



Protect Our Waters - Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

For many of us, fishing and playing in lakes, rivers and streams are some of life's greatest pleasures and pastimes. For others, the health and vibrancy of these aquatic resources are much more critical. They are a way of life. Outdoor recreational users need to be aware of the impacts that aquatic invasive species (AIS) have on the environment and their costly effects on fishing, boating and water quality.

Today, these waters are under attack by aquatic invaders like zebra/quagga mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, rusty crayfish, spiny waterfleas and curly-leaf pondweed. These "aquatic hitchhikers" are invasive and have no native predators in our waters. AIS have invaded scores of lakes, rivers and streams, doing severe damage across the country. At an estimated annual cost of over \$100 billion in the United States, invasive species are a huge threat to our country's natural resources.

Each one of us can help to prevent the spread of AIS. To preserve and defend our valuable aquatic resources, everyone who participates in activities on or near the water needs to:

1. Understand and identify AIS threats.
2. Know what to do to prevent further spread.
3. Help educate others who use aquatic resources, including younger children and adults.

Anglers, boaters and other watercraft users must take action to prevent the spread of AIS. Clean, Drain and Dry your boats, gear and equipment before leaving any water access.

**Article provided by the Clean, Drain, Dry Initiative - <https://www.wildlifeforever.org/home/invasive-species/>

Submitted by the LSA Fish Conservation Committee (FCC)