

# BOATER ACTION PLAN

Don't let invaders aboard your boat. We helped invasive species spread in our lakes, rivers and streams. Now it's costing us millions in maintenance every year to repair the damage they do.

## 1. Clean your boat and gear

Before leaving the water, clean any mud, vegetation, mussels, or anything suspicious from your boat, motor, trailer, or fishing equipment. Zebra and quagga mussels are happy to hang onto your hull, while aquatic plants like Eurasian water-milfoil hide on your motor, anchor, and trailer.

## 2. Drain before your leave

Drain all standing water by pulling the plug on your transom and live well at the boat launch. Never take an aquatic invasive species from one waterbody to another.

## 3. Dry or disinfect

Some aquatic invasive species can survive up to 2 weeks out of water, and not every invader attached to your boat can be seen with the naked eye. To remove invaders you can't see, dry your boat for 2-7 days in sunlight or clean your boat from top to bottom with hot water over 50°C or pressurized water over 250 psi before travelling to a new waterbody.

## 4. Avoid aquatic plants

Avoid running the engine through aquatic plants. Propellers can break aquatic plants loose and spread invasive species.

## 5. Never transport or release a prohibited invasive species

It is illegal to possess, transport, deposit or release a prohibited invasive species. If you are boating in a waterbody where European water chestnut or water soldier are found, you must:

- avoid boating in the infested area
- take reasonable steps to avoid spreading these plants to another part of the waterbody
- remove the plants from your boat, motor and trailer before travelling over land
- dispose of the plants so they won't end up back in the waterbody.

## 6. Report all invaders

Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at **1-800-563-7711** to report an invasive species sighting, or download the **EDDMapS Ontario app** to report an invader on the spot.

## 7. Report all invaders

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, download action plans for Anglers, Hikers, Cottagers and Gardeners.

For more information, you can also visit our partner websites:

**Invading Species Awareness Program,**  
[invadingspecies.com](http://invadingspecies.com)

**Ontario Invasive Plant Council,**  
[ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)

**Invasive Species Centre,**  
[invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://invasivespeciescentre.ca)

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations**  
[foca.on.ca](http://foca.on.ca)