

District of Sicamous

446 Main Street
PO Box 219
Sicamous, BC
V0E 2V0

T: 250 836 2477
F: 250 836 4314
E: info@sicamous.ca
sicamous.ca



March 18, 2021

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Re: Invasive Asian Clams

Dear Minister Heyman,

At its January 27, 2021 Regular Council meeting, the Council for the District of Sicamous passed the following resolution:

"WHEREAS invasive Asian clams (Corbicula fluminea) are known to threaten the natural biodiversity of lakes by competing with native species for sustenance and space, cause biofouling to water treatments systems, alter water chemistry, and potentially reduce the quality of drinking water;

AND WHEREAS the spread of Asian clams will have significant environmental, social, and economic consequences for our waterways, wildlife and communities;

AND WHEREAS the Controlled Alien Species Regulation exists under the Wildlife Act to enforce controls for species that pose a risk to people, property, wildlife, and wildlife habitat:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to designate invasive Asian clams (Corbicula fluminea) as a Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the Wildlife Act."

We kindly request your consideration and support of this resolution and have enclosed background information on the resolution for your reference.

Regards,

DISTRICT OF SICAMOUS

cc: Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Premier Horgan
UBCM Member Municipalities

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Memo

To: Southern Interior Local Government Association

From: District of Sicamous Council

Date: February 22, 2021

Re: Certified Resolution 21-047
Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) worthy of Controlled Alien Species Regulation

Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are not native to Canada, however a recent study conducted by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS), discovered live Asian clams in Shuswap Lake. According to the Invasive Species Council of BC, the species has also made its way to southern Vancouver Island and river systems in the Lower Mainland including the Fraser River, Pitt River, and Coquitlam River.

After the CSISS study was brought to the attention of the District of Sicamous Council, research demonstrated that Asian clams, which can self-fertilize and reproduce rapidly, have the capacity to disrupt natural biodiversity and ecosystems, negatively impact native species by competing for sustenance and space, cause biofouling to water treatment systems, alter water chemistry, and reduce the quality of drinking water.

Further inquiry determined Asian clams are not scheduled within the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the Wildlife Act which controls "alien animals that pose a risk to the health or safety of people, property, wildlife or wildlife habitat." Council argues that Asian clams pose such risks with environmental, social, and economic consequences for waterways and communities provincewide.

Therefore, Council pursued and adopted Resolution 21-047 which calls on B.C. Government to use its authority to designate Asian clams as an Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation.

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Certified Resolution # 21-047

It was moved and seconded:

WHEREAS invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are known to threaten the natural biodiversity of lakes by competing with native species for sustenance and space, cause biofouling to water treatments systems, alter water chemistry, and potentially reduce the quality of drinking water;

AND WHEREAS the spread of Asian clams will have significant environmental, social, and economic consequences for our waterways, wildlife and communities;


AND WHEREAS the Controlled Alien Species Regulation exists under the Wildlife Act to enforce controls for species that pose a risk to people, property, wildlife, and wildlife habitat:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to designate invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) as a Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the Wildlife Act.

Carried

Certified a true and correct copy of a resolution endorsed by the Council at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 27, 2021.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2021.



Jennifer Bruns
Corporate Officer