

Chief Executive Officer



June 4, 2021

BY E-MAIL ONLY (invasive.species@ontario.ca)

Public Input Coordinator
MNRF - Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch
300 Water Street
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RE: Regulating 13 invasive species and watercraft as a carrier of invasive species under Ontario's Invasive Species Act, 2015 (ERO #019-3465), and Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs (ERO #019-3468)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) postings as noted above.

TRCA conducts itself in accordance with the objects, powers, roles and responsibilities set out for conservation authorities under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and MNRF Procedural Manual chapter on CA policies and procedures for plan review and permitting. TRCA is:

- A public commenting body under the *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*;
- An agency delegated the responsibility to represent the provincial interest on natural hazards under Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS);
- A regulatory authority under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*;
- A service provider to municipal partners and other public agencies;
- A Source Protection Authority under the *Clean Water Act*;
- A resource management agency; and
- A major landowner in the Greater Toronto Area.

In these roles, and as stated in "A Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan," TRCA works in collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources. Through Memorandums of Understanding and Service Level Agreements, TRCA provides technical support to its provincial and municipal partners in implementing municipal growth management policies. Our municipal partners rely on TRCA's assistance for implementing the natural heritage policies of the Provincial Policy Statement by conserving and restoring natural heritage resources through our mandate under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. In our role of conserving natural resources, TRCA works with municipalities and

other stakeholders to manage invasive species to the extent possible in a highly urbanized jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

We understand that under the *Invasive Species Act*, 2015, decisions to recommend species for regulation are based on the risk that a species poses to Ontario's natural environment and socio-economic well-being. The Act directs that these risks be identified through species-specific ecological risk assessments, the experiences of other jurisdictions, and public consultation.

Further, we understand that the Province has determined the species listed below have the potential to, or are already, causing negative impacts to Ontario's natural environment and that regulation under the *Invasive Species Act* would improve Ontario's ability to prevent their introduction or spread. The Province is seeking feedback on the proposed species and carrier specific rules, and on Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs.

Prohibited Invasive Species

Prohibited species cannot be brought into Ontario, deposited, released, possessed or transported in Ontario and cannot be propagated, bought, sold or traded in Ontario.

Species proposed to be regulated as prohibited invasive species are:

Marbled crayfish	<i>Procambarus virginalis</i>
Red Swamp crayfish	<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>
New Zealand mud snail	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>
Tench	<i>Tinca tinca</i> (fish)
Prussian carp	<i>Carassius gibelio</i> (fish)
European frogbit	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> (aquatic plant)
Mountain pine beetle	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>

Restricted Invasive Species

Restricted species cannot be deposited or released in Ontario and cannot be brought into a provincial park or conservation reserve. In addition, the ministry may prescribe additional prohibitions for certain restricted species through regulation that would reduce the risk of that species being introduced or spread further in Ontario, while also allowing some activities to occur.

Species proposed to be regulated as restricted invasive species are:

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| • Yellow floating heart | <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> (aquatic plant) |
| • Fanwort | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> (aquatic plant) |
| • Bohemian knotweed | <i>Reynoutria xbohemica</i> (terrestrial plant) |
| • Giant knotweed | <i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> (terrestrial plant) |
| • Himalayan knotweed | <i>Koenigia polystachya</i> (terrestrial plant) |
| • Pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> |

In summary, the following rules would apply to pigs under the proposal:

1. prohibit the release of any pig into the natural environment
2. prohibit bringing a live pig into a provincial park or conservation reserve
3. prohibit hunting wild pigs with exceptions for activities to protect property from damage caused by wild pigs
4. over a two-year period, phase-out the import, possession, transport, propagation, buying, selling, leasing, or trading of live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids

To support efforts to capture and remove a pig that is present in the wild, it is also proposed to apply Section 23 - Declaration of an invaded place and Section 27 – Actions to control or eradicate invasive species of the Invasive Species Act to pigs. More information on the plan to address the threat of pigs as an invasive species, and how the regulatory proposal supports this objective is in Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs.

Proposed Rules for Overland Movement of Watercraft as a Carrier of Invasive Species:

Prior to transporting a watercraft overland, a person would be required to:

- remove drain plugs and drain all water from the watercraft, excluding drinking water, water in marine sanitary systems, and water used for engine cooling in a closed system.
- take reasonable measures to remove aquatic plants from the watercraft, watercraft equipment, and any vehicle or trailer used to transport the watercraft.

The watercraft, trailer and watercraft equipment must be free of all aquatic organisms before being placed into any body of water.

TRCA COMMENTS

TRCA generally supports the proposals for invasive species management as described in the ERO postings and in the draft Strategy on Invasive Wild Pigs. In TRCA's experience, proactive assessment and management of invasive species is required to avoid ecological, economic and societal impacts of these species, particularly in the face of a changing climate. Aggressive action to monitor and control invasive species in the near term can mitigate long-term impacts.

Strong consideration should be given to the geographical distribution of species and carriers selected for regulation. Invasive species of concern may be different in terms of their impact and current pervasiveness depending on geography and dominant land use. For example, most dominantly urban regions have specific invasive species (e.g., Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)) and pathways/carriers that are much more problematic in these regions as compared to the other parts of the province. Despite their relatively limited established ranges, these species may have significant implications on provincial goals and objectives, and it is therefore critical that additional species be reviewed for potential regulation. Partnering with local and regional municipalities along with conservation authorities will provide this information and guidance.

TRCA staff are active in the field across our nearly 3,500 km² jurisdiction. Staff observations and

experience have informed the identification of multiple non-native plants as existing or emerging threats in our jurisdiction. For example, a few years ago *Miscanthus* sp. was typically observed growing in ditches near residential areas where it had been planted as a garden plant and was rarely documented in non-landscaped areas. Now, staff more commonly observe this non-native invasive plant located relatively far from residential areas. This development justifies assessment of the risk *Miscanthus* sp. poses to the natural environment and economy.

Another example is Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). TRCA works with our municipal partners on invasive species management. Based on TRCA data, Norway maple is the second most dominant sub-canopy forest layer in Toronto ravines after Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) and is targeted for strategic removal from ravines by the City of Toronto and TRCA. Meanwhile, Norway maple sales by private industry to municipalities continue, so that public dollars are used for acquiring and for removing the species at the same time. As Norway maple was heavily planted and promoted by the Province in the 1970s and those trees are now seed producers whose progeny is clearly successfully in Toronto's ravines, a risk assessment should be a straight-forward exercise.

TRCA would therefore support prohibition under the *Invasive Species Act* of additional species beyond those currently proposed by MNRF but recognizes that under the Act, ecological risk assessments to determine the appropriate approach for managing each of the species must first take place. The recommended species for regulation are listed below.

- i. Amur silver grass (*Miscanthus sacchariflorus*)
- ii. Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)
- iii. Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
- iv. Curly-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
- v. English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- vi. Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- vii. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*)
- viii. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- ix. Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)
- x. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- xi. Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- xii. Japanese chaff flower (*Achyranthes japonica*)
- xiii. Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vamineu*)
- xiv. Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- xv. Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), with appropriate notification to the horticultural industry
- xvi. Oriental/Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- xvii. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
- xviii. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- xix. Rough manna grass (*Glyceria maxima*)
- xx. Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)
- xxi. Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), as it is the preferred host for the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) which is currently a regulated species under the federal *Plant*

Protection Act

- xxii. Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
- xxiii. White mulberry (*Morus alba*)
- xxiv. Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)
- xxv. Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)
- xxvi. Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
- xxvii. Winged euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*)
- xxviii. Winter creeper euonymous (*Euonymus fortune*)
- xxix. Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)
- xxx. Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- xxxi. Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
- xxxii. Morrow honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*)
- xxxiii. Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera xbella*)

TRCA RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above, TRCA recommends that, in addition to the proposed species regulation, carrier specific rules and the draft Strategy on Invasive Wild Pigs, the Ministry undertake ecological risk assessments to determine the appropriate approach for managing the 33 species listed above, which pose immediate threats to the environmental, social, and economic resilience of Ontario.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on the government's consultation on invasive species management. Should you have any questions, require clarification on any of the above, or wish to meet to discuss our remarks, please contact the undersigned at 416.667.6290 or at john.mackenzie@trca.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

John MacKenzie, M.Sc.(PI) MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer

BY E-MAIL

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