

2023 Potential Changes to AIS Program

Protecting the long-term health of Clear Lake

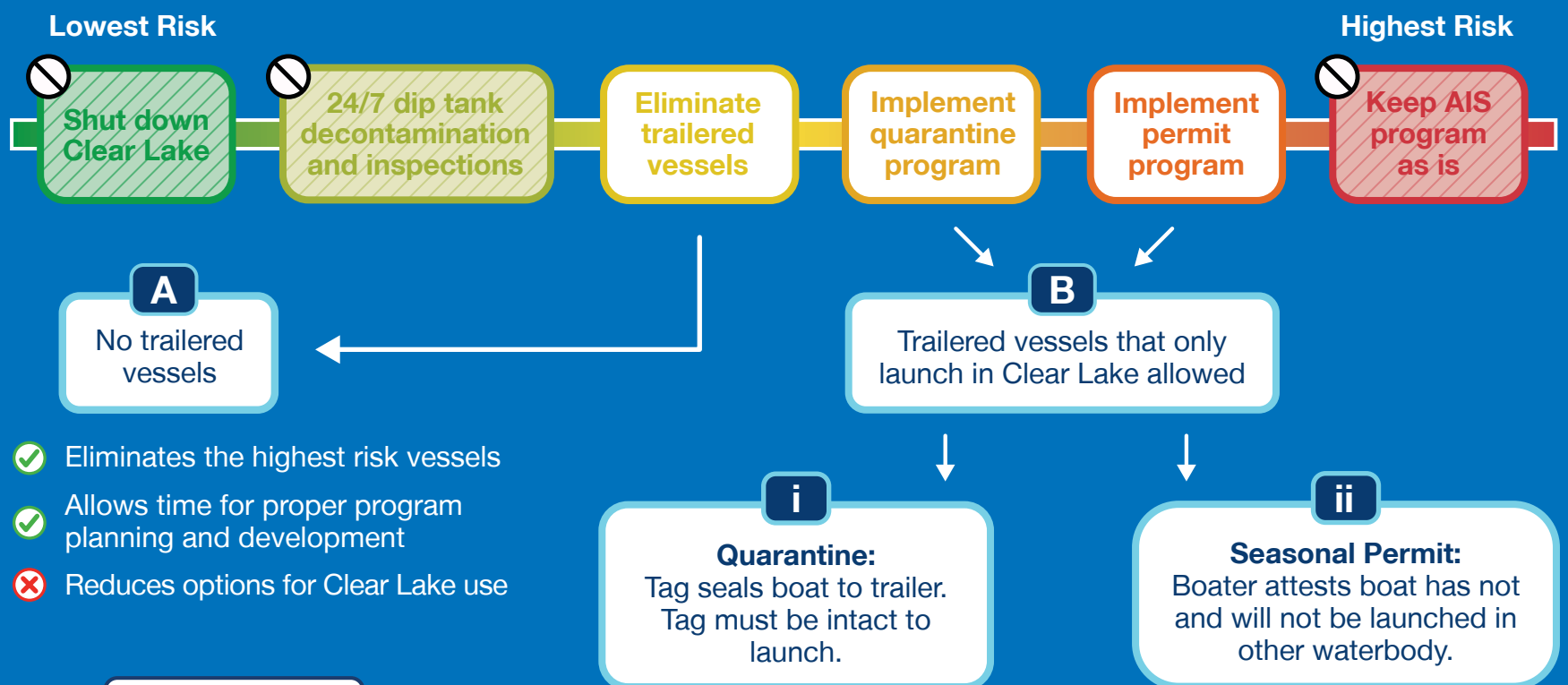
April 24, 2023

Parks Canada is considering changes to its Aquatic Invasive Species Program in Riding Mountain National Park for the 2023 season. These changes would be intended to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

AIS Program Options for 2023

 - Not feasible for 2023

Parks Canada has considered several responses for the 2023 boating season. Each has different risk.



- ✔ Eliminates the highest risk vessels
- ✔ Allows time for proper program planning and development
- ✘ Reduces options for Clear Lake use

Did You Know?

Hundreds of organisms can survive in a single drop of water for at least a week.

- ✔ Eliminates the highest risk vessels
- ✔ Retains diverse use of Clear Lake
- ✘ Tight timelines to develop reliable program
- ✔ Eliminates some higher risk vessels
- ✔ Existing framework in place
- ✘ Relies on honour system

Risk Level of Watercraft and Equipment

Every vessel or piece of equipment poses a risk:



Lowest Risk

Canoes and kayaks may pose a higher risk because they are often used in multiple waterbodies in a short period of time. However, if they are properly, **cleaned, drained, and dried**, this risk is significantly reduced.

Highest Risk

Non-trailered Vessels



All non-trailered vessels or self-propelled watercraft such as stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, etc. are subject to mandatory inspection and decontamination for the 2023 season.

Limiting Risk



Trailered boats are more difficult to drain and have more places for AIS to hide. Self-propelled watercraft like canoes and kayaks are estimated to pose **one-tenth** the risk of spreading AIS compared to wind-powered or motorized boats.

Source: Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (2017)



Riding Mountain National Park

Parc national du Mont-Riding



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Clean, Drain, Dry



Everyone plays a role in protecting Clear Lake. Everything used in the water must be **Cleaned, Drained, and Dried** before and after each use.

CLEAN - Remove all plants, mud, and organisms from boat and gear.

DRAIN - Drain water from all areas before leaving. Remember to keep all plugs out until next launch.

DRY - Allow boat and gear to dry completely before launching again.



Decontamination Confidence Spectrum



All or most surfaces visible and thus easy to decontaminate

Hidden areas can store water and AIS; Cannot see inside closed compartments

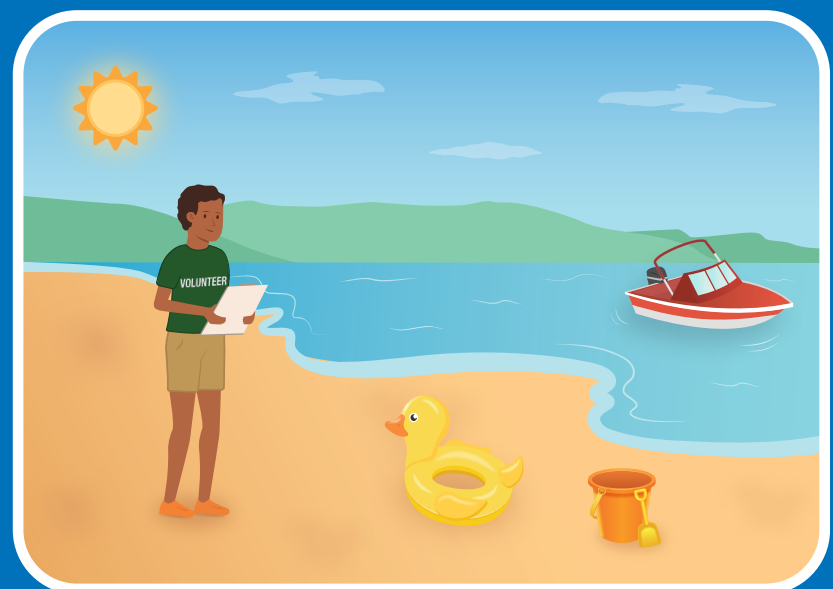
Water Toys and Other Equipment

Parks Canada is looking at options for inspection and decontamination of personal floatation devices, beach toys and other items.

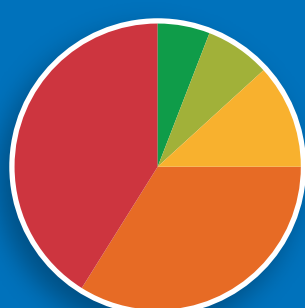


Volunteers

Parks Canada hopes volunteers can play an important role in protecting the health of Clear Lake. Volunteers could inform visitors about changes to the rules.



Decontamination Times



- Paddleboard: 15-20 min
- Kayak / Canoe: 20-30 min
- Basic motorized boat: 30-45 min
- Wake boat: 90-120 min
- Large boat: 2-3 hours

Looking Ahead

Prevention is essential! Once established, zebra mussels are nearly impossible to eradicate. An infestation in Clear Lake would impact ecological integrity, recreation, and infrastructure for drinking water, fire fighting and flood management both inside, and outside, the park.

Protecting Clear Lake is a shared responsibility. All Clear Lake users play a part in keeping zebra mussels out of Riding Mountain National Park.



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