

PROBLEM INVADERS:

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

A perennial invasive plant that grows beneath the water surface. Feather-like green leaves with twelve or more thread-like segments circle the stem in groups of four or five. Creates thick mats of vegetation that hinder recreational activity and out-compete native plants. Commonly spread by clinging to propellers, trailers and anchors. New weed beds can grow from just one small fragment!



Photo by: Alison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

Spiny Waterflea

A small aquatic predator (up to 1.5cm in length) that relies on water currents and wind to move long distances. A major threat to native zooplankton communities with tail spines that catch on fishing equipment, making it difficult to reel in lines. Easily spread between waterbodies on angling equipment and in bait buckets, live wells and bilge waters.



Photo by: Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant

Zebra Mussel

A freshwater bivalve averaging 2-2.5cm in length. Sits flat on its underside and generally has dark and light zigzagged patterns. Capable of heavily colonizing hard and soft surfaces that can lead to the clogging of water intake structures. Alter food webs and hinder recreational activities. Spread by attaching to boats, trailers and other equipment as well as juvenile stages hitchhiking in waters from motors, live wells and bilges.



Photo by: Dave Britton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN TOURNAMENTS:

- This project is currently focused on the Lake Simcoe and Kawartha Lakes watersheds
- Many aquatic invasive species are already present in these areas; therefore, it is extremely important to prevent new introductions and the spread of these invaders to surrounding waterbodies
- The goal of this project is to help prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases like VHS through the recreational boating pathway
- Grassroot tournament anglers can set an example for other recreational anglers to follow the same preventative procedures and help minimize risk



Photo by: Scott McGill, OMNRF

REPORT INVADERS TO: INVADING SPECIES HOTLINE

1-800-563-7711

WWW.EDDMAPS.ORG/ONTARIO

EDD **MapS** Ontario
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



VISIT THE EDDMAPS
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PROTECT ONTARIO'S FISHERIES

TOURNAMENT ANGLERS WORKING TOGETHER TO
STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



Cover photo by: Lures and Tours



HOW CAN I HELP?

Due to the frequency at which competitive tournament anglers travel between watersheds, your actions at the launch are extremely important in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and diseases like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). As a competitive tournament angler, you can act as an ambassador of invasive species prevention by setting an example for other recreational anglers at launches across the province. Help preserve Ontario's fisheries for future generations by following these best practices:



GOOD	BETTER	BEST
Clean, Drain	Clean, Drain, Dry	Clean, Drain, Disinfect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CLEAN off all visible mud, vegetation and other debris ✓ Pull and store the DRAIN plug, lower your outboard to drain standing water and drain live wells before leaving the launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In addition to cleaning and draining: ✓ Dry your boat and equipment in hot or sunny weather for 2-7 days before transporting them to another body of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use a pressure washer to spray off your boat and trailer (250psi) OR rinse off your boat and trailer with hot water (greater than 50°C) ✓ To prevent the spread of VHS, rinse live wells with 10% household bleach/water solution (i.e. 100ml of bleach to 1L water). Rinse well with water to remove any residual chlorine

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Be sure to **CLEAN** and **DRAIN** your boat each time you are leaving a waterbody at the **bare minimum**
- Rinse off anchors and drift socks after each use
- Inspect and clean your trolling motor as it can easily collect invasive animals and plant debris in shallow water
- Although live bait is generally not permitted for tournament use, remember that it is illegal to dump your bait bucket contents into any waterbody in Ontario
- If using live bait, buy locally



Spiny waterflea collected on fishing line.
Photo by: Andrea L. Jaeger Miehs, Michigan State University

YOU'RE NOT ALONE:

Since 1992, the **Invading Species Awareness Program** has been monitoring and raising awareness about invasive species in Ontario through a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR).

This program's goals are to:

- Generate education and awareness of invasive species
- Address key pathways contributing to invasive species introduction and spread
- Facilitate monitoring and tracking the spread of invasive species



Operation Boat Clean is a joint invasive species awareness initiative between **OFAH** and **MNR** that encourages boaters to take precautions at the launch to help stop the spread of AIS. **Boat wash stations** are currently operated out of the **City of Barrie** and the **City of Orillia**.

