



**It is illegal to possess, introduce, purchase, sell or transport aquatic invasive species.**

Bighead carp, silver carp, Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and other nonnative aquatic species threaten Iowa waters. These aquatic invaders do not occur naturally in our lakes and rivers. When transplanted into them, these exotic species can cause ecological and economic harm by displacing native plants and animals, damaging water resources, and interfering with water based recreation, including fishing.

The good news is that most of Iowa waters are not infested with aquatic nuisance species. The main way these invasive species spread between water bodies is by hitching a ride with anglers, boaters and other water recreationists on boats and equipment, on aquatic plants, and in water. If you leave a water body without taking precautions, you may be spreading the invasive species from one water body to another.

Fortunately, there are a few simple actions you can take to prevent their spread:

- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving a water body.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bilge before leaving a water body.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release fish, animals or plants into a water body unless they came from that water body.
- Rinse or dry your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when you left a water body. Before transporting to another water body, rinse with high pressure and/or hot (104 degrees) water or dry for at least five days.
- Learn to identify aquatic nuisance species and report any suspected sightings to the nearest DNR fisheries station.

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Laws**

It is illegal for anglers to possess, introduce, purchase, sell, or transport aquatic invasive species in Iowa except when a species is being removed from watercraft and equipment, is caught and immediately killed or returned to the water from which it came, or is being transported in a sealed container for identification purposes.