

New Boating Law Effective 2019

New requirements to stop the introduction and spread of *Aquatic Invasive Species!*



It's the law:

A person shall **NOT**...

- Launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.
- Transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Release unused bait into the water.



Violation of the law is a state civil infraction. Violators may be subject to fines.

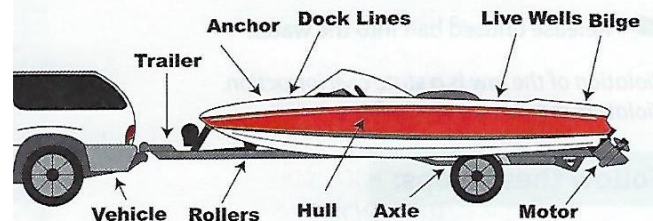
Follow these steps:

- CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment.
- DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water.
- DRY** boats and equipment.
- DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.

www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies

Aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are often introduced and spread through recreational boating and angling activities and can have long lasting negative impacts such as reduced native species diversity, waterways choked with weeds and reduced opportunities for fishing, boating and swimming. Fortunately, boaters can help prevent the spread of invasive species with just a few simple steps:

- INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment and remove all mud, debris and aquatic plant material from trailers and watercraft before launching or retrieving a watercraft. Use a hose or power washer when available and dry all equipment thoroughly before leaving the access area.
- DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water from boats before leaving the access site. Disinfect live wells and bilges with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water) when possible. Fish diseases and microscopic life stages of aquatic invasive species can be hiding in seemingly clean water, so draining is an important step.
- DISPOSE** of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water. Release of bait and minnows can lead to the unintended introduction of aquatic invasive species.
- DO NOT TRANSFER FISH** to water bodies other than where they were caught. This helps prevent the spread of both aquatic invasive species and fish diseases.



Inspection points on boats, trailers, and vehicles for aquatic invasive species decontamination.



DEQ Environmental Assistance Center: 800-662-9278