

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Help Protect Our Lakes: Dock Owners Needed for Invasive Mussel Project**

Summerland, BC - The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) is enlisting the support of community dock owners for a citizen science project aimed at protecting Okanagan lakes from invasive mussels.

The project is seeking residents who own private docks on Kalamalka, Wood, Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos lakes. Volunteers will be provided with a pair of monitors to attach to their docks and will be required to check them for invasive mussels every two weeks from July through September.

Lisa Scott, Executive Director of OASISS, emphasizes the significance of community involvement. "Introduction of invasive mussels would impact everyone in the Okanagan," warns Scott. "This project offers a chance for people to actively participate in combating an important environmental issue that would affect us all. Our lakes are central to our communities and protecting them has never been more imperative."

Zebra and quagga mussels have infested more than 800 lakes in North America since they were first introduced to the Great Lakes in the late 1980s. To date, there has been no reported introduction of live zebra or quagga mussels into B.C. lakes or waterways. However, the risk of contamination through watercraft is ever-present, making early detection crucial. The consequences of an invasion would be dire, causing irreversible damage to lake ecosystems, water quality, recreation and tourism, and municipal water infrastructure.

OASISS has been checking for invasive mussels in Okanagan lakes for 12 years. This project presents a unique opportunity to expand the society's monitoring efforts to locations that are not currently monitored or publicly inaccessible.

The project is being funded by the Okanagan Basin Water Board as part of its "Don't Move A Mussel" campaign. This effort strengthens invasive mussel monitoring in lakes and rivers throughout the Columbia Basin.

If you are interested in this citizen science project, contact [oasiss@shaw.ca](mailto:oasiss@shaw.ca).

Understand invasive mussel threats to the Okanagan and get prevention tips at [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca).

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**About the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS)**

[www.oasiss.ca](http://www.oasiss.ca)

[www.facebook.com/invasivespeciessociety](https://www.facebook.com/invasivespeciessociety)

[www.instagram.com/okanaganinvasives](https://www.instagram.com/okanaganinvasives)

The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention, detection and management of invasive species in the Okanagan-Similkameen region. Established in 1996, OASISS addresses invasive species and their pathways of spread. Partners work collaboratively to prioritize species and management areas. The role of OASISS is to encourage and facilitate coordinated inventory, treatment and monitoring of invasive plants. The society is also responsible for monitoring local lakes for invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Public education programming and training is provided via websites, social media and in person throughout the region.

**For more information on invasive mussels**

[www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca)

**For more information on the B.C. Invasive Mussel Defence Program**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/invasive-mussels>