

# SPREAD the word to STOP the spread of AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES in our WATERS

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are species that are not native to the local ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health.

AIS can be plants or animals. Some of the most problematic invaders currently in Minnesota are:



Zebra & Quagga Mussels



Spiny Water Fleas



Faucet Snails



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Curly Leaf Pondweed

These animals and plant can threaten native species and aquatic ecosystems; interfere with municipal, commercial & agricultural water supply and distribution; and impair recreational activities.

## The “Means of spread” of many of these AIS: WATERCRAFT & TRAILERS

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

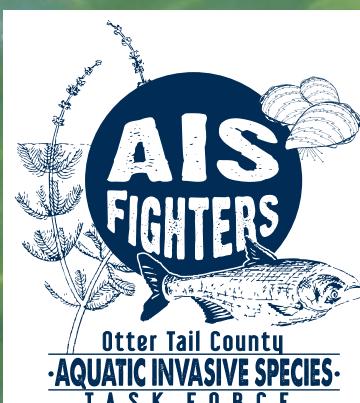
For additional information on how to Spread the Word go to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>

**Violating these regulations may result in fines up to \$1,000.**

**To report a violation, contact a DNR Conservation Officer.**

**WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?**

Get Involved and become a Citizen Monitor! Everyone can make a difference.



## WHO to CONTACT?

To report new AIS sightings call the MN DNR at 888-646-6367 or 651-259-5100.

For more information contact:  
Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025  
888-646-6367 or 651-259-5100 [mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais)

## TAKE ACTION!

For Zebra Mussel Monitoring: Place a cinder block in 5-8 feet of water and check the block regularly (pull it up or snorkel) from Late June to Mid-September.

You can record results on the MN DNR website even if none are found: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/zebramus sel\\_monitoring/report.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/zebramus sel_monitoring/report.html)