

# AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

## TOOL KIT

# 5

## SPECIES AT RISK AND AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



### GUIDING QUESTIONS

- *What is a Species at Risk?*
- *What is being done to help aquatic and semi-aquatic Species at Risk?*
- *What is an Aquatic Invasive Species?*
- *How do Aquatic Invasive Species impact Alberta's aquatic ecosystems?*

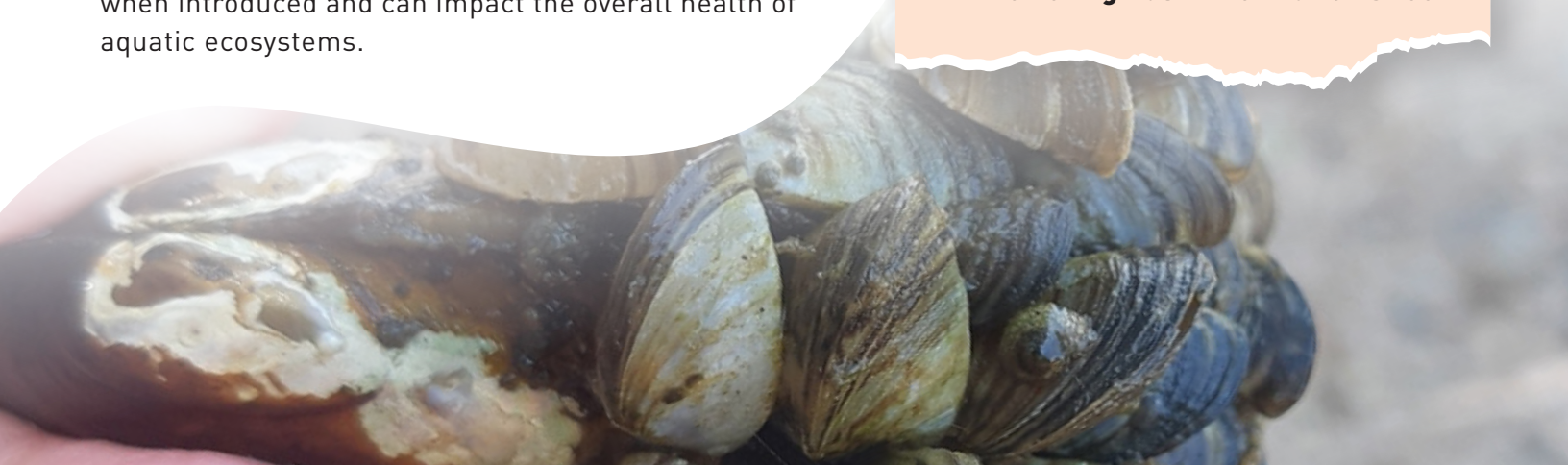
### INTRODUCTION

Species at Risk are organisms with declining populations that are at risk of becoming extinct or extirpated (disappearing from a certain area). Aquatic ecosystems in Alberta support at risk species such as the woodland caribou, bull trout, long-toed salamander, whooping crane and northern leopard frog.

There are many factors that can lead a species to become at risk, one of which is the introduction of invasive species. Aquatic invasive species such as goldfish, zebra mussels and quagga mussels out compete native species when introduced and can impact the overall health of aquatic ecosystems.

### MATERIALS FROM KIT

- **Native Trout Poster**
- **Woodland Caribou Poster**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Story Cards (9)**
- **Zebra and Quagga Mussels & Flowering Rush Information Sheet**



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the **Aquatic Invasive Species Story Cards** in the correct order to tell the story of what happens when an invasive species is introduced to a new waterbody.
2. Use the **Zebra and Quagga Mussels & Flowering Rush Information Sheet** to answer the following questions:
  - **Where did invasive mussels originate and how did they get to North America?**
  - **List 3 reasons why flowering rush does not belong in Alberta.**
3. Use the **Native Trout Poster** to answer the following questions:
  - **What is the provincial fish of Alberta?**
  - **Which 3 species of trout have a “threatened” status?**
  - **What is 1 thing you can do to help trout?**
4. Use the **Caribou Poster** to answer the following questions:
  - **What special type of wetland provides important habitat for caribou?**
  - **What type of food does a caribou dig for with its hooves?**  
*(It is commonly found in wetlands!)*

## STEWARDSHIP CHECKLIST

### Ways you can help:

- ✓ Never release aquarium or pond fish into a water body.
- ✓ Clean, drain and dry all your boating and fishing gear.
- ✓ Boaters and anglers must be licensed and understand the fishing regulations when fishing.
- ✓ Learn how to identify fish species and if you catch a fish you don't know then always let it go! Place any unused bait back in original container and then in the garbage - not in the water.
- ✓ Report invasive species to the Alberta Government by calling the invasive species hotline 1-855-336-BOAT (2628).

