



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian clams, and zebra mussels, can be spread between waterbodies on boating and fishing equipment that has not been cleaned, drained, and dried. Help protect Otsego Lake by following these guidelines.

## CLEAN

AFTER BOATING, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LAUNCH:

**Remove** all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or other equipment and dispose of in a suitable trash container or on dry land.

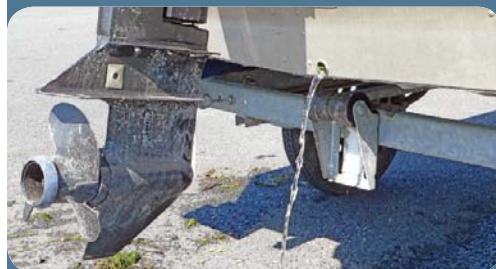


*Don't transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.*

## DRAIN

AFTER BOATING, BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LAUNCH:

**Drain** water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and any other locations with water before leaving the launch.



*Invasive viruses, zooplankton, and juvenile zebra mussels and Asian clams can be transported in even just a drop of water!*

## DRY

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT THE LAUNCH TO GO BOATING:

**Dry** your boat, trailer, and all equipment completely. Drying times vary depending on the weather and the type of material. **At least five days of drying time is generally recommended during the summer.**



*If you want to use your boat sooner, follow additional steps to make sure it is decontaminated from any hitchhikers. See the back side to find out how!*

For more information, go online to  
**[www.otsegolakeassociation.com](http://www.otsegolakeassociation.com)**

Based on a Lake George Association flyer  
 P O Box 749, Lake George, NY 12845  
 Visit [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us) for more information





# HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES!

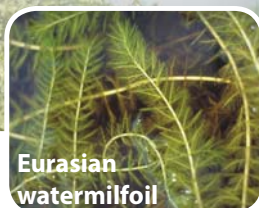
Hydrilla



Zebra mussel



Spiny waterflea



Eurasian watermilfoil



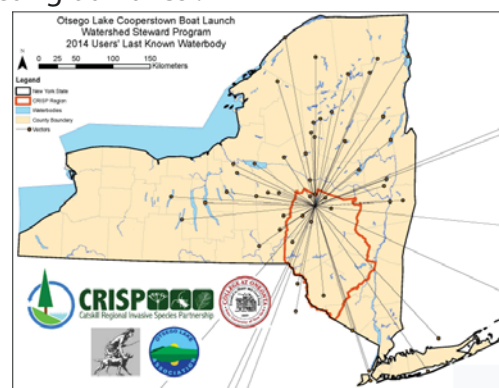
Asian clam



Alewife

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife, and their habitat. They also affect humans by degrading boating and fishing areas and reducing lake shore property values and tourism. Once AIS are established, eradication is almost impossible and management programs are very expensive. Spread prevention is the most cost-effective option for protecting our lakes.

Otsego Lake currently has five known AIS: Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, zebra mussels, alewife, rusty crayfish. There are many more AIS that have already invaded other lakes close by, such as Asian clam and hydrilla. Boats travel between these lakes and Otsego Lake, creating pathways for AIS to spread.



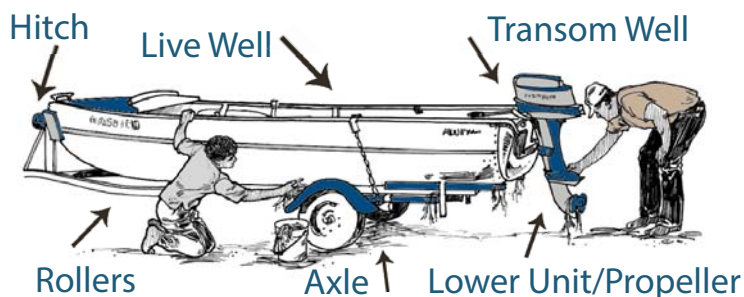
Data collected during the 2014 Otsego Lake Stewardship Program found that boats came from almost 75 different waterbodies in 8 different states prior to launching in Otsego Lake. Many of these waterbodies are invaded with AIS.



Not all hitchhikers are as visible as a prop covered in adult zebra mussels. Some adult or juvenile stage AIS are so small they can't be seen without magnification. Invasive viruses, zooplankton, and recently hatched zebra mussels and Asian clams can be transported in mud,

on plant fragments, or in small amounts of water. When you exit a waterbody, check for anything visible while at the launch and remove it. Then wash your boat and equipment more thoroughly at a boat wash station, car wash, or back home.

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



### Alternative Cleaning/Disinfecting Options

Dip gear that cannot withstand hot water into:

**100% vinegar for 20 minutes**

OR

**1% table salt solution for 24 hours**

*2/3 cup of salt mixed with 5 gallons of water*

OR

**2% bleach solution for 10 minutes**

*3 oz. bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water*

OR

Household cleaners such as Fantastik® or Formula 409®, (or any cleaner with the active ingredient alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride) for 10 minutes.

Rinse with clean water after disinfecting.

Follow label instructions for all materials. Dispose of all cleaning solutions away from surface waters in accordance with label restrictions.