

What Can I Do to Help?

- Use the **Boater's Checklist** on the back of this brochure to avoid giving aquatic invasive species a ride.
- Learn more about invading species and report sightings of unusual aquatic plants or animals to the

Invading Species Hotline at
1-800-563-7711

or Visit

www.invadingspecies.com

The Hotline is operated in partnership with the *Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters* and the *Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources*



OFAH

STOP THE SPREAD

BOATER'S CHECKLIST

Before you leave the boat launch:

- Remove all aquatic plants, mussels or other visible organisms and put in the garbage.
- Drain the water from your boat, including the motor, live well, and bilge.
- Do not release live bait! Empty your bait bucket on land, or freeze or salt the bait to use later.
- Remove organisms you can't see on your boat by:
 - Rinsing with hot water, or
 - Spraying with high-pressure water, or
 - Drying in the sun for 5 days.

Report sightings of invasive species by calling the
Invading Species Hotline at
1-800-563-7711



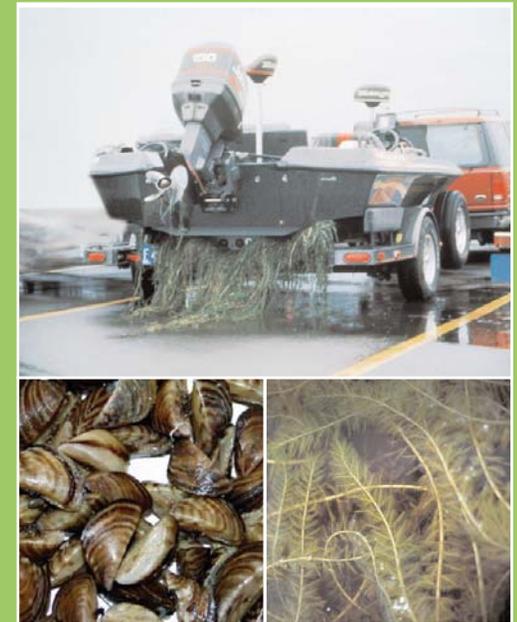
You can stop invading species
www.invadingspecies.com

Photos on front cover: Fouled motor, Ladd Johnson;
Zebra mussels, U.S. Geological Survey Archives;
Close-up on Eurasian milfoil, Alison Fox, University of Florida;
Illustrations: Round Goby, D. Jude, CGLAS;
Eurasian watermilfoil, IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants, U of Florida

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS



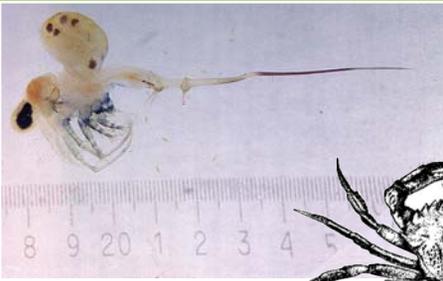
Help **STOP**
the Spread of
**Aquatic
Invasive
Species**



 Ontario

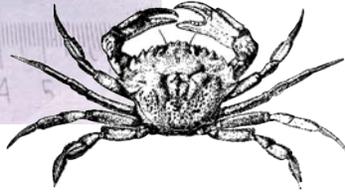


Canada 



Spiny Waterflea,
Bythotrephes longimanus

Green Crab,
Carcinus maenas



EF Ricketts and J. Cahin, *Between Pacific Tides*, Stanford University Press, 1968

What are alien invasive species?

An alien species is a plant or animal occurring in an area outside of its known natural range as a result of accidental or intentional introduction by human activities. An alien species is considered invasive if its introduction and spread causes harm to the environment, economy or society.

You may recognize the names of some alien aquatic invasive species that have already invaded Canadian waters:

- Zebra mussel (clam)
- Round goby (fish)
- Spiny water flea (invertebrate)
- Eurasian watermilfoil (aquatic plant)
- Green crab (crab)



Eurasian watermilfoil,
Myriophyllum spicatum

Zebra mussels, *Dreissena polymorpha*



Randy Westbrooks, U.S. Geological Survey

Round goby,
Neogobius melanostomus



George A. Coker

Why do we need to stop the spread of alien species?

When aquatic invasive species are introduced and survive, their population usually increases very rapidly. They may feed on native species and compete for food and space, as well as introduce parasites and diseases that could infect native species. Invasive species are known to be one of the leading causes of native species populations becoming threatened or endangered. In fact, alien species are now recognized as a serious problem threatening global biodiversity and human health worldwide.

How do they get here?

On any one day, an estimated 3,000 species are transported in the ballast water of ocean-going vessels around the world. Anything from fish, to snails and clams, to aquatic plants, to pathogens can be transported in ballast water to almost any port in the world. Ballast water is used to add weight and stabilize the ship in rough waves. Some species can also catch a ride on the outside hull of the ship. Either way these "aliens" can be deposited into any Canadian port, including those on the Great Lakes.

In addition to shipping, aquatic invasive species can arrive and spread through:

- recreational boating
- aquarium and water garden trade
- release of live bait
- live food fish trade
- aquaculture
- man-made canals

Once established in a waterbody, invasive species are extremely difficult, if not impossible to control or eradicate.

How are they spread once they get here?

Once they are here, the most common way aquatic invasive species are spread is by hitching a ride on a boat, trailer, boating equipment and fishing gear, including bait buckets. You can help keep all our lakes great by following the boater's checklist (at the back of this brochure) to make sure these harmful hitchhikers are not spread any further.



Sea Grant HAACP

How do aquatic invasive species affect you?

Aquatic invasive species affect everyone that uses our waters, including boaters, shoreline property owners and anglers. These invaders can:

- Clog boat engines and jam steering equipment which may lead to expensive repairs
- Clog cottage water intake lines
- Choke lakes and waterways and restrict use by boaters and swimmers
- Reduce the numbers of popular sportfish
- Foul fishing gear
- Reduce populations of native fish, clams, waterfowl and other species that inhabit our waters
- Degrade the natural beauty of our lakes and waterways
- Reduce waterfront property values