



Ottawa, June 19, 2015

## Customs Notice 15-022

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### **New Import Prohibitions and Requirements for Commercial Importers of Aquatic Species and for Travellers Under the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations***

1. The purpose of this notice is to advise importers, travellers, customs brokers and service providers that new [Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations](#) (AISR) are in effect.
2. The AISR provide a full suite of regulatory tools under the federal [Fisheries Act](#) to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into Canadian waters and to control and manage their establishment and spread, once introduced.
3. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), in partnership with the provinces and territories, will be responsible for administration and enforcement.
4. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will assist by enforcing the import prohibitions listed in Column 4 of Part 2 of the Schedule to the Regulations. The species initially subject to import prohibitions will be four species of Asian carp and two species of mussels. These species will not be permitted to enter Canada unless certain conditions (described below) are met.
5. Sections 6 of the AISR and 101 of the [Customs Act](#) provide the authority for CBSA officers to detain and refer to DFO or provincial enforcement authorities any aquatic species suspected to be live Asian carps and live or dead Zebra or Quagga mussels, and to refuse entry into Canada.
6. The Schedule of the AISR also lists numerous species for which possession, transport and/or release is prohibited in certain areas. Should the CBSA encounter any of these listed species, DFO or provincial authorities will be notified.

#### **Commercial Importations**

7. The importation into Canada of live Asian carps and mussels of the species listed in the table of paragraph 12 below for any use (e.g., food, aquarium, aquaculture, bait) is **prohibited**.

**Note:** Asian carp of these species can be imported as long as they are dead and eviscerated, however, the importer must ensure that Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requirements are met. CFIA requirements can be found on the CFIA's [automated import reference system](#).

8. Exemptions to the above prohibitions and permit requirements are provided in sections 11 to 17 of the AISR and include importation for scientific and educational purposes with the applicable permits (as listed in subsection 13(2)).
9. Commercial boat haulers and importers are responsible for ensuring that the boats, trailers, vessels, vehicles, and conveyances being imported are free of the mussel species listed in the AISR. Note that the import prohibition on Zebra and Quagga mussels applies whether the animal is alive or dead. Exemptions are provided with respect to ballast water and sediment for persons referred to in the [Ballast Water Control and Management Regulations](#). In addition, biofouling of vessels more than 24 meters in length is not regulated under the AISR, but is managed by Transport Canada and guided by the [International Maritime Organization's](#) 2011 Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species.

10. In order to facilitate trade and admissibility decisions, importers are advised to report scientific names of all imported aquatic species in the commodity description field of Form [CII, Canada Customs Invoice](#) or commercial invoice, either electronic or paper. The implementation of the [Single Window Initiative \(SWI\)](#) will facilitate the reporting of scientific names by separating out aspects of the commodity description in the Integrated Import Declaration (IID) service option (911).

11. The following Web sites are sources of scientific names and information on aquatic species:

- (a) [FishBase](#);
- (b) [World Register of Marine Species \(WoRMS\)](#), which identifies AphiaIDs (unique codes) for all scientific names in the database; and
- (c) [Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\)](#), which identifies Taxonomic Serial Numbers (TSN) for all scientific names. The Single Window Initiative will include options for reporting TSNs and AphiaIDs.

12. Importers and service providers can use the table below to flag their systems for prohibited species and for declaration of scientific names or TSNs for dead and eviscerated Asian carp species. The following table lists current species prohibited against importation by the AISR.

Common Name	Scientific Name	TSN	AphiaID
Grass carp	Ctenopharyngodon idella	163537	n/a
Bighead carp	Hypophthalmichthys nobilis	163692	n/a
Silver carp	Hypophthalmichthys molitrix	163691	n/a
Black carp	Mylopharyngodon piceus	639618	n/a
Zebra mussel	Dreissena polymorpha	81339	181566
Quagga mussel	Dreissena bugensis	567514	505319

### Travellers and Recreational Boaters

13. As Zebra and Quagga mussels are prohibited entry into Canada, all boats, trailers, vehicles, and conveyances (excluding vessels longer than 24 m in length) must be free of mussels, alive or dead. There is an exemption provided for boat travel across transborder waters already infested with Zebra and Quagga mussels in Quebec and in Ontario east of a particular coordinate cited in the Regulations. Importation overland of Zebra and Quagga mussels is prohibited across Canada.

14. Travellers towing boats must ensure that the boats are cleaned, drained and dried and that the boats and trailers are free of mussels before they will be allowed entry into Canada.

15. Recreational boaters on the water must ensure that their boats are not moving from infested waters into Canada, with the exception of those areas identified in paragraph 13, and that their boats are not infested with mussels.

16. Please visit the [Department of Justice Web site](#) for the full version of the AISR.

17. For more information concerning the administration of these procedures from a CBSA perspective contact the CBSA [Border Information Service](#) (BIS) online, or call BIS toll-free in Canada at **1-800-461-9999**. If you are calling from outside Canada, you can access BIS by calling 204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064 (long-distance charges will apply). BIS agents are available, during regular business hours from Monday to Friday (except holidays), 8:00 to 16:00 local time. TTY is also available within Canada: **1-866-335-3237**.