**FOCA Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Monitoring Program**

**Tips for Boaters**

**Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water**

**Before you go**

**1**

Visually inspect your boat, motor, trailer and all fishing gear. Look for aquatic debris that might be dried and still clinging to your equipment since the last outing. Washing and/or drying your equipment will kill harmful invasive species.

**Watch out**

**2**

While on the water, steer your boat or watercraft clear of areas known to have invasive species. Propellers can cut up plants; and oars or paddles can break stems, further spreading invasive species.

Eurasian Water-milfoil on boat motor and trailer.

**When you leave**

**3**

At the boat launch, inspect your boating equipment: boat, motor, trailer, rollers, axles, anchors, centerboards and fishing gear and remove any zebra mussels and/or other animals and plant debris (stems/leaves) that are visible. Dispose of debris in the garbage, or compost on land - never near any waterbody. Prior to leaving the boat launch, drain water from the motor, live well, bilge, and transom wells, and leave your drain plug out while travelling.

**Follow these Quick Tips:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GOOD** | **BETTER** | **BEST** |
| **Clean, Drain** | **Clean, Drain, Dry** | **Clean, Drain, Disinfect** |
| * CLEAN off all visible mud, vegetation and other debris
* Pull and store the DRAIN plug, lower your outboard to drain standing water and drain live wells before leaving the launch
 | * In addition to cleaning and draining:
* DRY your boat and equipment in hot or sunny weather for 2-7 days before transporting them to another body of water
 | * Use a pressure washer to spray off your boat and trailer (250psi) OR rinse off your boat and trailer with hot water (greater than 50°C)
* To prevent the spread of VHS, rinse live wells with 10% household bleach/water solution (i.e. 100ml of bleach to 1L water). Rinse well with water to remove any residual chlorine.
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**Found a suspected invasive species? Report it:**

1-800-563-7711 or <http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/>