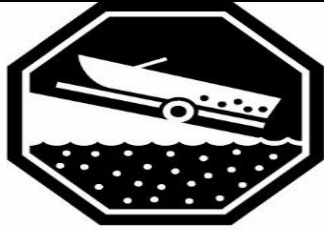


Maryland Aquatic Invasive Species

Vessel Self-Certification Form

All vessels (Motorized and Non-Motorized) must be free of Aquatic Invasive Species. (AIS)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Please watch the Maryland DNR Video:
Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqQ7P4M6Hoc>

It's the law!

08.02.19.05 .05 General.

A. A person may not place or attempt to place upon or into State waters a vessel or associated equipment with attached or contained aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species of nonnative organisms.

B. Water taken from waters infested by prohibited nonnative species may not be diverted, appropriated, or transported on public roads except in the following circumstances:

- (1) In an emergency declared by appropriate local or State authorities, such as a fire emergency;
- (2) As specified in water appropriation or public waters work permits; or
- (3) Under a permit issued by the Secretary.

In addition to any other penalty provided under law, a person who violates a provision of this section or a regulation adopted under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$ 2,500 or both for each offense, but not exceeding a total of \$ 25,000 for offenses arising out of the same enforcement action.

Before launching your vessel, please read the following statements, fill out the information, and sign below:

Boat Owner Number (for tournament): _____ Zip code of Boat Owner _____

My vessel and trailer were last on _____ Date _____
(most recent water body and state) (day/month/year)

I am planning to launch my vessel onto _____ Date _____
(planned water body and state) (day/month/year)

If you are planning on launching your vessel onto a **DIFFERENT** body of water from where you were last, **PLEASE** read the instructions on the back of this form and **properly wash and decontaminate your vessel and trailer** prior to launching to avoid the potential spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Please check each box below when completed:

- Has your vessel/trailer been thoroughly **cleaned**; any dirt, plant, animal material, and grit removed from the vessel/trailer and boat?
- Have you **drained** and dried all engines, ballasts, live wells, bilge areas, and/or other equipment?
- Has the vessel/trailer been allowed to completely **dry**? (if not, please see the back of this paper and follow additional cleaning methods to ensure you are not unknowingly transporting microscopic AIS)

Once you are able to check ALL boxes above, **please fill out the information below, sign, date and have it available at your launch site.** Thank you for helping to protect Maryland waters from AIS!

Tournament Director Name: _____ Date of Tournament: _____

*** Note: A **new certificate** should be filled out with the current information each time you launch your vessel***

Before launching your boat, it *must* be free of any Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). It's the law! This form serves shows you how to conduct a self-inspection or decontamination and helps Maryland DNR prevent ANS introduction to our waters. Check each box as you **Clean, Drain & Dry** and **THANK YOU for your help!**

CLEAN and DRAIN your boat....

Many ANS can spread into new water bodies from plant cuttings, microscopic larvae attached to your hull, motors or engines, and/or mud or other substrates on your boat, trailer, engine or equipment. As such it is important that you thoroughly INSPECT and CLEAN all aspects of your boat for AIS. You can use the HEAD acronym to help insure that you've checked, cleaned and cleared all parts that come in contact with water.

Hull and trailer

- Look and feel over entire craft on both sides of hull and trailer; Remove any plant fragments, mud or debris that is present. If hull is rough, consider pressure-washing
- Physically inspect the through hull fittings and check trailer bunks, rollers, tire wells, lights and electrical wires and remove any debris or mud present
- Remove bilge plug when inspecting transom. Activate bilge pump and allow it to empty onto a dry surface (not back into the water body). Feel bilge area and use a flashlight to see if there are any ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) present
- If craft has inboard engine, inspect prop, prop shaft and rudder

Engine or Motor

- Lower the engine and visually inspect the engine and gimbal area with a flashlight
- Check the transom, outboard, propeller, wires and lines, and rear of the boat for any ANS

Ancor and equipment checked

- Inspect the anchor and rope/chain for mud, plants or ANS and remove if present
- Inspect life vests and all other equipment (SCUBA gear, fishing gear etc)

Drain and check interior compartments

- Drain all live wells, ballasts or interior compartments and allow to dry (see below)

DRY your boat and gear....

It is recommended that you allow your boat, trailer and any equipment or gear that has come in contact with infected waters be properly dried before launching on a different water body. Drying times vary with climate, weather, and seasons but general guidelines are as follows:

- at least **7 days** in **SUMMER**
- 18 days** in **SPRING or FALL**
- 30 days** in **WINTER**

Additional cleaning options....

If you have recently boated on a water body such as the Chesapeake Bay or a body of water known to have ANS, it is recommended you take additional steps to decontaminate your boat. These include cleaning your boat and equipment with HOT (>140°F), high pressure water (such as at a car wash station), or applying a 10% bleach solution (10% Bleach, 90% water) to any area that has come in contact with infected water; the solution will kill any microscopic larvae, bacteria or other material that you could inadvertently be transporting.

For additional questions/concerns, please call or email Julie Bortz (MDNR Resource Biologist) at 301-387-4112 or Julie.bortz@maryland.gov or refer to MDNR's AIS website at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/invasives>