



A Boater's guide to preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species while enjoying your water recreation activities.

How to Clean, Drain & Dry Your Equipment in 7 Simple Steps



MICBCW.ORG

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc.

300 N. State Street, Suite A, Stanton, MI 48888

Phone: (989) 831-5100; E-mail: info@mlswa.org

©2016 Michigan Clean Boats Clean Waters

"This project was funded in part with funds from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program through the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Agriculture and Rural Development"

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is promoted by the State of Michigan, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., Michigan State University Extension, and Michigan Sea Grant.

References: http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/best_management_practices/Cleaning%20of%20Watercraft%20and%20Equipment.pdf

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf

Aquatic Invasive Species Are Mostly Spread by People

The following procedures are designed to provide you with some best management practices that ensure that the boats and other watercraft that you use on Michigan waterways do not spread aquatic invasive species (AIS). While some AIS are easy to spot, such as Eurasian water milfoil, curly leafed pond weed, and zebra mussel. Others are not so easily identified and include microscopic organisms such as plankton and the larvae of clams and mussels. The easiest to spot are plants caught up in trailers, motor props and such. The not so easy to spot are stuck to the side of your watercraft, attached to ropes; are floating in live wells, inside ballast tanks, and motor intakes. Carefully inspecting, cleaning, draining, and drying your boats and other recreational watercraft and gear is the only way to ensure that you are not transporting any invasive species.

Aquatic Invasive Species Law and DNR Fisheries Order 245

Michigan law, (Part 413 PA 451 of 1994), prohibits placing any boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer in Michigan waters with aquatic plant material attached. This includes all types of aquatic vegetation, (an exception is made for wild rice). Violation can result in a fine up to \$100. The law also gives law enforcement officers the authority to order the removal of aquatic plants from boating equipment. . Additionally DNR Fisheries Order 245 prohibits the transport of water over land in ballast tanks, bilges, and live wells to prevent the spread of fish diseases.

**Cleaning your boat is not
an option, it's the law.**



A boater using a vinegar disinfectant on the exterior his boat when leaving.

Be a Hero and Help Protect Michigan's Waters

The best way you can help to protect Michigan's lakes and streams from aquatic invasive species is to have a clean routine for your boat and other watercraft.

1. **Before you launch** and if your boat was used on a different waterbody, it must either be clean, completely dry or disinfected prior to launching. If you followed steps for when you get home you will already be in good shape. If not then refer to them now.
2. **Be aware** of any documented AIS present in the body of water you are boating on.
3. **As you boat** avoid boating in areas where plants are heavily matted. Many invasive plant species can grow from tiny fragments that become attached to your boat and gear.

4. **Before you leave** a lake, drive off the ramp to the tie down area and begin your inspection. **DRAIN ALL** bilge and balast water, live well water and other water holding compartments. **CLEAN** off any debris and mud, inspecting the key points of your watercraft including propellers, anchors, axels, ladders., nets, wheels, wiring, rollers, ropes etc. Use your Watercraft Checkpoints winch post sticker as a visual guide. **DRY** and wipe down your boat with a towel to remove small pieces and microscopic AIS. You can pressure wash, steam clean, or use a disinfectant; such as white vinegar or bleach at the rate of 1/4 cup per gallon of water. **DISPOSE** of waste and unused bait in the trash. (**Note:** Chlorine bleach is better suited for cleaning water holding tanks; vinegar is best for the outside of your boat if protecting your finish is a concern.)
5. **When you get home** continue to drain and dry your watercraft. Drying is the essential step to killing AIS attached to your boat. If practical flush motors with a garden hose. Pressure wash your watercraft with hot water (140°F) or disinfect if you did not do it at the launch site. Slide your hand along the side of the hull feeling for juvenile mussel attachment or any other foreign matter that does not belong. These require pressure washing or the use of a scrub brush to remove. If you are storing your boat for an extended period you may be able to skip that step.
6. **Inspect and clean other equipment** used while boating. This includes, nets, boats, skis, flippers, floatation devices, decoys, etc.
7. **Jet skis and other** personal watercraft should make sure that contaminants are blown out of the jet drive system. Wake boats and similar watercraft should completely empty ballast and bladder tanks to avoid transport of AIS contaminated water.