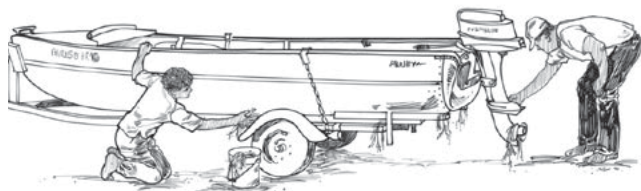


TOURNAMENT ANGLERS! Do your part to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers

By following a general set of procedures every time you come in contact with any body of water, you can protect your waters from aquatic hitchhikers. There are hundreds of harmful species of plants, fish, amphibians, crustaceans, mollusks, diseases and pathogens—some so small you may not even realize they are hitching a ride with you. The following steps will help to ensure that you are not part of the problem but the solution.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS![™]



To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and diseases WISCONSIN LAW REQUIRES THAT YOU:

INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment.

REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading & before transporting on a public highway)

DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment.

DON'T MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.

BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer and Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.*

*You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container. See www.dnr.wi.gov for more information.

If you leave a waterbody that contains aquatic invasives species **it is recommended** that you also disinfect your boat, equipment and gear by either:

WASHING with ~212° F water (steam clean), OR

DRYING thoroughly for 5 days after cleaning with soap and water and/or high pressure water, OR

DISINFECTING with either 200 ppm (0.5 oz per gallon or 1 Tablespoon per gallon) Chlorine for 10-minute contact time or 1:100 solution (38 grams per gallon) of Virkon Aquatic for 20- to 30-minute contact time. *Note: Virkon is not registered to kill zebra mussel veligers nor invertebrates like spiny water flea. Therefore this disinfectant should be used in conjunction with a hot water (>104° F) application.*

Safety Precautions for Disinfectant Use:

It is recommended that eye protection, rain gear, and gloves are worn while applying any disinfectant. While disinfecting, stay well away from any waterbody and upwind of any spray. After disinfecting, rinse all surfaces with tap water.

Sources of disinfectants:

Chlorine - Household bleach (5.25% chlorine) can be purchased from a grocery or convenience store. HTH is granular chlorine (70% calcium hypochlorite) and can be purchased from a pool supply company.

Sodium Thiosulfate - Commonly used to neutralize chlorine and iodine. It should be available at a pool supply company or from a chemical supply company.

Virkon Aquatic - is available from Western Chemical. It is the same formulation, but without the perfume and dye, and the label addresses specific fish pathogens. Their phone is 1-800-283-5292.

New law requires boats to be clean before they leave launch

While boaters and anglers have long been advised to clean off their boats before leaving the landing, a new law prohibits boats from leaving the launch “dirty.”

It is illegal for people to drive away from a boat landing with aquatic plants or animals attached to their boat, trailer or vehicle. A first citation of this so-called “transporting” law carries a penalty ranging from \$232 to \$767.50 and a second offense within three years carries a penalty that ranges up to \$2,657.

DNR conservation wardens and specialized deputy wardens known as “Water Guards” will be making traffic stops of vehicles travelling on public highways and observed to have aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached to the vehicle, boat, trailer or other equipment. They will be issuing warnings and educating people about the new law, says Water Guard Mac Hannon.

“We will be stressing education over enforcement,” Hannon says. “While citations may be issued in some cases, our goal is to get all boaters to voluntarily follow this law in order to protect Wisconsin lakes, rivers and fish.”