

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range. New York is particularly vulnerable to AIS due to the frequency in which ocean-going vessels travel through the Great Lakes. Milfoil, Zebra Mussel and Spiny Waterflea have been identified as inhibiting our local lakes. Once established, AIS can spread easily to other inland waterbodies through recreational boating and angling.

The Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District and lake associations are working together to protect our lakes with the hiring of lake stewards to conduct voluntary boat inspections and washes. These stewards will help educate boaters on how to properly identify and remove AIS and will conduct voluntary boat and equipment inspections. These precautions will help keep AIS out of the lakes that have not been invaded yet, and to help reduce the transfer in and out of ones that have.



For additional common AIS identified in NYS and the recommended methods on how to prevent the spread to new waters, please visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

Some Aquatic Invasive Species that have been identified in the Adirondack Park.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil**



**Spiny Waterflea**



**Zebra Mussel**



**Fanwort**



For additional information on these and other identified invasive species in the Adirondacks please visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov).



Fulton County Soil &  
Water Conservation Dist.  
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**Fulton County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

## Boat Washing Station



*Prevent the Spread of Aquatic  
Invasive Species (AIS)*

Boats, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment can spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody unless properly cleaned, dried or disinfected after use. Although some invasive species such as water milfoil are readily visible to the human eye, many others are too small to be readily noticed. To avoid spreading invasive species please follow the guidelines in the following steps:

- Check
- Clean
- Drain
- Dry
- Disinfect

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## Check

Check your boating and fishing equipment for invasive species.

Be sure to carefully examine these common invasive species attachment points.



Don't forget to inspect all gear used during your boating trip.

## Clean

Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment. Remember to check equipment such as anchors and other gear.

Zebra mussels can be difficult to remove. They first need to be killed by exposure to water or steam at least 140°F and then removed by brush or pressure washer.

## Drain

Drain all water holding compartments, including live wells, bait wells and bilge areas before you leave the access site.

Be sure to drain boat ballast tanks if your waterski or wakeboard has them.



## Dry

The most effective method to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to make certain your equipment is COMPLETELY dry before using in a new body of water.

## Disinfect

Disinfect anything that came into contact with water, if it cannot be dried before reuse. Be particularly aware of bilge areas, livewells and baitwells. These areas are difficult to dry and can harbor invasive species.

### Effective disinfection techniques:

**Hot Water:** Hot water or steam in excess of 140°F is an effective disinfection agent for all aquatic invasive species and fish diseases. Many invasive clam and mussel species can detect other disinfection agents and avoid them by tightly closing their shells. However, they cannot protect themselves from the effects of high temperature. Soak all equipment in water at least 140°F for 30 seconds. Most tap water is 120°-130°F, so additional heating will be required.

**Bleach:** Bleach is a very effective disinfectant agent, but can be corrosive to aluminum and other sensitive fishing & boating equipment. Soak or spray equipment for at least one minute with a 2% bleach solution (3 oz. of household bleach mixed with 1 gal. of water).

**Potassium Chloride:** Commonly used as a substitute for calcium chloride in table salt and home water softeners. Potassium chloride (KCL) is very effective for boats and equipment used in waters containing zebra and quagga mussels. It does not have the corrosive effects of some other cleaning agents. A 200 ppm solution is recommended (one teaspoon of dry KCL salt crystals in 2 gal. of water). KCL salt substitutes can be found in most supermarkets or KCL crystals can be special ordered where water conditioning products are sold. Given the non-corrosive attributes of KCL, it is particularly useful in cleaning engine cooling systems and other corrosion prone areas.



**Flushing:** If it is impossible for you to disinfect your boat prior to use, thoroughly flush the bilge and all water holding compartments with water prior to launching. Be sure that this water does not drain into the water body you will be launching your boat into.

For an in depth description of how to clean, dry and disinfect various boats and boating equipment download *A New York Boaters Guide to Cleaning, Drying and Disinfecting Boating Equipment (PDF)* available on the NYS DEC website. <http://www.dec.ny.gov>