

## How can you help?

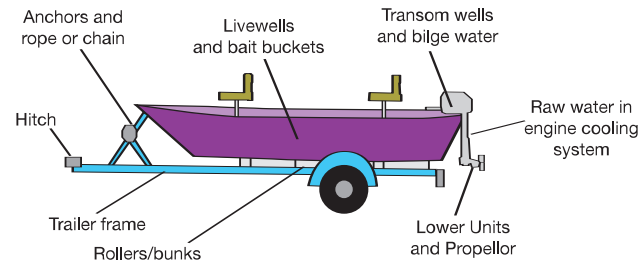


- Remove all plants and animals from your boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear, and dive gear and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.
- Flush engines and dispose of livewell, bait bucket, and cooling water away from the shore after each use.
- Never release 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  
617-626-1411  
[www.mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds)

## 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.*



Aquatic plants caught on boat trailer.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

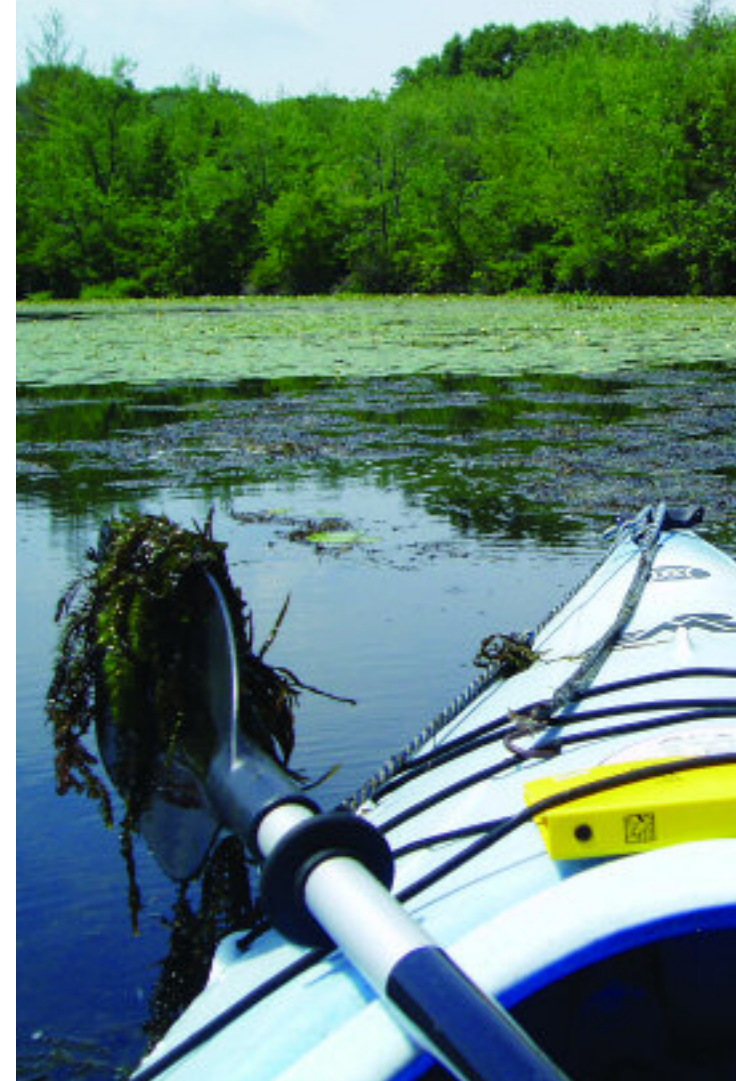
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

*To prevent the spread of Didymo (an invasive algae) and other invasive organisms, check, clean and dry all gear. Soak felt soled waders in hot soapy water for 30 minutes and allow to completely dry.*

♻️ Printed 2008



## Lakes and Ponds Program



## Prevent the spread of invasive species

**ATTENTION BOATERS!**

## 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, 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 boats, 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.



Wakulla Spring, FL, before hydrilla.



Wakulla Spring, FL, after hydrilla.

## 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.
- The aesthetic appeal, recreational value, and surrounding property values may quickly decline as the invasive species take 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 and animals are established, they are almost impossible to eradicate.

# Invasive Plants and 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 Ramcharan, Wisconsin Sea Grant

Zebra Mussel



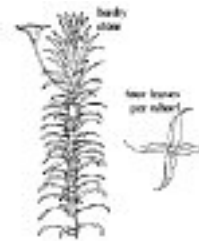
Connecticut Sea Grant College

Asian Clam



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

Hydrilla



Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL

South American Waterweed



Snakehead Fish

**If you think you have caught a Snakehead do not put it back in the water. Please freeze the fish and contact the DCR Lakes and Ponds program immediately.**