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## Boaters Urged to Prevent Spread of Hydrilla

By Tom Richardson on May 15th, 2012



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Close-up of Hydrilla. Photo/Cornell University: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

Marina operators, boaters and anglers are being urged to take steps to prevent the spread of Hydrilla verticillata, a freshwater invasive plant that establishes monocultures in shallow lakes, ponds and streams.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension invasive species specialist Charles "Chuck" O'Neill.

New York Sea Grant and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program have written "Hydrilla: What Marinas Need to Know" and "Not Wanted! Hydrilla" fact sheets to help people recognize the invasive plant and closely inspect watercraft to prevent its spread.

To prevent hydrilla's spread over land and by water, O'Neill says the timing is critical for marina operators, boaters and anglers, especially those who travel from waterbody to waterbody to participate in tournaments, to practice aquatic invasive control measures.

### Measures Include:

- The use of drain filters when washing boats to opening airlocks and air bladders to prevent hydrilla fragments from surviving in a kayak's damp nooks and crannies.
- Sharp-eyed observation and proper disposal of debris that clings to watercraft are also good methods for slowing the spread of unwanted species.

The hydrilla fact sheets are online at [New York Invasive Species](#)

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### About the Author



**Tom Richardson** is the co-director and host of BoatingLocal. Before that he served as the editor of Northeast Boating from 2005 to 2009, and as managing editor of Salt Water Sportsman magazine from 1995 to 2004. He lives, boats and fishes in southeastern Massachusetts with his wife and three kids.

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