



Help Keep New Hampshire a Boating Paradise— Pull the Plug on Aquatic Invasive Species!

(Spring 2018)



Boaters can help keep New Hampshire's lakes a boating paradise by always cleaning, draining, rinsing, and drying their boats, trailers, and gear after taking the boat out the water.

Here's the good news:

The rate of the spread of invasive plants (including milfoil) from waterbody to waterbody in New Hampshire has slowed during the last 15 years. This trend can be largely attributed to the fact that hundreds of thousands of boaters in New Hampshire have learned from our Lake Hosts, clad in their iconic royal blue t-shirts, how to prevent the spread of invasive plants which can ruin the ecology and recreational enjoyment of our lakes. **Thank you, boaters, for always checking your boats and trailers before launching and after coming out of the lake to remove all hitchhiking plant fragments!**

But, here's the bad news:

The rate of spread of aquatic invasive **animals** in New Hampshire's waters appears to be on the rise. During 2017, new infestations of the Asian clam were found in two waterbodies, bringing the tally of waterbodies in the state documented with this invasive animal up to six. Biologists from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services suspect that there are more waterbodies with Asian clam populations that have yet to be documented. Like invasive plants, infestations of invasive animals can create serious problems in a lake. However, unlike invasive plants, there are currently no feasible or practical approaches to managing populations of invasive animals once they are in our lakes.

Relatively speaking, it's easier for Lake Hosts and boaters to see and remove fragments of plants hitchhiking on boats and trailers than it is to see and remove hitchhiking invasive animals. Aquatic invasive animals, including the Asian clam, can spread from waterbody to waterbody when present in nearly microscopic larval or juvenile forms in drops of water trapped in the bilge, motor, live well, ballast tank, or storage compartments of a boat.



What boaters can do:

NH LAKES recommends that boaters continue to always clean, drain, and dry their boat, trailer, and gear—anything that touched the water—after taking it out of the water and before launching it again into the same waterbody or another waterbody. **Cleaning and draining boats after taking them out of the water and leaving all drain plugs out/open while trailering is the law in New Hampshire.**

To provide our lakes with even more protection from the spread of invasive species, we recommend that boaters always take time between waterbodies to rinse boats and trailers with clean water—the hotter the water and the higher the pressure the water the better. When rinsing, be sure to flush out the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and storage compartments per manufacturer instructions. NH LAKES has identified a number of boat-friendly do-it-yourself car wash locations that have bays that can accommodate boats on trailers. If a boat-friendly car wash station is not located nearby, we recommend using water from a garden hose in a location where the dirty rinse water will not flow into nearby waterbodies or wetlands.

For specific information on how to clean, drain, and dry, and a listing of boat-friendly car washes, download the brochure “PULL THE PLUG ON AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS” at www.nhlakes.org. If you would like FREE copies of this brochure to distribute to your boating friends/group or rental or marina customers, contact NH LAKES at info@nhlakes.org or 603.226.0299—just let us know how many copies you would like and the address to send them to.

Thank you for stepping up to better protect our lakes—all 1,000 of them—from the spread of invasive plants and animals! And, enjoy the lake!

NH LAKES is the only statewide, member-supported nonprofit organization working to keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy, now and in the future. The organization works with partners, promotes clean water policies and responsible use, and inspires the public to care for our lakes. For more lake-friendly tips, visit www.nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.

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