



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



2020 ZQM LAKE MONITORING UPDATE

Martina Beck, ENV

Columbia River Basin Virtual Meeting

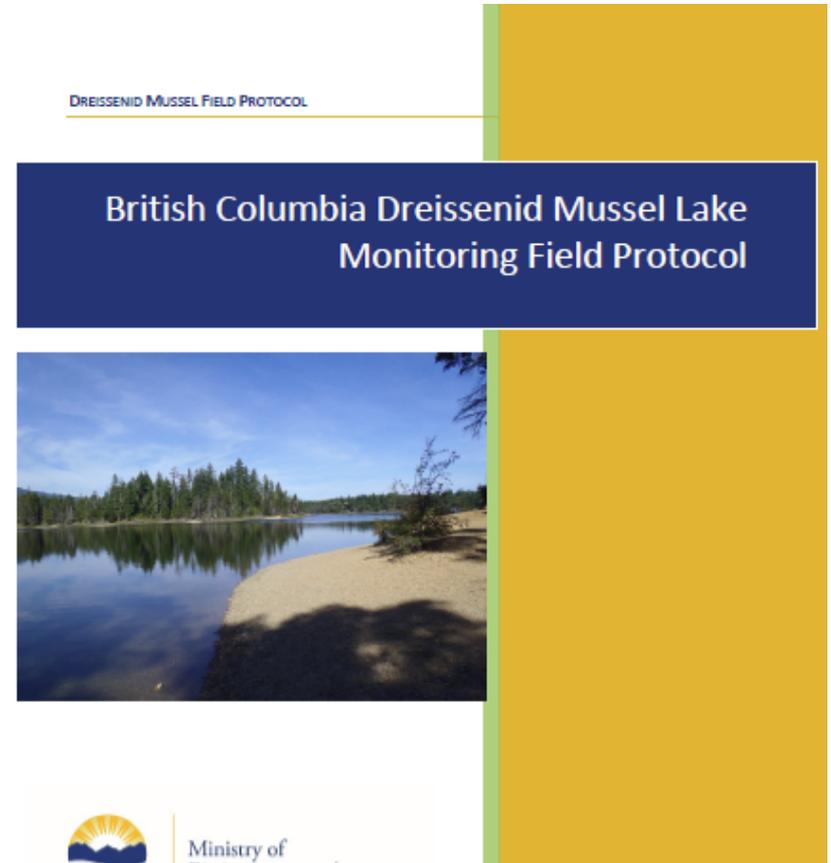
Dec 2nd 2020



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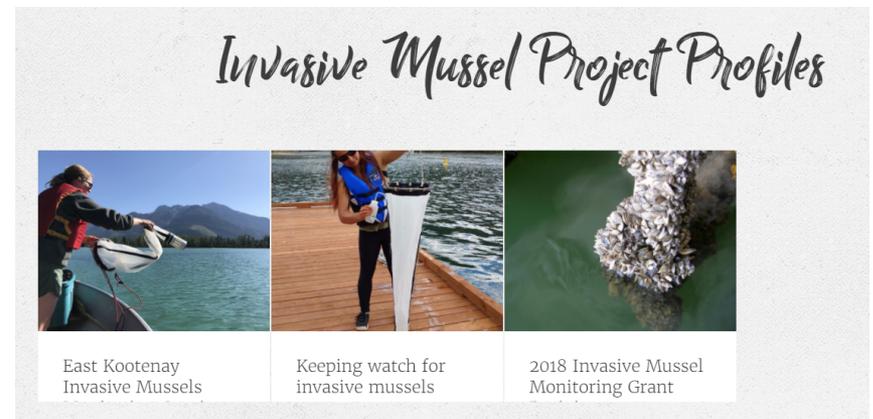
Updates to Provincial Sampling Protocol

- Aligns with WRP minimum recommended guidelines
- Includes list of priority waterbodies for plankton tow sampling (reviewed annually)
- Waterbody prioritization using estimates of:
 - risk of survival (available Ca, temp, pH data) and;
 - risk of introduction (watercraft inspection data)



Partner Grant Program

- Grants are administered to community organizations across the province to conduct sampling
- Program administered by third-party organization (Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation)
- Technical review of all grant applications by Ministry staff to ensure sampling efforts occur in priority waterbodies



Partner Grant Program

- Grants supported by Provincial and Federal funding (starting in 2019)
- Supports plankton tow and substrate sampling following Provincial protocol
- All samples sent to designated lab by the Ministry



The poster features a blue header with the HACTF logo on the left and the title 'INVASIVE MUSSELS LAKE MONITORING GRANTS' on the right. Below the header is a photograph of a person's hand holding a cluster of brown, shell-covered mussels. The text below the photo is organized into three columns.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) has created a new granting program to fund invasive mussel monitoring in British Columbia's lakes and rivers. This program is made possible by a \$450,000 contribution from BC's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENW).

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Invasive Mussels Lake Monitoring Fund is to ensure B.C. lakes and rivers are actively sampled and assessed for the presence of invasive zebra and quagga mussels. HCTF is administering this

Who can apply for these grants?

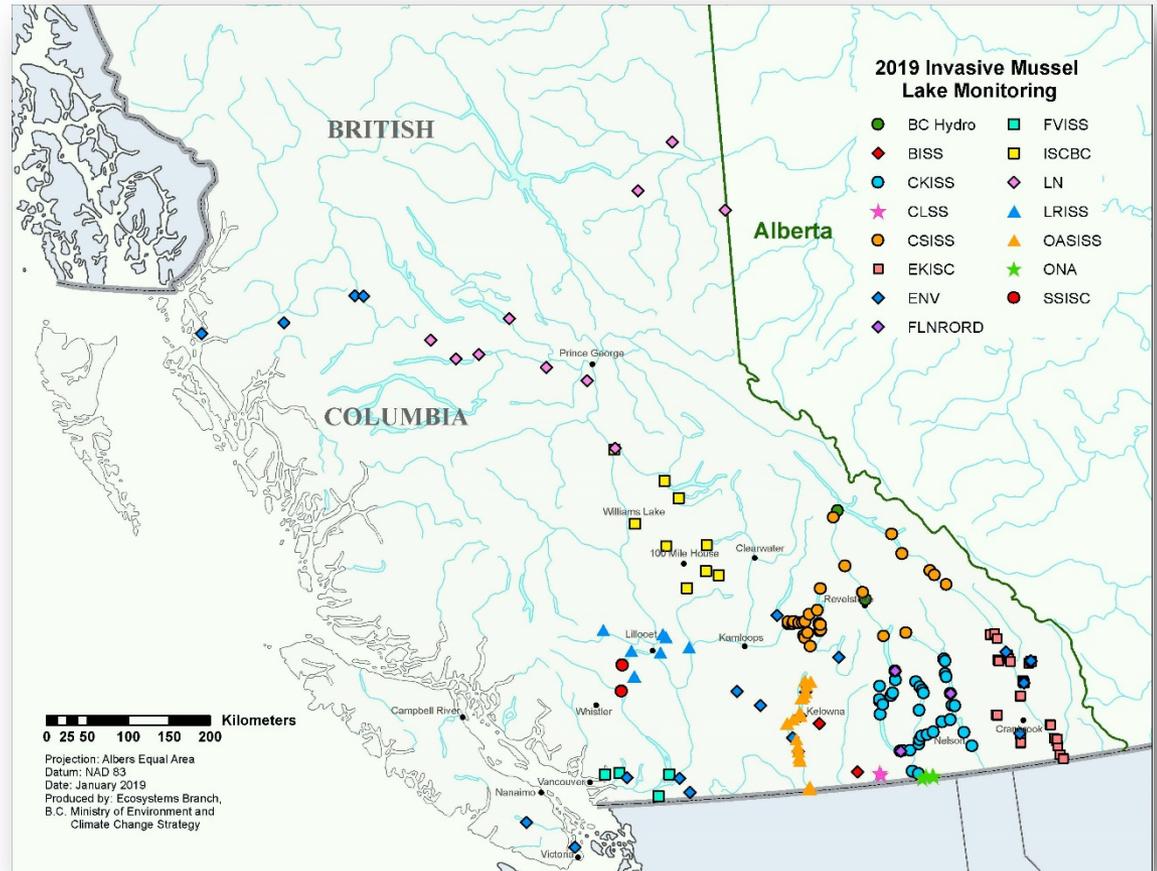
Invasive Mussels Lake Monitoring Grants are available to community groups, non-profit organizations, local, regional and provincial governments, First Nations and others. In order for applicants to be successful, they must show in their application that they have proven experience, knowledge, and capacity to carry out the activities in the proposal. Activities may be conducted by paid staff, volunteers, or a combination, but the applicant must provide a compelling case that they have the experience necessary to complete the proposed activities according to the sampling methods outlined in the 2019 Field Protocol, including those

Partner Organizations in 2020

- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance
- Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
- Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society
- Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
- Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
- East Kootenay Invasive Species Council
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Invasive Species Council of British Columbia
- Boundary Invasive Species Society
- Christina Lake Stewardship Society
- Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

2020 Sampling Efforts

- 954 plankton tow samples collected across 89 waterbodies
- All samples negative for ZQM
- Samples analyzed using microscopy by designated lab
- Substrate samplers in medium-low priority waterbodies



COVID-19

- Sampling season started in early June and COVID-19 restrictions did not significantly impact sampling levels
- Slight increase in sampling effort from 2019
- Adjustments included:
 - Reduction in size of field crews
 - Not accessing remote locations
 - COVID precautions (cleaning, physical distancing)

Other AIS

- Sample analysis also checks for other AIS such as Asian clam
- Currently reviewing priority waterbody list for 2021 season



Questions?

Martina.Beck@gov.bc.ca