

CLEAN YOUR GEAR!

Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Pennsylvania

TIPS FOR BOATERS



Photo courtesy of Sara Gris -Stahlman, Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

Recreational boating is one way that AIS are spread. Boats, motors, and trailers have ideal hiding spots where species may attach and be transported to new locations. Many of these species can survive out of water for five days or more!

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants, animals, or pathogens that cause harm to the environment, the economy, and human or animal health. Preventing the spread of AIS is important because once introduced, these species disrupt ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and cost communities huge amounts of time, money, resources, and lost revenue.

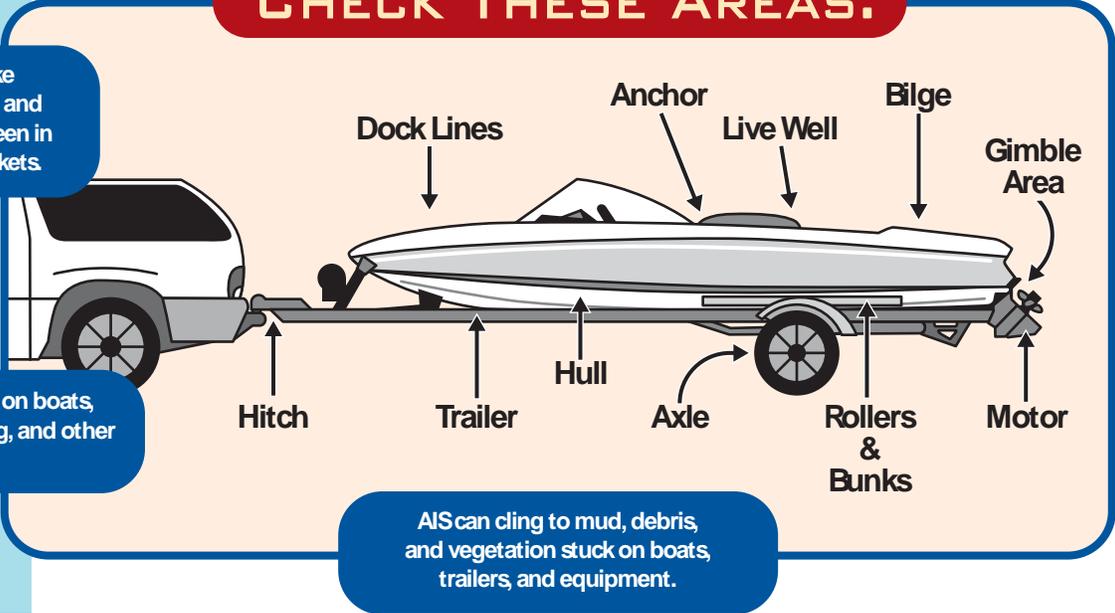
AIS can be especially troublesome to boaters because they negatively impact the rivers, ponds, lakes, and activities that boaters enjoy. Aquatic invasive plants, such as hydrilla, water chestnut, Eurasian watermilfoil, and curly-leaf pondweed form thick mats of vegetation that clog water bodies, impede navigation, and get tangled around boat propellers and other equipment. Invasive mussels like zebra and quagga mussels impact boating by clogging steering equipment and causing damage to boat engines.

While many species are large enough to see with the human eye, others are too small to be readily noticed, and can easily hitchhike to new locations on boats, trailers, motors, and in livewells, bilges, or bait buckets. By following a few simple steps, boaters can play an active role in preventing the spread of AIS (see other side).

CHECK THESE AREAS:

Microscopic organisms like zebra mussel veligers, algae, and pathogens, can hitchhike unseen in bilges, livewells, and bait buckets

Aquatic plants entangle on boats, trailers, propellers, clothing, and other equipment.



AIS can cling to mud, debris, and vegetation stuck on boats, trailers, and equipment.

Diagram courtesy of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce's Recreational User Guidelines.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



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The Pennsylvania State University,
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Great Lakes
RESTORATION

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CLEAN

Boaters should:

Inspect and *clean off* visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from watercraft, motor, trailer, and equipment *before leaving water access*.

Scrub hull using a stiff brush.

Rinse watercraft, trailer, and equipment with high pressure hot water when possible.

Flush motor according to owner's manual.

Jet Boats and Personal Watercraft users should also:

Inspect and *clean off* visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from hull, trailer, intake grate, and steering nozzle, etc.

Run engine 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water and vegetation from internal drive *before leaving water access*.

Sailors should also:

Inspect and *clean off* visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from the centerboard, bilge board wells, rudderpost, trailer, and other equipment *before leaving water access*.

DRAIN

Drain water from watercraft, motor, bilge, bladder tanks, livewell, and portable bait containers *before leaving water access*.

DRY

Dry everything *five days* or more, unless otherwise required by local or state laws, when moving between waters to kill small species not easily seen **OR** if drying is not possible, *wipe* with a towel *before reuse*.

References and links to more information:

Prevention steps for boaters:

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers: www.Protectyourwaters.net

Additional recreational user guidelines:

www.anstaskforce.gov/Meetings/2013_June/Recreational_Guidelines.pdf

Where to report new invasive species infestations:

Sea Grant online reporting form: www.paseagrant.org/report-invasive-species/

Aquatic invasive species in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Sea Grant AIS fact sheets:

www.paseagrant.org/fact_sheet_group/invasive-species/

Aquatic Invasive species mapping in Pennsylvania:

iMap Invasives: <http://www.imapinvasives.org/>

Additional AIS information:

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission: www.fishandboat.com

Wildlife Forever: www.wildlifeforever.org/