

Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by Seaplanes

Many invasive species, such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, can be unintentionally transported from one water to another on the floats of seaplanes. Many state and federal agencies recommend that you include these procedures into the operation of your seaplane. However, plane safety should remain the first priority when considering and following these recommendations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Before entering the aircraft:

- ✓ **Pump** floats (note: this will also help avoid spreading fish diseases).
- ✓ **Inspect** for and **remove** aquatic plants and animals (e.g., zebra mussels and water fleas) from the floats, wires or cables, and water rudders.

Aircraft moored for extended periods in zebra mussel infested waters may have zebra mussels attached to the floats and should be checked specifically on the transom, chine, bottom, wheel wells, and the step area of floats (see diagram). If you see or feel zebra mussels on the floats (small zebra mussels feel gritty), one or more of the following should be used before leaving the waterbody when facilities are available:

- **wash** with hot water; or
- **spray** with high-pressure water; and/or
- **dry** all parts of the floats for at least 5 days (A few days of hot summer temperatures will kill adult zebra mussels. Longer drying times of several

days are required to kill adult mussels during cool, humid weather.

- ✓ In remote locations where zebra mussels are present, but where there are no provisions for drying or spraying — **hand-cleaning** the underside of floats with a scrub brush and physically removing adult mussels is the best option available option for preventing the spread of zebra mussels. A plastic scraper may be helpful to remove adult zebra mussels.

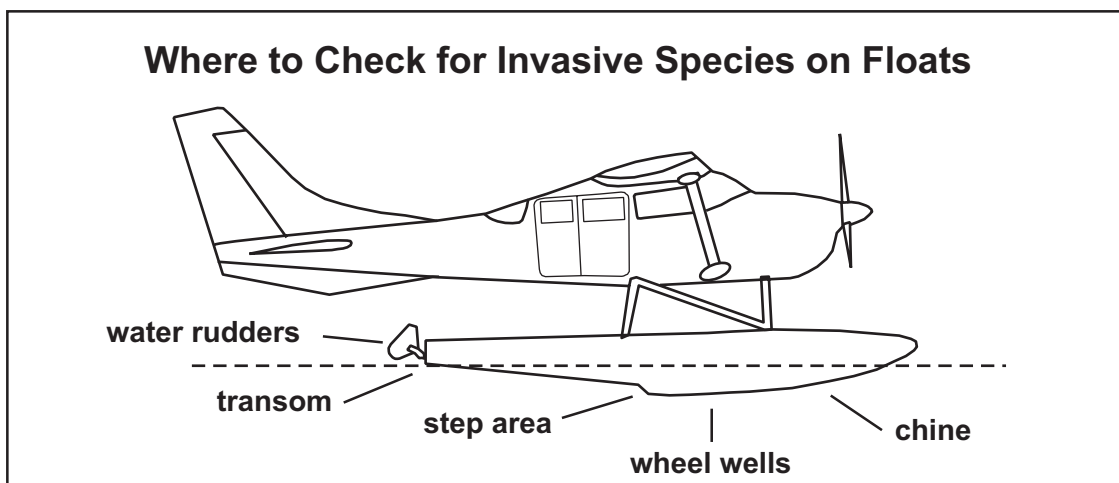
Pre take-off check:

- ✓ **Avoid** taxiing through heavy surface growths of aquatic plants before takeoff; and
- ✓ **Raise and lower** water rudders several times to clear off plants (this will also minimize cable stretch and improve the effectiveness of the rudders for steering).

After take-off:

- ✓ Raise and lower water rudders several times to free aquatic plant fragments while over the waters you are leaving or while over land; and
- ✓ If aquatic plants remain attached, return to the lake and remove the plants.

For more information on aquatic invasive species contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's Invasive Species Program at 651-259-5100, Minnesota Sea Grant's Invasive Species Information Center at 218-726-8712, or www.protectyourwaters.net.



Remember: It is illegal to introduce nonnative species into Minnesota waters.