



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Sailing Buoy Holders

Help Protect our Lakes From Aquatic Invasive Species!



Aquatic invasive species **found** in MPRB waterways include:

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- curly-leaf pondweed
- purple loosestrife
- zebra mussels: live mussels now found in Minnehaha Creek & Lake Hiawatha; Lake Nokomis declared infested
- flowering rush

Aquatic invasive **species of concern** (not yet known to exist in MPRB waterways) include:

- spiny water flea
- asian carp
- hydrilla

The MnDNR recommends that boats remain dry for at least 5 days before being transported into another body of water.

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

AIS are plants and animals that are not native to Minnesota and can disrupt lake ecosystems and cause harm to native species. Changes to lake ecosystems can cause significant recreation, aesthetic and economic issues. Once an aquatic invasive species has invaded a lake it is almost impossible to remove it—the best way to protect your lake from being infested by an AIS is to not allow it to get into the water body in the first place.



Nature.org: zebra mussels on aquatic plants



MPRB: milfoil on motor

By Making Sure That Your Boat is CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY You Can Help Prevent the Spread of AIS!

CLEAN aquatic plants and mud from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting to and from any water access. Give special attention to the centerboard trunk, including the rudder and transom, keel and fittings.

Carefully feel your boat's hull for any rough or gritty spots, which may be young mussels that have settled on your boat and cannot be seen. Alert MPRB Environmental staff if anything is found.

DRAIN all water from your boat (including bilge and motor) and equipment and pull any plugs before leaving the water access or shoreline.

Know your boat—where will water collect?

DRY all areas of your boat and other items that have been in the water including lifejackets, ropes, and anchors.

- *Day boats or those that spend only a few hours in the water are still at risk for picking up and transporting AIS that may be attached to aquatic weeds or in water pooled in the boat.*
- *Boats moored or tied to docks for lengths of time at infested waters run a greater risk of having attached mussels.*