC Wildlife Act
- Schedule 1 & 2: dangerous ‘pets’ like snakes, crocodiles, large carnivores, etc with the ability to instantly kill a human
- Schedule 3: freshwater fish banned from live possession, transport release and breeding
- Schedule 4: **zebra and quagga mussels** which are **banned alive and dead** from possession, breeding, release, and transportation.
- Inspections mandatory – Conservation Officers



# Alberta Fisheries (Alberta) Act – AIS Amendments

- Passed March 30, 2015
- Creation of prohibited species list
  - Prohibition on importation
  - Possession – DEC 31, 2015
  - License for importation required
  - Mussels and plants: DEAD OR ALIVE
- Mandatory stopping at designated inspection stations
  - “Highways” as defined by *Traffic Safety Act*
  - ALL passing watercraft
- Enhanced authority (re: vectors & conveyances, regulations)
  - Aquarium/pet industry
  - Addressing other vectors
- Quarantine provisions



# Saskatchewan Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations

## LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY - Fisheries Regulations

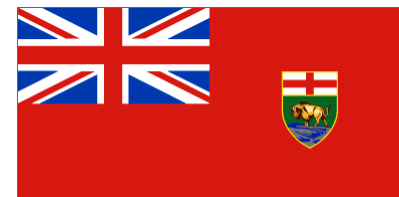
- Definition of “aquarium fish” means any fish that are not indigenous to Saskatchewan and that is imported for aquarium purposes or kept for aquarium purposes, but does not include the species of fish listed in Table 10 of the Appendix (includes zebra and quagga mussels)
- Allows for the import and transportation of live fish under licence to accommodate fisheries management, research and aquaculture purposes
- Provides for the transportation of species commonly used by anglers for bait
- No person shall: import/buy/sell/possess/transport/introduce/dispose of fish or any listed species into Saskatchewan



# Manitoba's AIS Regulation

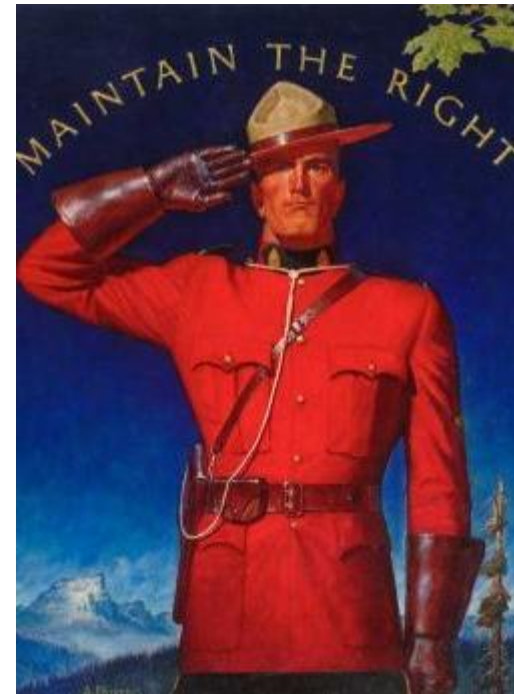
Manitoba Fishery Regulation (1987) under the federal *Fisheries Act* -  
Manitoba delegated authority

- No person shall bring into Manitoba, possess in Manitoba or release into any waters of Manitoba live fish or fish eggs of a species set out in Schedule
  - Exemptions: qualified researcher/recognized facility; equipment or controls to protect against release and possession; solely for scientific research that would benefit Manitoba
- There are 87 prohibited species **including zebra and quagga mussels**
- Schedule IX species grandfathered into the new federal regulation but only as it relates to the live possession and transport of the species
- *Proposed* new regulations to introduce “control zones” for managing/containing known AIS

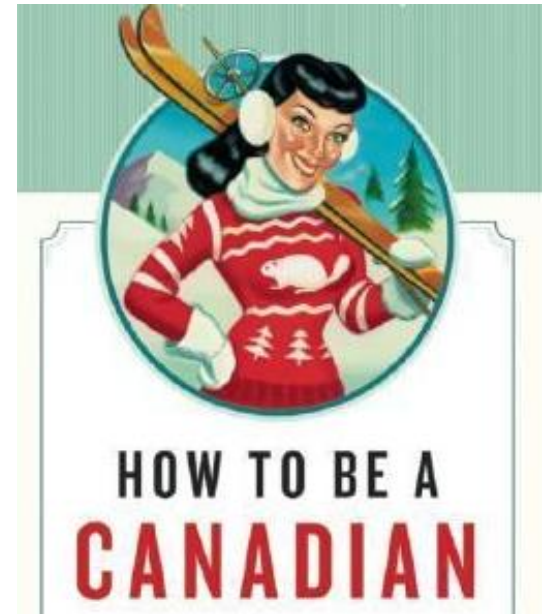
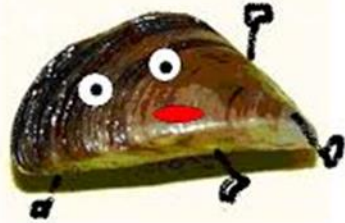


# Moving Forward

- Implementation of federal AIS Regulations
  - Role of Federal/Provincial agencies
  - Engagement of Fishery Officers
  - Canadian Border Services Agency
    - Level of participation:
      - Inspections?
      - Triage risk?
      - Direct to Provincial Watercraft Inspection Stations?



# Questions!



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