

## What Can I Do to Help?

- Use the **Boater's Checklist** on the back of this brochure to avoid giving aquatic invasive species a ride.
- Learn more about invading species. If you find an unusual aquatic plant or animal, keep it if possible in a plastic bag in the fridge or freezer, and report the sighting to the

Invading Species Hotline at  
**1-800-563-7711**

or Visit

**www.invadingspecies.com**

The Hotline is operated in partnership with the *Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters* and the *Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources*



OFAH

## STOP THE SPREAD

### **BOATER'S CHECKLIST**

#### Before you leave the boat launch:

- Remove all aquatic plants, mussels or other visible organisms and put in the garbage.
- Drain the water from your boat, including the motor, livewell, and bilge.
- Do not release live bait! Empty your bait bucket on land, or freeze or salt the bait to use later.
- Remove organisms you can't see on your boat, waders and gear by:
  - Rinsing with hot water, or
  - Spraying with high-pressure water, or
  - Drying in the sun for 5 days.

Report sightings of invasive species by calling the  
**Invading Species Hotline at**  
**1-800-563-7711**

You can stop invading species  
**www.invadingspecies.com**



Photos on front cover: Fouled motor, Dr. Ladd Johnson, U. of Laval;  
Codium, *Codium fragile* ssp. *tomentosoides*, Eric Moulard;

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS



Help **STOP**  
the Spread of  
**Aquatic  
Invasive  
Species**



Codium

  
**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
[www.gov.ns.ca/fish/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/)

Canada 



Photo: Bev Wigney

Green Crab, *Carcinus maenas*

## What are alien invasive species?

An alien species is a plant or animal occurring in an area outside of its known natural range as a result of accidental or intentional introduction by human activities.

An alien species is considered invasive if its introduction and spread causes harm to the environment, economy or society.

You may recognize the names of some alien aquatic invasive species that have already invaded Canadian waters:

- Codium (aquatic plant)
- Chain Pickerel (fish)
- Smallmouth Bass (fish)
- Tunicate (aquatic plant)
- Green crab (invertebrate)
- Didymo (aquatic plant)



Chain Pickerel, (*Esox niger*)  
Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia  
Fisheries & Aquaculture



Tunicate  
*Botrylloides violaceus* (red) & *Botryllus schlosseri*  
(grayish) (golden star and violet tunicate)

Photo: PEI DATA



Smallmouth Bass,  
(*Micropterus dolomieu*)

## Why do we need to stop the spread of alien species?

When aquatic invasive species are introduced and survive, their population usually increases very rapidly. They may feed on native species and compete for food and space, as well as introduce parasites and diseases that could infect native species. Invasive species are known to be one of the leading causes of native species populations becoming threatened or endangered. In fact, alien species are now recognized as a serious problem threatening global biodiversity and human health worldwide.

## How do they get here?

On any one day, an estimated 3,000 species are transported in the ballast water of ocean-going vessels around the world. Anything from fish, to snails and clams, to aquatic plants, to pathogens can be transported in ballast water to almost any port in the world. Ballast water is used to add weight and stabilize the ship in rough waves. Some species can also catch a ride on the outside hull of the ship. Either way these "aliens" can be deposited into any Canadian port.

In addition to shipping, aquatic invasive species can arrive and spread through:

- recreational boating
- aquarium and water garden trade
- release of live bait
- live food fish trade
- aquaculture
- man-made canals

Once established in a waterbody, invasive species are extremely difficult, if not impossible to control or eradicate.

## How are they spread once they get here?

Once they are here, the most common way aquatic invasive species are spread is by hitching a ride on a boat, trailer, boating equipment and fishing gear, including bait buckets. You can help keep all our lakes great by following the boater's checklist (at the back of this brochure) to make sure these harmful hitchhikers are not spread any further.



Sea Grant HAACP

## How do aquatic invasive species affect you?

Aquatic invasive species affect everyone that uses our waters, including boaters, shoreline property owners and anglers. These invaders can:

- Clog boat engines and jam steering equipment which may lead to expensive repairs
- Clog cottage water intake lines
- Choke lakes and waterways and restrict use by boaters and swimmers
- Reduce the numbers of popular sportfish
- Foul fishing gear
- Reduce populations of native fish, clams, waterfowl and other species that inhabit our waters
- Degrade the natural beauty of our lakes and waterways
- Reduce waterfront property value