



Aquatic Invasive Species



Prevent the Introduction—Reduce the Spread

Chisago and Northern Washington County waters are threatened by Aquatic Invasive Species!

Each year, thousands of boaters come to local lakes and rivers, potentially bringing zebra mussels & other aquatic invasive species along with them. Take these steps to reduce the spread.

Clean *watercraft, trailer, motor, and equipment.*



Drain *water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well. Keep drain plugs out during transport.*



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html

Dispose *of unused bait in the trash or reuse bait by draining the water and replenishing with bottled or tap water.*



Photo of ice fishing bait in a bucket.
www.michigan.gov/dnr/

Dry *recommended for all watercraft for 5 days. Required 21 days for docks, lifts or swim rafts.*



- Check your boat & trailer every time you enter & exit a body of water.
- You cannot transport water away from any lake or stream in MN.
- You cannot release bait into any MN lake or stream.
- What you do Matters...it's MN State law to Clean, Drain, Dispose!

Thank you for helping reduce the spread! To learn more visit www.chisagocounty.us & search for Aquatic Invasive Species. Or visit cflwd.org/ais.php.

Keep an eye out for these invasive species:



Eurasian Watermilfoil

Grows in dense mats at water surface interfering with boating. Has 12-21 feathery, leaflet pairs per leaf in whorls around stem. Found in **Chisago, Ellen, Fish, Green, Little Horseshoe, N/S Center, N/S Lindstrom, Rush, Bone, Comfort & Forest Lake.**



Flowering Rush

Grows 1-4 feet tall along shorelines. Outcompetes native vegetation. Reproduces by both seed and root. Local populations in **Forest Lake**, Lake Minnetonka and other metro lakes.

Curly-leaf Pondweed

Shades out native plants by growing in dense mats. Often the first plant to appear in the spring, then dies off mid-summer releasing nutrients that cause algal blooms.



Has stiff, wavy leaves with toothed edges. Has been prolific in the state for so long most people do not realize it is not native. It is very common in our many area lakes.

Visit the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) **Infested Waters List** for known locations of invasive species at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html.



Zebra Mussels

Small, yellow and brown striped mollusks. Attach to surfaces with byssal threads. Feed on plankton that young fish eat. Found in **Forest Lake**, Lake Minnetonka, Lake Mille Lacs, White Bear Lake, **St. Croix River** and Rum River.



Purple Loosestrife

Outcompetes native plants for space in wetlands and on shorelines. Grows 2-7 feet tall with showy purple flower spikes on woody stems. Produces thousands of seeds each year.

Invaders in nearby waters:



Spiny Waterflea

Tiny with spikes or "barbs" that form along the base of the spine or tail. Translucent and forms clumps. Attaches to fishing lines, ropes and nets. Eats the same things that small, native fish eat. Easy to unintentionally transport due to being so small. Found in Lake Mille Lacs. REV: 6/16