

Aquatic vegetation provides habitat for juvenile fishes and invertebrates, as well as acting as a stabilizer for bottom sediments. Loss of habitat means juvenile fishes become easy prey for larger animals, reducing the number of fish reaching harvestable size. Eradication of aquatic vegetation stirs sediment into the water and gives algae the opportunity to increase, causing turbid water.



Giant salvinia, *Salvinia molesta*

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Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*
Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org

West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999 and is spread by infected Asian tiger mosquitoes. People that spend time around lakes, ponds or any area with high levels of mosquitoes could be at risk of contracting this virus. Symptoms of West Nile virus usually range from mild and flu-like to no symptoms at all. However, if the virus enters the brain or spinal cord, death can result. There are still no specific vaccines or treatments available for the virus.

What can fishermen or boaters do to help prevent the spread of invasive species?

- ◆ Remove visible plants, animals and mud from your boat before leaving a body of water.
- ◆ Drain all water from your boat, motor, bilge, live well, and bait containers before leaving a water access.
- ◆ Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, and never release plants or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water.
- ◆ Before entering another body of water, be sure to clean and dry boat and equipment.

K.A. Rawlins. 2013. Why should I care? Series: I Am A Fisherman or Boater. Why should I care about invasive species? The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health,, Tifton GA, BW-2013-113. 2 p.

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