

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Michigan Lake and Stream Association  
[www.mymlsa.org/aquatic-invasive-species](http://www.mymlsa.org/aquatic-invasive-species)
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
[www.mi.gov/aquaticinvasives](http://www.mi.gov/aquaticinvasives)
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
[www.mi.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.mi.gov/invasivespecies)
- Midwest Invasive Species Information Network  
[www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)
- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!  
[www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net)

## BE AWARE AND STOP THE SPREAD

- Inspect and remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting your recreational equipment.
- Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting it.
- Dry equipment for at least five days.  
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- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.
- Know the Law: Michigan laws prohibit placing a boat, trailer, or other boating equipment into Michigan waters with plant material attached. State law also prohibits possessing or transporting any live transgenic (genetically engineered) organisms, several live non-native fish and many non-native aquatic plants, including entire plants, fragments and seeds, as well as hybrids and genetically engineered variants.

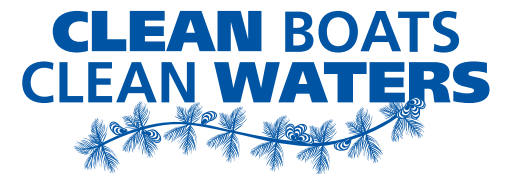
For more information on aquatic invasive species, visit  
<http://www.mymlsa.org/aquatic-invasive-species>



For more information about Michigan's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, visit <http://www.mymlsa.org/cbcw> or call (989) 831-5100



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



To learn more about participating in Clean Boats, Clean Waters, contact:

### Michigan Lake and Stream Associations

Phone: (989) 831-5100

E-mail: [info@mlswa.org](mailto:info@mlswa.org)

### U.S. Mail:

Clean Boats, Clean Waters  
300 N. State Street, Suite A  
Stanton, MI 48888

### Program Website:

[www.mymlsa.org/cbcw](http://www.mymlsa.org/cbcw)

Aquatic Invasive Species

**VOLUNTEER  
PROGRAM**



## INVASIVE SPECIES ARE BAD NEWS FOR BOATERS

Michigan has nearly 39,000 square miles of Great Lakes waters and more than 11,000 inland lakes larger than five acres. So it's natural that boating is one of the most popular recreational activities in the state, with nearly 1 million watercraft registered.

Unfortunately invasive plants, fishes and other organisms disrupt these ecosystems. They also interfere with recreation and damage watercraft and equipment.

Boaters, skiers or swimmers can unintentionally spread invaders from one body of water to another when aquatic invasive species (AIS) hitch a ride on recreational equipment.

Fortunately, most Michigan boaters want to help prevent the spread of AIS. However, many are not familiar with the few simple steps they should take.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a volunteer education program designed to assist Michigan boaters with keeping their boats free of invasive species and to help protect their equipment and our waters from the havoc caused by invaders.

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

By preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another, volunteers play an important role in protecting Michigan's water resources.

Volunteers help support prevention efforts by showing boaters how to inspect their equipment, demonstrating cleaning techniques for boats and trailers, and by sharing educational information about invasive species. If boaters are receptive volunteer conduct a quick demonstration on how to inspect boat hulls, live wells, props and other equipment for invasive species and describe what to do if any are found.

Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, volunteers can also organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Adult and youth teams educate boaters about where they are most likely to find invasive species on their recreational watercraft.

### A Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer is:

- Caring – wants people to enjoy water recreation and wants Michigan to be free of aquatic invasive species.
- Friendly – interested in meeting new people and helping them.
- Informed – understands the problems caused by aquatic invasive species.
- Good communicator – able to explain the problem and demonstrate inspection and cleaning techniques.
- Flexible – willing to volunteer on some weekends and holidays.
- Physically able – healthy enough to inspect watercraft and trailers.
- Reliable – ready, willing and able to make and keep a commitment to the program during boating season.
- Accurate – able to record information for program organizers.

If that sounds like you, you're invited to join the Michigan's Clean Boats, Clean Waters team!

## VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Participants in Michigan's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program are prepared for success.

They learn which aquatic invasive species are currently threatening Michigan waters, and how to start a boat launch education program. This includes how to:

- approach boaters
- demonstrate boat and trailer inspection and cleaning techniques
- record important information
- identify high-priority invasive species
- share findings

Volunteer group leaders can request additional education materials such as posters, boat trailer stickers and t-shirts.

