

## An Ounce of Prevention . . .

Presently, the best defense against aquatic invaders is to prevent their transfer to new waterbodies. Some invasive aquatic organisms may be virtually invisible. Depending on the species, hitchhikers can find their way into bilge water, bait buckets and livewells and adhere to boats, trailers, motors, paddles, hipwaders and fishing tackle. Some species can survive for several days, even weeks, out of water. Below is a list of actions you can take to help reduce the spread of invasive aquatic species in Maine.

### Before leaving the waterbody:

- **Inspect** your boat, trailer, boating equipment, fishing tackle, nets, etc. and remove any visible plants or animals. Properly dispose of any material that is found (away from the water, preferably in a waste receptacle).
- **Drain** water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells on dry land.
- **Empty** your bait bucket on land. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release animals from one waterbody into another.

### After leaving the waterbody:

- **Wash** your boat and equipment with hot water ( $> 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and soap; or
- **Spray** your boat and equipment with high pressure water (250 psi); or
- **Wipe** your boat and equipment down with a 2% solution of bleach; or a 5% solution of dishwashing liquid. (Bleach solution must be *fresh* to be effective)
- **Dry** your boat and equipment for at least 48 hours before transporting to another waterbody. (The drying time will be longer if the weather is not perfectly dry.)

### If you collect an animal that you suspect to be an invasive species:

- **Do not throw it back alive.**
- **Note the precise location** and date where the animal was found.
- **Take a close-up photo** of the specimen if possible.
- **Freeze** the specimen and keep it on ice (or preserve in rubbing alcohol).
- **Fill Out** the Suspicious Organism Form and send it in along with any samples to the MCIAP.

**If you find a suspicious plant; follow instructions for Reporting Suspicious Aquatic Plants on the website.**