



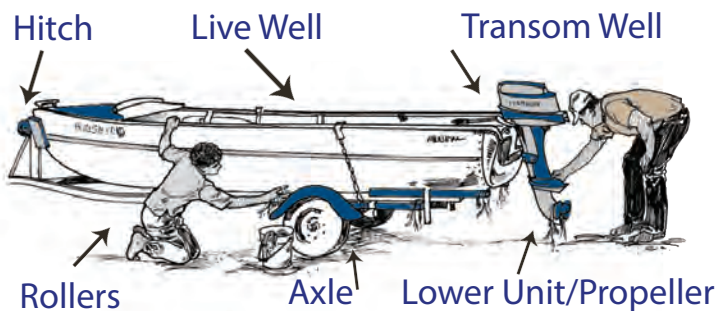
# CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS



Watch for unwanted aquatic hitchhikers when you move from one waterway to another!

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife, and their habitat. AIS degrade boating and fishing areas, and can reduce lakeshore property values and tourism. Once AIS are established, containment is difficult. By practicing watercraft inspection, you can help **SLOW** the **SPREAD** of AIS.

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



### Before you leave a waterway:



**CLEAN & INSPECT:** Inspect, remove, and properly dispose of any visible mud, plants, fish or organisms from boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.



**DRAIN:** Before leaving the launch, empty all water from spaces (i.e., bilges, buckets, livewells, etc.) that can hold water. Dump live bait at bait disposal sites or in the trash. Never move live bait fish between bodies of water.



**DRY:** Dry anything that comes into contact with water.

Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a waterway unless they came from that waterway.



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

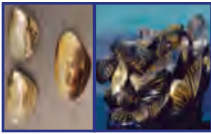
## Aquatic Invaders to Watch for:



H. Smith, APIPP

### Water Chestnut

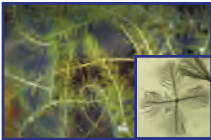
- Triangular leaves & toothed edges
- Forms dense floating mats
- Seeds & plants attach to trailers



J.E. Marsden, UVM & D. Jude

### Zebra & Quagga Mussels

- Tiny, "D" or oval shaped striped shells
- Cover hard surfaces; sharp shells cut feet
- Shells attach to plants & boat bottoms



A. Fox, Bugwood.org & Michigan DNR

### Eurasian Watermilfoil

- Feathery leaves in whorls of 4
- Forms dense beds
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



DFWI & J. Gunderson, MN Sea Grant

### Spiny Waterflea

- Tiny, 1/2" crustacean with long, barbed tail
- Competes with fish for food
- Masses collect on fishing line



D. Moorhead & R. Vidéki, Bugwood.org

### Hydrilla

- Blade-like leaves in whorls of 4-8
- Forms dense beds
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



J. Gunderson & D. Jude, Bugwood.org

### Live Bait

- Non-native crayfish and minnows
- Alters aquatic habitats & may carry pathogens
- Often released or illegally stocked

The Launch Steward Program is a collaborative education program offered at water access sites in New York's Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake regions to help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species and help preserve the integrity of water resources, recreational opportunities, and local economies.

