



INFORMATION LETTER and CONSENT FORM for the *CARASSIUS* SIGHTING REPORT

Study Title:

The role of Alberta anglers in tracking and controlling Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*)

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Background

- You are submitting a sighting report of a *Carassius* fish because this study is interested in identifying factors that may affect angler engagement in aquatic invasive species (AIS) reporting and removal, and understanding *Carassius* distribution.
- The results of this study will be used in support of my (Natasha Pentyliuk's), thesis. This project is a partnership between ACA, Mitacs, and the University of Alberta.
- The commercialization of research findings is not currently considered an option but may be in the future.

Purpose

- The purpose of this study is to better understand the factors that may affect angler behaviours surrounding AIS, and provide insights into *Carassius* distribution in Alberta. This research will aid in informing the creation and/or improvement of approaches to the mitigation of AIS spread.

Study Procedures

- You will be able to choose whether or not you want to receive further contact from the study, and/or to be involved with future phases of this research.
- Your email is your identifier that will be used to link your fish report to a survey you may also submit.
- After selecting "I agree", and submitting a sighting report, you will receive a conformation email that your report was received.
- By selecting "I consent to further study-related communications", your contact information will be able to be used for other communications related to this study, other than just your report confirmation email.

Benefits

- We hope that the information we get from doing this study will help us better understand the factors that may affect angler behaviours surrounding AIS, and provide insights into *Carassius*

distributions in Alberta. This research will aid in informing the creation and/or improvement of approaches to the mitigation of AIS spread.

Risk

- If we learn anything during the research that may affect your willingness to continue being in the study, we will tell you right away.

Voluntary Participation

- You are under no obligation to participate in this study. The participation is completely voluntary.
- Even if you agree to be in the study you can change your mind and not submit your current report. Though we cannot delete submissions completely from our archives, you may ask for your response(s) to be withdrawn from future analysis at any time up to two weeks after the completion of your report by contacting us at contact@invasivereport.com.

Confidentiality & Anonymity

- The purpose of this study is for the completion of a thesis and for publication. Participants will not be able to be personally identified in any of these.
- Data will be kept confidential; only those directly involved with the handling of the research data will have access to the data.
- Participants will not be identified in the dissemination of the research.
- Data are to be kept in a secure place for a minimum of 5 years following completion of the research project. Electronic data will be password protected and encrypted, and when appropriate destroyed in a way that ensures privacy and confidentiality.
- Persons interested in receiving a copy of a report of the research findings can communicate their interest by contacting us at contact@invasivereport.com.
- We may use the data we get from this study in future research, but if we do this it will have to be approved by a Research Ethics Board.

Further Information

- If you have any further questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact us at contact@invasivereport.com.
- The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you have questions about your rights or how research should be conducted, you can call (780) 492-2615. This office is independent of the researchers.

Consent Statement

I have read this form and the research study has been explained to me. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. If I have additional questions, I have been told whom to contact. I agree to participate in the research study described above and am able to download a copy of this consent form.

Ethics ID number: Pro00090898