

HOW ARE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) SPREAD?

Many of the invasives that are present in Wisconsin are originally from Europe and Asia. They were introduced into the United States through a variety of activities, such as in the ballast water of ocean-going ships, sport fish stocking, and accidental releases in the horticulture, aquaculture, and aquarium trades.



Unfortunately, aquatic invasive species, or AIS, travel from lake to lake primarily with our help. Since Wisconsin's lakes are essentially islands of water on the landscape, our boats, trailers, fishing nets, personal watercraft, and other equipment are the transportation devices for aquatic invasives. As we travel to lakes across the state, they tag along and become established in new areas. Once introduced, some species can travel to other places without our help, via seeds, fragments, tributaries, and other methods.

Montello Lake District



For more information about *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* and how you can help protect Wisconsin's lakes from invasive species, please contact:

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VOLUNTEER WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM



HELP PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES!



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria

Eurasian Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum spicatum

Zebra Mussel
Dreissena polymorpha

WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES?

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals, or pathogens that may cause environmental or economic harm. In their native environments, invasive species like purple loosestrife or Eurasian water-milfoil have predators and competitors to keep their populations in check. However, when these species are introduced to a new location, those important limiting factors may not be present. The invasives can outcompete the native species by growing faster, maturing earlier, and reproducing more quickly and in larger numbers. This affects the diversity and abundance of native plants and animals, changes ecosystems, and impacts recreational activities.

What you can do!

Share the message

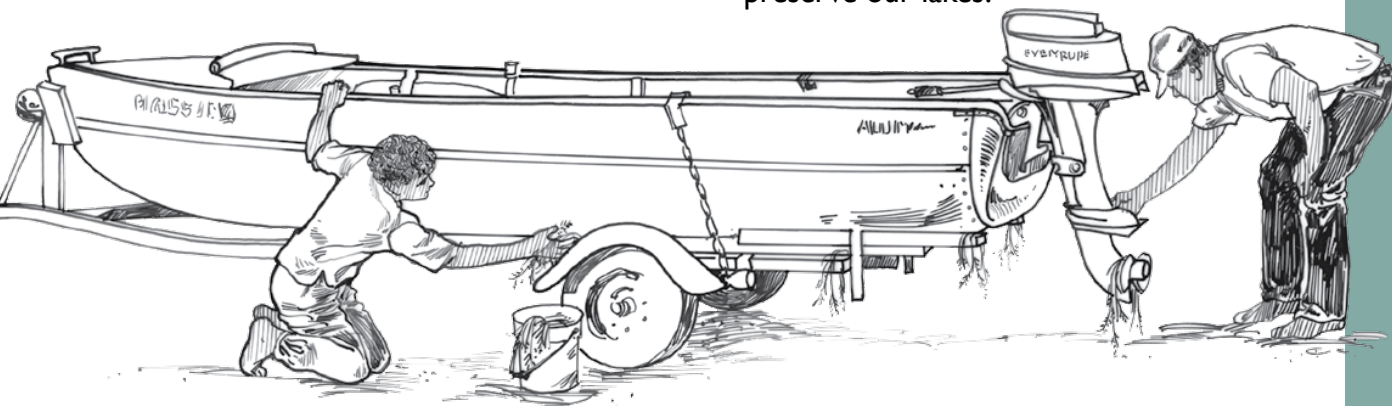
CLEAN BOATS = CLEAN WATERS

Volunteers have been an integral part of protecting Wisconsin lakes for over two decades. With so many waterbodies and so few state resources, we rely heavily on volunteer efforts to educate boaters about AIS and how to prevent their spread.

Through the *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* program, volunteers are trained to organize and conduct a boater education campaign in their community. Adults and youth share information with boaters and the general public on AIS and how they travel from lake to lake. Volunteers also show boaters where invasives are most likely to hitch a ride, and encourage boaters to check their boats and equipment for invasive species before they enter the water.



Thanks to our volunteers, public awareness of AIS and how to prevent their spread continues to grow! The information and watercraft inspections that volunteers provide at the boat landings really do make a difference. Consider joining *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* volunteers in working to preserve our lakes!



Take these

AIS PREVENTION STEPS

every time you boat

In order to prevent the arrival of new invasive species and keep the invasives already in Wisconsin from spreading further, it is important for all of us to follow the appropriate preventative steps. This message is the core of AIS prevention!

- ✓ **Inspect** and **remove** aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, trailer, and equipment before leaving the landing.
- ✓ **Drain** all water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, bait buckets and other containers before leaving the landing.
- ✓ **Ice** your catch; don't leave landing with any live fish, bait, or fish eggs.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unused bait in trash, not in the water or on land.
- ✓ **Rinse** boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water OR **Dry** boat for at least five days.

