



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

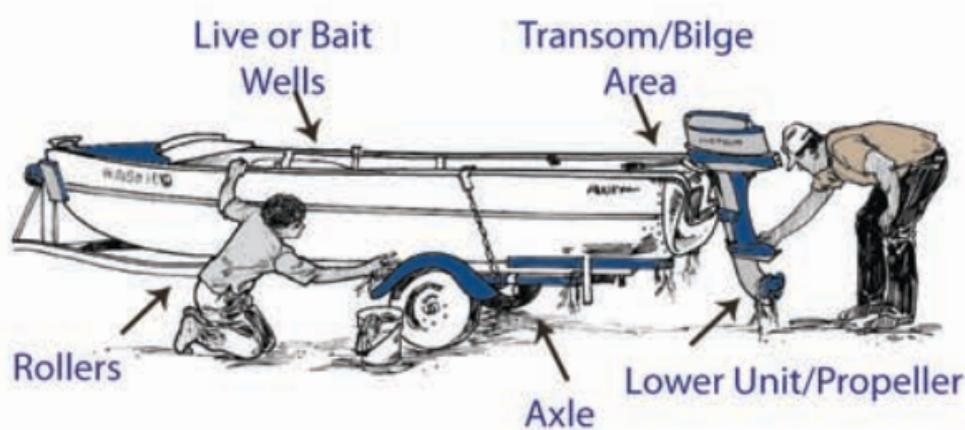
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can degrade a body of water, impair boating and fishing, threaten native plants and animals, and destroy habitat. Once aquatic invasive species are established, eradication is almost impossible.

## When you leave a waterway:

- **Check** for and remove any visible plants or debris
- **Clean** and drain your boat and equipment
- **Dry** everything that came into contact with water

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



# Aquatic Invaders to Look Out For:



H. Smith, APIPP

## Water Chestnut

- Triangular leaves with toothed edges
- Sharp-edged seeds
- Can form dense mats



J.E. Marsden, UVM & D. Jude

## Zebra/Quagga Mussel

- Tiny D- or oval-shaped striped shells
- Can cover hard surfaces
- Sharp shells can cut feet



E. DeBoldt

## Asian Clam

- Light green to brown shells with circular elevated ridges
- Typically less than 1/2-inch in size
- May outcompete native clams/mussels



A. Fox, Bugwood.org & Michigan DNR

## Eurasian Watermilfoil

- Feathery leaves in whorls of 4
- Forms dense beds
- New plants sprout from fragments



DFWI & J. Gunderson, MN Sea Grant

## Spiny Waterflea

- Tiny crustacean with long, barbed tail
- Competes with small fish for food
- Masses can clog guides of fishing rods



D. Moorhead, R. Vidéki, Bugwood.org

## Hydrilla

- Four to 8 blade-like, slightly toothed leaves form whorls around stem
- Can form dense plant beds
- Thrives in a variety of environments



To learn more about how you can help stop the spread of aquatic invasives, scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html)



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NYS Dept. of  
Environmental  
Conservation