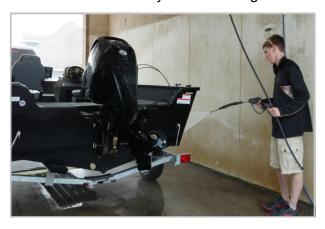
BEFORE You Launch... BEFORE You Leave...



Inspect your boat and trailer and REMOVE all plant, mud and debris before and after outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers

CLEANING CHECKLIST FOR BOATS & EQUIPMENT	
	Hull & Trailer
	Engine & Propeller
	Anchor & Rope
	Drain Live Wells/Ballasts
	PFDs, Gear & Equipment

Use high-pressure water, well away from the water's edge, to properly clean and decontaminate your boat and gear.





Drain ALL WATER from your boat, motor, ballasts and live wells on land to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers



Zebra mussel larva and microscopic organisms like spiny water fleas can survive in wet areas for days or weeks, making it essential to drain your boat.

WAIT! DON'T DUMP YOUR BAIT!

Releasing live bait into lakes and rivers is a major source of invasives.



Always dispose of unwanted bait at HOME- NOT in the water!



Allow your boat, trailer and all equipment to DRY COMPLETELY between outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

AT A MINIMUM, PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 48 HOURS FOR BOATS AND GEAR TO DRY

Some organisms can survive in damp areas for days or weeks, making it essential to allow your boat and gear to dry completely. Drying times often vary by season and under changing weather conditions.

Please remember to leave your boat plug out while towing.



The longer you can allow your boat and gear to dry, the better!

Why Should You Care?



AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

are plants or animals that are not native to a water body and have been known to cause significant economic or ecological harm, such as:

- ⇒ Loss of biodiversity
- ⇒ Altered aquatic food webs
- ⇒ Reduced water quality
- ⇒ Reduced public safety and health
- ⇒ Decline in fisheries and habitat
- ⇒ Damage to infrastructure
- ⇒ Loss of tourism and recreation

The U.S. spends nearly \$8 billion per year on invasive species control and mitigation.



RECREATIONAL BOATING

is a major cause of the spread of invasive species from one water body to the next.



Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

Department of Natural Resources Resource Assessment Service 580 Taylor Ave Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-260-8367 phone

DNR.MARYLAND.GOV

All Maryland state parks are Trash Free.

Please pack out what you pack in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-877-620-8DNR dnr.maryland.gov/invasives

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request.

Please refer to Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR 08.02.19.05) for more detailed information regarding aquatic invasive species laws and regulations.

DNR12-012819-120

4/2019

ATTENTION BOATERS!



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry. StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



IT'S THE LAW!

Code of Maryland Regulation 08.02.19.05