

How can you help?



Michelle Robinson DCR

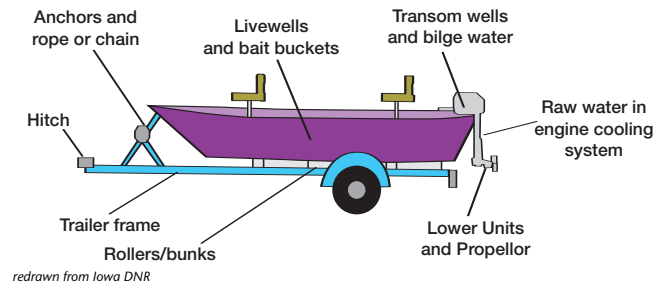
- Remove all plants and animals from your boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear and dive gear and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.
- Flush engines and dispose of livewell, bait bucket and cooling water away from the shore after each use.
- Never release any plant or animal into a body of water unless it came out of that body of water.
- Never empty aquariums into a waterbody.
- Inspect and wash your boat, preferably with hot water, and allow it to completely dry before entering another body of water.
- Request a free sign for your boat ramp.
- Familiarize yourself with invasive species by requesting one of our free guides.
- Join the Massachusetts Weed Watchers Program and help identify and report new infestations.

DCR Lakes and Ponds Program
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2014
617-626-1411

www.mass.gov/lakesandponds

Remember:

Always remove all plant fragments from your boat, trailer and gear. Dispose of livewell, bait bucket and cooling water well away from the shore.



redrawn from Iowa DNR



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Cover photo, Maine DEP

Mitt Romney, Governor
Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor
Stephen R. Pritchard
Secretary, EOEA

Attention Boaters!

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Lakes and Ponds Program



What are invasive species?

Our lakes contain a wide variety of native plants and animals that are essential to a healthy lake ecosystem. These native species originated here in New England and are well adapted to our climate and to the other species that live here. However, several “non-native” or “exotic” species have been brought here from other parts of the country and the world. These species are considered “invasive” because they are able to dominate or significantly alter an area’s ecology. Once established, they continue to spread to additional lakes or ponds by hitching rides on boat trailers, gear and in bait buckets.

When invasive species enter a waterbody they can have a devastating impact. Since the local ecosystem did not develop natural controls (animals or other plants to limit their growth) invasive species may spread rapidly.

Why are they harmful?

- Many invasive plants form dense mats of vegetation that can restrict boating, fishing and swimming, and make the waterway entirely impassable.
- Many native plants cannot compete for space or food with exotic species, and are crowded out or eliminated from the area. This reduces the natural biological diversity and disrupts the basic ecological relationships that sustain a healthy and balanced lake.
- The lake’s aesthetic appeal, recreational value and surrounding property values may quickly decline as the invasive species takes over.
- The microscopic larval stage of Zebra Mussel and Asian Clam can easily travel undetected in bilge, bait, and livewell water. They can proliferate at an alarming rate and frequently destroy boat motors, buoys, and fishing gear. Their razor sharp shells often create a hazard for beach visitors.
- Once invasive plants are established, they are almost impossible to eradicate. The United States spends millions of dollars annually to control exotic species.

Invasive Plants & Animals

A few of the invasive species to watch for...



King County website

Eurasian Milfoil



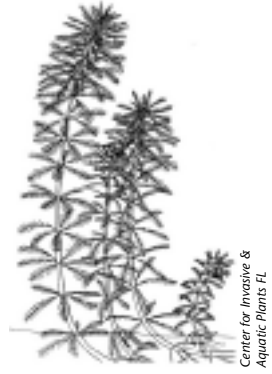
Maine DEP

Variable Milfoil



Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England

Water Chestnut



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

Parrot Feather



King County website

Fanwort



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

Curly-leaved Pondweed



Charles Ranciaran, Wisconsin Sea Grant

Zebra Mussel



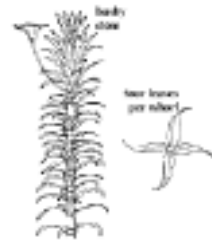
Connecticut Sea Grant College

Asian Clam



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

Hydrilla



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

South American Waterweed



West Virginia DNR

Snakehead Fish

Please report any sightings immediately to the Lakes and Ponds Program 617 626-1411