

MICHIGAN BOATERS AND ANGLERS

*You can help stop the introduction and spread of **Aquatic Invasive Species!***



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment.

DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water.

DRY boats and equipment.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.



IT'S THE LAW:

DO NOT launch a watercraft or place a trailer in the water if aquatic plants are attached.

DO NOT release unused bait into the water.





DO NOT transport water over land in bilges and live wells.

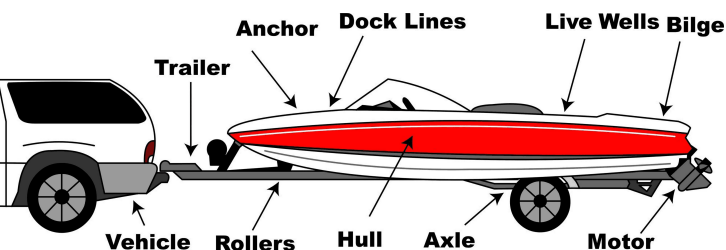
Violation of the law is a state civil infraction.

Violators may be subject to fines.

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Aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are often introduced and spread through recreational boating and angling activities and can have long lasting negative impacts such as reduced native species diversity, waterways choked with weeds and reduced opportunities for fishing, boating and swimming. Once an invasive species becomes established in a particular water body, eradication becomes very difficult and expensive. Fortunately, boaters can prevent the spread of invasive species and keep Michigan's lakes and rivers healthy with just a few simple steps:

-  **INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment and remove all mud, debris and aquatic plant material from trailers and watercraft before launching or retrieving a watercraft. Use a hose or power washer when available and dry all equipment thoroughly before leaving the access area.
-  **DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water from boats before leaving the access site. Disinfect live wells and bilges with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water) when possible. Fish diseases and microscopic life stages of aquatic invasive species can be hiding in seemingly clean water, so draining is an important step.
-  **DISPOSE** of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water. Release of bait and minnows can lead to the unintended introduction of aquatic invasive species.
-  **DO NOT TRANSFER FISH** to water bodies other than where they were caught. This helps prevent the spread of both aquatic invasive species and fish diseases.



Inspection points on boats, trailers, and vehicles for aquatic invasive species decontamination.

