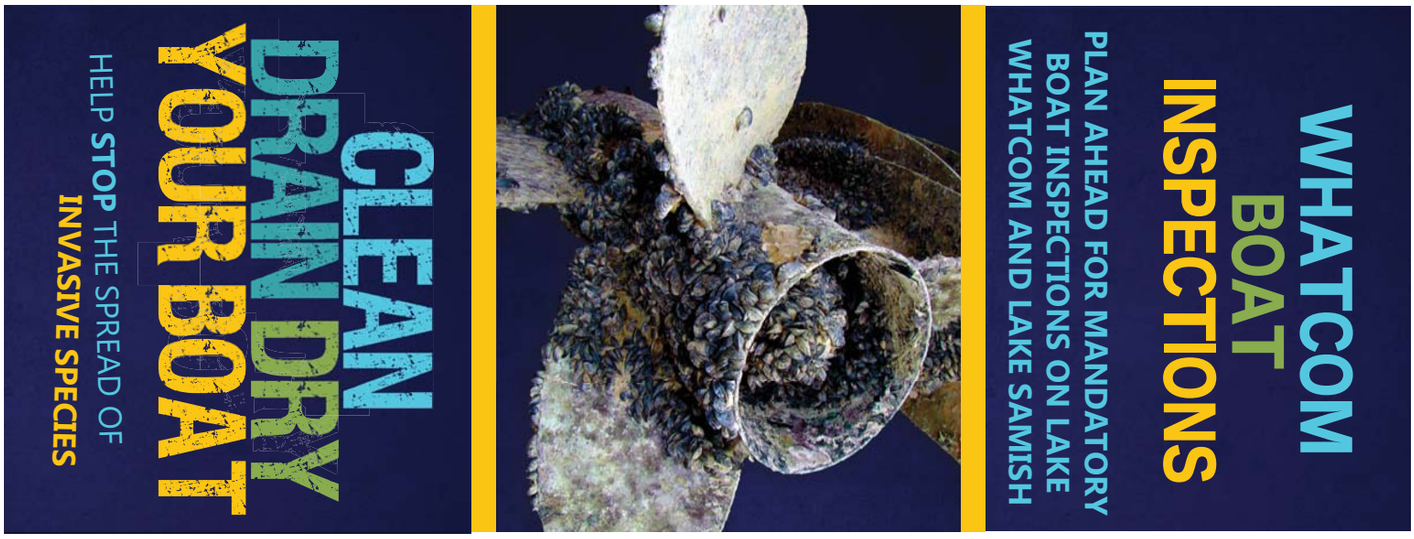
Lake Whatcom Management Program
c/o City of Bellingham Public Works
2221 Pacific St., Bellingham, WA 98229

www.whatcomboatinspections.com | 360-778-7975



STOP THE INVASION. PROTECT YOUR RECREATION AND DRINKING WATER.

The Culprits: Aquatic invasive species

Aquatic invasive species are non-native aquatic plants, animals, and pathogens that can cause economic loss, environmental damage, and harm to human health. Aquatic invasive species can easily be spread to new waters by watercraft that are transported from one fresh waterbody to another. Once established, they can result in significant impacts to our environment, economy, and infrastructure.

CLEAN

Remove all aquatic plants, animals, and mud then thoroughly wash everything, especially in crevices and hidden areas.

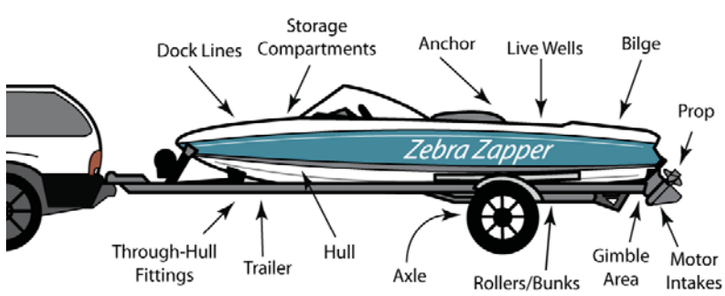
DRAIN

Drain water from your boat, trailer, tackle and gear, including wells, bilge, and engine cooling water, before leaving the area.

DRY

Allow sufficient time for your boat and equipment to completely dry before entering other waters.

BEFORE LAUNCHING
BEFORE LEAVING
INSPECT EVERYTHING!



Whatcom Boat Inspections

Plan ahead for mandatory boat inspections at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish.

New Boating Requirements in Whatcom County

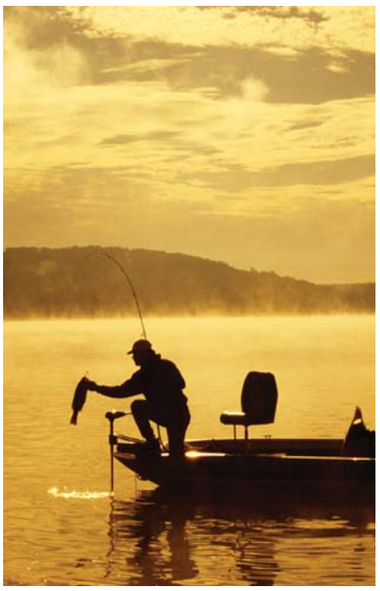
Inspections are required for all watercraft operating on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish (BMC 12.12.280 and WCC 2.27A), including non-motorized, hand-carried watercraft, such as canoes and kayaks. Prior to launching, and while operating on both lakes, all watercraft must display a valid aquatic invasive species permit. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in penalties of up to $1,000. Permits are not required for surfboards, paddle boards, and kite boards; float tubes and water sport toys; and inflatables that are 10 feet or less in length.

Motorized or Registered Watercraft

- **Annual Permit** ($50) unlimited inspections (valid through Dec. 31)
- **3-Day Pass** ($20) unlimited inspections (valid for 3 consecutive days)

Non-Motorized Watercraft

- **Annual Permit** ($10) unlimited inspections (valid through Dec. 31)



Inspection Locations

- **Bloedel Donovan:** Electric Ave., Bellingham, 5 a.m.–9 p.m., 7 days a week.
- **Lake Samish WDFW Boat Launch:** East Lake Samish Drive, Bellingham.
- **Lake Whatcom WDFW Boat Launch:** South Bay Drive, Sedro-Woolley.
- **On-site Inspections** by appointment for boats kept on either lake that cannot be trailered. Call (360) 778-7975 to make an appointment.

Payment Options

- **Inspection Locations:** Credit/debit cards only.
- **Online:** www.cob.org/payments. Bring your printed receipt with you to your inspection as proof of payment. Credit/debit cards only.
- **City Hall:** City of Bellingham Finance Department, 210 Lottie St., Bellingham, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M–F. Cash, checks, or credit/debit cards.

What to Expect at the Inspection

Inspectors look for animal or plant material on the watercraft that may pose a risk to Whatcom County waters. The inspector will ask you several questions about your boat launching history, followed by a visual and physical inspection of the hull, trailer, and interior compartments of your boat. Inspectors will ensure that your boat has been cleaned, drained, and dried with no signs of aquatic invasive species. Some aquatic invasive species or their larvae can be transported on damp gear or in standing water.

Preparing Your Boat

You can make the inspection a quick and simple process by making sure that your boat is clean, drained, and dry before arriving at the inspection, and removing any gear or equipment from internal compartments ahead of time.

Launching at the Same Location Multiple Times

Boats launching at a location with an Aquatic Invasive Species Check Station are required to be inspected every time they launch, unless they have been tethered using a Lake Whatcom Management Program wire seal. If you plan on returning to the same location, ask an inspector about our wire seal program to speed up your next launch.

Lake Whatcom Management Program
A collaboration of the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, & the Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District

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~ Updated February 2014 ~