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MICHIGAN DNR

Top photo: Invasive species can be mixed in with bait. Bottom photo: Bait can also harbor viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a serious fish disease. Purchase bait only from a dealer selling legal and certified disease-free bait and never move bait or fish from one body of water to another.

## It's the law to prevent invasions

It's your responsibility to know the laws to prevent new invasions. Did you know that it is unlawful to sell, barter, possess, introduce, import or transport the following aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Pennsylvania? Bighead carp, black carp, European rudd, round goby, ruffe, rusty crayfish, silver carp, snakehead (all species), tubenose goby, quagga mussel and zebra mussel.

In addition to the banned species above, some of the least-wanted AIS in the state are: European ruffe, sea lamprey, hydrilla, spiny water flea, purple loosestrife, eurasian watermilfoil, Asian clam and red-eared slider (turtle). See photos and learn more about these and other AIS at <http://seagrant.psu.edu/topics/invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species>.

— <http://fishandboat.com/ais.htm>



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeremy Lincoln takes Neighborhood Art House students on a tour of Lincoln Recycling Center.

## Youth tour Lincoln Recycling Center

We are youth at the John E. Horan Garden Apartments and this is our story of recycling.

We put the recyclables in the bins at the Art Club or the Kids Club where we meet once a week. Then on Mondays and Thursdays we take the recyclables from the Art Club to the recycling dumpster in the maintenance garage. The Waste Management Truck empties the recycling dumpster once a month and sends the things to the recycling center. All the recyclables are sorted and sent to places that reuse

them to make new items for us to use.

Our group also toured the Lincoln Recycling Center with Jeremy Lincoln who was very smart and knew a lot about recycling. He was also very nice.

— Tiana, Zakhia, Rahniyah

We saw a big crane picking up a car and putting it on the scrap metal pile.

— Enrique

I liked the cans in the warehouse. They looked like big square boxes wrapped with a big strap.

— Jose



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/Anna McCartney

Anglers can help keep Pennsylvania waterways healthy by preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). At the end of every fishing trip they should: properly clean, dry or disinfect all fishing and boating equipment, properly use and dispose bait and never move fish from one waterway to another. For more about cleaning go to: [www.stopans.org/cleaning.html](http://www.stopans.org/cleaning.html).

# Hitching a ride

## Anglers can help prevent the spread of invasive species

By ANNA McCARTNEY  
Contributing writer

Just one angler is all it would take to infect a favorite fishing spot with aquatic invasive species (AIS).

At the end of a fishing trip, it's not uncommon for anglers to release leftover minnows, worms or other unused bait into the water or to save and use the bait at another body of water. But dumping live bait into the water or on shore has helped many nonnative animals become established in new waterways.

Invasive species can also hitchhike from one stream or lake to another via an angler's gear, especially wading gear. Although some invasive species are readily visible to the human eye, many others are too small to be readily noticed. AIS may be microscopic and can be plants or animals.

Although unintentional, the results have been catastrophic. When these invaders are introduced into a new environment they tend to spread or reproduce quickly because they are often aggressive and lack natural predators. They contribute to habitat destruction, loss of native species, changes in food webs and the spread of pathogens.

These changes can affect commercially valuable species and are typically irreversible. In many cases, efforts to eradicate or control invasive species

are prohibitively expensive. Prevention and early detection are the best ways to control new invasions and anglers can be the greatest line of defense.

### What can anglers do?

1. Learn to identify AIS.
2. Only buy live bait from reputable dealers that follow state regulations.
3. Don't release fish, plants or animals into the water unless they came out of that body of water.
4. Dispose of unused bait, dead fish and fish parts in a secure trash area away from the water. Freezing bait doesn't kill viruses or disease.
5. Empty all water from boats, buckets, bilges, live wells and all equipment. Remove all mud, plants and aquatic life.
6. Thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and boating equipment, including bait buckets, boots, boats, and trailers before moving them to another body of water.
7. Report any new invaders at <http://fishandboat.com/ais-reporting.htm>.
8. Help spread the word! Inform your angler friends.

To learn more about AIS, visit [www.seagrant.psu.edu](http://www.seagrant.psu.edu).

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SEAGRANT.NOAA.GOV

Protect Pennsylvania fisheries by properly disposing unused worms and packaging in the trash.



MDINVASIVESP.ORG

Cleaning all fishing gear especially waders is an easy and effective way to prevent the spread of invasive species.



GOERIE.COM

Round gobies are non-native, invasive fish species that anglers are prohibited from possessing under fishing and boating regulations.

This page brought to you by:



Check out these websites to learn more:

[www.stopans.org/cleaning.html](http://www.stopans.org/cleaning.html)  
<http://fishandboat.com/ais.htm>  
[www.protectyourwaters.net/](http://www.protectyourwaters.net/)  
[www.seagrant.psu.edu](http://www.seagrant.psu.edu)

Use the websites listed to learn more about the round goby and other invaders. What did you learn that you did not know before? How often do stories about invasive species appear in the news? Is the media doing a good job to get the word out so we don't help the invaders spread to new areas?

Write a letter to the editor telling what you learned and why it is important to inform the public about this important issue. Send your letters to [axm40@psu.edu](mailto:axm40@psu.edu) for possible publication in "your space."

