**Whirling Disease Resources:**

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Aquatic Animal Health**

**Website:** English: [Aquatic animal health - Canadian Food Inspection Agency](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/eng/1299155892122/1320536294234)  French: [Santé des animaux aquatiques - Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments](https://inspection.canada.ca/sante-des-animaux/animaux-aquatiques/fra/1299155892122/1320536294234) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Indigenous Liaison- Western Canada

Whirling Disease 2024

Canadian Food Inspection Agency | Government of Canada

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**Learn more about Whirling disease (WD):**

* [Fact Sheet – Whirling Disease](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/whirling-disease/fact-sheet/eng/1336686597267/1336686806593)
* [Whirling Disease - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/aquatic-species/aquatic-invasives/whirling-disease)

**Species affected:**

* Whirling disease affects trout and salmon. For a complete list of species affected by WD, please see the [Fact Sheet – Whirling Disease](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/whirling-disease/fact-sheet/eng/1336686597267/1336686806593).

**WD presence in British Columbia:**

* The CFIA confirmed the presence of WD (infection with *Myxobolus cerebralis*) in the Columbia River watershed in British Columbia on December 6, 2023.
* Previously, WD had only been detected in Canada in the Province of Alberta.

**Prevention of disease spread:**

* In order to prevent the spread of WD, the Columbia River watershed has been declared an infected area for this disease.
  + The [infected area](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/declarations/eng/1450126558469/1450126559315#:~:text=where%20the%20reportable%20aquatic%20animal%20diseases%20are%20known%20to%20occur%20in%20Canada%20(infected%20area)%2C) declaration does not mean that every susceptible finfish population within the Columbia River watershed is infected with WD.
  + Good practices such as cleaning, draining, and drying gear and equipment within the infected area remains very important to prevent any further spread and also to keep the parasite level as low as possible. This will help to minimize the impact of this disease on all susceptible finfish species.
* The rest of [British Columbia](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/finfish/eng/1450409829304/1450409830112#:~:text=of%20Pacific%20Ocean-,British%20Columbia,-Ceratomyxa%20shasta) has been declared as a buffer area for this disease.
  + A [buffer area](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/declarations/eng/1450126558469/1450126559315#:~:text=where%20the%20reportable%20aquatic%20animal%20diseases%20may%20occur%20because%20of%20a%20link%20to%20an%20infected%20area%20(buffer%20area)) is where the reportable aquatic animal disease *may* occur because of a link to an infected area, but the disease has not been confirmed.
* Establishment of these areas will help the CFIA to prevent the spread of WD out of the infected area through controlling certain movements which pose a risk of disease spread. It also allows disease control measures for the buffer areas to prevent the disease from being introduced.
* In order to prevent further spread of WD in British Columbia, the CFIA will implement domestic movement controls for species and things and end uses which pose a risk of spreading the disease. For additional information, please visit the [Domestic Movement Control Program (DMCP)](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/domestic-movements/eng/1450122972517/1450122973466).

**Recreational and sport fishing, and ceremonial use will not require a CFIA permit.**

* Additional information on preventing the spread of disease:
  + [Province of British Columbia Whirling Disease](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/aquatic-species/aquatic-invasives/whirling-disease)
  + [British Columbia Invasive Species](https://bcinvasives.ca/play-your-part/clean-drain-dry/)
  + [Canadian Council of Invasive Species](https://canadainvasives.ca/programs/clean-drain-dry/).

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