

How can you help?



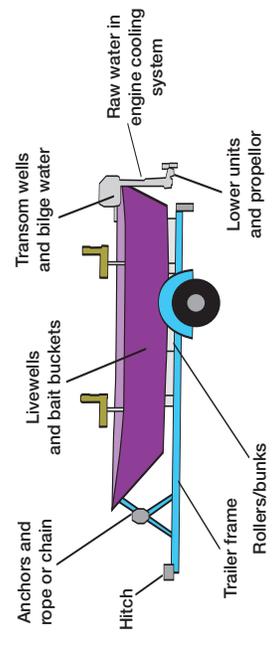
Michelle Robinson DCR

- 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 “stop invasive species” boat ramp sign from DCR.
- Familiarize yourself with invasive species by requesting a free guide from DCR.
- Join the DCR Weed Watchers Program and help identify and report new infestations.
- Get involved in a monitoring network to help detect marine bioinvaders. For more information email marineID@northeastANS.org or call 617 626-4921.

DCR Lakes and Ponds Program 617-626-1411
www.mass.gov/lakesandponds
 Office of Coastal Zone Management 617-626-4921
www.mass.gov/czm

Remember!

Always remove all plant and animal 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



Club tunicate covering mussel lines.



Aquatic plants caught on boat trailer.

Ladd Johnson (NOAA) Labrum

Attention! Boaters!

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Lakes and Ponds Program

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management



Mitt Romney, Governor
 Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor
 Stephen H. Burrington, DCR Commissioner
 Susan Snow-Cotter, Director, CZM

Cover photo, Maine DEP

What are invasive species?

Our lakes and oceans contain a wide variety of native plants and animals that are essential to a healthy 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, many “non-native” or “exotic” species have been brought here from other parts of the country and the world. Some of 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 locations by hitching rides on boat trailers, gear, and in bait buckets.

When invasive species enter a water body, they can have a devastating impact. Since the local ecosystem has not developed natural controls (animals or other plants to limit their growth) invasive species may spread rapidly.

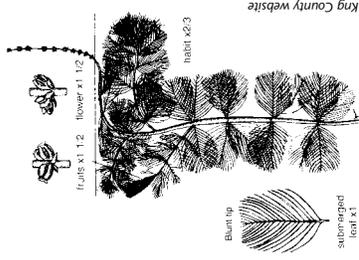
Why are they harmful?

- Many invasive plants form dense mats of vegetation that can restrict boating, fishing, and swimming, and make the waterway entirely impassable.
- Many native plants and animals 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 ecosystem.
- The aesthetic appeal, recreational value, and surrounding property values may quickly decline as the invasive species take over.
- Some non-native aquatic animals have a microscopic larval stage during which they can easily travel undetected in bilge, bait, and livewell water. They can proliferate at an alarming rate and frequently destroy boat motors, buoys, and aquaculture gear.
- Once invasive plants and animals are established, they are almost impossible to eradicate. The United States spends millions of dollars annually to control exotic species.

Invasive Plants & Animals

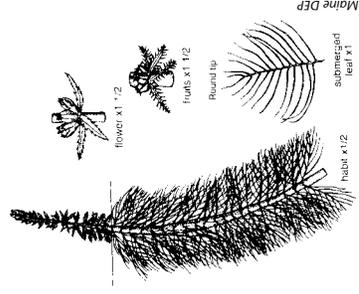
A few of the invasive species to watch for...

Freshwater Invaders



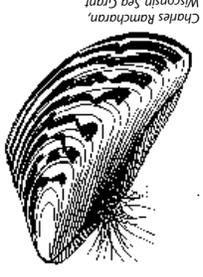
King County website

Eurasian Milfoil



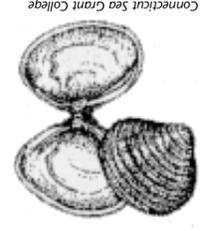
Maine DEP

Variable Milfoil



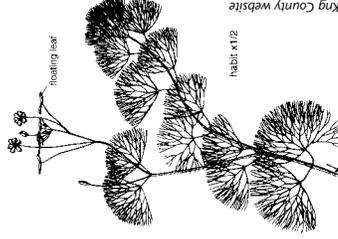
Charles Romichon, Wisconsin Sea Grant

Zebra Mussel



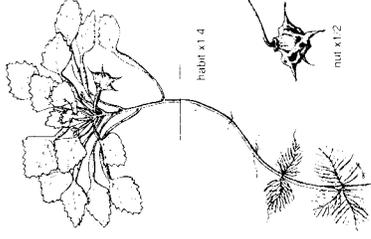
Connecticut Sea Grant College

Asian Clam



King County website

Fanwort



Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England

Water Chestnut

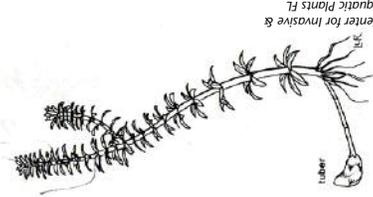


West Virginia DNR

Snakehead Fish

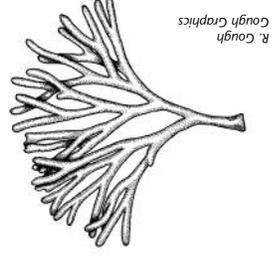
Please report a Snakehead sighting immediately to the Lakes and Ponds Program 617 626-1411

Marine Invaders



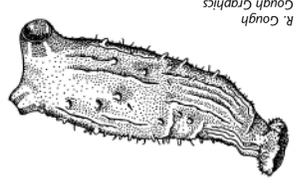
Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants Fl.

Hydrilla



R. Gough R. Gough Graphics

Codium fragile (Algae)



R. Gough R. Gough Graphics

Club Tunicate (Sea Squirt)