

Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

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:

1. [Check](#)
2. [Clean](#)
3. [Drain](#)
4. [Dry](#)
5. [Disinfect](#)

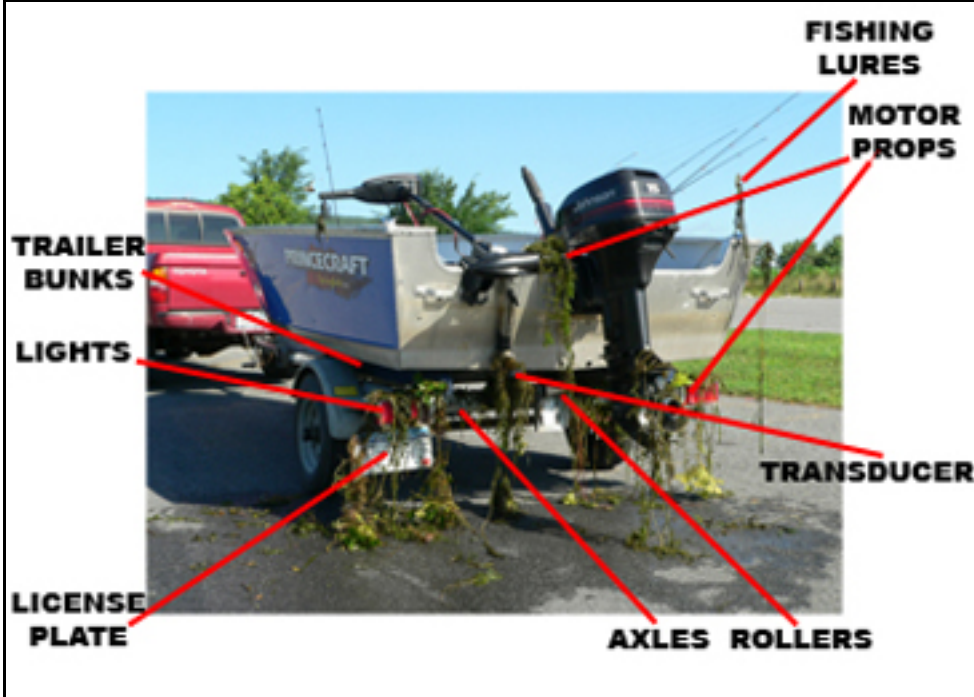


Check

Check your boating and fishing equipment for invasive species.



Investigators checking a boat for invasive plants



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



Don't forget to also inspect all gear used during your fishing or boating trip

If your boat has been used in a water containing zebra mussels, run your hand along the hull. If it feels like sandpaper, it likely has mussels attached.



Clean

Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.



Remove all invasive species from your boat and equipment.



Don't forget equipment such as anchors and other gear.

Discard items in an upland area or in one of the invasive species disposal stations that have been installed at many boat launch sites for your convenience.



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



Photo courtesy of Utah DWR

Drain

Drain all water holding compartments including live wells, bait wells and bilge areas.



Drain your boat before you leave the access site!



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



Dry

Dry boats, trailers and all equipment before use in another waterbody.

Drain your livewell if you have one.



Drying your boat takes at least 5-7 days in dry, warm weather.

The most effective method to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to completely dry your boating and fishing equipment. The key is to make certain that equipment is **COMPLETELY** dry before using it in a new water body. Drying times vary significantly depending upon the type of equipment, air temperature and relative humidity. While the outside of a boat will dry relatively rapidly, bilge, live wells and other areas of a boat not reached by the sun or lacking good air circulation will take additional time to dry completely. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended. [Drying times can be estimated](http://www.100thmeridian.org/Emersion.asp) at <http://www.100thmeridian.org/Emersion.asp> (leaving DEC website).

Disinfect

Disinfect anything that came into contact with water, if it cannot be dried before reuse.

[Details on how to disinfect your boat and fishing equipment](#)