

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Invasive Species A 21st Century Challenge

Conserving America's Fisheries

Non-native invasive species cost the U.S. about \$100 billion every year. These plants, animals and microbes can effect local economies, harm the environment, and impact human health.



Invasive species:

- Threaten the abundance of native species by diminishing their food sources;
- Damage water intake equipment for cities and boat engines; and
- Displace the native plants and animals. As invasive populations rise, native species populations fall.

All photos credit USFWS



As the co-chair of the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Service, in coalition with our partners:

- Conducts detection and monitoring activities;
- Conducts prevention

programs aimed at keeping invasive species out of the United States and works to prevent the spread of those already established;

- Supports the development of new technology to combat the entry of invasive species through freighters' ballast water;
- Provides funding to States to implement Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans;
- Educates the public through the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! campaign.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Fisheries Program
*Working for Healthy Fish, Healthy Habitats,
Healthy Economies and Healthy People*



What you can do to help:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or animals before transporting boating equipment.
- Eliminate water from boating equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water, including boats, trailers, clothing and pets.
- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

