Aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, Eurasian watermilfoil, bass, cichlids, and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) now inhabit a small percent of waters throughout the state. Other harmful species, such as hydrilla and northern snakehead, may be on the way and will create new problems if they are introduced in Minnesota.

Carp, such as goldfish and round gobies, are threats to aquatic ecosystems and water recreation. It also can displace native aquatic plants. Curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats on the surface, especially in clear waters less than 15 feet deep. Species such as hydrilla and northern snakehead may be on the way and will create new problems if they are introduced in Minnesota.

Silver (pictured) and bighead carp from Asia are threats to aquatic ecosystems and water recreation. It also can displace native aquatic plants. Curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats on the surface, especially in clear waters less than 15 feet deep. Species such as hydrilla and northern snakehead may be on the way and will create new problems if they are introduced in Minnesota.

Report new infestations
If you suspect a new introduction of an aquatic invasive plant or animal, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and call a DNR AIS Specialist at 651-259-5100, or contact a local DNR office or University of Minnesota Sea Grant office.

Zebra mussels attack native mollusks, plants, and watercraft. They can be heat survivors – reaching temperatures of 50°C within hours of being heated to 40°C. If they are present in the tank, the temperature should be monitored closely.

Eurasian watermilfoil causes problems in lakes by displacing native species and producing excessive growth. It can also out-compete other watercraft because their larvae can be carried to another lake by waves or currents.

Spiny waterfleas can be a problem for waterfowl when snails are infected. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl. When snails are aquatic, the parasites, infect waterfowl.
You can prevent the transport of AIS
Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are nonnative animals and plants that do not naturally occur in our waters and cause ecological or economic harm. Once introduced into an ecosystem where they have few natural predators, they can impair the damage to lakes, streams, and wetlands – and their native inhabitants. They harm our environment, outdoor recreation, and Minnesota’s economy, which all depend upon healthy water resources. What you can do
You can help prevent the introduction and spread of AIS by following both the required and recommended actions listed below.

Adicional recommendations:
You can take additional steps to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species. Especially if your boat has been in the water for more than 24 hours – or if you have recently been in zebra mussel or spiny waterflea infested waters. Take one or more of the following actions to clean your watercraft and equipment before visiting another lake or river.

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water. To kill zebra mussels and other AIS, use water hotter than 120°F for at least 2 minutes, or 140°F water for at least 10 seconds.
- Dry for at least 5 days.
- Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.
- Transport fish on ice – be prepared, bring a cooler.

Clean visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species whether dead or alive.

Drain water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor and drain-hive, freshwater, and bottom by removing drain plugs, before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and wastewatering devices open while transporting watercraft. It is illegal to transport a watercraft or water-related equipment without draining water.

Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, worms, and fish parts in the trash. If you want to keep live bait, drain bait containers and refill with bottled or purified tap water. It is illegal to release bait into the water or to release worms on the ground.

Know the Law.
You may not ... transport watercraft without removing the drain plug ▪ arrive at a lake access with drain plug in place ▪ transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species such as aquatic snails, ruffe, and round goby ▪ launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached ▪ transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers; or release bait into water.

There are also many regulated invasive species – such as spiny waterflea, rusty crayfish, and mystery snails – that may not be placed into another waterbody. Dock and boatlifts must be dried for 21 days before placing in another waterbody. Violating these regulations may result in fines up to $1,000.

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Clean In, Clean Out.
In addition to the required and recommended actions listed in this brochure, take these specific steps when engaging in the activities below:

Sailing
▪ Clean aquatic plants and animals from hull, centerboard or rudderboard well, rudderpost, trailer, and other equipment before leaving water access.

Personal watercraft
▪ Avoid ais with aquatic plants before launching personal watercraft.
▪ Run engine for 5-10 seconds on the trailer to blow out excess water and vegetation. Use deep intake and turn engine off.
▪ Clean aquatic plants and animals from hull, trailer, water intake grate, and steering nozzle. Before leaving water access.

Shore and fly-fishing
▪ Clean all visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from waders and hip boots.
▪ Scrub any visible material off footwear with a stiff brush.
▪ Use non-sedimentated bait such as corn or crustacean bait, and any water-containing devices.

Scuba diving
▪ Clean aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access.
▪ Drain water from buoyancy compensator, regulator, cylinder, boot, and any water-containing device.
▪ Rinse inside and outside of gear with hot water.

NEW: Affirmation
Beginning in 2016, you’ll need to affirm, with your signature, that you understand AIS regulations to get a new boat license or non-resident fishing license. Learn more at trailers.mndnr.gov.