



## ***STOLEN BOATS CANADA***

Non profit- Public Service - \_Jamie Gibson 778-229-6932

# **INVASIVE SPECIES VESSEL INSPECTIONS**

### **B.C. Watercraft Inspection Stations**

**If you are transporting a watercraft in B.C. it is mandatory to stop and report to all invasive mussel watercraft inspection stations along your travel route.** Watercraft includes sailboats, motorboats, car toppers, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards being transported in B.C. The B.C. Conservation Officer Service has a team of specialized inspectors checking and if necessary decontaminating watercraft being transported into B.C.

Inspectors are trained in watercraft inspection and decontamination following the standard protocol that is used across the Pacific Northwest. All watercraft owners coming through watercraft inspection stations are asked a series of questions by the inspectors to determine if the watercraft is high or low risk. Two key questions asked by inspectors to determine watercraft risk are:

Where was the watercraft in the last 30 days ?

How long has the watercraft been out of the water?

### **Fines for Failing to Stop**

Under Provincial legislation, all watercraft entering B.C. and passing by an open inspection station must report in. Failure to stop at an open inspection station could result in a \$345 fine. In 2018, 82 tickets and 50 warnings were issued by Conservation Officers to motorists for failing to stop at inspection stations. Watercraft operators who fail to stop at an inspection station are being reported to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline and full time Conservation Officers are responding and following up. The program will be stepping up enforcement at the inspection stations during the 2019 season.

