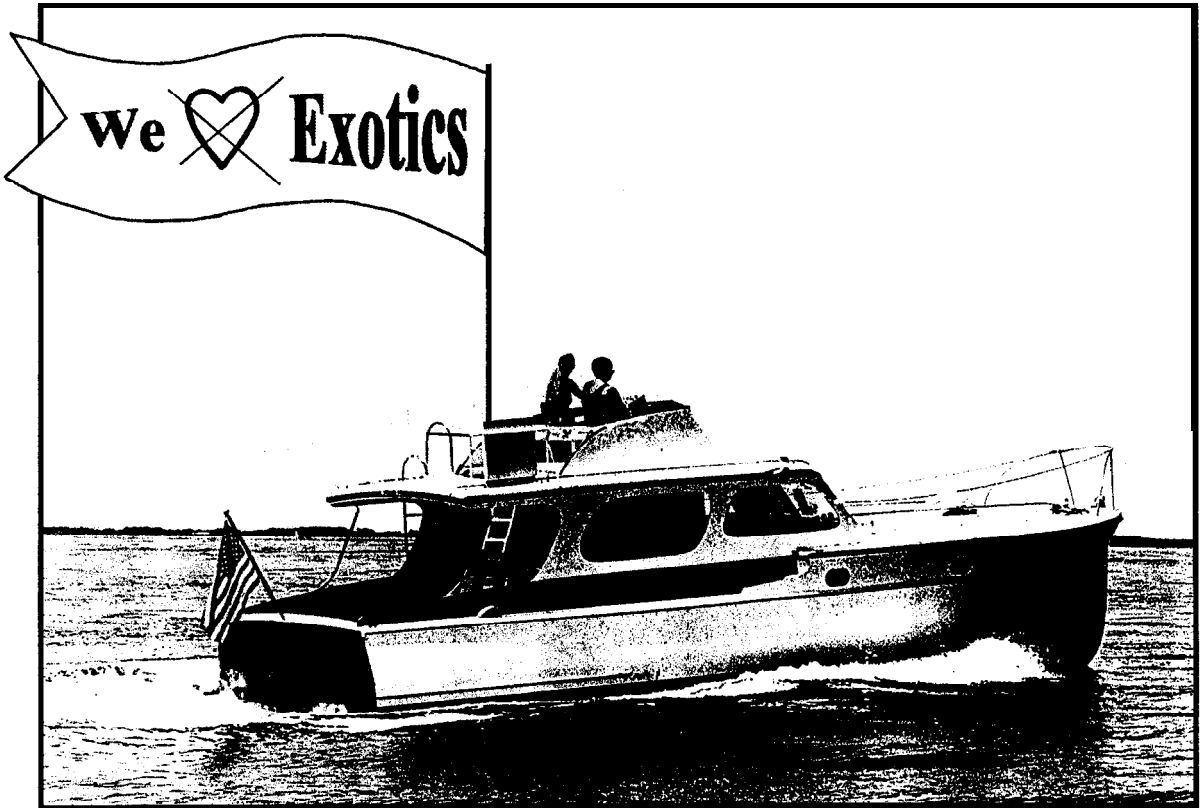


Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Exotic Plants and Animals



Aquatic exotic species are organisms that are not native to our waters. Some of these species, such as Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels, can clog boating areas and be harmful to lake and river ecosystems. By following just six easy steps, you can help prevent the spread of these species.

You Can Make a Difference

Exotic species can be accidentally spread by boaters who travel from infested to uninfested waters. Some species can be picked-up and transported on boating equipment including boats, trailers, motors, tackle, downriggers, anchors, axles, rollers, and centerboards. Others can be carried in water of livewells, baitbuckets, motors, bilges, and transom wells. Even a small piece of Eurasian watermilfoil attached to an anchor, or a handful of zebra mussels in a baitbucket can lead to infestation of the whole waterway. As a boater, you can help prevent this from happening. To avoid spreading exotic species, follow these easy steps before transporting your boat to another waterway.

BEFORE leaving the boat launch



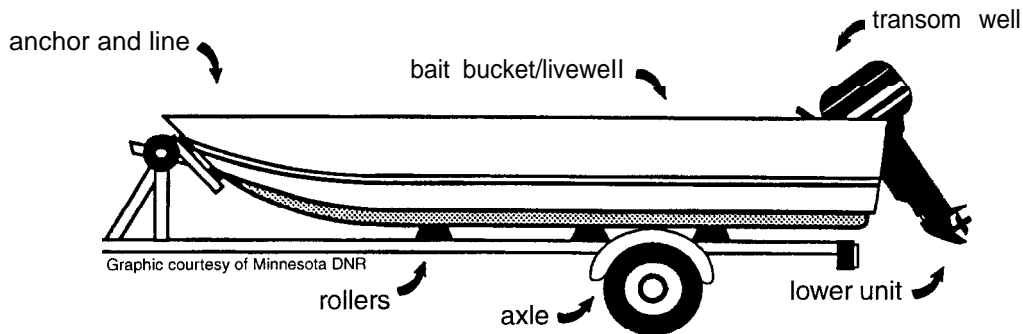
Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment and remove any plants and animals.



Drain, on land, all water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom well. Some exotics may not be visible to the naked eye.



Empty your bait bucket on land. Never release live bait into a waterway, or transfer aquatic animals between waterways.



AFTER leaving the boat launch



Wash your boat, tackle, trailer, and other equipment to kill any exotic species not visible at the boat launch. This can be done with 104° F tap water, or a high-pressure sprayer.

or



Dry your equipment for at least five days-some exotics can survive for long periods of time out of water.



Learn what these organisms look like, and know which waterways are infested. Report any new infestations to Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant or your Department of Natural Resources.



Talk with these agencies for recommendations and permits before applying any control methods.

State Laws

Laws in both Illinois and Indiana are written to prevent the spread of harmful exotic species. These laws make it illegal to possess live specimens of these species. For more detailed information on your state's regulations, contact your local Department of Natural Resources. Illinois: 847/294-4134; Indiana: 317/232-4094

Some Aquatic Exotics to Watch For



Zebra Mussel



Round Goby



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Ruffe

For more information: Pat Charlebois, Biological Resources Specialist, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Illinois Natural History Survey, Lake Michigan Biological Station, 400 17th St., Zion, IL 60099.
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