

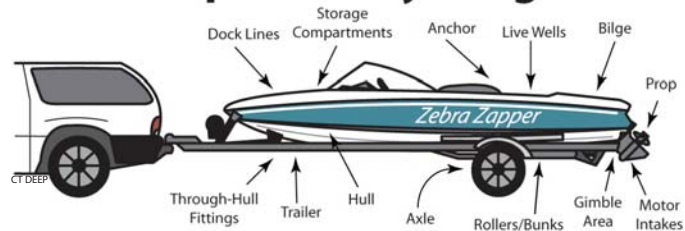


Watch out for unwanted aquatic hitchhikers when you move from one waterway to another!




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.

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



When you leave a waterway:

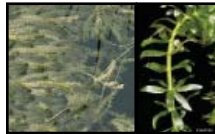
-  **Clean** with 140°F water and remove all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or equipment. Dispose of removed material in a trash container on land.
-  **Drain** water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and any other location with water before leaving launch.
-  **Dry** anything that comes into contact with water. A drying time of at least five days is recommended.

Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a waterway unless they came from that waterway.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

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



Hydrilla

- Blade-like leaves in whorls of 4 to 8
- Forms dense beds
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



Asian Clam

- Rounded, triangular shell; brown/purple
- Lives on sand & gravel substrates
- Travels in water of bilge & bait bucket



European Frog-bit

- Heart-shaped leaves, 2" wide
- Forms dense, free-floating mats
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



Spiny Waterflea

- Tiny, 1/2" crustacean; long, barbed tail
- Competes with fish for food
- Masses collect on fishing line



Water Chestnut

- Triangular leaves; toothed edges
- Forms dense floating mats
- Seeds & plants attach to trailers



Bloody Red Shrimp

- Small, <1/2" shrimp-like crustacean
- Competes with fish for food
- Travels in water of bilge & bait buckets



Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

- Virus of fresh and saltwater fish
- Causes bleeding of fish skin, fins, & eyes
- Spread by infected fish, equipment, & water

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.

FINGER LAKES
INSTITUTE



HOBERT AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLECTIONS



Cayuga County Department of
Planning and Development

For more information go to <http://flisteward.wordpress.com/>

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