2025

State of Maine
Courtesy Boat Inspector Handbook

CBI Cam Dufour at Pleasant Pond on Memorial Day Weekend

Sources of help and information

Maine Department of Environmental Protection Invasive Aquatic Species Program –DEP staff: John McPhedran, Chris Reily, Denise Blanchette, and Toni Pied - Bureau of Land and Water Quality, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333. 207-287-7688, milfoil@maine.gov

Web sites with information about invasive aquatic species:

- Maine DEP: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives
- Lakes Environmental Association (LEA): www.mainelakes.org.
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/index.html
- Lake Stewards of Maine: www.lakestewardsofmaine.org

Courtesy boat inspector workshops and supplies: Ziploc ID bags, T-shirts, stickers.

- Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), Mary Jewett, 207-647-8580, mary@mainelakes.org, www.mainelakes.org.

Workshops for:

- Invasive Plant Patrol; Hand Removal of Invasive Aquatic Plants
- Conducting Lake Plant Surveys
- CBI Training

Contact the Lake Stewards of Maine, 207-783-7733, stewards@lakestewardsme.org

Maine Public Safety Dispatch numbers – Use for an emergency or an immediate complaint:

- Augusta : 1-800-452-4664
- Bangor : 1-800-432-7381
- Gray: 1-800-228-0857
- Houlton: 1-800-924-2261

List of fishing tournaments: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/bass-tournaments.html.

Maine Warden Service: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/warden-service/

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Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

Invasive aquatic species such as variable leaf and Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, and zebra mussels are a serious threat to Maine's waters. These plants and animals are so vigorous and propagate so fast that they can crowd out native plants, affect fish populations, and make swimming and boating difficult, if not impossible. When that happens, costly control measures are needed.

Many new infestations occur in shallow waters near boat access points, suggesting that invasive species move from lake to lake on the boats and equipment of unsuspecting boaters. If people are the cause, they can also be the cure.

The state has developed a program to reduce the risk of spreading invasive aquatic species (IAS) including plants, fish and small-bodied animals. It's the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program, and it's our lakes' first line of defense. Inspectors educate boaters about IAS spread prevention and assist boaters with inspecting boats, trailers and gear and removing anything found.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees and distributes grants to local CBI programs protecting their lakes from IAS. While DEP provides training, protocol, and funding, none of this prevention work can be done without the hard work of local residents.

Maine's IAS Law

1. Prohibition. A person may not:

A. Transport any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road;

B. Possess, import, cultivate, transport or distribute any invasive aquatic plant or parts of any invasive aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, in a manner that could cause the plant to get into any state waters;

C. Sell or offer for sale in this State any invasive aquatic plant or any plant of the species and varieties in the genus Myriophyllum that is indigenous to the State; or

D. Fail to remove any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, from the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road

1-A. Draining of watercraft and equipment.

Just prior to launching and when removing a watercraft from an inland water body and prior to transport away from the launch site, a person:

A. Shall remove or open any hull drain plugs, bailers, valves, live wells, ballast tanks and other devices designed for routine removal or opening and closing to encourage water to drain from areas containing water. Containers holding live baitfish for personal or commercial use are exempted from requirements in this subsection; and

B. May not allow drains to be opened in a way that allows water to enter any inland water body of the State

Serious Consequences

It is illegal to transport ANY aquatic plant, native or non-native, on the outside of a vehicle, boat, trailer or equipment. Boaters must also drain their watercraft before entering a body of water. Violations may result in fines up to $500, and $2,500 for subsequent violations (MRSA Title 38, Section 419-C).

Courtesy Boat Inspectors do the following:

- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic species (IAS) spread and promote Clean, Drain, Dry message (below)
- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments and zebra/quagga mussels
- Ask boaters to drain bilge and live wells to reduce the spread of small-bodied animals like mussels and spiny water flea
- Ask boaters to dry boats and equipment between lakes if possible
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Explain to boaters Maine law on transporting IAS
- Distribute the map of known invasive aquatic plant infestations in Maine

Important note: inspections are still voluntary. Aside from laws regarding transporting plants and fish (summarized above), the Clean, Drain, Dry approach is not required but is recommended for improved invasive aquatic species spread prevention. Some northeast U.S. states require that boats be drained of all water before launching in another waterbody. While this is not state law in Maine yet, the threat of invasive fauna is real since some of these invasive animals are in neighboring states and Canada.

Clean: Encourage boater to inspect boat with you, demonstrating where to look for hitchhiking plants and other organisms. A visual inspection will reveal plant fragments and other debris anywhere on the outside of the boat, but especially on and behind propellers, license plate holders, rollers or 'bunks' that the boats ride on, the trailer frame, and any gear on the outside of the boat.

Ask permission to check gear inside the boat – such as anchors and lines, chains, fishing tackle, the floor of the boat, and live wells.

Drain: Explain the importance of draining water from the boat and motor after removal from a waterbody to prevent the spread of small animals such as the invasive zebra and quagga mussels, Asian clam and water flea.

Ask the boater to drain the bilge, engine motor, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the ramp.

Wakeboard boats have ballast tanks which should also be drained before leaving the ramp.

Check jet boats and personal watercraft (PWCs) intake grates. Ask them to run the engine 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water and vegetation from internal drive before leaving the water. After retrieval from the water, outboard engines should be lowered to drain all water and then set to the transport position recommended by the manufacturer.

Dry: Encourage boater to dry the boat and equipment between use at different lakes. This is especially important if it came from a known zebra mussel or spiny waterflea infested water. Drying can be done manually with a towel or by allowing the boat and equipment to dry thoroughly between uses.

<u>Additional Clean, Drain, Dry considerations:</u>

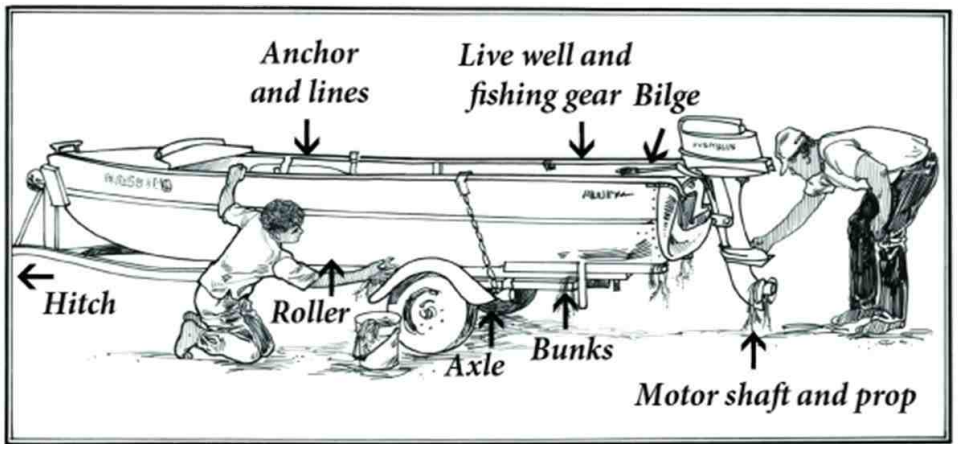
• The inspector should always check trailered boats arriving to launch to be sure their bilge and live wells are drained (and ideally dry) before launching.

• The inspector should ask if they drained and dried their boat when leaving the previous lake visited. If the answer is no, the inspector should respectfully ask the boater to drive away from the ramp and drain their boat before entering. Remember: the inspector cannot require the boater to do so. If a boat has visible mud or organisms on it, the inspector should respectfully ask them to visit a car wash or use a pressure washer to clean the boat and trailer. Many of these organisms can be removed using high pressure spray and most can be killed with very hot water (140˚ Fahrenheit). While it's often not possible, allowing a boat to dry completely between uses (for at least 5 days) will also ensure that organisms are dead.

• Before entering, and upon leaving the lake, and after visually inspecting for plant fragments, the boater should be asked to park away from the ramp and drain all water from the bilge, motor, live well, etc. before continuing their trip.

Follow these steps and ask boaters to do the same on their own:

- ✓ Clean off any mud, plants (even small fragments), and animals from boats, trailers and equipment.
- ✓ Drain boat, live well, engine and equipment away from water.
- ✓ Dry anything that comes into contact with water.
- ✓ Never leave waters with live fish, or release plants or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



The Ideal Inspection

A courtesy boat inspector can — and should — do much more than help boaters inspect their boats, trailers and equipment. Each inspection also is an opportunity to create a change in boater behavior, so that he or she automatically conducts an inspection without relying on an inspector. It's also a chance to educate the boater about why inspections are so important. "CBIs need to engage boaters in discussion – have a dialogue – rather than to quietly inspect their boat without explaining the importance of the boater inspecting on their own," says John McPhedran of DEP's Invasive Aquatic Species Program.

See the box below for questions that can help "break the ice" and establish a dialogue with boaters. Begin with conversational questions which will provide information about them as a boater, for example:

- So where are you from?
- Did you boat there?
- Are you visiting?
- Where else have you visited in Maine?
- Are you heading out fishing or just for a cruise?
- Did you know that plants that get caught on lines and anchors could be invasive and spread around the lake or to other lakes?

In addition to being familiar with the milfoil law, know how much money the milfoil sticker generates (about $3 million annually; 70 percent for DEP and 30 percent for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife). And be ready to talk about nearby or newly infested waterbodies. Attempt to engage the boater and ask follow-up questions. You might be the first — perhaps the only — person to talk to a boater about protecting Maine's waters. Don't miss this chance to make a friend for your lake.

Approaching the boater

Smile and be friendly as you approach the boater in the staging area, before he or she is on the boat ramp. Avoid delaying boaters or causing a backup. Wear a shirt or hat that identifies you as an inspector.

To instill a "self-inspection" ethic among boaters, invite boaters to get out of their vehicles and conduct the boat and trailer inspection WITH you. If a boater is reluctant to take the time, simply offer the known infestations brochure, and record whatever information you can.

Make a note to approach this same boater again as he or she is leaving the launch to conduct a complete survey and inspection at that time. Ideally, you will inspect each boat and trailer TWICE — entering and leaving the water.

Sample Script: "Good Morning / Afternoon. My name is ____from _____. We are trying to prevent the spread of invasive species such as milfoil and zebra mussels in Maine lakes. The plants and animals are spread from lake to lake when they become lodged on boats, gear and trailers. May I have just a few minutes of your time to give you some general information and to show you how to inspect for fragments? If you would walk around your boat with me, I can show you some areas to check for hitchhiking plants."

Note:Inspectors must ask permission before touching any boat, trailer, or vehicle.

Transport of Fish

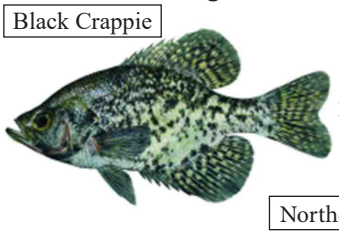
Legal baitfish and smelt may be transported alive. Excluding fish on the unrestricted species list (largely tropical fish), a person must have a valid stocking permit to keep and transport freshwater fish alive. Freshwater fish caught by anglers must be released alive or harvested and killed; however, those operating a permitted bass fishing tournament can temporarily keep fish alive while on the lake for which the permit was issued. For more information about invasive animals see pages 12-15.

Trouble by the Bucketful!

Please help us fight this serious problem by telling boaters:

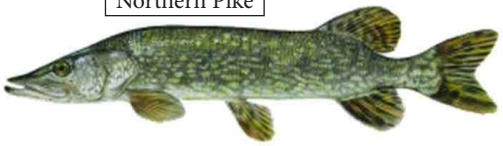
- It is illegal to transport live with without a permit.
- It is illegal to dump unused baitfish into any waterway.
- There is a $10,000 fine for a conviction of illegal stocking.
- Always keep you ears and eyes open for those who are committing these senseless acts.

Black Crappie



There is a $2,000 reward for information leading to a conviction

Northern Pike



To report information about an illegal introduction please call:
1-800-ALERT-US (253-7887) - In-State
(207) 287-6057 - Out-of-State

# of trailers present upon shift arrival ____

2025 Maine Courtesy Boat Inspection Form

Check here if you encouraged self-inspection _____

Lake Name_____ **Ramp Name** _____ **Town** _____ V/P____

Date _____ **Shift Time: From**_____ **To**_____ **Inspector Name** _____ **Host Agency**_____

Use Military Time

*Is the Plant Suspicious?

	If Motorized		Current Year's Sticker Present?	Previous Waterbody Visited For all inspections			Time of Inspection? Trailer, Boat, Motor		Any Plants Found?	Was the Plant Identified as Invasive?	Who Identified?
	State Abbr.	*Entire BOW #: alphanumeric boat registration #	Circle Y/N/NM (non-motorized)	Lake Name	Town	State		Military TIME	(Circle Y/N)		**see bottom of page
1			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
2			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
3			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
4			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
5			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
6			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
7			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
8			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
9			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	
10			Yes No NM				Entering		Yes No	Yes No	
							Leaving		Yes No	Yes No	

Comments:
Use this space to note location of plants found

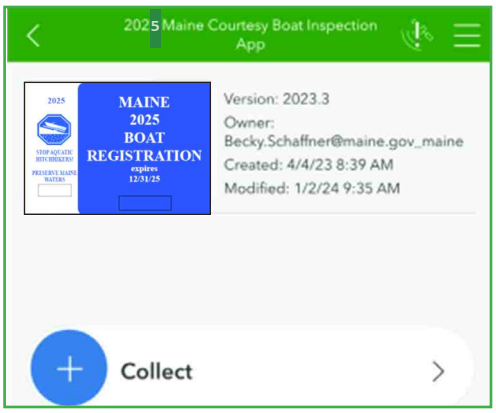
V/P: V=Volunteer inspector; P=Paid inspector

How many boaters refused inspection: _____

3/2023

Data Collection

The inspection data must be submitted electronically to DEP every two weeks, preferably using the CBI app. The most efficient way to enter the inspection data is by using the CBI app at the time of the inspection though some may choose to record the data on the paper form to be entered electronically at a later time.

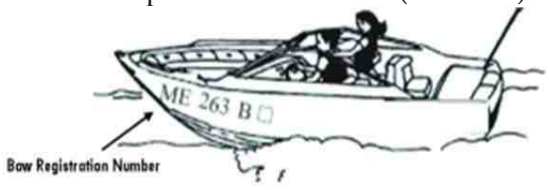


If you are recording inspections on the paper form first remember:

- Fill in the top two lines of the form completely. Failure to do so may render the entire form useless.
- Coordinators may want to fill in generic parts on these lines before photocopying a blank form.
- Be consistent when filling in the Launch Name/Location. This is important for data retrieval.
- Many of the columns can be filled in before you approach the boater.

Description of inspection form questions

If Motorized: This box is for recording the boat's state abbreviation and the entire alphanumeric bow registration number (see diagram below), not the annual registration sticker number. Record what you see, not the boater's sate of origin. There are several states where the state abbreviation on the bow of the boat is different from the state's postal abbreviation (see table).



For example Massachusetts boats use MS for the state abbreviation on the bow. Motorized boats include any boat with any type of motor including canoes with electric motors and personal watercraft.

State Name	Boat Code	Postal Code
Massachusetts	MS	MA
Hawaii	HA	HI
California	CF	CA
Colorado	CL	CO
Delaware	DL	DE
Kansas	KA	KS
Michigan	MC	MI
Mississippi	MI	MS
Nebraska	NB	NE
Washington	WN	WA
Wisconsin	WS	WI

Sticker Present?: Circle "yes" if the boat displays the current year's Lake and River Protection sticker (see below). The sticker color changes each year. This is also where you indicate if the boat is non-motorized by circling "NM". **Non-motorized vessels should also be inspected thoroughly.** If "yes" or "no" is circled then it is understood that the boat is mortorized. It is important that one of these three options is circled.

The sticker reads "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers -Preserve Maine Waters" and is physically attached to the Maine watercraft annual registration sticker. Owners of Maine-registered watercraft automatically pay the combined cost of the sticker ($25) and the annual registration when the boat is registered for use on inland waters.

Owners of motorized boats with out-of-state registration are required to purchase and affix a separate non-resident sticker (right) annually. The cost is $60.

What does this mean for you, the CBI? For Maine-registered boats, look for the rectangular "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers – Preserve Maine Waters" sticker attached to the boat's annual registration sticker (above). For

Did you know? State abbreviations for boats were established by the coast guard in 1958. The post office didn't designate state codes until 1963. This is why the boat registration bow number may not match the State's postal or trailer abbreviation. Inspectors should always record the state code seen on the boat.

non Maine-registered boats, look for a white, square sticker (right) with colored text matching the wording and color of the Maine sticker. This should be located beside the out-of-state bow registration number.

What if a Maine registered boat has the current annual registration but lacks the attached "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" sticker? Owners of Maine-registered watercraft used only in tidal waters may declare such use to their town clerk. The $25 fee will be deducted from the annual watercraft registration fee and the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" sticker will be removed from the watercraft registration, since boats used exclusively in tidal waters do not require a sticker.

What if the boat does not have the current year's registration and sticker? You do not have the authority to stop boaters from launching. However, you may inform them they risk a fine if a warden stops them. This is a good opportunity to explain where the money from the sale of the sticker goes.

A key point to remember is that all the funds go to dedicated accounts at DEP and DIFW for preventing and managing invasive aquatic species. Seventy percent of the sticker funds go to DEP and thirty percent to DIFW.

Previous Waterbody Visited: It's very helpful to know if a boat came from an infested or out-of-state lake so extra precautions can be taken. Ask which body of water the boat was previously on. You also need to record the state where the lake is located, using the postal code.

Boat Inspected at What Time?: We need to know whether the boater is potentially introducing plants into the lake or bringing them out. Record the time the boat entered or left the lake in the appropriate line.

Please use military time and use the same survey line for each individual boat if you see it twice (entering and leaving the lake). Note: in the app each inspection has a separate entry, even if you see the same boat entering and leaving.

Any Plants Found?: If any aquatic plant is found, record a "yes." If you suspect the plant is invasive, or aren't sure, take a picture and bag it. Turn in to the local program coordinator, who will either confirm it is not invasive or send a picture to the Lakes Environmental Association for identification. In order for plant to be deemed invasive it must be identified by either LEA or DEP. Note: Remember to record the entire boat bow identification number in the "If Motorized" field.

Where was the plant found? We are trying to collect information about where plants are being found during inspection. See the list from the app below.

Was the Plant Identified as Invasive? Don't make your selection in this column until a positive ID is made. Note: Only plants identified by LSM as invasive will be recorded in the state database.

Please see directions on page 7 for more information about procedures for dealing with suspicious plants.

Who Identified the Plant?: Use this column to record the person and/or agency that identified the plant.

Suspicious plant in the app? You may submit your survey at the end of your shift, even if you have an unanswered plant question. This can be fixed in the system once your program coordinator receives an identification.

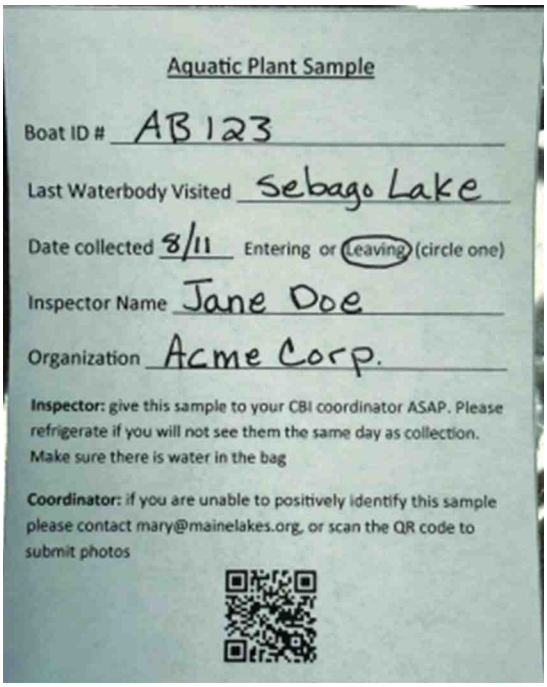
Where can boaters buy a non-resident Lake and River Protection sticker?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Dealing with suspicious plant fragments

Use the color pictures of plants found on Pages 21-25 to help determine if a plant fragment is suspicious. Suspicious means: Is there any possible chance the plant is an invasive? If yes, a picture of the plant must be sent to the Lakes Envrionmental Association (LEA) for identification, following their protocol, outlined below:

- At the ramp, bag and label the sample, keeping the sample cool in case it later needs to be mailed for identification
- It is critical that you include the inspection information, as seen in the sample below
- Photo submission requires using LEA's online form. To send a digital picture you must read and follow the instructions found at mainelakes.org/invasives/plant-submission/ Photos must be "readable". See example on right
- Scan the QR code below to go directly to the plant submission form online
- DO NOT MAIL plant sample unless contacted by LEA. If they need the physical sample they will give instructions for how to send it



Aquatic Plant Sample

Boat ID # AB 123

Last Waterbody Visited Sebago Lake

Date collected 8/11 Entering or (Leaving) (circle one)

Inspector Name Jane Doe

Organization Acme Corp.

Inspector: give this sample to your CBI coordinator ASAP. Please refrigerate if you will not see them the same day as collection. Make sure there is water in the bag

Coordinator: if you are unable to positively identify this sample please contact mary@mainelakes.org, or scan the QR code to submit photos

- Float the plant in water
- Photo should be taken with a white background
- Make sure photo is clear - not blurry
- Photo should show details (leaves, stem, buds, etc)

Scan this code with your phone to go directly to the Suspicious Plant reporting page.

Personal Safety

Nothing is of greater importance or concern than your personal safety. Please observe the following guidelines when you are at a launch site:

- If you have a cell phone, take it with you to the boat launching site.
- Always back away from a potentially dangerous or violent situation. Inspectors are not enforcers of rules and should never jeopardize their own safety.
- If you are ever suspicious of someone (such as a loiterer or someone who is not boating), do not hesitate to leave the launch site. If you feel that a boat launch site is unsafe in any way, notify your coordinator or the host agency sponsoring inspections on your lake. If it's that dangerous to be there, report the condition to the local, county or state police and cease operations.
- Do not allow a confrontation to develop, no matter how strong you feel about the threat of invasive plants.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors at Roxbury Pond

Conduct at the launch site

Follow these few simple guidelines and both you and boaters will be comfortable.

- Always ask if boaters would mind answering a few questions **and ask permission to inspect their boats with them.**
- Always introduce yourself and say which organization you are working for and why you are at the launch site. Do not just approach a boater and begin asking questions immediately, as they might be confused about who you are and why they should give you their time.
- Wear a CBI T-shirt or other organization shirt if available. It helps promote your message and reassures boaters that they're being approached by someone involved in a legitimate project.
- Maintain a positive attitude and wish all boaters a good day, no matter how irritable they may seem.
- In an effort to be more attentive to boaters, stay on your feet until the boat launches or is loaded on a trailer and driven away. If you sit down too quickly the boater may think you are not interested in conversation or a thorough inspection.

Additional Considerations

What if you meet with resistance and a boater refuses an inspection, or insists on launching even if they know there are plants on the boat or trailer, or doesn't have the current year's sticker? While most boaters are appreciative of your efforts to protect the lake, some simply do not want to be bothered or aren't convinced that invasive plants are a problem and therefore refuse to participate in an inspection. Remember these are courtesy boat inspections - always respect the boater's wishes. However you could:

- Politely explain the reason invasive plants and animals are a concern: "Invasive plants grow in dense mats that shade out native plants, block fish movement, entangle boat motor propellers, and interfere with swimming and other types of water recreation. Invasive plants grow rapidly and out-compete native vegetation needed by fish and wildlife".
- If the boat has a lot of plants, suggest the boater pull over and remove before launching. Caution the boater that Maine law prohibits the transportation of ANY plant on the outside of a boat, trailer, or equipment and prohibits launching a boat with invasive plants (see page 1 for more details about the law).
- Caution that all motorized boats using inland waters are required by law to affix the Lake and River Protection Sticker (see page 5 for more information) and risk a fine if the warden stops them.
- If the boater insists on launching or leaving with plants attached, note the vehicle license plate and boat bow registration numbers and communicate them to your coordinator or a Maine game warden (numbers are found on the front, inside cover).
- Most importantly, don't jeopardize your safety!

Tricky questions

Courtesy Boat Inspections have been around for a while, so most people are aware of the program, but here are some ideas in case someone asks:

"Why are you out here wasting resources when the plant is going to come anyway?" You might say, "Even if we cannot keep the plants out completely, we can prevent a lot of widespread damage. Prevention gives us time to adopt new control methods as they are developed. Also, the longer we keep invasives out of a lake the longer we put off the enormous costs of management and property devaluation."

"Aren't all plants bad anyway?" It is important to clear up this misconception! Native plants are essential elements of an aquatic ecosystem, providing the basis for all life in the lake. The problem with invasive (non-native) plants is that they out-compete native plants, since they have no natural competition or predators.

"I don't think a sticker fee is fair because we boaters spend enough money as it is." Maine lacks adequate funding to protect its waters. Most states do not offer free public boat launching sites and it would be a shame if Maine had to charge boaters to launch their boats.

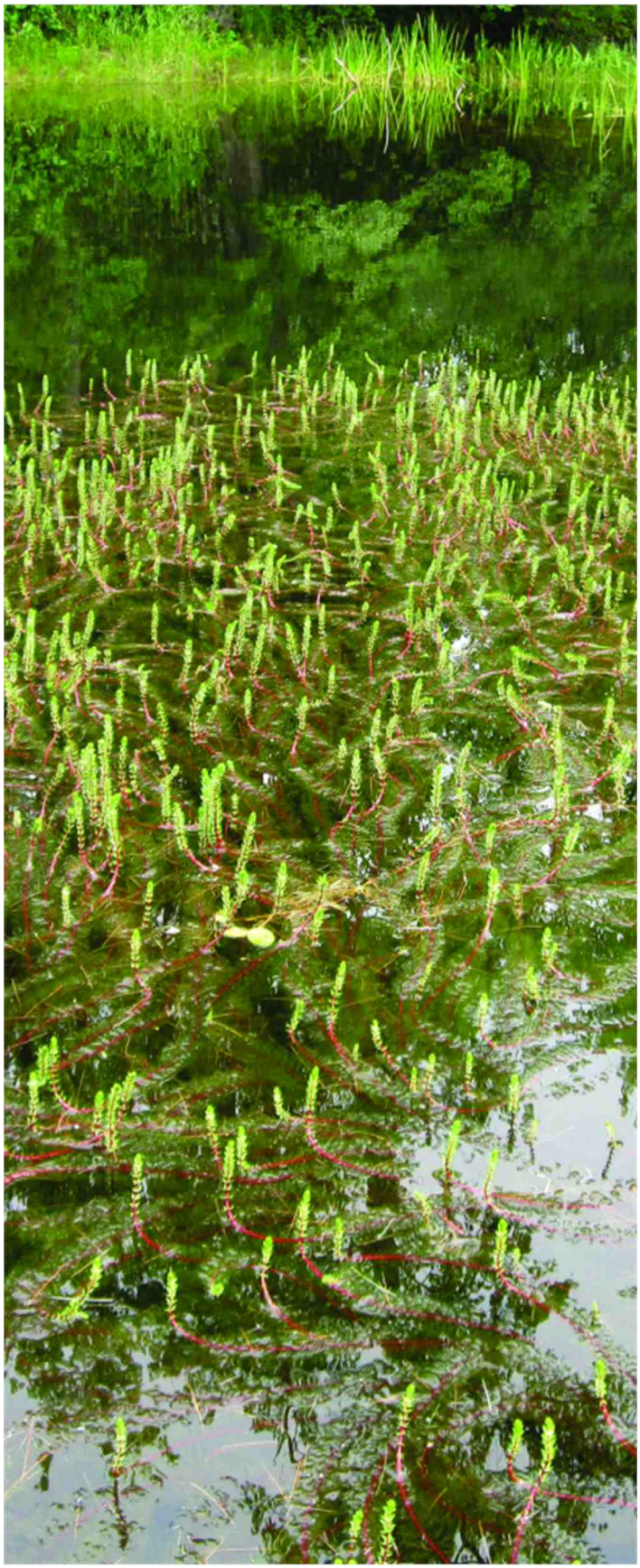
Many states charge a lot more than Maine does, either in registration fees, charges to launch boats or additions to the gas tax. In Vermont, 25 percent of boat registration fees go toward fighting invasive plants that have become established there.

In other New England states, boaters face higher fees and contend with more invasive species than Maine currently has. These invasive species impair boating and swimming.

"I don't have time for this . . . I know all about it already!" This is a fairly common remark. If the boater does not wish to help you with the survey, you must respect their rights and let them be. Just offer them a brochure and wish them a nice day.

"Who is really getting the money from the stickers anyway?" Except for the $1 per sticker agent fee for each non-resident boat and costs associated with distribution, printing and administration at Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, all of the money is channeled directly into the dedicated invasive aquatic species accounts at DEP and DIFW.

The state uses some of the money to offer grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations that sponsor volunteer efforts and local programs such as courtesy boat inspections.



Variable Leaf Milfoil flowering in the Songo River in Naples, Maine

Implementing the CBI Program on your lake

Beyond the immediate goal of protecting your lake, the benefits of running a CBI program are many: great PR for your association resulting in new members, greater donations, and even the emergence of new leaders within your group.

Requirements: Each organization receiving a grant from the DEP for CBI staffing must send a minimum of one representative to a CBI training session. That person, ideally the organization's CBI supervisor, will be responsible for training all inspectors who are hired or who volunteer for the organization. The main training session is held after the annual Milfoil Summit in April. Contact LEA to arrange training if you can't make the Summit. Contact information is on the back of the front cover, under "Sources of help and information."

In addition to CBI training and a CBI supervisor, you will need volunteers, a staffing schedule and a volunteer coordinator for each launch site if possible. Use the media and your organization's newsletter to publicize the need for volunteers, but realize you will probably not get enough people unless you make direct person-to-person requests.

Use your membership list, divide it up among volunteers, and call individuals you think would be willing to help protect the lake. Be sure telephone callers use the Volunteer Survey Form below. You'll be amazed how little you remember about each call after 5 or 10 minutes have passed. The call has four objectives: explain the problem (invasive aquatic plants); state your need (volunteers); get a commitment, and schedule the individual for CBI training.

Scheduling inspectors: You can use Excel to make a spreadsheet showing the days and times you plan to have inspectors at launch sites. Two or three-hour time slots work for most volunteers. It's a lot easier if you can schedule a volunteer into the same time slot each week or for a period of weeks. Some organizations use online scheduling templates. The most popular is Google Drive. The busy times vary from site to site. Generally, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are good to cover. Some organizations cover weekends first, and then schedule extra volunteers on weekdays.

What has worked well?

- Signs like the one shown to the left let boaters know what's ahead, making them more receptive to inspections
- Using an online scheduler lets CBIs enter or change their work shifts from a computer connected to the internet
- Wearing the CBI T-shirt or vest immediately identifies you to boaters
- Provide all inspectors with list of phone numbers to call
- Know where boaters can buy stickers locally
- Using a Mystery Boater program can help identify issues with individual CBIs

Please watch out for these other invaders

Control methods for invasive aquatic animals vary greatly depending on the species, but following the simple steps below can help to greatly reduce their spread into Maine.

1. Learn how to identify invasive aquatic species. Attend an Invasive Plant Patrol workshop. To see pictures of both invasive and native aquatic plants and animals visit the Lake Stewards of Maine website https://maineaquaticfieldguide.org/#/
2. Clean your boat and equipment. Remove mud, plants, fish, and animals.
3. Drain all water from the boat. Remove the bilge and live well plugs. Drop the motor all the way down to drain standing water in the propeller.
4. Dry off everything that came in contact with the water by wiping down the boat or allowing it to dry for at least 5 days.
5. If 5 days of drying isn't possible before relaunching in a different waterbody, rinse the boat and trailer. Flush the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks and storage compartments with clean water per boat manufacturer instructions.
6. Extra precaution should be taken if a boat came from a waterbody known to be infested with an organism other than plants e.g. zebra & quagga mussels, Asian clams, spiny waterflea. Wash your equipment with high pressure, hot water, such as found at a car wash.
7. Never release any plants or animals into a different body of water from which they came.
8. If you have snails, plants, fish or other animals in an aquarium and you no longer wish to care for them, find a new aquarium home for them. Do not release them into the wild!

The following pages describe some of Maine's most threatening aquatic animal invaders. The descriptions and photos are taken from the Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native look- alikes by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants and the Lake Stewards of Maine. Additional source references for individual species are listed after each description.

Spiny Water Flea

(*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*)

Spiny water flea is native to Great Britain and parts of northern Europe. Spiny water fleas are more common in deep, cool lakes. However, they also inhabit warmer lakes where surface water temperatures exceed 25° C. The creature is small (1 to 1.5 cm long) with transparent exoskeleton, a large black eye spot on both sides of the head, and four pairs of legs. Most distinctive is the crustacean's long, barbed tail spine. Spiny water fleas are often first noticed by anglers, when they become entangled in fishing lines. When the line is pulled from the water, something resembling tiny straight pins waving about perpendicular to the line may be noticed. These are the miniscule creatures, raising and lowering their tails as they cling to the line. Impacts to aquatic ecosystems caused by the spiny water flea are not fully understood. What is known is that spiny water fleas reproduce rapidly, (both sexually and asexually) producing numerous offspring during the growing season, and "resting eggs" that overwinter in the sediments.

Once well established in the waterbody, spiny water fleas compete directly with other zooplankton feeders in the ecosystem (eating up to three times as much food as similar species). Their sharp spine prevents fish of a certain size class from eating them. It is believed that both of these impacts have the potential to trigger disturbances throughout the aquatic food web.

As of 2023, spiny water fleas can be found throughout the Great Lakes Region, Eastern New York, Lake Champlain in Vermont, and Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire.

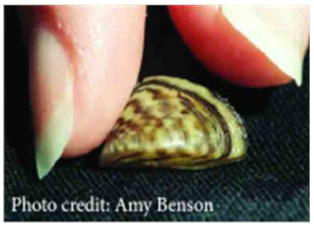
References:

1. Spiny Water Flea; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; www.invadingspecies.com/Invaders.cfm

2. Spiny Water Flea in the Great Lakes Region; Great Lakes Information Network; www.great-lakes.net

Zebra Mussels

(*Dreissena polymorpha*)



Zebra mussels are thought to have been introduced to this country as accidental stowaways attached to hulls, or in the ballast water of ships entering the Great Lakes from Europe. Since they were first discovered in this country in 1988, these tiny, freshwater bivalves, have become a major aquatic pest throughout much of the Midwest. Spreading to New England, primarily by way of boating activity, as of 2017 they have impacted waters in Vermont and are known to be in Massachusetts and Connecticut. (Indeed, in 2006 a Courtesy Boat Inspector on Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire detected-and successfully averted some zebra mussels that were hitching a ride on a boat from New York.)

Zebra mussels begin life as tiny free-swimming larvae, called veligers. It is during this stage that they are most readily transported from one waterbody to another (attached to boating gear, in bilgewater, bait buckets, etc.) and also most difficult to detect. After two or three weeks, the veligers "settle out" in the waterbody, attaching by way of strong, threadlike filaments to just about any hard surface they encounter. Rocks, sediment, wood, intake pipes, moorings, boat hulls, native mussel beds, are all at risk of colonization. Zebra mussels are small (adults are about 15 mm long) but they are voracious filter feeders, straining out major portions of the phytoplankton population and effectively starving out many native zooplankton species. The gap created in the food web may cascade through the entire ecosystem.

Zebra mussel infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, they can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Zebra mussels have not yet been detected in Maine.

References:

1. Frequently asked Questions about the Zebra Mussel. United States Geological Survey. Florida Integrated Science Center, Gainsville. http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous_Species/Zebra_mussel_FAQs/zebra_mussel_faqs.html

Asian Clam

(*Corbicula fluminea*)

The Asian (or Asiatic) clam is a freshwater bivalve mollusk native to southern and eastern Asia and Africa. The source of introduction to the United States is unknown, but it is suspected that this species was brought from China by immigrants as a food source and subsequently released. The popularity of these small clams as aquarium specimens and as bait may have further exacerbated their spread. As of 2017, the Asian clam is now found in fresh waters throughout much of the United States including all New England states, except Maine.

The clams thrive in sandy lake bottoms where they form dense communities; the population in a single waterbody may easily reach into the billions. The sexes are normally distinct; however, hermaphrodites exist that are capable of self-fertilization. When the second stage larvae, called veligers, reach approximately 1mm in size they are discharged from the gills of the parent to begin life as juveniles on the bottom sediments. (Under ideal conditions a single clam can release up to 70,000 baby clams a year!) Adults may reach up to 4cm in length during their lifespan of one to four years. The shell of the Asian clam is ovate, and normally yellow-green to brown in color with thick concentric rings. The inside of the shell is layered with polished, light purple material called nacre. Other shell colors (called morphs) do occur.

Asian clam infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, this species can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Asian clams appear to be capable of tolerating polluted environments better than many native bivalves. In cases where Asian clam infestations have been intentionally controlled by a cold weather draw-down the clams have produced ammonia in high enough quantities to be lethal to other fish and wildlife.

References: 1. Asian Clam; Indiana Illinois Sea Grant website; www.iisgcp.org

2. What Lurks Beneath? by Megan Woolhouse, The Boston Globe: Globe West, April 19, 2007

Chinese Mystery Snail

(*Cipangopaludina chinesis malleatus*)

Chinese mystery snails, native to parts of Southeast Asia, were brought to this country as a food source for Asian markets. It is believed that imported snails were intentionally released in some areas to create a locally-harvestable supply. Since their introduction, Chinese mystery snails have spread to many parts of the United States, and can now be found in a number of Maine lakes and ponds.

Chinese mystery snails are distinctively large; the size of a walnut or golf ball, they are half-again as large as Maine's largest native freshwater snail. Though they spend a good portion of their lives under the water surface, half buried in the bottom sediments, Chinese mystery snails may also be encountered with their trap doors sealed up tight, floating along at the water's surface. When these large snails die, they often wash up on shore, where their dark, olive-colored shells can be easily seen and (unpleasantly) smelled. Chinese mystery snails prefer the quiet water of lakes, ponds, roadside ditches and slower portions of streams.

Once in a body of water, the Chinese mystery snail may be transported, as adults or tiny juveniles, via bait buckets and water holding areas on boats. Like other snail species, this species may serve as a vector for various parasites and diseases. Chinese mystery snails occur in a number of Maine waterbodies, but the full distribution of this snail in Maine is unknown. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program currently manages a statewide database on reported sightings of C. chinesis malleatus. You can assist the effort to get a better handle on this invasive organism by reporting any sightings to LSM at 207-783-7733 or stewards@lakestewardsme.org.

References:

1. Martin, Scott M. 1999. Freshwater snails (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Maine. Northeastern Naturalist.

2. Cipangopaludina chinensis (Reeve, 1863). Fact sheet by Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. http://nis.gsmfc.org/nis_factsheet.php?toc_id=125

Quagga Mussels

(*Dreissena bugensis*)

Quagga mussels are native to the Caspian Sea, and like zebra mussels, are thought to have come to this country in the ballast water of ocean going ships. Quagga mussels were first discovered in the Great Lakes region in 1989, but were not identified as a distinct species until 1991. As of 2017 there is only one known infestation in New York and none in New England.

These invaders prefer silty or sandy lake bottoms, but may be found in waters ranging from warm and shallow to deep and cold. Like zebra mussels, the shell is distinctly striped in dark and light bands. Adult quagga mussels are generally larger than zebras, 20 mm long (roughly the size of your thumbnail) and their shells are broader and more fan-shaped. The ventral (or hinged) side of the shell is convex, preventing the quagga mussel from being balanced, on this side, on a flat surface. (The zebra mussel will remain upright when placed on its ventral side.) Quagga mussel feed year-round, even in winter when zebra mussels are dormant.

Quagga mussel infestations may clog power plant and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Ecologically, they can alter benthic substrates and compete with native zooplankton, mussel and fish species for food and/or space. Quagga mussels have not yet been detected in Maine.

References: 1. Quagga mussel; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/quagga.htm

Maine's Most UNWANTED Aquatic Invasive Plants

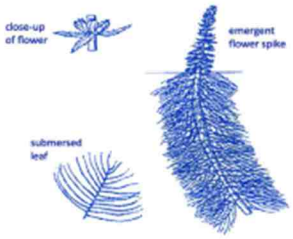
Under Maine law, it is illegal to transport ANY aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle. It is also illegal to sell, propagate, or introduce to Maine waters these aquatic invasive plants.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL*

Myriophyllum spicatum [1]

VARIABLE-LEAF WATERMILFOIL*

Myriophyllum heterophyllum [2]



PARROT FEATHER*

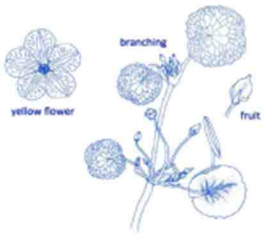
Myriophyllum aquaticum [1]

BRITTLE NAIAD

Najas minor [3]

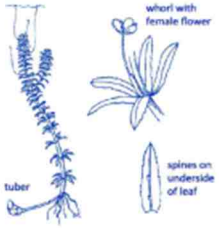
YELLOW FLOATING HEART

Nymphoides peltata [1]



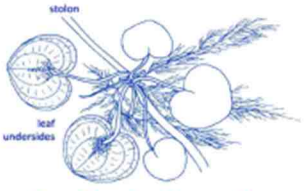
HYDRILLA

Hydrilla verticillata [1]



EUROPEAN FROGBIT

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae [1]



Free Floating Vegetation

BRAZILIAN ELODEA

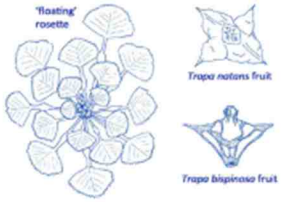
Egeria densa [1]

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Potamogeton crispus [1]

WATER CHESTNUT

Trapa species [1, 5]

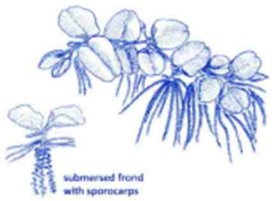


WATER SOLDIER

Stratiotes aloides [1]

GIANT SALVINIA

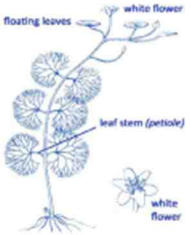
Salvinia molesta [1]



Free Floating Vegetation

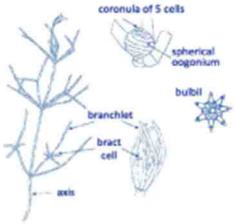
FANWORT

Cabomba species [1]



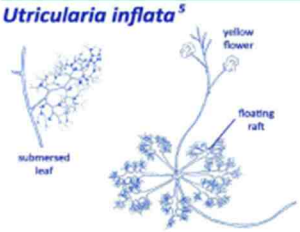
STARRY STONEWORT

Nitellopsis obtusa [4]



SWOLLEN BLADDERWORT

Utricularia inflata [5]



Free Floating Vegetation

*** All non-native milfoils are considered invasive in the State of Maine.**

1. Aquatic plant line drawings are the copyright property of the University of Florida Center for Aquatic Plants (Gainsville).
2. *Aquatic Plants of New England* Series. G. T. Crow and C. B. Hellquist 1983. Illustration by Pam Bruns.
3. *Dies Pflanzenreich*, 1900 by Ernst Gilg and Karl Schumann. Image listed under public domain under the terms of GNU Free Document License, courtesy www.biolib.de.
4. Mary Jane Beilby and Michelle T Casanova. Springer – Heidelberg, New York, Dordrecht, London, 2014.
5. Aquatic plant line drawings are the copyright property of Lake Stewards of Maine.

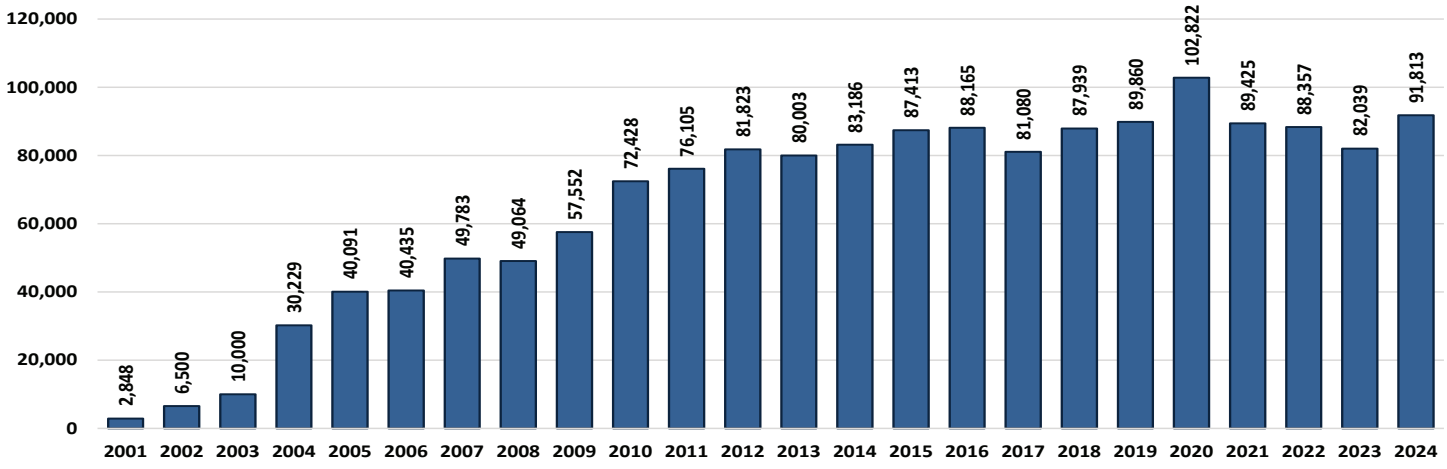
LAKE STEWARDS OF MAINE
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

For assistance, please contact:
Lake Stewards of Maine (207) 783-7733 stewards@lakestewardsme.org
For additional assistance, please contact Maine DEP (207) 287-3901

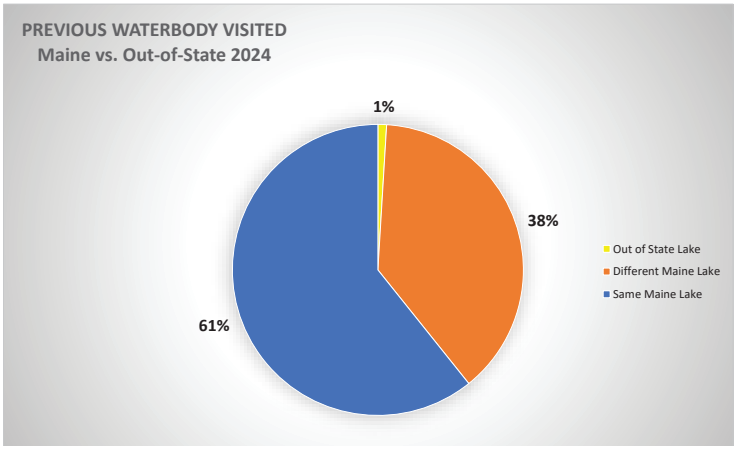
www.LakeStewardsOfMaine.org
www.LakesOfMaine.org

Original poster design by Portland Water District

23 YEARS OF MAINE BOAT INSPECTIONS - ANNUAL TOTALS 2001-2024

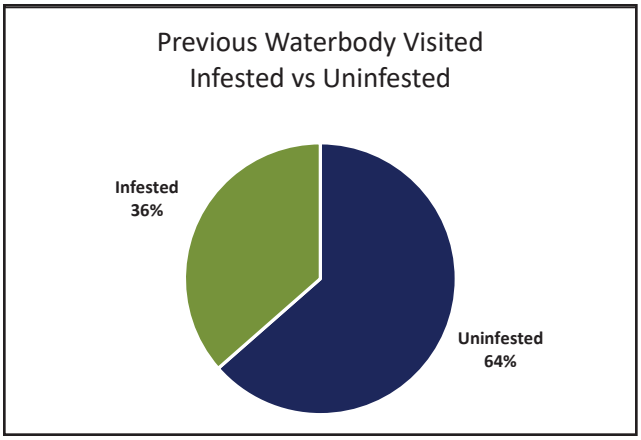


CBI statistics	2023	2024
Infested lakes with inspections	20	21
Waterbodies with inspections	91	88
Total plants found	2352	2432
Total invasive plants found	103	106
Invasive plants on entering boats	12	9
Invasive plants on leaving boats	90	97
Total inspectors	543	512
Inspection hours	43,488	45,661
Boats with sticker	58,316	63,809
Motorized inspections	65,466	65,783
Non-motorized inspections	16,573	19,973
Participating lake association organizations	60	59
Participating Bass Clubs	29	38
Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection		



Responses to Previous Waterbody Visited (PWV) question in 2024 are represented in the pie charts. Upper chart shows that 2% of the PWV were out-of-state lakes and the rest were Maine lakes, of which 68% were the same lake where the inspection occurred.

The lower chart shows that about two thirds of boats came from uninfested waters. Within the infested slice, about 86% of the boats were coming from an infested lake within Maine.



Maine DEP AIS program update

Strategic Plan and Funding Increase

The MEDEP Aquatic Invasive Species Program drafted a 10-year strategic plan during late 2023 into 2024 to better allocate and direct resources. One goal is to expand prevention programs to underserved areas of the state. The Maine State Legislature approved an increase in boat registration sticker fees on April 10th, 2024. This new funding is integral to implementing the new strategic plan.

Sticker fees will increase from $15 to $25 for Maine-registered boats and from $45 to $60 for out-of-state boat registrations starting in 2025. There will be an additional increase of $10 and $15 respectively in 2028 resulting in a total of $35 for Maine-registered boats and $75 for boats with non-Maine registrations. The funding will be split 70% to The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) and 30% to Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MEDIFW) as the two agencies continue their united front against flora and invertebrate fauna throughout the state and beyond our borders.

Grants in 2024

Twenty-three community organizations conducted aquatic plant removal utilizing grant funds received from MEDEP. Plant removal grants totaled $570,362, increasing from $522,406 in 2023. Lake groups contribute significantly more monetary and in-kind contributions than what is awarded in grant funds.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI) saw 59 groups receive $344,025 in grant awards, almost a $10,000 increase from the previous season. As with previous years, Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) and Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) received funding for overall program support including survey and training efforts. LSM conducted surveys and plant identification workshops throughout the state, including a concentrated effort in the sparsely populated, but vulnerable, Aroostook County. LEA continued their CBI trainings and arranged another successful Maine Summit on Aquatic Invasive Species to kick off the season.

Courtesy Boat Inspections

The 2024 inspection data are still coming in as Courtesy Boat Inspection groups finish their reporting process. To date, there have been over 90,000 inspections, almost 2,500 of which had plant fragments found on boats entering or leaving a waterbody. Of the inspections in which plant fragments were found, 104 were confirmed as invasive. Moving forward, discussions by MEDEP and cooperators will be taking place to address rising operational costs and a widespread difficulty in finding enough individuals to fully staff their scheduled inspection shifts.

Clean Drain Dry

The Clean, Drain, Dry (CDD) message continues to be spread throughout the state via signage and outreach by state personnel and citizens concerned with lake health. MEDEP staff respond to requests for signage and coordinate the delivery of CDD and Infested Lake signs to boat access sites that have obtained permission from the site owners and need updated signage. Following a recent RFP process, MEDEP staff will soon begin work with the selected bidder to use social marketing principles to determine public attitudes and ultimately participation in the CDD process.

Zebra Mussel Infestation Monitoring

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MEDIFW) hired an aquatic invasive animal staff member in May 2023, recently after the discovery of zebra mussels just 20 miles north of the Maine border in Lac Témiscouata, Quebec. In the late summer of 2023, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as well as their NGO partners, confirmed the presence of adult zebra mussels on the dam in Edmundston, New Brunswick, near the confluence of the Madawaska River and the shared United States/Canada border water, the Saint John River. Additionally, zebra mussels have since been confirmed through environmental DNA work in the Saint John River as far downstream as the Mactaquac Dam in Central York, New Brunswick.

MEDIFW continues their environmental DNA sampling in other inland lakes and rivers to monitor any potential spread of zebra mussel, particularly to high-risk waters. In sampling conducted in both 2023 and 2024, the MEDIFW has yet to detect zebra mussels in any water other than the main stem of the Saint John River. MEDIFW is also looking at future expanded monitoring efforts, including a community science based settling plate program for zebra mussels.

New Invasive Plant Infestations in 2024

Swollen bladderwort (Utricularia inflata) was added by Maine's Legislature to the State's list of aquatic invasive plants in 2023. This statutory change immediately added two previously confirmed infestations in Lake Arrowhead in the south and Horseshoe Pond in the central portion of the state to Maine's list of infested waters. However, a total of six new infestations of U. inflata have been confirmed: Little Ossipee Lake upstream of Arrowhead, Mousam Lake in Shapleigh, Tilton Pond in Fayette, Spaulding Pond in Lebanon, Milton Pond on the NH/ME border, and Murdock Pond in Berwick.

Management of Existing Infestations

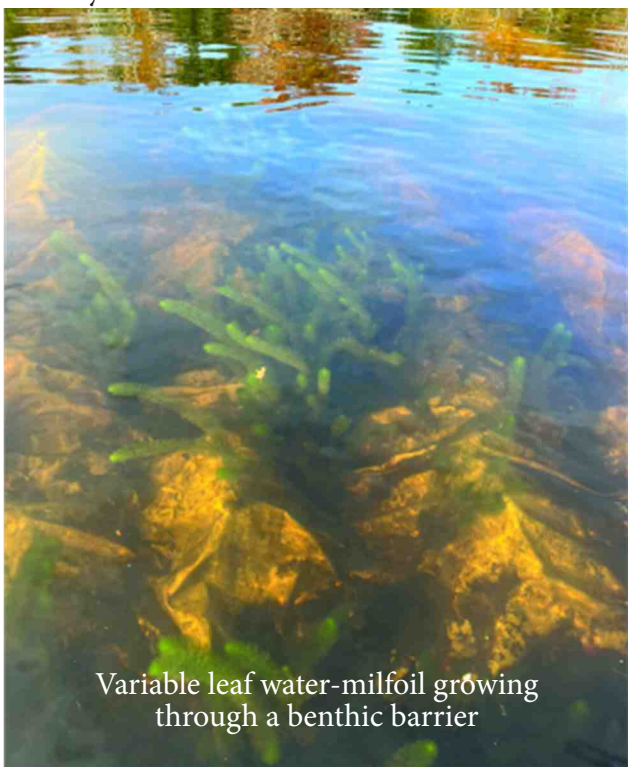
Most established infestations in Maine are managed by community organizations using DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest) and bottom barriers. Lake groups conducting removal record their progress using the ESRI Survey123 product hosted by MEDEP.

Per Maine Statute, only MEDEP may obtain a permit to apply herbicide in state waters. Following are brief summaries of MEDEP herbicide applications in 2024. Treatments were planned by MEDEP and executed by SOLitude Lake Management in consultation with SePRO.

The difficulty containing the spread of Eurasian water-milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum, EWM) on Cobbossee Lake continued through 2024 as individual plants and small patches were found in other areas of the lake. Just over 11 acres were treated in 2024 with ProcellaCOR to combat the infestation. Other areas of infestation were managed with manual removal. EWM was documented in the outlet stream of Cobbossee in 2023. During the 2024 surveys of the stream no Eurasian water-milfoil was found. This surprising result may be related to scouring by extremely high flows from intense storms during last winter and spring. MEDEP and local partners will continue to survey and monitor in 2025. Local partners continue to survey for and remove variable water-milfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum) and European frog-bit (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae) in Cobbossee.

The Collins Pond hybrid (Myriophyllum heterophyllum x laxum) received a follow-up treatment with ProcellaCOR this year. A total of 10.7 acres were treated in the ongoing effort to manage the infestation and reduce it to a level where annual manual removal is a viable option.

This season saw herbicide treatments of Aquastrike on Lake Arrowhead (Waterboro and Limerick, ME) and Milton Three Ponds (Lebanon, ME) in an effort to mitigate the spread of brittle naiad (Najas minor). ProcellaCOR was applied to an additional 54 acres of Lake Arrowhead to reduce the variable leaf water-milfoil. While Lake Arrowhead continues to be the single greatest exporter of invasive plant fragments in our CBI program, residents have noted fewer fragments floating around the primary boat ramp since the 2023 and 2024 herbicide treatments.


Variable leaf water-milfoil growing through a benthic barrier

For more information, please check DEP's website http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/ or email milfoil@maine.gov.

DIFW's Invasive Species Program

In 2024, Maine Game Wardens worked approximately 16,215 hours doing recreational boating enforcement. These hours included education, maintenance, court preparation, ramp checks and actual hours on the water checking boats. Game wardens reported over 953 hours on the water enforcing boating rules and regulations. Game Wardens documented checking approximately 2,555 boats. 1,647 anglers.

For milfoil, the stats break down to 123 milfoil sticker violations. These violations include documented summonses and warnings issued. As part of what is expected, wardens are continuing to seek out CBI staff to introduce themselves and help inspect watercraft to stop the spread of invasive species. These partnerships are important to build networking with the inspectors and game wardens but to pass on information. This year's recorded events were even higher than in past years. Warden had recorded 437 boating related details and195 of the details doing aquatic species inspections. These recordings does not count the times a warden just stopped by or spent time with a courtesy boat inspector.

With the Clean, Drain, Dry campaign, the Warden Service has been actively conducting bass tournament checks and boating safety checks to ensure boats are checked before entering Maine waters.

The Warden Service again, teamed up with with members of the Coast Guard Auxilary and hosted weekend long events assisting with couresty boat checks. These bodies of water included Sebago Lake and Long Lake in Bridgton. This event allowed Wardens to work with their local Coast Guard Auxilary and ensure boaters are aware of aquatic invasive species issues and safety out on the water.

During Operation Dry Water, which was the weekend of July 4th, Game Wardens were out working Maine waters in full force. The focus of this national campign is to ensure boaters are not operating impaired. During this long weekend Maine Warden

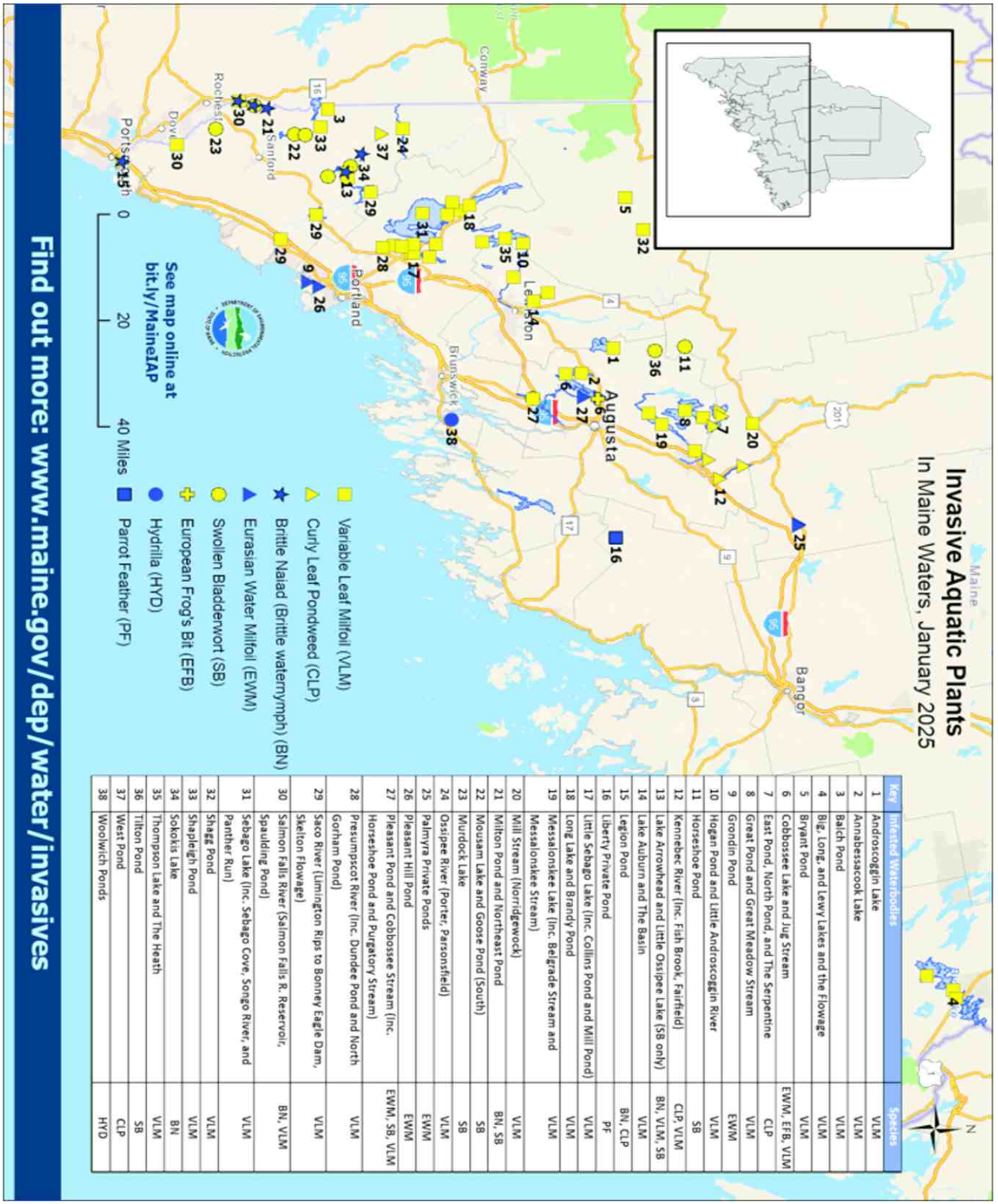
Service made contact with hundreds of boat owners and operators. Part of this weekend initiative wardens were completing safety checks but also eduating the boating community on Clean, Drain, Dry.

The Maine Warden Service continues the great partnership with the dedicated CBI staff. With the increase in the number of details the Warden Service has been involved in, it has helped build these great relationships. So, if there is an issue, CBI staff knows who to reach out to. The workload is continuing to increase, and we believe that many hands will help ensure it gets done.

It is important that we continue training boaters on what to look for and how to make sure both their boats and trailers are clean before entering Maine waters.

Warden Evan Franklin working with CBI at launching point

Map of known locations of infestations in Maine public waters

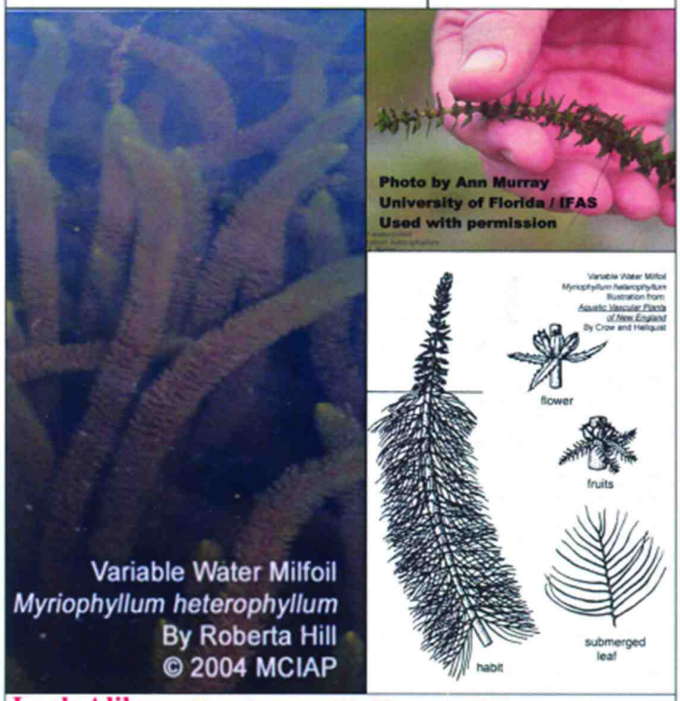


Key	Infested Waterbodies	Species
1	Androscoggin Lake	VLM
2	Annabessacook Lake	VLM
3	Balch Pond	VLM
4	Big, Long, and Lewy Lakes and the Flowage	VLM
5	Bryant Pond	VLM
6	Cobbosseee Lake and Jug Stream	EWM, EFB, VLM
7	East Pond, North Pond, and The Serpentine	CLP
8	Great Pond and Great Meadow Stream	VLM
9	Grondin Pond	EWM
10	Hogan Pond and Little Androscoggin River	VLM
11	Horseshoe Pond	SB
12	Kennebec River (Inc. Fish Brook, Fairfield)	CLP, VLM
13	Lake Arrowhead and Little Ossipee Lake (SB only)	BN, VLM, SB
14	Lake Auburn and The Basin	VLM
15	Legion Pond	BN, CLP
16	Liberty Private Pond	PF
17	Little Sebago Lake (Inc. Collins Pond and Mill Pond)	VLM
18	Long Lake and Brandy Pond	VLM
19	Messalonskee Lake (Inc. Belgrade Stream and Messalonskee Stream)	VLM
20	Mill Stream (Norridgewock)	VLM
21	Milton Pond and Northeast Pond	BN, SB
22	Mousam Lake and Goose Pond (South)	SB
23	Murdock Lake	SB
24	Ossipee River (Porter, Parsonsfield)	VLM
25	Palmyra Private Ponds	EWM
26	Pleasant Hill Pond	EWM
27	Pleasant Pond and Cobbossee Stream (Inc. Horseshoe Pond and Purgatory Stream)	EWM, SB, VLM
28	Presumpscot River (Inc. Dundee Pond and North Gorham Pond)	VLM
29	Saco River (Limington Rips to Bonney Eagle Dam, Skelton Flowage)	VLM
30	Salmon Falls River (Salmon Falls R. Reservoir, Spaulding Pond)	BN, VLM
31	Sebago Lake (Inc. Sebago Cove, Songo River, and Panther Run)	VLM
32	Shagg Pond	VLM
33	Shapleigh Pond	VLM
34	Sokokis Lake	BN
35	Thompson Lake and The Heath	VLM
36	Tilton Pond	SB
37	West Pond	CLP
38	Woolwich Ponds	HYD

Invasive aquatic plants handout

Variable Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Invasive



Look Alikes: *Utricularia sp.* (Bladderwort) **Native**
Ceratophyllum demersum (Coontail) **Native**
Other *Myriophyllum* species

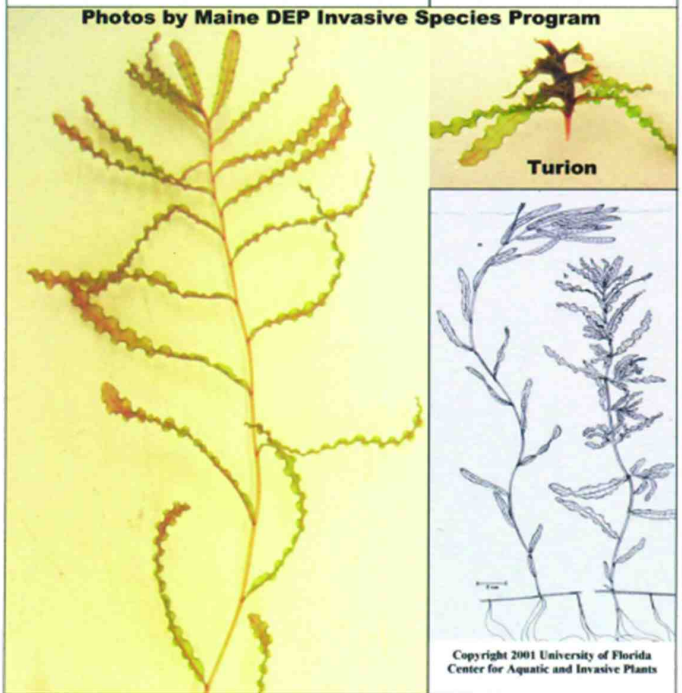
Eurasian Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum spicatum

Invasive

Look Alikes: *Utricularia sp.* (Bladderwort) **Native**
Ceratophyllum demersum (Coontail) **Native**
Other *Myriophyllum* species

Curly-leaved Pondweed
Potamogeton crispus

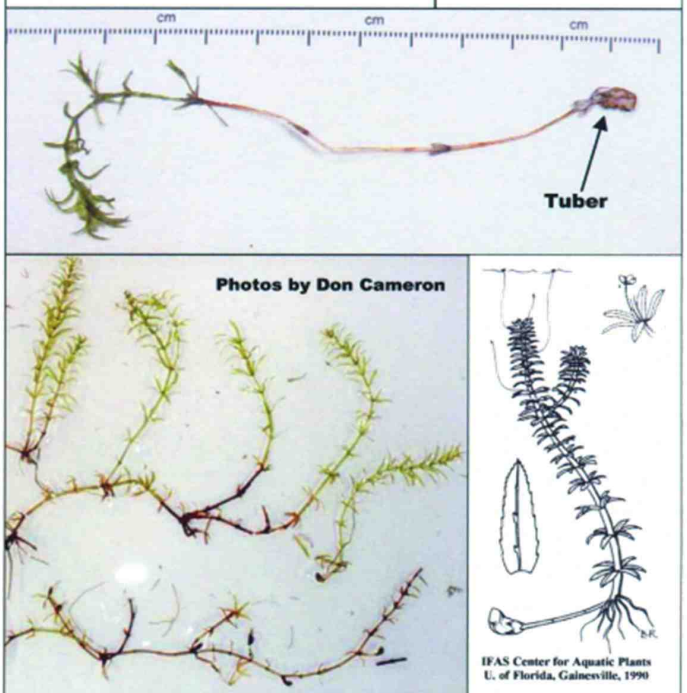
Invasive



Look Alikes: *Potamogeton richardsonii* (Clasping-leaf Pondweed) and other *Potamogeton* species **Native**

Hydrilla
Hydrilla verticillata

Invasive



Look Alikes: *Egeria densa* (Brazilian Elodea) **Invasive**
Elodea canadensis (American Waterweed) **Native**

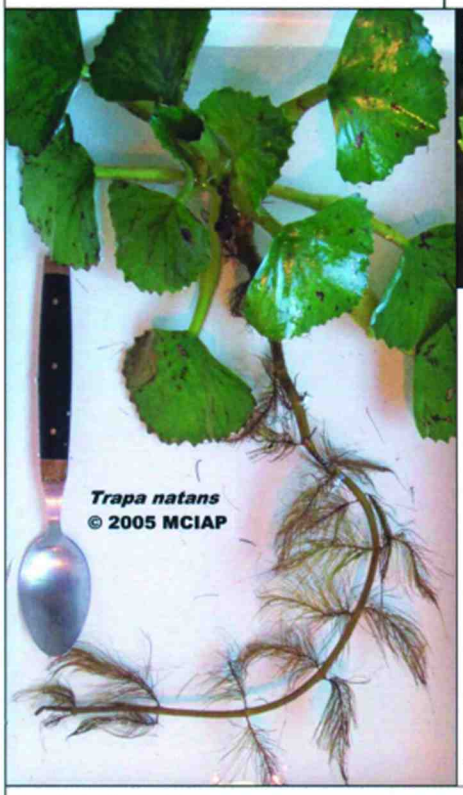
Parrot Feather
Myriophyllum aqaticum

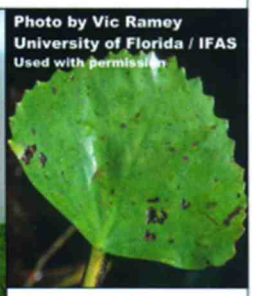
Invasive

Look Alikes: *Other members of the Myriophyllum genus*

Water Chestnut
Trapa natans

Invasive





Look Alikes: None

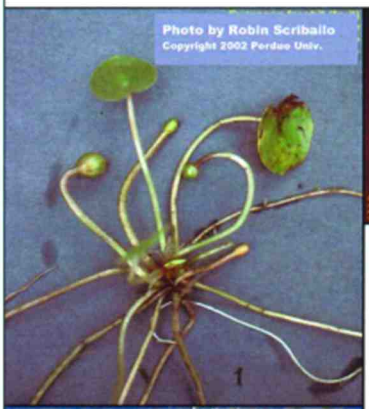
Yellow Floating Heart
Nymphoides peltata

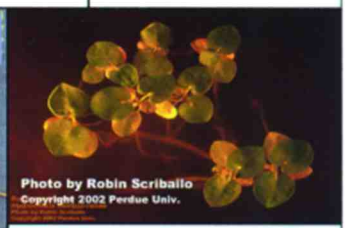
Invasive

Look Alikes: *Nuphar variegata* (Spatterdock) **Native**
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (European Frogbit) **Invasive**
Nuphar microphylla (Yellow Waterlily) **Native**

European Frogbit
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

Invasive

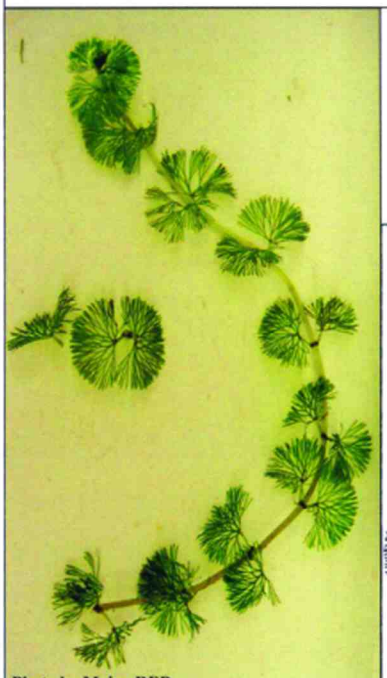




Look Alikes: *Nymphoides Cordata* (Little Floating Heart) **Native**
Nymphoides peltata (Yellow Floating Heart) **Invasive**
Nuphar microphylla (Yellow Waterlily) **Native**

Fanwort
Cabomba caroliniana

Invasive



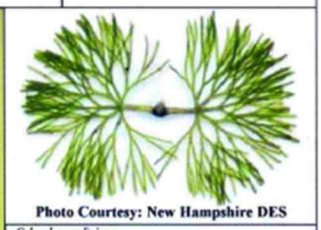
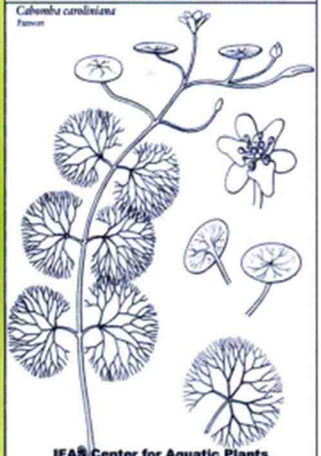


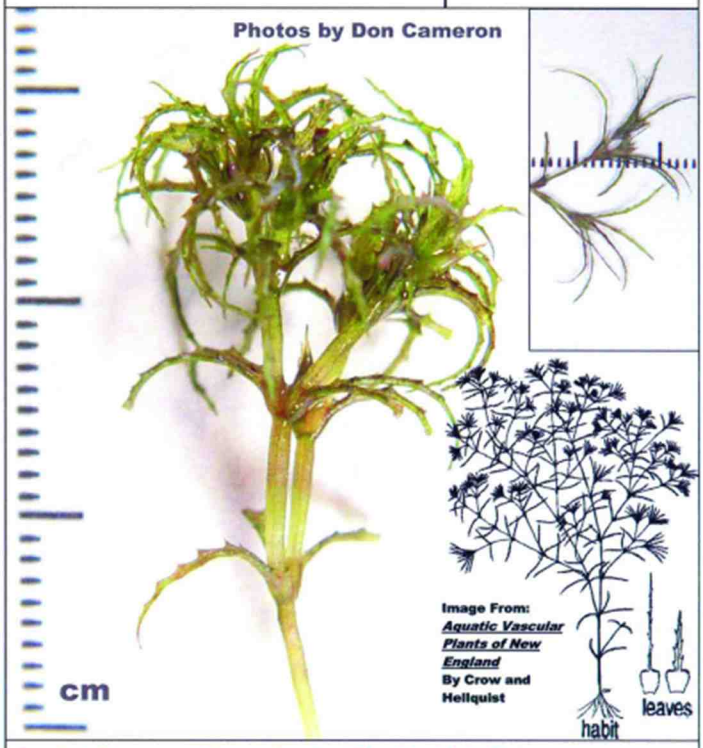
Photo Courtesy: New Hampshire DES



Look Alikes: *Bidens beckii* (Water Marigold) **Native**
Ranunculus flabellaris (Yellow Water Crowfoot) **Native**
Utricularia sp. (Bladderwort) **Native**

European Naiad
Najas minor

Invasive

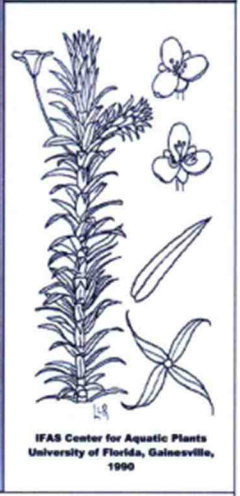


Look Alikes: *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) **Native**
Other *Najas* species **Native**

Brazilian Elodea
Egeria densa

Invasive

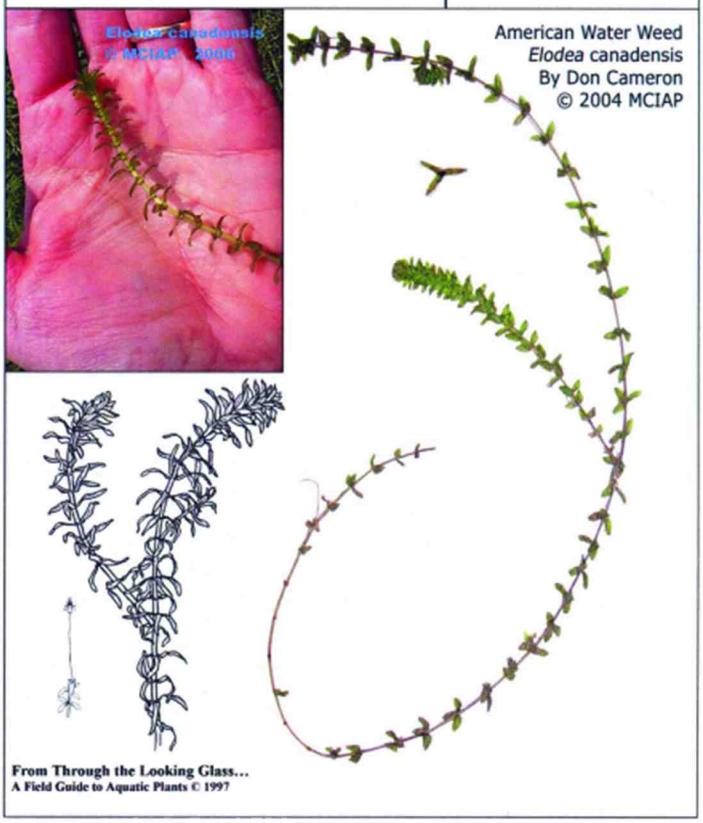

Photo Courtesy NH DES



Look Alikes: *Hydrilla verticillata* (Hydrilla) **Invasive**
Elodea canadensis (American Waterweed) **Native**

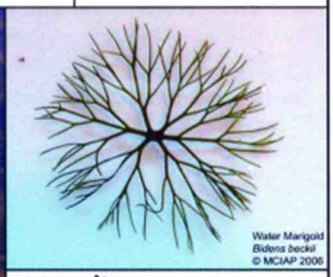
American Waterweed
Elodea canadensis

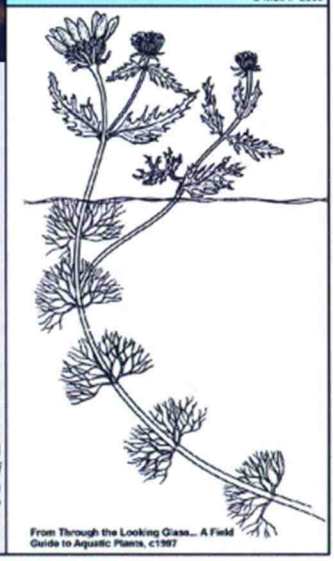
Native



Water Marigold
Bidens beckii

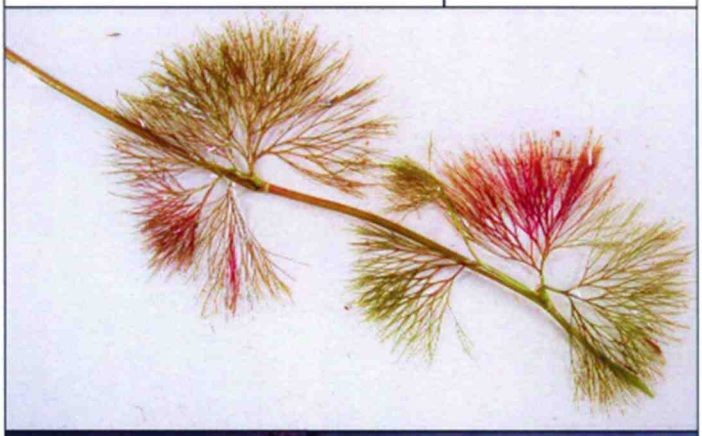
Native

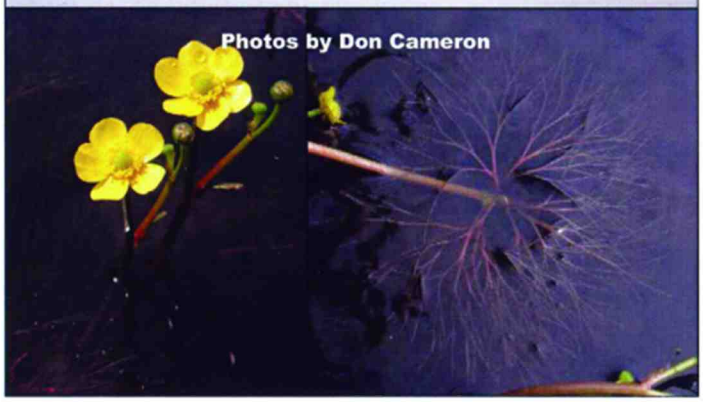




Yellow Water Crowfoot
Ranunculus flabellaris

Native



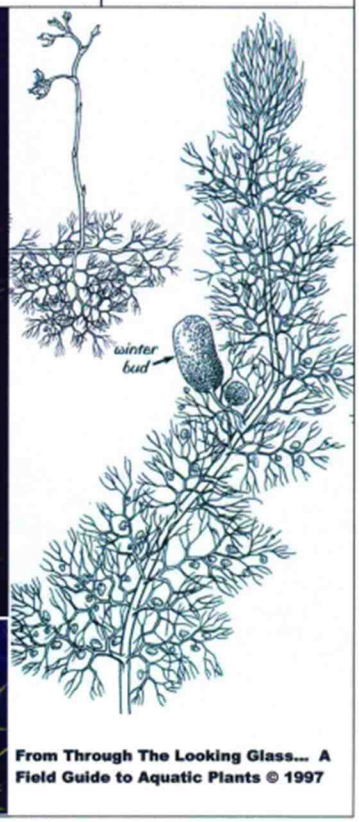


Coontail
Ceratophyllum demersum

Native

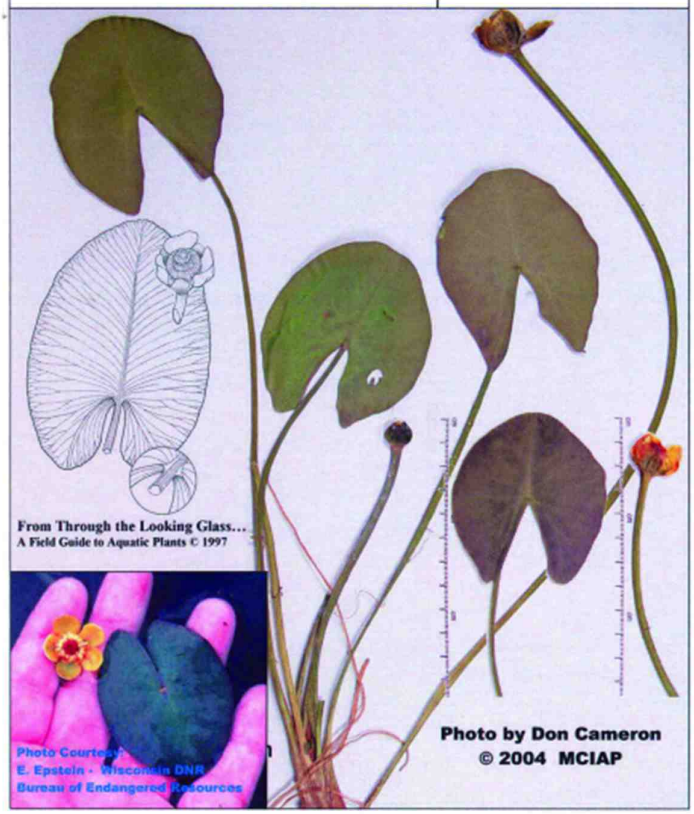
Common Bladderwort
Utricularia macrorhiza

Native



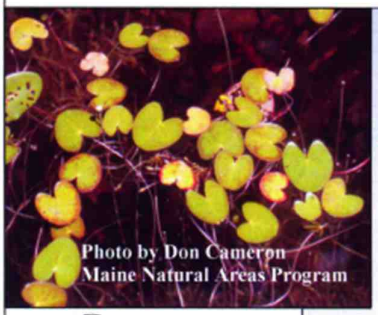
Yellow Waterlily
Nuphar microphylla

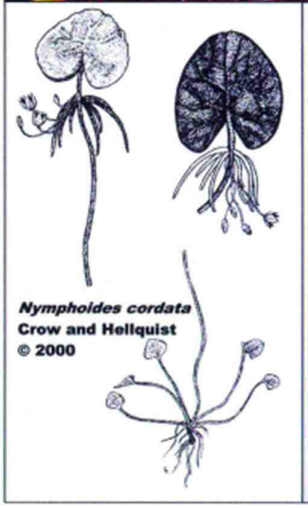
Native

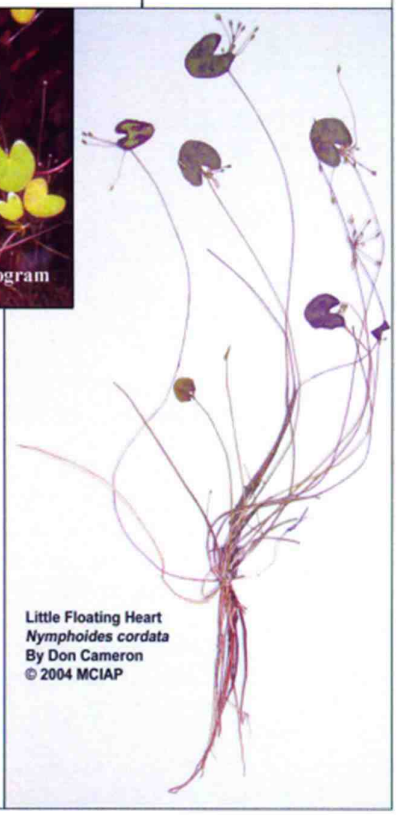


Little Floating Heart
Nymphoides cordata

Native

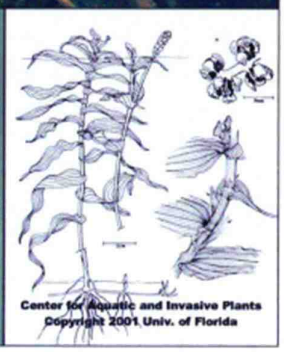






Clasping Leaf Pondweed
Potamogeton richardsonii

Native



Slender Naiad
Najas flexilis

Native

In a nutshell: How to be a great CBI

1. Be safe. Don't stay around if someone gets ornery or if a situation seems uncomfortable.
2. Urge boaters to inspect their own boats and gear every time they enter and leave a water body.
3. Be professional. Your attire should promote the right image. CBI shirts are mandatory. Know the facts about invasives and be courteous.
4. Discourage company. You are at work so don't let friends deter you from giving your job full attention.
5. Be prepared to answer questions such as, "Where do I get a sticker?"
6. Write legibly and don't forget to fill out the top two lines of the survey sheet before you start.
7. Be in touch. Have a cell phone or know where the nearest phone is.
8. Stay in touch. Keep phone numbers handy for police, wardens and your supervisor.
9. Be comfortable. Make sure you have rain gear, an umbrella, a chair, water and sunscreen.
10. Be inspired. This is important work even though there will be slow times.
11. Be attentive. Stay on your feet while a boat is at the launch. This will encourage dialogue and reassure the public and funders that you are on task.

Quick Facts

About invasive aquatic plants:

Reproduce in many ways; may clone from small plant fragments.

Can survive out of water for days, reviving when rehydrated.

Can blanket and choke surface waters; make swimming and boating difficult, dangerous or impossible.

Harm native vegetation and wildlife; lower property prices; harm local businesses. Once well-established, they're virtually impossible to remove and very costly to manage.

About the 'Milfoil law':

It's illegal to transport <u>any</u> aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle, trailer, or equipment in Maine. It's illegal to sell, possess, import, cultivate, transport or distribute any invasive aquatic plant in Maine.

CBI Aaron Tripp found and removed a Eurasian milfoil fragment on a boat launching at the Narrows public ramp on Kezar Lake in June 2011.

Violation may result in fines of up to $500 (first-time) and up to $5,000 for launching boats carrying any of the banned species.

Fines for failure to display a current boat sticker apply to all motorized craft on Maine inland waters. (Kayaks, canoes and sailboats without motors are exempt.)

About boat stickers:

2025 (River and Lake Protection) stickers are white with blue print for both Maine registered boats and non-Maine registered boats. The resident sticker is affixed to the annual boat registration sticker which is blue.

Cost is $25 for resident; $60 for nonresidents. Resident/nonresident status depends on where boat is registered, not where owner resides (NH residents may store/register boat in Maine).

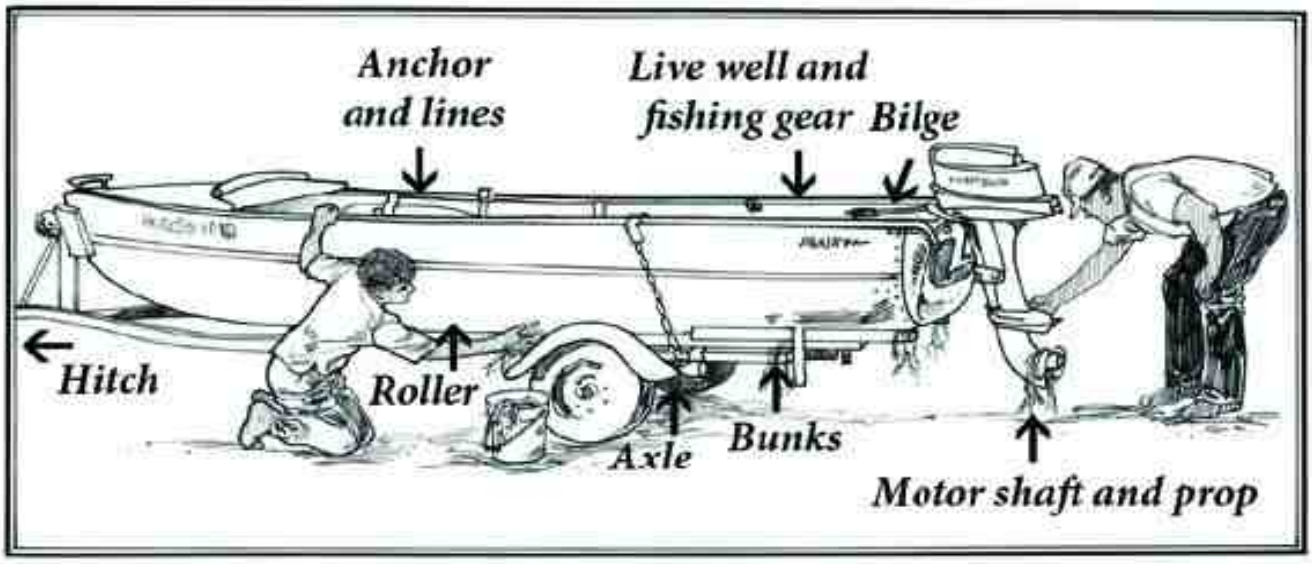
All the sticker money goes to dedicated accounts for invasive species, education, prevention, control, eradication and enforcement. Money is divided 70/30 between DEP and DIFW, respectively.

<u>CBI SUPPLY LIST</u>

- Clipboard
- Pen or pencil and an indelible marker
- Plenty of survey forms
- Ziploc baggies for plant samples
- DEP brochures explaining invasive aquatic plant threat
- Phone (recommended)
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen, water
- Folding chair and umbrella
- Trash bag
- List of phone numbers to call in an emergency
- List of places boaters can purchase stickers
- Your CBI T-shirt or vest!

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Aquatic Invasive Species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian clam and spiny water flea can spread between waterbodies on boating and fishing equipment that has not been cleaned, drained and dried. Help protect Maine waters by following the simple steps below.



CLEAN off all plants (even small fragments), animals and mud from boat, trailer, and equipment.

DRAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells and other equipment well away from water.

DRY everything five days or more before using in another waterbody to kill small organisms not easily seen or wipe with a towel before use. If you can't dry equipment, rinsing with hot, high pressure water will also remove many tiny organisms.

NEVER release plants, live fish or animals into a water body unless they came out of that body of water.

Thank you! Your help in halting the spread of invasive aquatic species is priceless.

We know how valuable your time is and we thank you
for your willingness to share it to protect Maine's waters.

The Lakes Environmental Association

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection