

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

INVASIVE CLAM (*Corbicula fluminea*)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES
www2.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CLAM?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Southeast Asia and parts of central and eastern Australia, Africa, Indonesia and Turkey.
- Shell is triangular shaped and usually less than 2.5 cm but up to 6.5 cm in length, and yellow-green to light-brown in color with elevated growth rings.
- They are found in brackish to freshwater rivers, lakes, streams, canals and reservoirs.
- Found at the sediment surface or slightly buried in silt, sand or gravel substrates.
- They are filter-feeders, and prefer flowing water and they have a low tolerance for polluted or near freezing water temperatures.
- Their life span is about 1-7 years and they can self-fertilize and reproduce rapidly, with a single clam producing up to 70,000 eggs/year.



Image: www.midlandangling.com

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PRIMARY THREAT: Can reach high densities and cause loss of biodiversity due to competition for food and space with native species, can alter water chemistry and drinking water and cause biofouling of pipes and water treatment systems.

DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

C. fluminea are found in approximately 38 US States and three of the Great Lakes (Erie, Michigan, and Superior). In Canada they have been reported in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia

OCTOBER 2020: Confirmed locations in the Lower Fraser, Pitt and Coquitlam Rivers, one waterbody on Southern-Vancouver Island and Shuswap Lake in south-central B.C.

LOOK-ALIKES

Juvenile *C. fluminea* can resemble the native fingernail/pea clam species (Sphaeriidae family) but the shells are thinner and oval shaped and brown to gray in color.

SPREAD

C. fluminea can spread by human transport and water currents and have been sold for aquarium use, bait and human consumption.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** sightings
- **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** your watercraft and gear after every use
- **DON'T LET IT LOOSE** never release aquarium pets or plants into the wild
- Be aware of bait restrictions in B.C.

