

# 2020

## State of Maine

### Courtesy Boat Inspector Handbook





## CBI Cam Dufour at Pleasant Pond on Memorial Day Weekend

# Sources of help and information

Maine Department of Environmental Protection Invasive Aquatic Species Program –DEP staff: John McPhedran, Karen Hahnel, and Denise Blanchette - Bureau of Land and Water Quality, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333. 207-287-7688, milfoil@maine.gov

### Web sites with information about invasive aquatic species:

- Maine DEP: [www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives](http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives)
- Lakes Environmental Association (LEA): [www.mainelakes.org](http://www.mainelakes.org).
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: [www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-gboating/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-gboating/index.html)
- Lake Stewards of Maine (formerly Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program): [www.lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org)

### Courtesy boat inspector workshops and supplies: Ziploc ID bags, T-shirts, stickers.

- Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), Mary Jewett, 207-647-8580, mary@mainelakes.org, [www.mainelakes.org](http://www.mainelakes.org).

### Workshops for:

- Invasive Plant Patrol; Hand Removal of Plants
- Conducting Lake Plant Surveys
- CBI Training

Contact Roberta Hill, 207-783-7733, Lake Stewards of Maine, [stewards@lakestewardsme.org](mailto:stewards@lakestewardsme.org)

### Maine Public Safety Dispatch numbers – Use for an emergency or an immediate complaint:

- Augusta : 1-800-452-4664
- Bangor : 1-800-432-7381
- Gray: 1-800-228-0857
- Houlton: 1-800-924-2261

List of fishing tournaments: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/bass-tournaments.html>.

Maine Warden Service: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/warden-service/>

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*Efforts to prevent, detect and manage invasive aquatic species are made possible by dedicated funding from Maine watercraft registrations and out-of-state boat and seaplane operator purchase of the Maine Lake and River Protection sticker.*

# Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

Invasive aquatic plants such as variable leaf and Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, and water chestnut are a serious threat to Maine's waters. These plants are so vigorous and propagate so fast that they can crowd out native plants, affect fish populations, and make swimming and boating difficult, if not impossible. When that happens, costly control measures are needed.

Many new infestations occur in shallow waters near boat access points, suggesting that invasive plants move from lake to lake on the boats and equipment of unsuspecting boaters. If people are the cause, they can also be the cure.

Up to now Maine's invasive aquatic species prevention focus has been on invasive plants and fish. Many of our neighboring states are dealing with invasive small-bodied animals such as spiny water flea, Asian clam, and zebra mussels. Maine's spread prevention program must expand to include the risk posed by these new threats.

The state has developed a program to reduce the risk of spreading invasive aquatic species (IAS) including plants, fish and small-bodied animals. It's the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program, and it's our lakes' first line of defense. Inspectors educate boaters about IAS spread prevention and assist boaters with inspecting boats, trailers and gear and removing anything found.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees and distributes grants to local CBI programs protecting their lakes from IAS. While DEP provides training, protocol, and funding, none of this prevention work can be done without the hard work of local residents.

## Maine's 'Milfoil law'

The first bill involving invasive aquatic plants passed in 2000. Several related bills have passed since, including the sticker funding mechanism in 2001.

Funding for education, prevention, eradication and enforcement comes from the sale of stickers required for motorized boats used on inland waters. Failure to display the appropriate sticker (see Page 5) can result in a fine. MRSA Title 12, Sections 13056 and 13058.

## Serious Consequences

It is illegal to transport ANY aquatic plant, native or non-native, on the outside of a vehicle, boat, trailer or equipment. Violations may result in fines up to \$500, and \$2,500 for subsequent violations (MRSA Title 38, Section 419-C).

Launching a boat carrying invasive aquatic plants, as defined in MRSA 38 Section 410-N, carries a more serious fine of between \$500 and \$5,000 (MRSA Title 12, Section 13068-A).

## Courtesy Boat Inspectors do the following:

- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic species (IAS) spread and promote Clean, Drain, Dry message (below)
- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments and zebra/quagga mussels
- Ask boaters to drain bilge and live wells to reduce the spread of small-bodied animals like mussels and spiny water flea
- Ask boaters to dry boats and equipment between lakes if possible
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Explain to boater Maine law on transporting IAS
- Distribute the map of known invasive aquatic plant infestations in Maine

## The Message: Clean, Drain, Dry

To prevent the spread of all organisms in Maine lakes, boaters should be aware of the problem and be instructed to remove all plants, animals and mud before boats are launched and after pulling out of a water body. To achieve this more comprehensive approach to spread prevention, inspectors are urged to practice and promote the Clean, Drain, Dry approach to IAS spread prevention.

Important note: inspections are still voluntary. Aside from laws regarding transporting plants and fish (summarized above), the Clean, Drain, Dry approach is not required but is recommended for improved invasive aquatic species spread prevention. Some northeast U.S. states require that boats be drained of all water before launching in another waterbody. While this is not state law in Maine yet, the threat of invasive fauna is real since some of these invasive animals are in neighboring states and Canada.

**Clean:** Encourage boater to inspect boat with you, demonstrating where to look for hitchhiking plants and other organisms. A visual inspection will reveal plant fragments and other debris anywhere on the outside of the boat, but especially on and behind propellers, license plate holders, rollers or 'bunks' that the boats ride on, the trailer frame, and any gear on the outside of the boat.

Ask permission to check gear inside the boat – such as anchors and lines, chains, fishing tackle, the floor of the boat, and live wells.

**Drain:** Explain the importance of draining water from the boat and motor after removal from a waterbody to prevent the spread of small animals such as the invasive zebra and quagga mussels, Asian clam and water flea.

Ask the boater to drain the bilge, engine motor, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the ramp.

Wakeboard boats have ballast tanks which should also be drained before leaving the ramp.

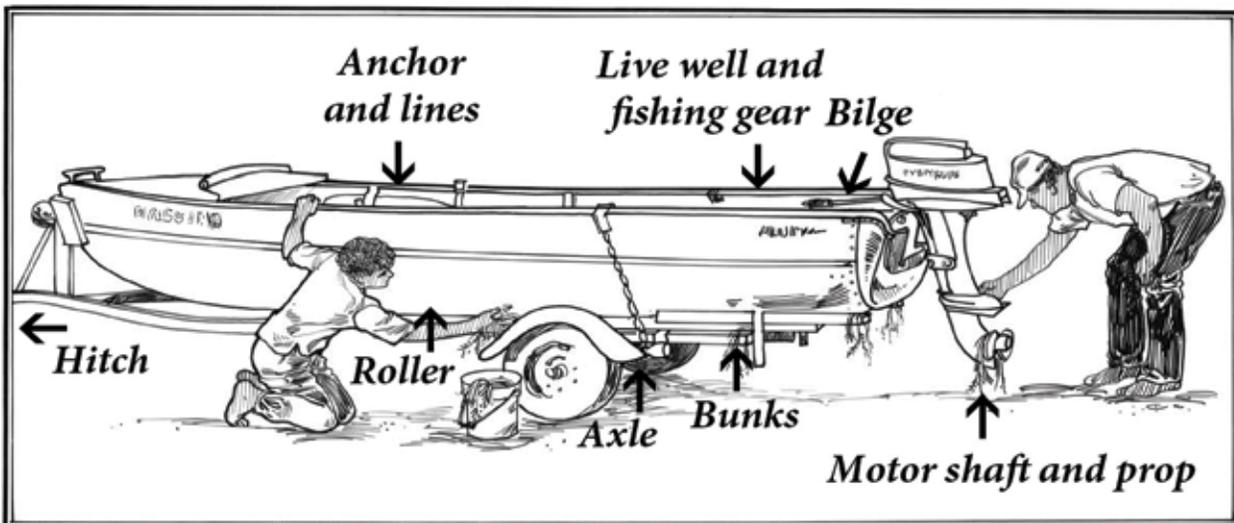
Check jet boats and personal watercraft (PWCs) intake grates. Ask them to run the engine 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water and vegetation from internal drive before leaving the water.

**Dry:** Encourage boater to dry the boat and equipment between use at different lakes. This is especially important if it came from a known zebra mussel or spiny

waterflea infested water. Drying can be done manually with a towel or by allowing the boat and equipment to dry thoroughly between uses.

**Additional Clean, Drain, Dry considerations:**

- The inspector should always check trailered boats arriving to launch to be sure their bilge and live wells are drained (and ideally dry) before launching.
- If the last lake visited is from out of state, the inspector should ask if they drained and dried their boat before coming to Maine. If the answer is no, the inspector should respectfully ask the boater to drive away from the ramp and drain their boat before entering. Remember: the inspector cannot require the boater to do so. If a boat from outside Maine has visible mud or organisms on it, the inspector should respectfully ask them to visit a car wash or use a pressure washer to clean the boat and trailer. Many of these organisms can be removed using high pressure spray and most can be killed with very hot water (140° Fahrenheit). While it's often not possible, allowing a boat to dry completely between uses (for at least 5 days) will also ensure that organisms are dead.
- Upon leaving the lake, and after visually inspecting for plant fragments, the boater should be asked to park away from the ramp and drain all water from the bilge, motor, live well, etc. before continuing their trip.



**Watercraft checkpoints:** Look for hitchhiking plants anywhere on the boat and trailer where they could be caught by rough edges.

Follow these steps and ask boaters to do the same on their own:

- ✓ **Clean** off any mud, plants (even small fragments), and animals from boats, trailers and equipment.
- ✓ **Drain** boat, live well, engine and equipment away from water.
- ✓ **Dry** anything that comes into contact with water.
- ✓ **Never** leave waters with live fish, or release plants or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

## The Ideal Inspection

A courtesy boat inspector can — and should — do much more than help boaters inspect their boats, trailers and equipment. Each inspection also is an opportunity to create a change in boater behavior, so that he or she automatically conducts an inspection without relying on an inspector. It's also a chance to educate the boater about why inspections are so important. "CBIs need to engage boaters in discussion – have a dialogue – rather than to quietly inspect their boat without explaining the importance of the boater inspecting on their own," says John McPhedran of DEP's Invasive Aquatic Species Program.

See the box below for questions that can help "break the ice" and establish a dialogue with boaters. Begin with conversational questions which will provide information about them as a boater, for example:

- So where are you from?
- Did you boat there?
- Are you visiting?
- Where else have you visited in Maine?
- Are you heading out fishing or just for a cruise?
- Did you know that plants that get caught on lines and anchors could be invasive and spread around the lake or to other lakes?

In addition to being familiar with the milfoil law, know how much money the milfoil sticker generates (about \$1 million annually; 80 percent for DEP and 20 percent for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife). And be ready to talk about nearby or newly infested waterbodies. Attempt to engage the boater and ask follow-up questions. You might be the first — perhaps the only — person to talk to a boater about protecting Maine's waters. Don't miss this chance to make a friend for your lake.

## Approaching the boater

Smile and be friendly as you approach the boater in the staging area, before he or she is on the boat ramp. Avoid delaying boaters or causing a backup. Wear a shirt or hat that identifies you as an inspector. To instill a "self-inspection" ethic among boaters, invite boaters to get out of their vehicles and conduct the boat and trailer inspection WITH you. If a boater is reluctant to take the time, simply offer the known infestations brochure, and record whatever information you can.

Make a note to approach this same boater again as he or she is leaving the launch to conduct a complete

survey and inspection at that time. Ideally, you will inspect each boat and trailer TWICE — entering and leaving the water.

Sample Script: "Good Morning / Afternoon. I am (a volunteer) from \_\_\_\_\_. We are trying to prevent the spread of invasive plants such as milfoil and hydrilla in Maine lakes. The plants are spread from lake to lake when they become lodged on boats, gear and trailers. May I have just a few minutes of your time to give you some general information and to show you how to inspect for fragments? If you would walk around your boat with me, I can show you some areas to check for hitchhiking plants."

## Transport of Fish

Legal baitfish and smelt may be transported alive. Excluding fish on the unrestricted species list (largely tropical fish), a person must have a valid stocking permit to keep and transport freshwater fish alive. Freshwater fish caught by anglers must be released alive or harvested and killed; however, those operating a permitted bass fishing tournament can temporarily keep fish alive while on the lake for which the permit was issued. For more information about invasive animals see pages 12-15.

## Trouble by the Bucketful!

Please help us fight this serious problem by telling boaters:

- It is illegal to transport live with without a permit.
- It is illegal to dump unused baitfish into any waterway.
- There is a \$10,000 fine for a conviction of illegal stocking.
- Always keep you ears and eyes open for those who are committing these senseless acts.

Black Crappie



**There is a \$2,000 reward for information leading to a conviction**

Northern Pike



To report information about an illegal introduction please call:

1-800-ALERT-US (253-7887) - In-State

(207) 287-6057 - Out-of-State

# of trailers present upon shift arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Pg. \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

# 2020 Maine Courtesy Boat Inspection Form

Check here if you encouraged self-inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ramp Name \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Host Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Shift Time: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use Military Time \_\_\_\_\_

State Abbr.	If Motorized *Entire BOW #: alphanumeric boat registration #	Current Year's Sticker Present? Circle Y/N/NM (non-motorized)	Previous Waterbody Visited For all inspections		Time of Inspection? Trailer, Boat, Motor <u>Military TIME</u>	Any Plants Found? (Circle Y/N)	Was the Plant Identified as Invasive?	Who Identified? **see bottom of page
			Lake Name	Town				
1		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
2		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
3		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
4		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
5		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
6		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
7		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
8		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
9		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	
10		Yes No NM			Entering Leaving	Yes No Yes No	Yes No Yes No	

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT CHANGE THIS FORM!**

V/P: V=Volunteer inspector; P=Paid inspector \*IMPORTANT— Record the entire boat's bow registration number.  
 \*\* Invasive plant identification must be done by Lake Stewards of Maine or DEP so send all suspicious plants for identification.

3/2020

# The inspection form

The Inspection Form accommodates up to 10 inspections. It is important that each boat inspector has his/her own survey form. NO SHARING PLEASE!

## Recording information on the inspection form

- Fill in the top two lines of the form completely. Failure to do so may render the entire form useless.
- Coordinators may want to fill in generic parts on these lines before photocopying a blank form.
- Be consistent when filling in the Launch Name/Location. This is important for data retrieval.
- Many of the columns can be filled in before you approach the boater.

## Description of inspection form questions

**If Motorized:** This box is for recording the boat's state abbreviation and the entire alphanumeric **bow registration number** (see below), not the annual registration sticker number. Motorized boats include any boat with any type of motor including canoes with electric motors and personal watercraft. **Note:** Massachusetts boats use MS for the state abbreviation on the bow.



**Sticker Present?:** Circle “yes” if the boat displays the current year's sticker (see right). The sticker color changes each year. This is also where you indicate if the boat is non-motorized by circling “NM”. **You are encouraged to inspect non-motorized watercraft.** If “yes” or “no” is circled then it is understood that the boat is motorized. It is important that one of these three options is circled.

The sticker reads “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers -Preserve Maine Waters” and is physically attached to the Maine watercraft annual registration sticker. Owners of

Maine-registered watercraft automatically pay the combined cost of the sticker (\$15) and the annual registration when the boat is registered for use on inland waters.

Owners of motorized boats with out-of-state registration are required to purchase and affix a separate nonresident sticker (see right) annually. The cost is \$35.

What does this mean for you, the CBI? For Maine-registered boats, look for the rectangular “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers – Preserve Maine Waters” sticker attached to the boat's annual registration sticker (above). For non Maine-registered boats, look for a white, square sticker (above) with colored text matching the wording and color of the Maine sticker. This should be located beside the out-of-state bow registration number.

What if a Maine registered boat has the current annual registration but lacks the attached “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” sticker? Owners of Maine-registered watercraft used only in tidal waters may declare such use to their town clerk. The \$15 fee will be deducted from the annual watercraft registration fee and the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” sticker will be removed from the watercraft registration, since boats used exclusively in tidal waters do not require a sticker. But if tidal boaters later decide to boat on inland waters their municipal office can issue (for \$15) a new Maine watercraft registration that includes the milfoil sticker.

What if the boat does not have the current year's registration and sticker? You do not have the authority to stop boaters from launching. However, you may inform them they risk a fine if a warden stops them. This is a good opportunity to explain where the money from the sale of the sticker goes.



## Where can boaters buy a milfoil sticker in your town?

Contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: 207-287-8000

Purchase online by scanning the QR code (right) or by visiting:

[https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/WebShop/public/subcategory?store\\_id=3&category\\_id=49&subcategory\\_id=87](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/WebShop/public/subcategory?store_id=3&category_id=49&subcategory_id=87)



**List places in your area where nonresident boaters can buy milfoil stickers.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

A key point to remember is that all the funds go to dedicated accounts at DEP and DIFW for preventing and managing invasive aquatic species. Eighty percent of the sticker funds go to DEP and twenty percent to DIFW.

**Previous Waterbody Visited:** It's very helpful to know if a boat came from an infested or out-of-state lake so extra precautions can be taken. Ask which body of water the boat was previously on. You also need to record the state where the lake is located (see the table below for the state abbreviations). **Note:** If you find a suspicious plant be sure to record the previous waterbody.

**Boat Inspected at What Time?:** We need to know whether the boater is potentially introducing plants into the lake or bringing them out. Record the time the boat entered or left the lake in the appropriate line.

Please use **military time** and use the same survey line for each individual boat if you see it twice (entering and leaving the lake). See the table to the right for converting to military time.

**Any Plants Found?:** If any aquatic plant is found, record a "yes." If you find a suspicious plant – one you believe might be invasive – you must send it in to the

Converting to Military Time			
Regular time	Military time	Regular time	Military time
Midnight	0	Noon	1200
1 a.m.	100	1 p.m.	1300
2 a.m.	200	2 p.m.	1400
3 a.m.	300	3 p.m.	1500
4 a.m.	400	4 p.m.	1600
5 a.m.	500	5 p.m.	1700
6 a.m.	600	6 p.m.	1800
7 a.m.	700	7 p.m.	1900
8 a.m.	800	8 p.m.	2000
9 a.m.	900	9 p.m.	2100
10 a.m.	1000	10 p.m.	2200
11 a.m.	1100	11 p.m.	2300

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) for identification or turn it in to the local program coordinator, who will either confirm it is not invasive or send it in to the LSM for positive identification. **Note:** Remember to record the entire boat bow identification number in the "If Motorized" field.

**Was the Plant Identified as Invasive?** Don't make your selection in this column until after a positive ID is made. **Note:** Only plants identified by LSM as invasive will be recorded in the state database.

**Who Identified the Plant?:** Use this column to record the person and/or agency that identified the plant.

<u>Boat Registration's State abbreviations:</u>				<u>Canadian Provinces</u>
Alabama AL	Indiana IN	New Hampshire NH	Texas TX	Newfoundland NL
Alaska AK	Iowa IA	New Jersey NJ	Utah UT	Prince Edward Is. PE
Arizona AZ	Kansas KA	New Mexico NM	Vermont VT	Nova Scotia NS
Arkansas AR	Kentucky KY	New York NY	Virginia VA	New Brunswick NB
California CF	Louisiana LA	North Carolina NC	Washington WN	Quebec QC
Colorado CL	Maine ME	North Dakota ND	West Virginia WV	Ontario ON
Connecticut CT	Maryland MD	Ohio OH	Wisconsin WS	Manitoba MB
Delaware DL	Massachusetts MS	Oklahoma OK	Wyoming WY	Saskatchewan SK
Florida FL	Michigan MC	Oregon OR		Alberta AB
Georgia GA	Minnesota MN	Pennsylvania PA		British Columbia BC
Hawaii HA	Mississippi MI	Puerto Rico PR		Yukon YT
Idaho ID	Missouri MO	Rhode Island RI		NW Territories NT
Illinois IL	Montana MT	South Carolina SC		
	Nebraska NB	South Dakota SD		
	Nevada NV	Tennessee TN		

**Did you know?** State abbreviations for boats were established by the coast guard in 1958. The post office didn't designate state codes until 1963. This is why the boat registration bow number may not match the State's postal or trailer abbreviation. Inspectors should always record the state code found on the boat.

## Dealing with suspicious plant fragments

Use the color pictures of plants found on Pages 21-25 to help determine if a plant fragment is suspicious. Suspicious means: Is there any possible chance the plant is an invasive? If yes, the plant sample must be sent to LSM:

At the ramp, bag and label the sample following the protocol in the box to the right, keeping the sample cool until handing off to the supervisor. There are now two ways to send a plant specimen to LSM 1) by mail or 2) digital picture. The text in the box at the right explains how to mail a plant sample. If you want to send a digital picture you must read and follow the instructions found online at <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/reporting-aquatic-species-6/>. It's very important to read the instructions as there is a right and wrong way to take the picture and an online form must accompany the picture.

Label and package the sample according to protocol **being sure to record the entire boat bow registration number for the sample ID (see box at right)**. Send the sample to the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM). Also please do the following:

- Hold the applicable survey form until contacted by LSM, which will be within 72 hours of receipt of plant. Write the plant name on the bottom of the original inspection form. If ID takes longer than this, explain why in the comment section and submit the inspection form.
- Fill in the "Was the Plant Identified as Invasive?" column to indicate if the plant was identified as invasive or not.
- Fill in the "Who Identified?" column to indicate who conducted the plant identification.



**Invasive Aquatic Plant Sample**

ID# (state and registration) MS 9521AR  
Date collected 7-26-08  
Collector's name Cyndi Broyer  
Organization LPA  
Contact's phone/email 207-925-2322  
Waterbody Lovewell Pond  
Town/County Fryeburg ME Oxford  
Launch site name Fish + Game

Mail moist sample to VLMP, 24 Maple Hill Rd., Auburn, ME 04210

### Preparing specimens for mailing

Keep the plant wet and cool; place it in the pre-labeled Ziploc bag provided to you at the beginning of the season. If the plant is delicate and/or flimsy, add enough water to the bag to cushion the plant and keep it wet.

If the plant is relatively sturdy, remove all air from the bag and seal. DO NOT wrap the plant in a wet paper towel or other absorbent material.

Using a waterproof marker, label the bag with the following information: Date; Collector's name; Waterbody; Town; Launch site location; Submitted by (person's name) and contact info; ID# (state abbreviation and **the boat's full registration number**) which should also be on the inspection form.

Make sure the bag is sealed tight and place it in a small box with enough packing material (crumpled newspaper works well) to prevent movement.

Mail the specimen on a Monday or Tuesday, to minimize the possibility of weekend delays. Please contact LSM at (207) 783-7733 or [stewards@lakestewardsofmaine.org](mailto:stewards@lakestewardsofmaine.org) to let them know the specimen is on its way.

Send packaged specimen to the following address:

Lake Stewards of Maine  
24 Maple Hill Road  
Auburn, Maine 04210

You will be contacted within 72 hours of receiving your plant sample. If the plant is invasive, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will be notified. Remember to fill in the last two columns of the CBI Inspection Form once you learn if the plant specimen is invasive or not.

## Personal Safety

Nothing is of greater importance or concern than your personal safety. Please observe the following guidelines when you are at a launch site:

- If you have a cell phone, take it with you to the boat launching site.
- Always back away from a potentially dangerous or violent situation. Volunteers are not enforcers of rules and should never jeopardize their own safety.
- If you are ever suspicious of someone (such as a loiterer or someone who is not boating), do not hesitate to leave the launch site. If you feel that a boat launch site is unsafe in any way, notify your coordinator or the host agency sponsoring inspections on your lake. If it's that dangerous to be there, report the condition to the local, county or state police and cease operations.
- Do not allow a confrontation to develop, no matter how strong you feel about the threat of invasive plants.



Courtesy Boat Inspectors at Roxbury Pond

## Conduct at the launch site

Follow these few simple guidelines and both you and boaters will be comfortable.

- Always ask if boaters would mind answering a few questions and ask permission to inspect their boats with them.
- Always introduce yourself and say which organization you are working for and why you are at the launch site. Do not just approach a boater and begin asking questions immediately, as they might be confused about who you are and why they should give you their time.

- Wear a CBI T-shirt or other organization shirt if available. It helps promote your message and reassures boaters that they're being approached by someone involved in a legitimate project.
- Maintain a positive attitude and wish all boaters a good day, no matter how irritable they may seem.
- In an effort to be more attentive to boaters, stay on your feet until the boat launches or is loaded on a trailer and driven away. If you sit down too quickly the boater may think you are not interested in conversation or a thorough inspection.

## Difficult Boaters

What if you meet with resistance and a boater refuses an inspection, or insists on launching even if they know there are plants on the boat or trailer, or doesn't have the current year's sticker? While most boaters are appreciative of your efforts to protect the lake, some simply do not want to be bothered or aren't convinced that invasive plants are a problem and therefore refuse to participate in an inspection. Remember these are courtesy boat inspections - always respect the boater's wishes. However you could:

- Politely explain the reason invasive plants and animals are a concern: "Invasive plants grow in dense mats that shade out native plants, block fish movement, entangle boat motor propellers, and interfere with swimming and other types of water recreation. Invasive plants grow rapidly and out-compete native vegetation needed by fish and wildlife".
- If the boat has a lot of plants, suggest the boater pull over and remove before launching. Caution the boater that Maine law prohibits the transportation of ANY plant on the outside of a boat, trailer, or equipment and prohibits launching a boat with invasive plants (see page 1 for more details about the law).
- Caution that all motorized boats using inland waters are required by law to affix the Lake and River Protection Sticker (see page 5 for more information) and risk a fine if the warden stops them.
- If the boater insists on launching or leaving with plants attached, note the vehicle license plate and boat bow registration numbers and communicate them to your coordinator or a Maine game warden (numbers are found on the front, inside cover).
- Most importantly, don't jeopardize your safety!

## Tricky questions

Courtesy Boat Inspections have been around for a while, so most people are aware of the program, but here are some ideas in case someone asks:

**“Why are you out here wasting resources when the plant is going to come anyway?”** You might say, “Even if we cannot keep the plants out completely, we can prevent a lot of widespread damage. Prevention gives us time to adopt new control methods as they are developed. Also, the longer we keep invasives out of a lake the longer we put off the enormous costs of management and property devaluation.”

**“Aren’t all plants bad anyway?”** It is important to clear up this misconception! Native plants are essential elements of an aquatic ecosystem, providing the basis for all life in the lake. The problem with invasive (non-native) plants is that they out-compete native plants, since they have no natural competition or predators.

**“I don’t think a sticker fee is fair because we boaters spend enough money as it is.”** Maine lacks adequate funding to protect its waters. Most states do not offer free public boat launching sites and it would be a shame if Maine had to charge boaters to launch their boats.

Many states charge a lot more than Maine does, either in registration fees, charges to launch boats or additions to the gas tax. In Vermont, 25 percent of boat registration fees go toward fighting invasive plants that have become established there.

In other New England states, boaters face higher fees and contend with more invasive species than Maine currently has. These invasive species impair boating and swimming.

**“I don’t have time for this . . . I know all about it already!”** This is a fairly common remark. If the boater does not wish to help you with the survey, you must respect their rights and let them be. Just offer them a brochure and wish them a nice day.

**“Who is really getting the money from the stickers anyway?”** Except for the \$1 per sticker agent fee for each non-resident boat and costs associated with distribution, printing and administration at Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, all of the money is channeled directly into the dedicated invasive aquatic species accounts at DEP and DIFW.

The state uses some of the money to offer grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations that sponsor volunteer efforts and local programs such as courtesy boat inspections.



**Variable Leaf Milfoil flowering in the Songo River in Naples, Maine**

# Implementing the CBI Program on your lake

Beyond the immediate goal of protecting your lake, the benefits of running a CBI program are many: great PR for your association resulting in new members, greater donations, and even the emergence of new leaders within your group.

**Requirements:** Each organization receiving a grant from the DEP for CBI staffing must send a minimum of one representative to a CBI training session. That person, ideally the organization's CBI supervisor, will be responsible for training all inspectors who are hired or who volunteer for the organization. **The main training session is held after the annual Milfoil Summit in April.** Contact LEA to arrange training if you can't make the Summit. Contact information is on the back

of the front cover, under "Sources of help and information."

In addition to CBI training and a CBI supervisor, you will need volunteers, a staffing schedule and a volunteer coordinator for each launch site if possible. Use the media and your organization's newsletter to publicize the need for volunteers, but realize you will probably not get enough people unless you make direct person-to-person requests.

Use your membership list, divide it up among volunteers, and call individuals you think would be willing to help protect the lake. Be sure telephone callers use the Volunteer Survey Form below. You'll be amazed how little you remember about each call after 5 or 10 minutes have passed. The call has four objectives: explain the problem (invasive aquatic plants); state your need (volunteers); get a commitment, and schedule the individual for CBI training.

## Volunteer survey

Sponsoring group \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Left message/ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Left message/ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Left message/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Will volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes/no)

Preferred Launch Site \_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't Matter \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred day \_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't matter \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time \_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't matter \_\_\_\_\_

Weekends available for boat inspection (Please circle the weekends volunteer is available):

June 6 June 13 June 20 June 27 July 4 July 11 July 18 July 25

August 1 August 8 August 15 August 22 August 29

Can you work July 1? \_\_\_\_\_ July 2? \_\_\_\_\_ July 3? \_\_\_\_\_ July 4? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you suggest other property owners or interested persons who might volunteer?

What training session would you like to attend?

Can you take a friend to the launch site with you during your assigned time? \_\_\_\_\_

What size T-shirt do you prefer? Small \_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ Extra Large \_\_\_ XX Large \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of recruiter) (Phone) (Email) (Date)

Scheduling inspectors: You can use Excel to make a spreadsheet showing the days and times you plan to have inspectors at launch sites. Two or three-hour time slots work for most volunteers. It's a lot easier if you can schedule a volunteer into the same time slot each week or for a period of weeks. Some organizations use on-line scheduling templates. The most popular is Google Drive. The busy times vary from site to site. Generally, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are good to cover. Some organizations cover weekends first, and then schedule extra volunteers on weekdays.

## Reporting procedure

Electronic inspection forms should be sent every two weeks to Karen Hahnel at the Maine DEP: [karen.a.hahnel@maine.gov](mailto:karen.a.hahnel@maine.gov)

Keep files just in case the originals are lost. Inspection forms received later than two months after the season may not be recorded.

## What has worked well?

- Signs like the one shown at right let boaters know what's ahead, making them more receptive to inspections.
- Using an online scheduler lets CBIs enter or change their work shifts from a computer connected to the internet.
- Wearing the CBI T-shirt immediately identifies you to boaters.
- Provide all inspectors with list of phone numbers to call.
- Know where boaters can buy stickers locally.
- Using a Mystery Boater program can help identify issues with individual CBIs.



## What is a Mystery Boater?

A mystery boater will observe the CBI inspecting their boat and report back to your organization about their performance. The boater will fill out an easy form to turn in to the CBI coordinator. This allows supervisors to assist inspectors who are having difficulties with the job.



# Please watch out for these other invaders

Although this manual is focused on preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants through courtesy boat inspections, it is important to realize there are also invasive aquatic animals that threaten Maine's water bodies. Read about some of the common invasive fauna on the following pages.

**Control methods** for invasive aquatic animals vary greatly depending on the species, but following the simple steps below can help to greatly reduce their spread into Maine.

1. Learn how to identify invasive aquatic species. Attend an Invasive Plant Patrol workshop. Visit the Lake Stewards of Maine website <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/mciap/herbarium/> for invasive species pictures and write-ups.
2. Clean your boat and equipment. Remove mud, plants, fish, and animals.
3. Drain all water from the boat. Remove the bilge and live well plugs. Drop the motor all the way down to drain standing water in the propeller.
4. Dry off everything that came in contact with the water by wiping down the boat or allowing it to dry for at least 5 days.
5. If 5 days of drying isn't possible before relaunching in a different waterbody, rinse the boat and trailer. Flush the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks and storage compartments with clean water per boat manufacturer instructions.
6. Extra precaution should be taken if a boat came from a waterbody known to be infested with an organism other than plants e.g. zebra & quagga mussels, Asian clams, spiny waterflea. Wash your equipment with high pressure, hot water, such as found at a car wash.
7. Never release any plants or animals into a different body of water from which they came.
8. If you have snails, plants, fish or other animals in an aquarium and you no longer wish to care for them, find a new aquarium home for them. Do not release them into the wild!

The following pages describe some of Maine's most threatening aquatic animal invaders. The descriptions and photos are taken from the *Maine Field Guide to*

*Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native look-alikes* by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants and the Lake Stewards of Maine. Additional source references for individual species are listed after each description.

## Spiny Water Flea

(*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*)

Spiny water flea is native to Great Britain and parts of northern Europe. Spiny water fleas are more common in deep, cool lakes. However, they also inhabit warmer lakes where surface water temperatures exceed 25° C. The creature is small (1 to 1.5 cm long) with transparent exoskeleton, a large black eye spot on both sides of the head, and four pairs of legs. Most distinctive is the crustacean's long, barbed tail spine. Spiny water fleas are often first noticed by anglers, when they become entangled in fishing lines. When the line is pulled from the water, something resembling tiny straight pins waving about perpendicular to the line may be noticed. These are the miniscule creatures, raising and lowering their tails as they cling to the line. Impacts to aquatic ecosystems caused by the spiny water flea are not fully understood. What is known is that spiny water fleas reproduce rapidly, (both sexually and asexually) producing numerous offspring during the growing season, and "resting eggs" that overwinter in the sediments.

Once well established in the waterbody, spiny water fleas compete directly with other zooplankton feeders in the ecosystem (eating up to three times as much food as similar species). Their sharp spine prevents fish of a certain size class from eating them. It is believed that both of these impacts have the potential to trigger disturbances throughout the aquatic food web.

As of 2017, spiny water fleas can be found throughout the Great Lakes Region, Eastern New York and Lake Champlain in Vermont.

References:

1. Spiny Water Flea; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; [www.invadingspecies.com/Invaders.cfm](http://www.invadingspecies.com/Invaders.cfm)
2. Spiny Water Flea in the Great Lakes Region; Great Lakes Information Network; [www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)

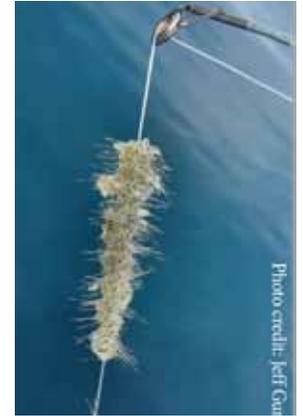
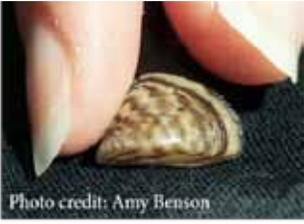


Photo credit: Jeff Gair

## Zebra Mussels

(*Dreissena polymorpha*)



Zebra mussels are thought to have been introduced to this country as accidental stowaways attached to hulls, or in the ballast water of ships entering the Great Lakes from Europe. Since they were first

discovered in this country in 1988, these tiny, freshwater bivalves, have become a major aquatic pest throughout much of the Midwest. Spreading to New England, primarily by way of boating activity, as of 2017 they have impacted waters in Vermont and are known to be in Massachusetts and Connecticut. (Indeed, in 2006 a Courtesy Boat Inspector on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire detected-and successfully averted some zebra mussels that were hitching a ride on a boat from New York.)

Zebra mussels begin life as tiny free-swimming larvae, called veligers. It is during this stage that they are most readily transported from one waterbody to another (attached to boating gear, in bilgewater, bait buckets, etc.) and also most difficult to detect. After two or three weeks, the veligers "settle out" in the waterbody, attaching by way of strong, threadlike filaments to just about any hard surface they encounter. Rocks, sediment, wood, intake pipes, moorings, boat hulls, native mussel beds, are all at risk of colonization. Zebra mussels are small (adults are about 15 mm long) but they are voracious filter feeders, straining out major portions of the phytoplankton population and effectively starving out many native zooplankton species. The gap created in the food web may cascade through the entire ecosystem.

Zebra mussel infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, they can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Zebra mussels have not yet been detected in Maine.

### References:

1. Frequently asked Questions about the Zebra Mussel. United States Geological Survey. Florida Integrated Science Center, Gainesville. [http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous\\_Species/Zebra\\_mussel\\_FAQs/zebra\\_mussel\\_faqs.html](http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous_Species/Zebra_mussel_FAQs/zebra_mussel_faqs.html)

## Asian Clam

(*Corbicula fluminea*)

The Asian (or Asiatic) clam is a freshwater bivalve mollusk native to southern and eastern Asia and Africa. The source of introduction to the United States is unknown, but it is suspected that this species was brought from China by immigrants as a food source and subsequently released. The popularity of these small clams as aquarium specimens and as bait may have further exacerbated their spread. As of 2017, the Asian clam is now found in fresh waters throughout much of the United States including all New England states, except Maine.

The clams thrive in sandy lake bottoms where they form dense communities; the population in a single waterbody may easily reach into the billions. The sexes are normally distinct; however, hermaphrodites exist that are capable of self-fertilization. When the second stage larvae, called veligers, reach approximately 1mm in size they are discharged from the gills of the parent to begin life as juveniles on the bottom sediments. (Under ideal conditions a single clam can release up to 70,000 baby clams a year!) Adults may reach up to 4cm in length during their lifespan of one to four years. The shell of the Asian clam is ovate, and normally yellow-green to brown in color with thick concentric rings. The inside of the shell is layered with polished, light purple material called nacre. Other shell colors (called morphs) do occur.

Asian clam infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, this species can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Asian clams appear to be capable of tolerating polluted environments better than many native bivalves. In cases where Asian clam infestations have been intentionally controlled by a cold weather draw-down the clams have produced ammonia in high enough quantities to be lethal to other fish and wildlife.

References: 1. Asian Clam; Indiana Illinois Sea Grant website; [www.iisgcp.org](http://www.iisgcp.org)

2. What Lurks Beneath? by Megan Woolhouse, The Boston Globe: Globe West, April 19, 2007



## Chinese Mystery Snail

(*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleatus*)

Chinese mystery snails, native to parts of Southeast Asia, were brought to this country as a food source for Asian markets. It is believed that imported snails were intentionally released in some areas to create a locally-harvestable supply. Since their introduction, Chinese mystery snails have spread to many parts



of the United States, and can now be found in a number of Maine lakes and ponds.

Chinese mystery snails are distinctively large; the size of a walnut or golf ball, they are half-again as large as Maine's largest native freshwater snail. Though they spend a good portion of their lives under the water surface, half buried in the bottom sediments, Chinese mystery snails may also be encountered with their trap doors sealed up tight, floating along at the water's surface. When these large snails die, they often wash up on shore, where their dark, olive-colored shells can be easily seen and (unpleasantly) smelled. Chinese mystery snails prefer the quiet water of lakes, ponds, roadside ditches and slower portions of streams.

Once in a body of water, the Chinese mystery snail may be transported, as adults or tiny juveniles, via bait buckets and water holding areas on boats. Like other snail species, this species may serve as a vector for various parasites and diseases. Chinese mystery snails occur in a number of Maine waterbodies, but the full distribution of this snail in Maine is unknown. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program currently manages a statewide database on reported sightings of *C. chinensis malleatus*. You can assist the effort to get a better handle on this invasive organism by reporting any sightings to LSM at 207-783-7733 or [vlmp@mainevlmp.org](mailto:vlmp@mainevlmp.org).

References:

1. Martin, Scott M. 1999. Freshwater snails (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Maine. *Northeastern Naturalist*.
2. *Cipangopaludina chinensis* (Reeve, 1863). Fact sheet by Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. [http://nis.gsmfc.org/nis\\_factsheet.php?toc\\_id=125](http://nis.gsmfc.org/nis_factsheet.php?toc_id=125)

## Quagga Mussels

(*Dreissena bugensis*)

Quagga mussels are native to the Caspian Sea, and like zebra mussels, are thought to have come to this country in the ballast water of ocean going ships. Quagga mussels were first discovered in the Great Lakes region in 1989, but were not identified as a distinct species until 1991. As of 2017 there is only one known infestation in New York and none in New England.



These invaders prefer silty or sandy lake bottoms, but may be found in waters ranging from warm and shallow to deep and cold. Like zebra mussels, the shell is distinctly striped in dark and light bands. Adult quagga mussels are generally larger than zebras, 20 mm long (roughly the size of your thumbnail) and their shells are broader and more fan-shaped. The ventral (or hinged) side of the shell is convex, preventing the quagga mussel from being balanced, on this side, on a flat surface. (The zebra mussel will remain upright when placed on its ventral side.) Quagga mussels feed year-round, even in winter when zebra mussels are dormant.

Quagga mussel infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, they can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Quagga mussels have not yet been detected in Maine.

References: 1. Quagga mussel; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/quagga.htm>

## Didymo or "Rock Snot"

*Didymosphenia geminata*

Anglers and boaters using Maine's streams and rivers are urged to be aware of a new threat! The aquatic nuisance alga known commonly as "Didymo" or "rock snot" has invaded the northern reaches of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and in the White River and Battenkill River in Vermont. These are the first official reports of the invasive algae in the northeastern U.S. This highly invasive species has not been detected in Maine. However, didymo



*Didymo*

already affects freshwater rivers and streams in other parts of the U.S., Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick and New Zealand. It is not known at this time how Didymo will affect water quality, aquatic habitat and fish populations in Maine, but its potential to alter habitats and displace native species are of great concern to officials in regions where infestations have

been established. As of 2017 Didymo is found in Vermont and New Hampshire.

It is critical for anglers and boaters to be aware that Didymo is easily spread by even just one cell of the alga breaking off and drifting downstream in infested reaches. It is also very easily spread by waders and other fishing gear that touches the bottoms of streams in infested areas, so it is essential to check and clean all fishing equipment.

## **Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)**

VHS is an Ebola-like virus, deadly to fish, which was first reported in 2005 in North American freshwater fish. It's not a threat to humans, but is devastating to 22 species of freshwater fish populations. It's been found in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, New York State and moving eastward (toward Maine).

Genetic tests suggest that the Great Lakes VHS probably originated in the Atlantic Ocean and most likely was transported in the bilge water of ships. VHS has been reported in more than 20 species and may be the most serious threat ever to our freshwater fish populations.

Report immediately to DIFW (207-657-2345) any fish appearing to be abnormal. VHS has been divided into three stages with symptoms which may overlap. These include darkening of the body, protrusion of the eyes, hemorrhages in gills and eyes, pectoral fins and body surface. The fish may become twisted and swim on their sides. Keep any such fish cool (4 degrees C, 39 degrees F), but do not freeze. Virus isolation must be done within 24 hours after a fish is caught.

## **Northern Pike**

(*Esox lucius*)

Northern pike are native to parts of Eurasia and North America, but not native to Maine. This popular "sport fish" was illegally introduced into the Belgrade Chain of Lakes in the 1970s. It's now present in at least 16 lakes in the Kennebec, Androscoggin, and coastal river drainages, and is suspected to occur in additional waters.

*Esox lucius* can inhabit almost every type of freshwater, from cold deep lakes, to warm shallow ponds, to sluggish streams. Besides fish, its diet includes frogs, crayfish, small mammals, and birds — just about anything it can sink its teeth into. Pike exceeding 30 pounds have been caught in Maine.

Northern pike may be confused with its close relative, the chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), a fish native to Maine. Unauthorized introductions of invasive, exotic fish species are particularly destructive to Maine's native brook trout populations, but pike are particularly voracious fish eaters. Their presence in one Maine lake is suspected of destroying one of the state's premier landlocked salmon populations. They may also cause irreversible changes to entire aquatic ecosystems.

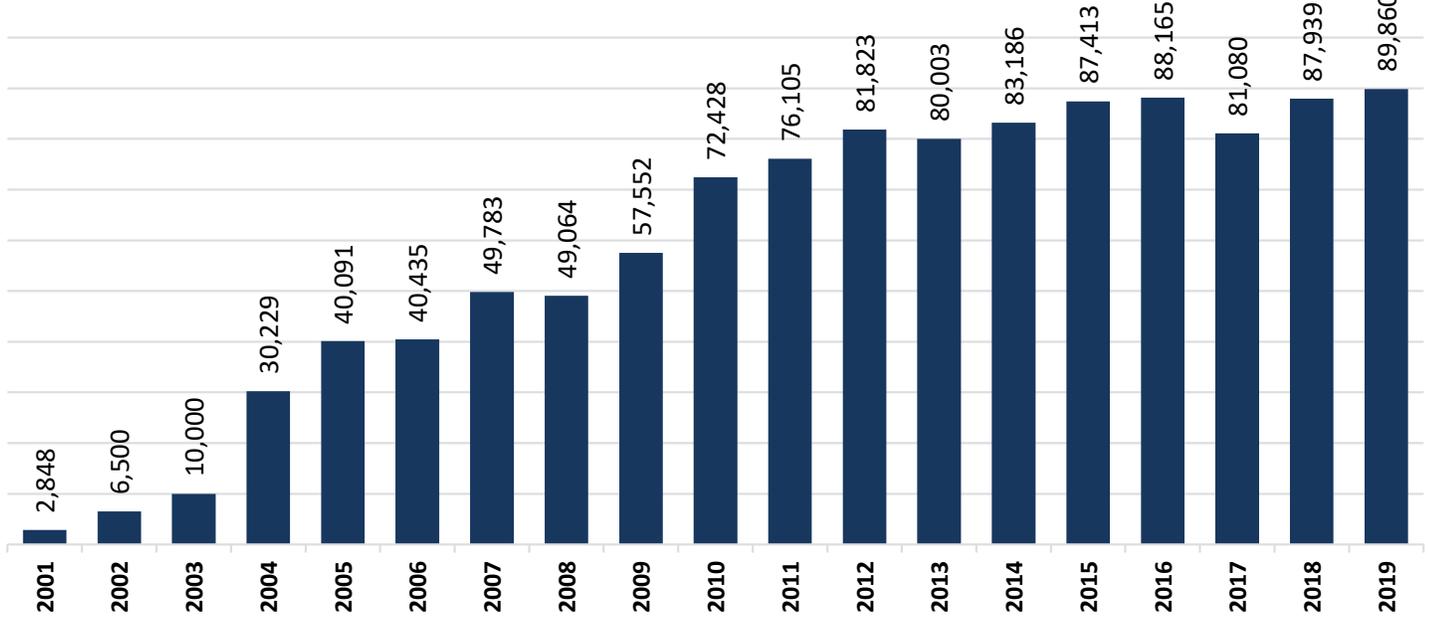
The illegal introduction of any fish into any Maine water is a Class E crime, punishable by fines up to \$10,000. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife offers a minimum reward of \$2,000 for information leading to the apprehension of persons responsible for the illegal introduction of fish. Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-253-7887. If you suspect that you have seen or caught a northern pike, please report your findings to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries at 207-287-8000.

References: Illegal Fish Stockings Threaten Maine Lakes and Rivers by David Boucher, Fishery Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; [www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/illegal\\_stocking.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/illegal_stocking.htm). Northern pike at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/species/identification/northernpike.htm>

*Northern pike*

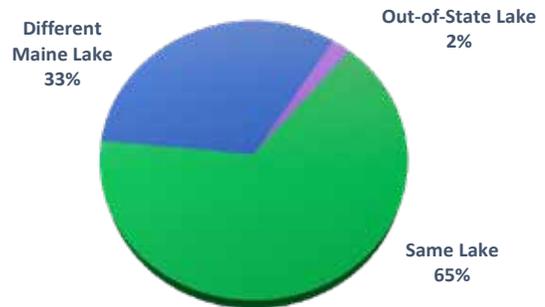


### Courtesy Boat Inspections Annual Totals



<b>CBI statistics</b>	2018	2019
Infested lakes with inspections	16	15
Waterbodies with inspections	123	130
Total plants found	3532	2901
Total invasive plants found	95	74
Invasive plants on entering boats	18	13
Invasive plants on leaving boats	77	61
Total inspectors	592	620
Inspection hours	43,406	44,840
Boats with sticker	61,484	62,103
Participating lake association organizations	53	56
Participating Bass Clubs	41	51
<i>Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection</i>		

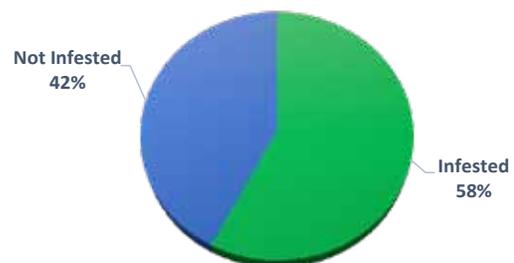
### Previous Waterbody Visited Maine vs Out of State



Responses to Previous Waterbody Visited (PWV) question in 2019 are represented in the pie charts. Upper chart shows that 2% of the PWV were out-of-state lakes and the rest were Maine lakes, of which 65% were the same lake where the inspection occurred.

Lower chart shows that, of the 1,077 Previous Waterbody Visited identified as being from out-of-state, the majority were infested waters.

### Previous Waterbody Visited from Out-of-State



# Maine DEP News from the 2019 Season

## Late Season Discoveries

We know it all too well: late season finds of invasive aquatic plant infestations. It happened again in 2019 with September finds of curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and variable-leaved water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*).

A Unity College student kayaking on an impounded portion of the Kennebec River found both curly-leaf pondweed and variable-leaved water-milfoil. Her mission that day wasn't to survey for plants but, based on previous plant survey work with a lake association, she knew right away these plants looked suspicious. DEP subsequently surveyed a portion of the impoundment and arranged for two days of manual removal of the pondweed in October 2019. Additional surveying is planned for 2020 to determine the extent of curly-leaf pondweed in the impoundment. The variable-leaved water-milfoil, previously identified in an upstream dammed tributary, was confirmed via genetic analysis and is likely growing throughout this portion of the river.

A Maine Game Warden with a camp on Big Lake in interior Washington County, a relatively remote area of the state, discovered a suspicious milfoil that turned out to be variable-leaved water-milfoil. This population of invasive milfoil is 95 miles east of the nearest known infestation in Maine. Big Lake itself is 10,444 acres but is part of interconnected waterbodies, including the St. Croix River flowage, totaling 17,619 acres and bordering New Brunswick.



Photo: Lake Stewards of Maine

**Variable-leaf milfoil on Big Lake through a “trunk” scope.**

Confirmation of this plant in interior Washington County heightens the need for increased spread prevention and surveying efforts in this part of the state. Initial surveying in October 2019 included staff from DEP, Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM), the Maine Warden Service and the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Plans for 2020 include meetings with and plant survey trainings for local residents and guides in March and June. DEP and LSM will coordinate spread prevention and surveying efforts with Downeast Lakes Land Trust. A concerted effort to survey most of this system in 2020 will be organized by Lake Stewards of Maine.

## Management of Existing Infestations

Twenty-two grants totaling \$254,404 were awarded by DEP to lake groups working to manage infestations in 2019. These locally-managed programs target variable-leaved water-milfoil plus one working to reduce growth of curly-leaf pondweed and one managing hydrilla. Each grantee contributes significant cash and volunteer match to the removal effort.

Rapid response continued in 2019 to the 2018 discoveries of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, EWM) and European frog's-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) on Cobbossee Lake in Winthrop and surrounding towns. DEP and local lake/watershed groups resumed weekly diver manual removal in June 2019. Despite the frequent removal efforts, scattered plants were found at each visit. Given the apparent early stage of infestation, limited distribution of the plant and the difficulty in eliminating all plants with manual removal, Maine DEP proceeded with a 4-acre application of the herbicide PROcellacor on July 22, 2019. No EWM was found during several dive surveys after the treatment into fall 2019. The area will be carefully monitored in 2020.

Staff of the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed and volunteers from the Cobbossee Yacht Club and Lake Association continued in 2019 to manually remove areas of European frog's-bit from Cobbossee Lake.

DEP reported in 2018 another infestation of EWM in a 28-acre pond with no public access in coastal Maine.

Landowners there hired a diver-assisted suction harvest contractor to perform limited plant removal in late October 2019. Eurasian water-milfoil is well-established in the pond.

Finally, Maine DEP has collaborated for several years with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Three Ponds Protective Association to manage brittle waternymph (*Najas minor*) in an impoundment of the Salmon Falls River. Seed-laden fragments of this plant spread prolifically within a water body and consumed seeds can pass through the digestive tract of waterfowl, aiding spread to other water bodies. Eradication of this infestation is not likely but meaningful suppression is the goal to reduce spread risk in the downstream Salmon Falls River and beyond.

### **Legislative Session in 2019**

The dedicated funding mechanism for invasive species work on inland waters, passed by the Maine Legislature in 2001, started generating revenue to DEP and DIFW in 2002. The original annual fees on motorized boats on inland waters, \$10 for Maine-registered and \$20 for out-of-state-registered watercraft, had remained the same through the 2019 boating season. The fees were increased for the first time during the 2019 legislative session. Starting in 2020, operators of Maine-registered boats will pay \$15 annually. Operators of out-of-state-registered watercraft will pay \$35 starting in 2020 and \$45 starting in 2022.

A bill to require draining water from boat bilges, live wells and ballast tanks, and to remove drain plugs and open valves during overland transport, was voted ought not to pass by the legislative committee hearing the bill. At least one committee member was concerned that the bill would have a detrimental impact on operations by commercial bait collectors. This or a similar bill may be re-introduced in the next regular legislative session (2021).



### **Courtesy Boat Inspections**

Maine DEP awarded grants for boat inspection programs totaling \$200,835. Sixty-six grants were awarded to lake and watershed organizations. At last count, 89,860 inspections were conducted in 2019 – a new record for Maine’s CBI Program. In July of 2019 a jet ski coming from the Mystic River in Massachusetts came out of the Sebago Lake State Park boat launch. The CBI on duty, after a brief look under the jet ski, saw a large clump of aquatic plants hanging out of the intake area. She removed as much as she could and the jet ski sped off in to the lake. The mass of plants was identified as half hornwort and half Eurasian Watermilfoil. This was a great “save” but also another disappointing reminder that many boaters are not checking their own watercrafts.



# DIFW's invasive species program

In 2019, Maine Game Wardens worked approximately 21,450 hours doing recreational boating enforcement. These hours included education, maintenance, court time preparation, ramp checks and actual hours on the water checking boats. Game wardens reported almost 9,000 hours on the water enforcing boating rules and regulations. Game Wardens checked approximately 22,181 boats.

For milfoil, the stats break down to 400 registration violations and 165 milfoil sticker violations. As part of what is expected, wardens are continuing to seek out CBI staff to introduce themselves and help inspect watercraft to stop the spread of invasive species. This year's recorded events were similar to last year's, showing 42 recorded meetings. Of course, this does not count the times a warden just stopped by or spent time with a courtesy boat inspector.

One of the topics that was mentioned last year was the large bass tournament on Sebago Lake that took place in September 2019. Warden Herring worked tirelessly during this derby both in the pre stages as well as during the derby to ensure boats were inspected. During the event Warden Herring even stopped the line of boats to ensure one boat was totally cleaned before entering the water.



Warden Herring noted one critical inspection point is the trailer. "Trailer bunks on these bass boats need to be inspected", Herring said. As proof to his argument, Warden Herring was able to remove confirmed invasive hydrilla from the bunk of a boat from Georgia ultimately

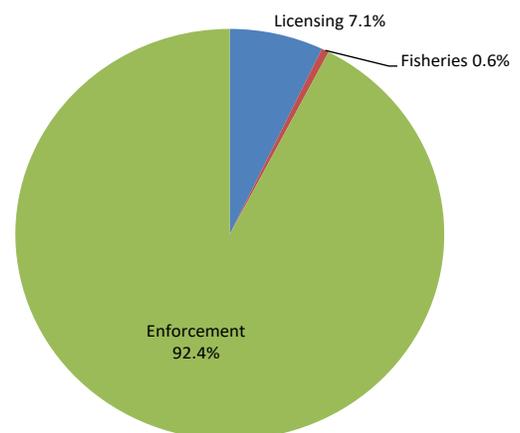


preventing the introduction into Sebago Lake.

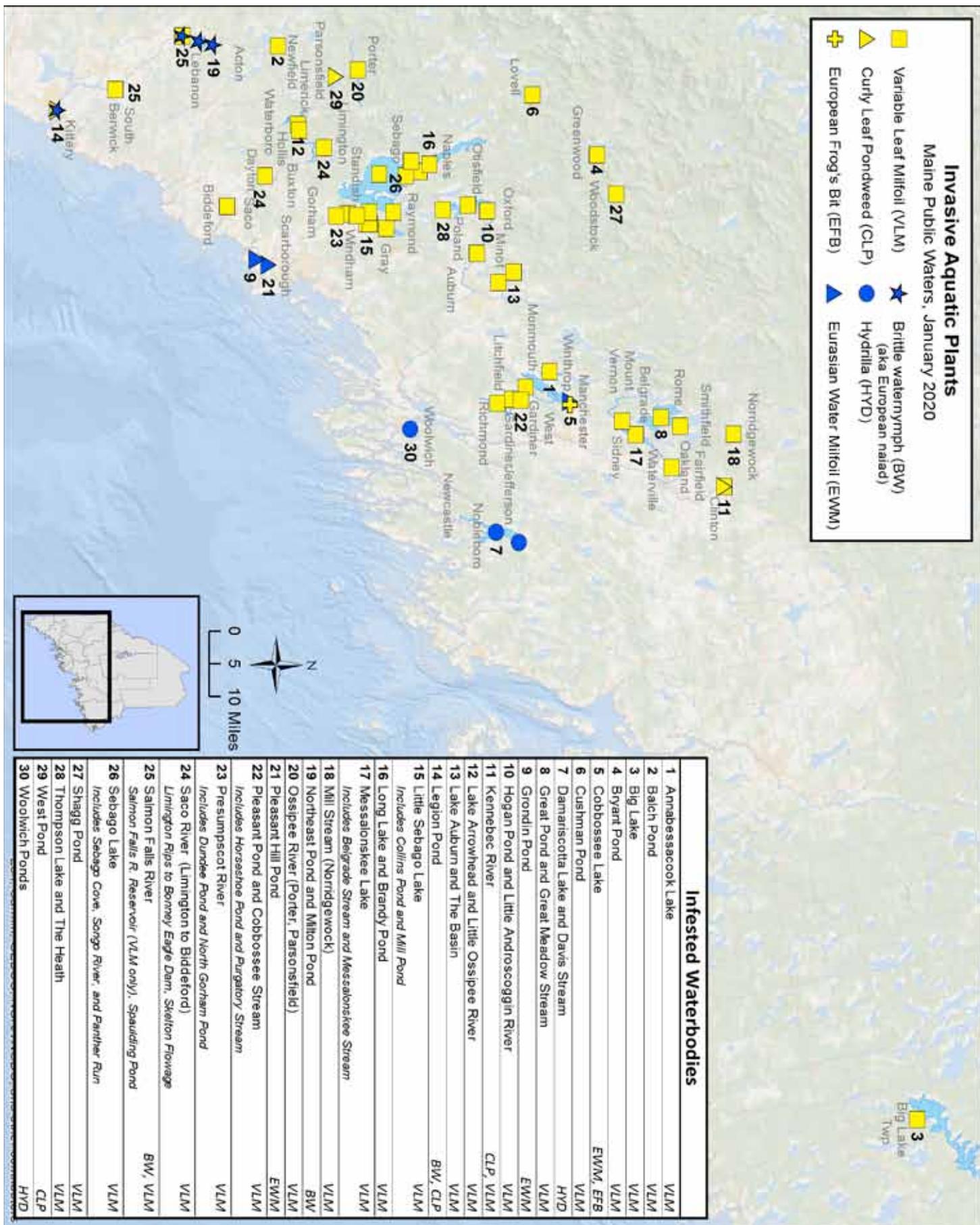
"We need to continue training boaters on what to look for and how to make sure both their boats and trailers are clean", Herring reported.

Lieutenant Adam Gormely with the Maine Warden Service remains confident that a continued partnership with the dedicated CBI staff and the Maine Warden Service will continue to build on the educational base that has been laid down. Lt. Gormely encourages members of the CBI program to reach out to the wardens in his or her area. If you are unsure who your local warden is, you can call any of our divisional headquarters to find out how to talk with your local warden and set up a time to inspect together. The work is still there to do, and we believe that many hands will help ensure it gets done.

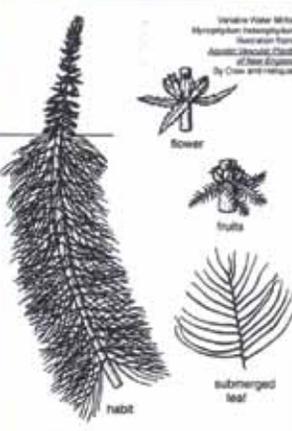
**Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**  
**Milfoil Account Expenditures FY 2019**  
**Total Budget: \$373,415**



# Map of known locations of infestations in Maine public waters

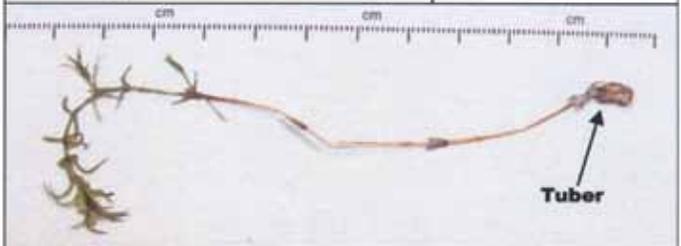
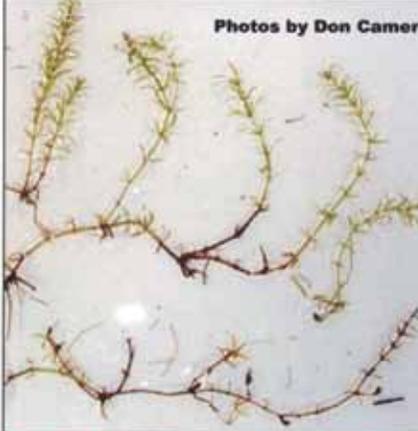


# Invasive aquatic plants handout

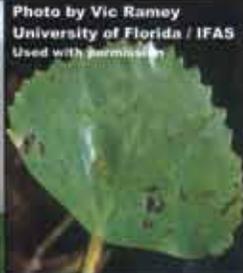
<p><b>Variable Water-milfoil</b> <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i></p>	<p><b>Invasive</b></p>
 <p>Variable Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> By Roberta Hill © 2004 MCIAP</p>	 <p>Photo by Ann Murray University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p>Variable Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> Illustration from Aquatic Invasive Plants of the Southeast By Owen and Hargrave</p> <p>habit flower fruit submerged leaf</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) <b>Native</b> <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> (Coontail) <b>Native</b> Other <i>Myriophyllum</i> species</p>	

<p><b>Eurasian Water-milfoil</b> <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i></p>	<p><b>Invasive</b></p>
 <p>Eurasian Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> Collected and photographed by Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy New Hampshire DES</p>  <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1998</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) <b>Native</b> <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> (Coontail) <b>Native</b> Other <i>Myriophyllum</i> species</p>	

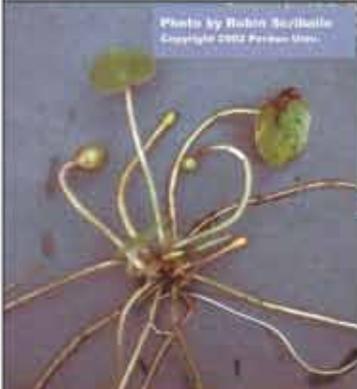
<p><b>Curly-leaved Pondweed</b> <i>Potamogeton crispus</i></p>	<p><b>Invasive</b></p>
<p>Photos by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	
	 <p><b>Turion</b></p>  <p>Copyright 2001 University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> (Clasping-leaf Pondweed) and other <i>Potamogeton</i> species <b>Native</b></p>	

<p><b>Hydrilla</b> <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>	<p><b>Invasive</b></p>
 <p>cm cm cm</p> <p><b>Tuber</b></p>	
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p>	 <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants U. of Florida, Gainesville, 1998</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Egeria densa</i> (Brazilian Elodea) <b>Invasive</b> <i>Elodea canadensis</i> (American Waterweed) <b>Native</b></p>	

<b>Parrot Feather</b> <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p> 	<p>Photo by Don Cameron</p>   <p>IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants U. of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Other members of the Myriophyllum genus</i>	

<b>Water Chestnut</b> <i>Trapa natans</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p><i>Trapa natans</i> © 2005 MCIAP</p>	<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>   <p>Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> © MCIAP 2004</p>
<b>Look Alikes:</b> None	

<b>Yellow Floating Heart</b> <i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p> 	<p>Photo by M. Malchoff Lake Champlain Sea Grant / VTDEC</p>   <p>Copyright 2002 U. of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Nuphar variegata</i> (Spatterdock) <b>Native</b> <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> (European Frogbit) <b>Invasive</b> <i>Nuphar microphylla</i> (Yellow Waterlily) <b>Native</b>	

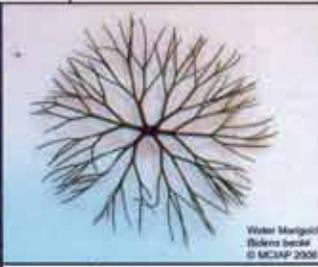
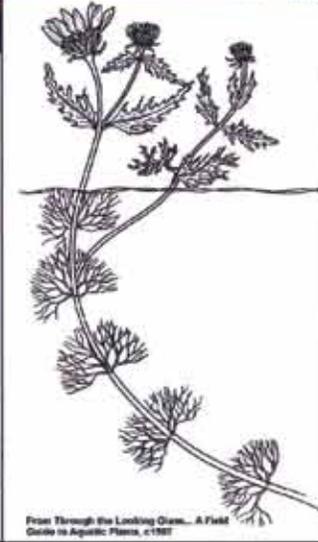
<b>European Frogbit</b> <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
<p>Photo by Robin Scriballe Copyright 2002 Perdue Univ.</p>  <p>Photo by M. Malchoff L.C. Sea Grant / VTDEC</p> 	<p>Photo by Robin Scriballe Copyright 2002 Perdue Univ.</p>   <p>Copyright 2002 U. of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Nymphoides cordata</i> (Little Floating Heart) <b>Native</b> <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> (Yellow Floating Heart) <b>Invasive</b> <i>Nuphar microphylla</i> (Yellow Waterlily) <b>Native</b>	

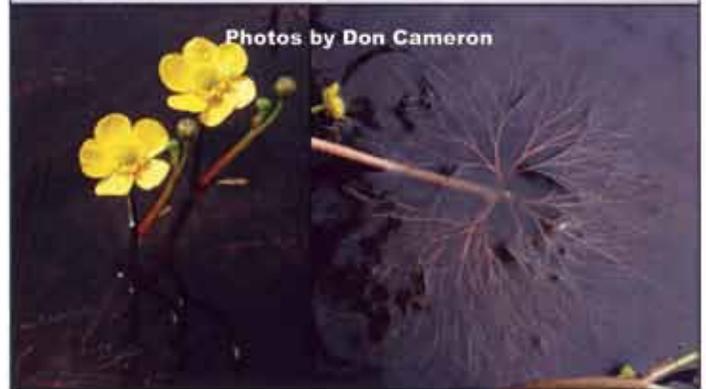
<b>Fanwort</b> <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
 <p>Photo by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy: New Hampshire DES</p>
	 <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Bidens beckii</i> (Water Marigold) <b>Native</b>  <i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i> (Yellow Water Crowfoot) <b>Native</b>  <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) <b>Native</b></p>	

<b>European Naiad</b> <i>Najas minor</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
Photos by Don Cameron	
 <p>cm</p>	
	 <p>Image From: <i>Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England</i> By Crow and Hallquist</p> <p>leaves habit</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) <b>Native</b>          Other <i>Najas</i> species <b>Native</b></p>	

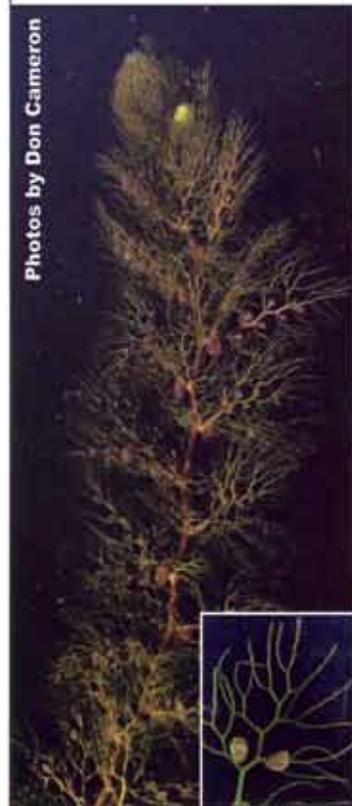
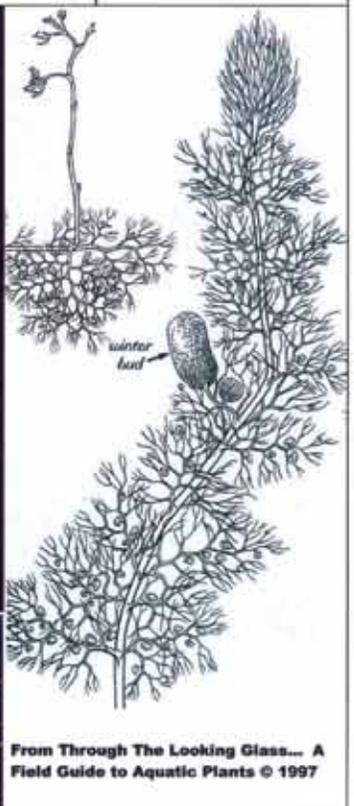
<b>Brazilian Elodea</b> <i>Egeria densa</i>	<b>Invasive</b>
 <p>Photo by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy NH DES</p>
	 <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p><b>Look Alikes:</b> <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> (Hydrilla) <b>Invasive</b>  <i>Elodea canadensis</i> (American Waterweed) <b>Native</b></p>	

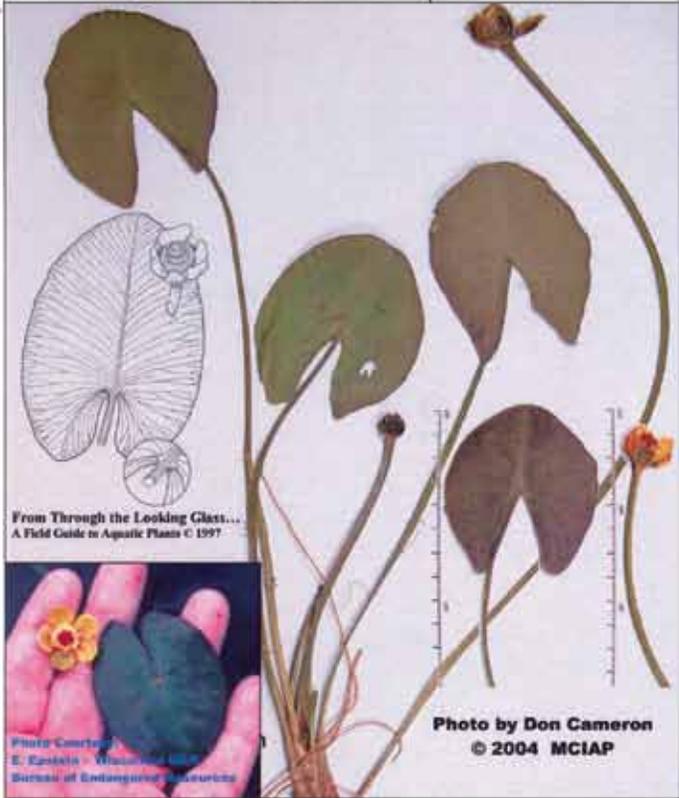
<b>American Waterweed</b> <i>Elodea canadensis</i>	<b>Native</b>
	<p>American Water Weed <i>Elodea canadensis</i> By Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>
	
<p>From <i>Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i> © 1997</p>	

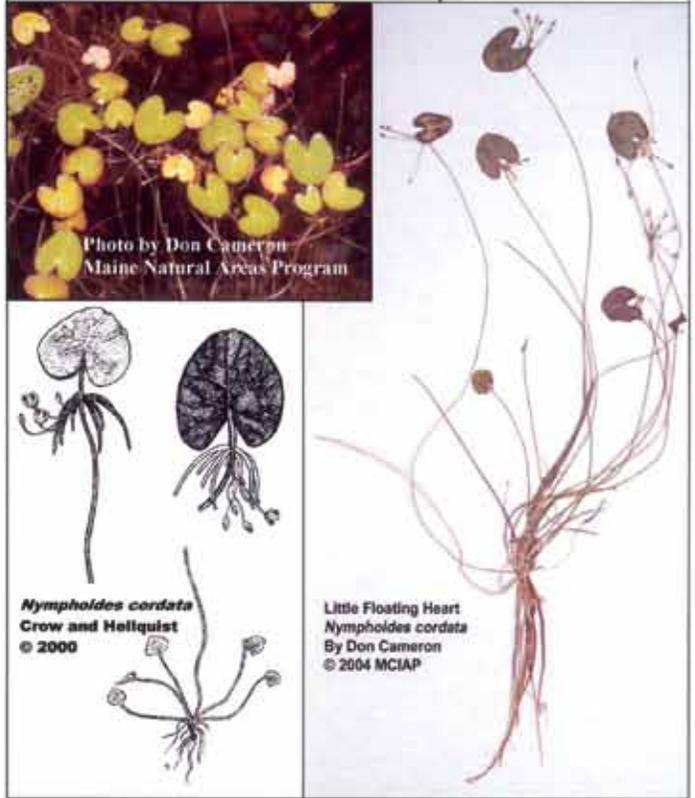
<p><b>Water Marigold</b> <i>Bidens beckii</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photo by Don Cameron</p>	 <p>Water Marigold <i>Bidens beckii</i> © MCIAP 2004</p>
 <p>Water Marigold <i>Bidens beckii</i> Photo by Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	 <p>From <i>Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i>, c1997</p>

<p><b>Yellow Water Crowfoot</b> <i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
	
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p>	

<p><b>Coontail</b> <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>	 <p>Photo by Don Murray University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>

<p><b>Common Bladderwort</b> <i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p>	 <p>From <i>Through The Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i> © 1997</p>

<p><b>Yellow Waterlily</b> <i>Nuphar microphylla</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>From <i>Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i> © 1997</p> <p>Photo Courtesy: E. Epstein - Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources</p> <p>Photo by Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	

<p><b>Little Floating Heart</b> <i>Nymphoides cordata</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photo by Don Cameron Maine Natural Areas Program</p> <p><i>Nymphoides cordata</i> Crow and Hellquist © 2000</p> <p>Little Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides cordata</i> By Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	

<p><b>Clasping Leaf Pondweed</b> <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photo by Vic Ramoy University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p> <p><i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> Potamogeton, a subgenus of Potamogeton throughout the world</p> <p>Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants Copyright 2001, Univ. of Florida</p>	

<p><b>Slender Naiad</b> <i>Najas flexilis</i></p>	<p><b>Native</b></p>
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p> <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> Slender naiad Crow and Hellquist © 2000</p>	

# In a nutshell: How to be a great CBI

1. **Be safe.** Don't stay around if someone gets ornery or if a situation seems uncomfortable.
2. **Urge boaters** to inspect their own boats and gear every time they enter and leave a water body.
3. **Be professional.** Your attire should promote the right image. CBI shirts are mandatory. Know the facts about invasives and be courteous.
4. **Discourage company.** You are at work so don't let friends deter you from giving your job full attention.
5. **Be prepared** to answer questions such as, "Where do I get a sticker?"
6. **Write legibly** and don't forget to fill out the top two lines of the survey sheet before you start.
7. **Be in touch.** Have a cell phone or know where the nearest phone is.
8. **Stay in touch.** Keep phone numbers handy for police, wardens and your supervisor.
9. **Be comfortable.** Make sure you have rain gear, an umbrella, a chair, water and sunscreen.
10. **Be inspired.** This is important work even though there will be slow times.
11. **Be attentive.** Stay on your feet while a boat is at the launch. This will encourage dialogue and reassure the public and funders that you are on task.

## Quick Facts

### About invasive aquatic plants:

Reproduce in many ways; may clone from small plant fragments.

Can survive out of water for days, reviving when rehydrated.

Can blanket and choke surface waters; make swimming and boating difficult, dangerous or impossible.

Harm native vegetation and wildlife; lower property prices; harm local businesses. Once well-established, they're virtually impossible to remove and very costly to manage.

### About the 'Milfoil law':

It's illegal to transport **any** aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle, trailer, or equipment in Maine. It's illegal to sell, possess, import, cultivate, transport or distribute any invasive aquatic plant in Maine.



CBI Aaron Tripp found and removed a Eurasian milfoil fragment on a boat launching at the Narrows public ramp on Kezar Lake in June 2011.

Violation may result in fines of up to \$500 (first-time) and up to \$5,000 for launching boats carrying any of the banned species.

Fines for failure to display a current boat sticker apply to all motorized craft on Maine inland waters. (Kayaks, canoes and sailboats without motors are exempt.)

### About boat stickers:

2020 (River and Lake Protection) stickers are white with red print for both Maine registered boats and non-Maine registered boats. The resident sticker is affixed to the annual boat registration sticker which is green.

Cost is \$15 for resident; \$35 for nonresidents. Resident/nonresident status depends on where boat is registered, not where owner resides (NH residents may store/register boat in Maine).

All the sticker money goes to dedicated accounts for invasive species, education, prevention, control, eradication and enforcement. Money is divided 80/20 between DEP and DIFW, respectively.

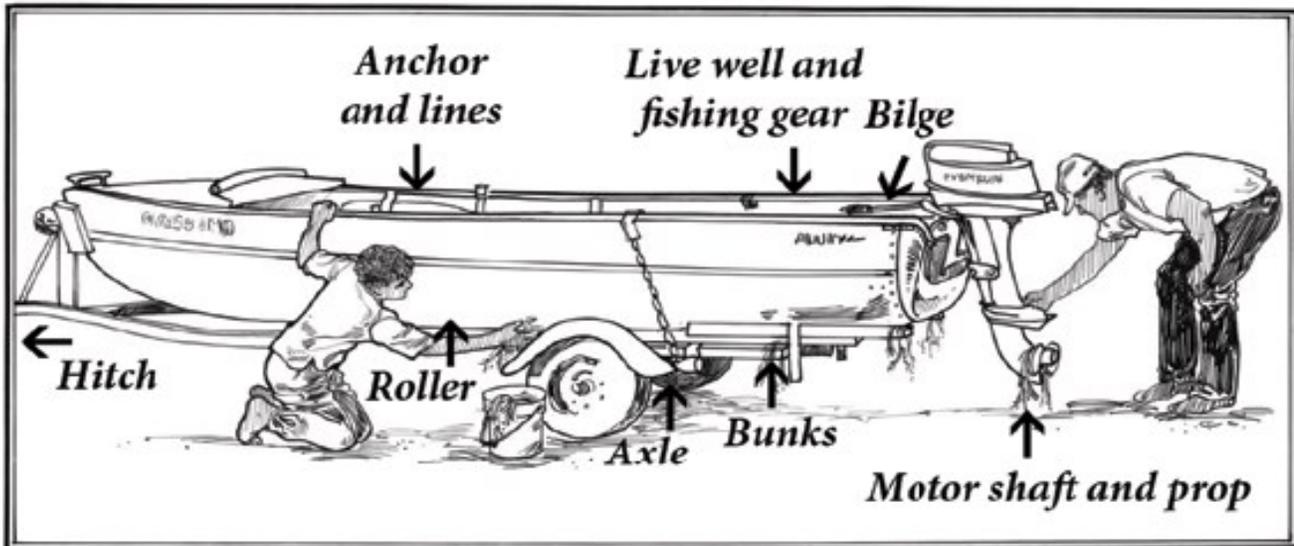
#### CBI SUPPLY LIST

- Clipboard
- Pen or pencil and an indelible marker
- Plenty of survey forms
- Ziploc baggies for plant samples
- DEP brochures explaining invasive aquatic plant threat
- Phone (*recommended*)
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, water
- Folding chair and umbrella
- Trash bag
- List of phone numbers to call in an emergency
- List of places boaters can purchase stickers
- Your CBI T-shirt!

Notes:

# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

*Aquatic Invasive Species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian clam and spiny water flea can spread between waterbodies on boating and fishing equipment that has not been cleaned, drained and dried. Help protect Maine waters by following the simple steps below.*



**C**LEAN off all plants (even small fragments), animals and mud from boat, trailer, and equipment.

**D**RAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells and other equipment well away from water.

**D**RY everything five days or more before using in another waterbody to kill small organisms not easily seen or wipe with a towel before use. If you can  dry equipment, rinsing with hot, high pressure water will also remove many tiny organisms.

**NEVER** release plants, live fish or animals into a water body unless they came out of that body of water.

*Thank you! Your help in halting the spread of invasive aquatic species is priceless.*

*We know how valuable your time is and we thank you  
for your willingness to share it to protect Maine's waters.*

*The Lakes Environmental Association*



*The Maine Department of Environmental Protection*

