What Anglers (and Boaters) Know About AIS and What Messages They Still Need to Hear

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A SURVEY OF ANGLERS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

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Anglers

- Who are often boaters
Questions to be answered today

- How aware are they of AIS?
- What do they know about AIS?
- How concerned are they about AIS?
- What actions are they currently taking?
- What messages can be improved?
- How to connect with them?
Awareness

Know something about AIS
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

To help protect Florida’s lakes, rivers and springs from invasive species, be sure to:

CLEAN plants off and dispose of them on dry land or in the trash.
DRAIN standing water from your boat.
DRY your boat to prevent the transport of aquatic hitchhikers.

For more information visit:
www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu or www.protectyourwaters.net
Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

% who had heard phrase

IL | IN | MI | NY | OH | WI
---|----|----|----|----|----
60 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 50 | 80
Knowledge of New York Anglers and Boaters

Zebra Mussels

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<th>Anglers</th>
<th>Boaters</th>
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<td>Know something about it</td>
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Hydrilla

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Beliefs of Great Lakes Anglers

- AIS can hurt native fish populations
- AIS can reduce the number of fish available to catch
Concern

Very concerned about AIS
Recommended Actions

- Inspect fishing or boating equipment (89%)
- Remove material before transporting fishing or boating equipment (89%)
- Drain all water holding compartments (92%)
- Dry all fishing and boating equipment before use in another water body (78%)
- Disinfect or rinse with hot water anything that came into contact with water before reuse (56%)
Always Drain
Always Drain & Always Dry
Never Disinfect or Rinse with Hot Water

Disinfect or rinse with hot water
Boater Behaviors

- 82% *always* drain water-holding compartments
- 79% *always* clean vegetation off boat
- 62% *always* dry boats before using in another water body
- 34% *always* wash off their boat when they get home
Recommended Baitfish Actions

- Use certified baitfish
- Bait disposal
  - Water where caught (27%)
  - Trash (41%)
  - Dry land (41%)
  - NOT another body of water (42%)
We may be small... but we can be BIG trouble!

Keep Fishing Great in New York State

USE BAITFISH ONLY WHERE PERMITTED
ONLY USE CERTIFIED DISEASE-FREE BAITFISH
DUMP UNUSED BAIT ON DRY LAND
DON'T MOVE BAIT OR OTHER FISH FROM ONE WATER TO ANOTHER
REPORT ILLEGAL STOCKING ACTIVITIES

PROTECT YOUR WATERS

Anglers and Boaters

Help STOP the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases

Fish diseases such as redmouth flag ripples, Bloody Bowl and parasites such as the False Carp and European Bass may be introduced through the use of fishing and boating equipment that has not been properly cleaned, dried or disinfected. Help keep our waters clean and disease free by following the following procedures:

1. REPLACE water in your boat. Use a clean water source to fill your boat. Remove all aquatic plants and animals that might be moving to a new water body. Dry equipment that will go into another water body before using it in another water body. Disinfect the equipment using the below guidelines, including equipment that comes in contact with water.

2. DISINFECT equipment. If you cannot do step 1 above, use one of these disinfecting methods:
   - 2% household bleach solution: Mix 12 tablespoons of household bleach with one gallon of water. Soak equipment for 10 minutes then rinse with clean water.
   - Dechlorination: Fill equipment with dechlorinated water and soak for 5 minutes. Replace dechlorinated water with fresh water and soak for 5 minutes. Rinse equipment with clean water.
   - Sunlight: Place equipment in direct sunlight for 1 hour. You can also use a 30-watt light bulb at 6 inches for 1 hour.

3. DISPOSAL equipment. Avoid introducing any aquatic plants and animals to another water body. It is illegal to dispose of aquatic plants and animals in the New York State's aquatic ecosystems.

Be on the lookout for these aquatic invasive species of concern:

[Images of invasive species]

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bait Disposal Methods: Acceptable

Water where caught  Trash  Dry land
Bait Disposal Methods: Unacceptable

Another body of water
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Summary So Far

- Most anglers aware of and concerned about AIS
- Most anglers and boaters take some action
  - But don’t wash equipment
How Messages Can Be Improved

- Most messages communicated with similar language and guidelines (inspect, remove, drain)
- Washing and drying messages not always consistent
  - Recommend hot water, disinfectant, high-pressure water
  - Varying drying times
  - Could be contributing to why fewer people wash equipment
Suggestions for Connecting with Anglers and Boaters

- Keep the messages consistent
- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers is well known
- Build on beliefs about AIS and level of concern
- Make taking action easier