



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian clams, and zebra mussels, can be spread between waterbodies on boating and fishing equipment that has not been cleaned, drained, and dried. Help protect the Finger Lakes by following these guidelines.

## ✓ CLEAN

AFTER BOATING, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LAUNCH:

**Remove** all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or other equipment and dispose of in a suitable trash container or on dry land.



*Don't transport any potential hitchhiker even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.*

## ✓ DRAIN

AFTER BOATING, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LAUNCH:

**Drain** water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and any other locations with water before leaving the launch.



*Invasive viruses, zooplankton, and juvenile zebra mussels and Asian clams can be transported in even just a drop of water!*

## ✓ DRY

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT THE LAUNCH TO GO BOATING:

**Dry** your boat, trailer, and all equipment completely. Drying times vary depending on the weather and the type of material. **At least five days of drying time is generally recommended during the summer.**



*If you want to use your boat sooner, follow additional steps to make sure it is decontaminated from any hitchhikers. See the back side to find out how!*

FINGER LAKES  
INSTITUTE



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

The Finger Lakes Institute Watercraft Steward Program is an education and outreach program working to inform the public about the best practices for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. For more information, visit <http://flisteward.wordpress.com/>



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Flyer design modified with permission of Lake George Association



Cayuga County Department of  
Planning and Development

# HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES!

Hydrilla



Zebra mussel



Spiny waterflea



Eurasian watermilfoil



Asian clam



Round goby

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife, and their habitats. They also affect humans by degrading recreational, boating and fishing areas and by reducing lakeshore property values. Once AIS are established, eradication is almost impossible and management programs are very expensive. Spread prevention is the most cost-effective option for protecting the Finger Lakes.

Most Finger Lakes have a few AIS including Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, zebra and quagga mussels, and Asian clams. There are many more AIS that can move from lake to lake such as the spiny waterflea, alewives, round gobies, bloody red shrimp, and Hydrilla. Boats traveling among the Finger Lakes, Great Lakes, and other waterways create potential invasion pathways.



Not all hitchhikers are as visible as this prop covered in adult zebra mussels. Some adult or juvenile AIS such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia, zooplankton, and recently hatched zebra mussels and Asian clams are so small they can't be seen without magnification. These species are easily transported in mud, on

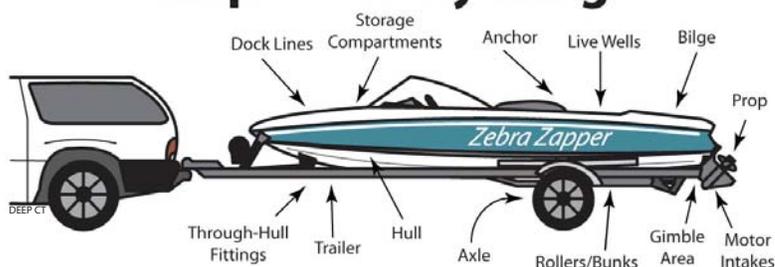
plant fragments, or in small amounts of water. Thus, when you exit a waterbody, check for anything visible in or on your watercraft and equipment and remove it. Then wash everything more thoroughly at a boat wash station, car wash, or at home.



In 2012, ~15% of boats inspected by FLI Watercraft Stewards were found to be carrying aquatic plants and other organisms.

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

Before leaving and before launching...  
**inspect everything!**



### Alternative Cleaning/Disinfecting Options

Dip gear that cannot withstand 140°F water into:

**100% vinegar for 20 minutes**

OR

**1% table salt solution for 24 hours**

*2/3 cup of salt mixed with 5 gallons of water*

OR

**2% bleach solution for 10 minutes**

*3 oz. bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water*

OR

Household cleaners such as Fantastik® or Formula 409®, (or any cleaner with the active ingredient alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride) for 10 minutes.

Rinse with clean water after disinfecting.

Follow label instructions for all materials. Dispose of all cleaning solutions away from surface waters in accordance with label restrictions.