

Aquatic Nuisance Species

**C
l
e
a
n

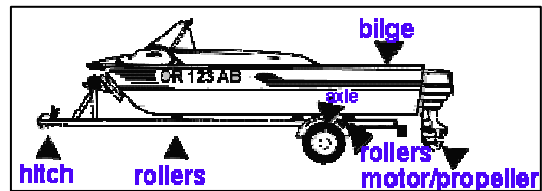
B
o
a
t
e
r** **T
i
p

S
h
e
e
t**

Exotic plants and animals such as the zebra mussel, hydrilla, and mitten crab can hitch a ride attached to your boat or trailer or as tiny young present in water taken in by your boat. Hitching from one waterbody to another, these aquatic nuisance species spread quickly and can become established in another waterbody. They contribute to the degradation of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat by displacing native species and by blocking light needed by submerged aquatic plants. Once introduced, control of aquatic nuisance species is very expensive and extermination is extremely difficult.

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species

- Never release live or dead bait or bait packaging into a waterbody, or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another.
- Share live bait with other anglers or empty your bait bucket in the trash before leaving the area.
- Inspect your boat and trailer, especially at the points in the diagram. Remove any plants and animals you see before leaving the waterbody.
- Avoid chopping vegetation with outboard motor propellers.
- When hauling your boat, drain your motor, wet well, and bilge in a containment area on shore.
- Rinse your boat, trailer, and equipment. It is best to use high-pressure, hot water. A garden hose will work if no other option is available.
- Be especially careful if you've been boating in an infested lake, or if you're buying or using a boat that has come from out of state. Flush raw water-cooling systems and clean sea strainers.
- Air-dry your boat and equipment for as long as possible – at least five days is optimal.
- If you find one of the below species, or suspect there may be a new infestation, call 1-877-STOP-ANS (toll free).



Zebra mussel
(photo courtesy of WI DNR)



Hydrilla
(photo courtesy of WI DNR)



Mitten crab



For more information,
contact the Clean
Marina Coordinator at
503-378-2625