

2026

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: Suspicious plant stickers, T-shirts, CDD 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
- IPP Certification

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

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) 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 AIS 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 AIS 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 AIS. While DEP provides training, protocol, and funding, none of this prevention work can be done without the hard work of local residents.

Maine's AIS Law

I. 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 exempt 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 aquatic invasive species spread and promote Clean, Drain, Dry message (next page)
- 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 AIS
- 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 recommended for improved invasive aquatic species spread prevention. Many states require that boats be drained of all water before launching in another waterbody. This includes a law passed in Maine in 2024. See page 12 for more information on imminent threats from invasive animals.

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: Let the boater know that draining your vessel is now required by law in Maine. 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.

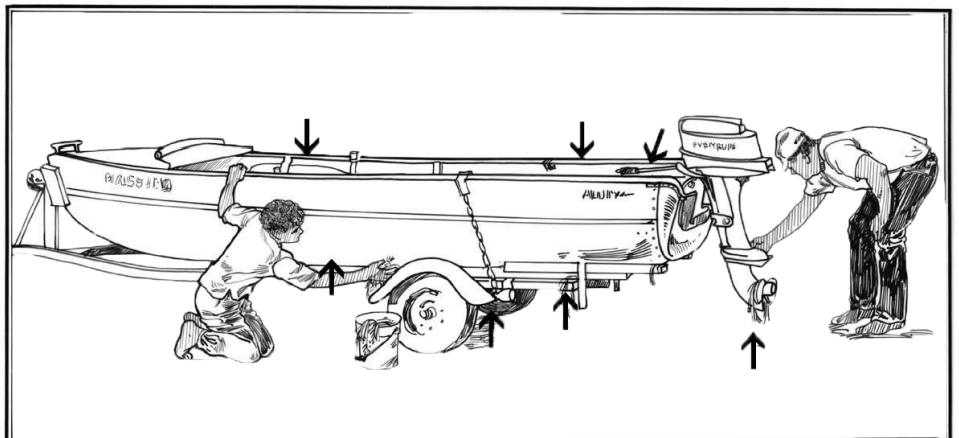
Dry: Encourage boater to dry the boat and equipment between use at different lakes. This is especially important if it came from a known zebra mussel or spiny waterflea infested water. Drying can be done manually with a towel or by allowing the boat and equipment to dry thoroughly between uses.

Additional Clean, Drain, Dry considerations:

- 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 _____

2026 Maine Courtesy Boat Inspection Form

Check here if you encouraged self-inspection _____

Lake Name _____ Ramp Name _____ Town _____

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

Use Military Time

*Is the Plant Suspicious?

V/P

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

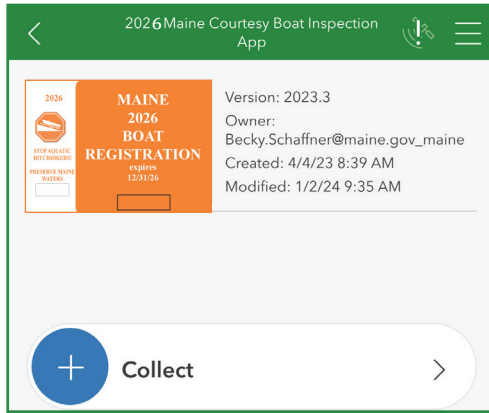
Comments:
Use this space to note location of plants found

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

How many boaters refused inspection: _____ 2/2026

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 state 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 motorized. 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

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.

to the boat's annual registration sticker (above). For 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? A majority of plants are found on the trailer. See page 16 for location data from 2024 & 2025.

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.

How can non-residents purchase a Lake and River Protection sticker?

There are many locations that sell the “milfoil” sticker, such as town offices and tackle shops. The Kittery Trading Post is a great place for non-residents to stop as they enter Maine.

Other options are available on the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website. You can assist the boater by sharing this code:

Scan the QR code to find information about boating in Maine and how to purchase the Lake and River Protection Sticker.



Local Sticker Vendors

- _____
- _____

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 Environmental 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/vest 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



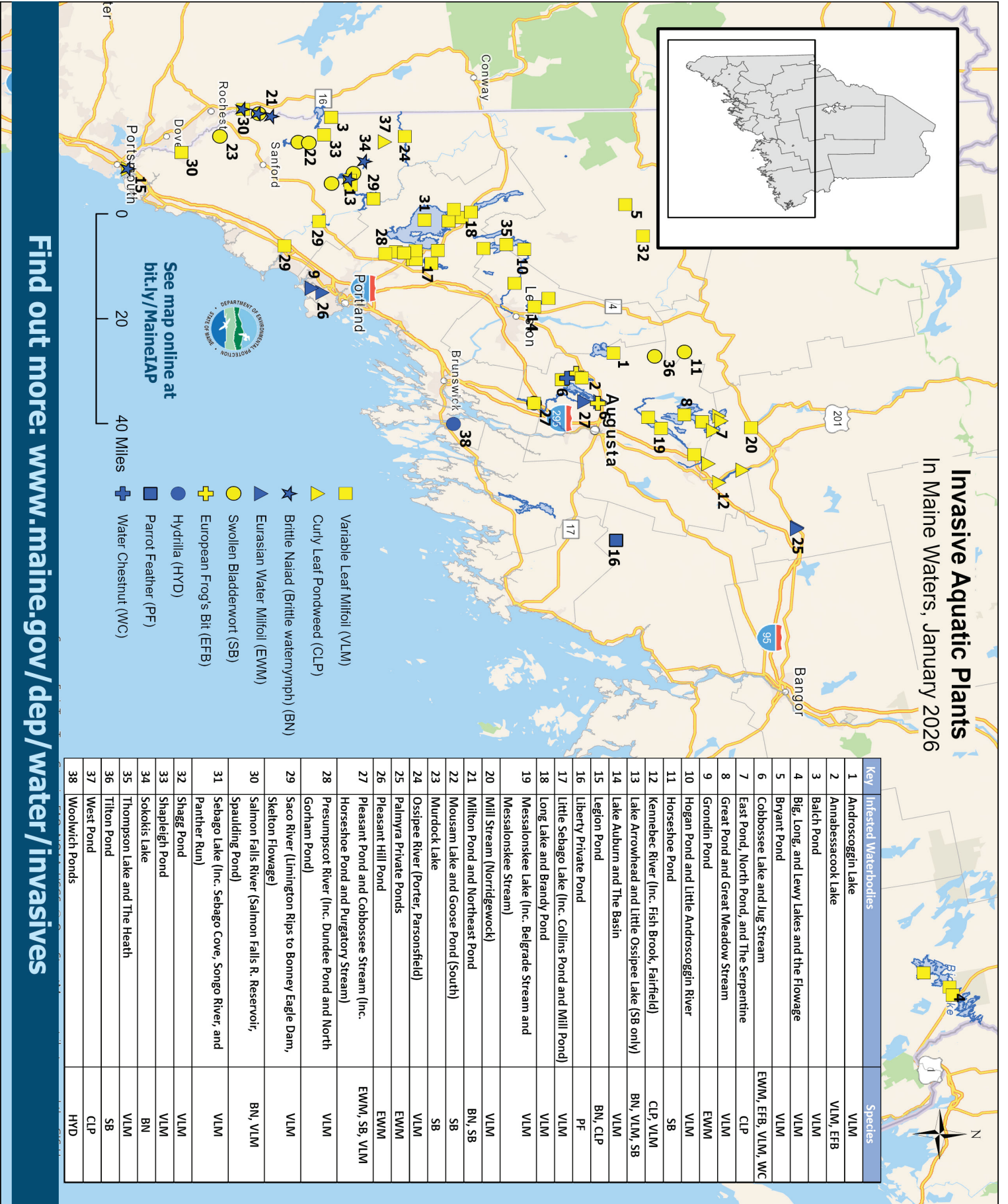
organizations use online scheduling templates. The most popular is Google Drive. The busy times vary from site to site. Generally, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are good to cover. Some organizations cover weekends first, and then schedule extra volunteers on weekdays.



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

Map of known locations of infestations in Maine public waters



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://maineaquatic-fieldguide.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!

Examples of invasive aquatic animals in or near Maine

Quagga Mussel



Zebra Mussel



Chinese Mystery Snail



Asian Clams



Spiny Water Flea



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.

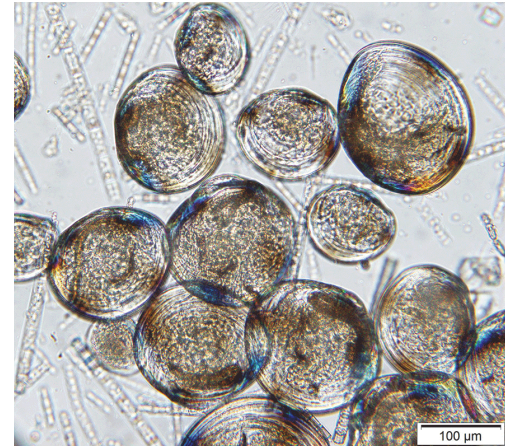
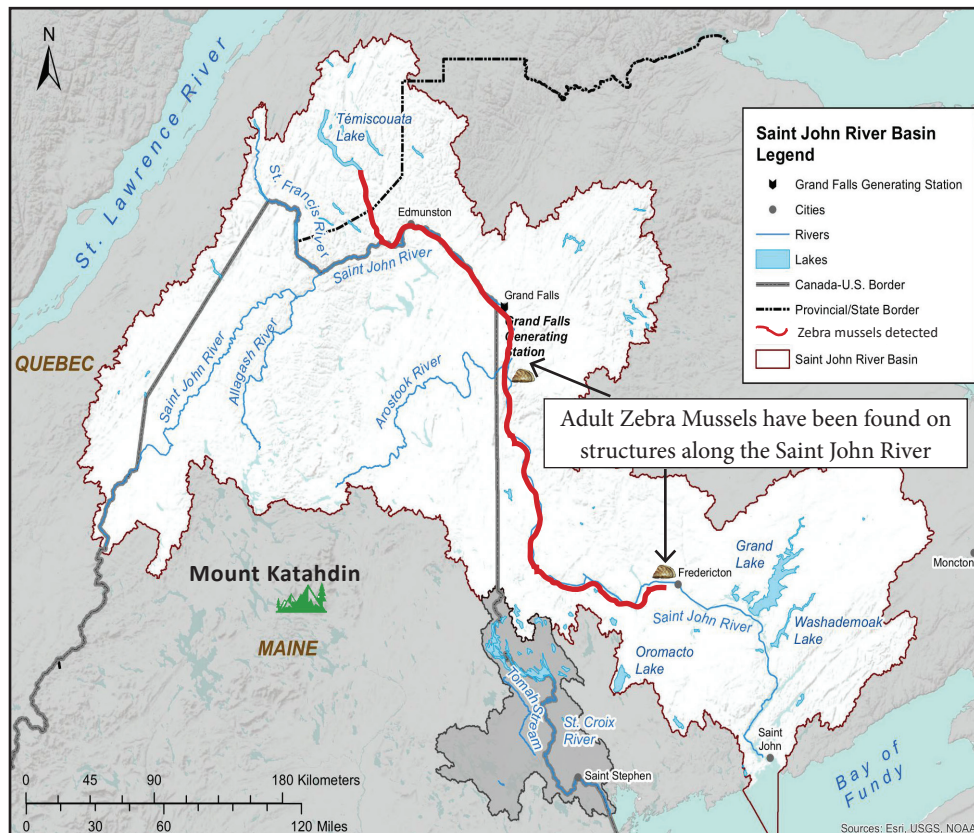
Zebra mussels begin life as tiny free-swimming larvae, called veligers. It is during this stage that they are most readily transported from one waterbody to another (attached to boating gear, in bilgewater, bait buckets, etc.) and also most difficult to detect. After two or three weeks, the veligers "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 been confirmed in the St. John River from where the Madawaska River enters in Edmundston/Madawaska, Canada. This confirmation is a combination of initially eDNA, but also veliger tows and adult zebra mussels established on a few structures, the furthest downstream being the Mactaquac Dam in NB. The St. John River makes up the natural border between Canada and northeastern Maine. No zebra mussels anywhere else in Maine have been detected, and all our monitoring on that front has been eDNA. eDNA consists of testing water samples for the DNA of a specific species.

References:

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



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, producing numerous offspring during the growing season, and “resting eggs” that overwinter in the sediments.

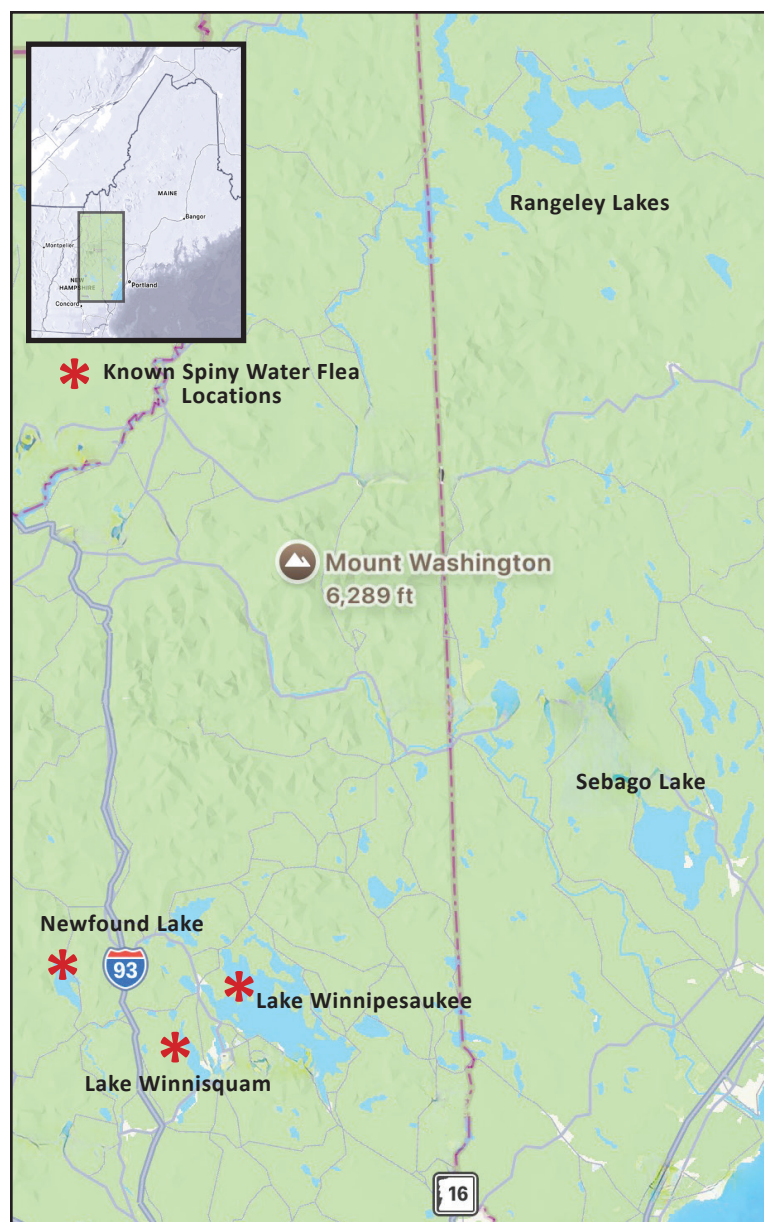


Once well established in the waterbody, spiny water fleas compete directly with other zooplankton feeders in the ecosystem (eating up to three times as much food as similar species). Their sharp spine prevents fish of a certain size class from eating them. It is believed that both of these impacts have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

As of 2025, spiny water fleas can be found throughout the Great Lakes Region, Eastern New York, Lake Champlain in Vermont, and Lake Winnepesaukee, Winnesquam, and Newfound in New Hampshire.

References:

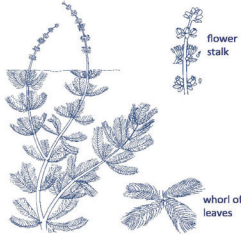
1. Spiny Water Flea; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; www.invadingspecies.com/Invaders.cfm
2. Spiny Water Flea in the Great Lakes Region; Great Lakes Information Network; www.great-lakes.net



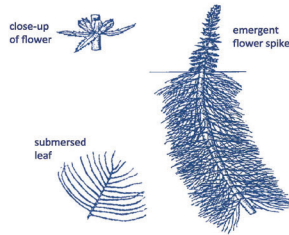
Maine's Most UNWANTED Aquatic Invasive Plants

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



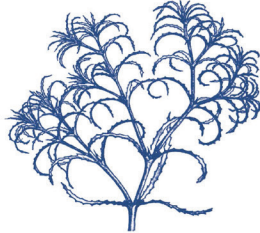
VARIABLE-LEAF WATERMILFOIL*
*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*²



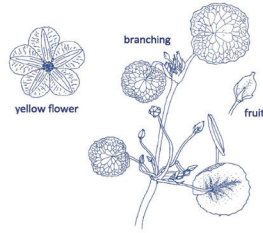
PARROT FEATHER*
*Myriophyllum aquaticum*¹



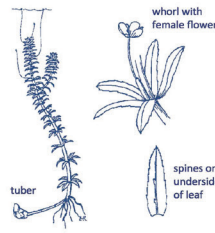
BRITTLE NAIAD
*Najas minor*³



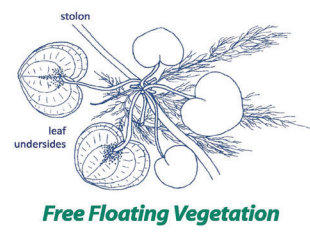
YELLOW FLOATING HEART
*Nymphoides peltata*¹



HYDRILLA
*Hydrilla verticillata*¹

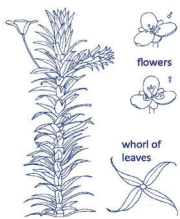


EUROPEAN FROGBIT
*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*¹

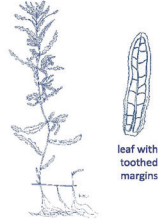


Free Floating Vegetation

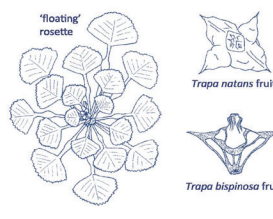
BRAZILIAN ELODEA
*Egeria densa*¹



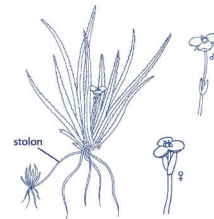
CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED
*Potamogeton crispus*¹



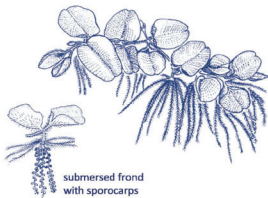
WATER CHESTNUT
Trapa species^{1,5}



WATER SOLDIER
*Stratiotes aloides*¹

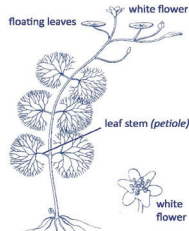


GIANT SALVINIA
*Salvinia molesta*¹

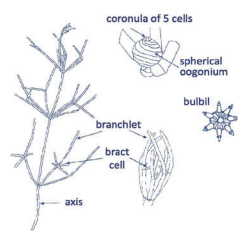


Free Floating Vegetation

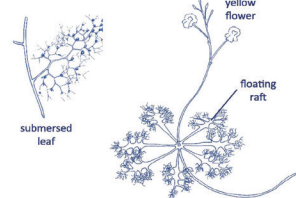
FANWORT
*Cabomba species*¹



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.

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¹ Aquatic plant line drawings are the copyright property of the University of Florida Center for Aquatic Plants (Gainesville).

² Aquatic Plants of New England Series, G. R. Crow and C. R. Helquist 1988, illustration by Pam Brun.

³ Das Pflanzenreich, 1900 by Ernst Gilg and Karl Schumann. Image listed under public domain under the terms of GNU Free Document License, courtesy www.biollid.de.

⁴ Mary Jane Bellby 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.

For assistance, please contact:

Lake Stewards of Maine (207) 783-7733 stewards@lakestewardsme.org

For additional assistance, please contact Maine DEP (207) 287-3901

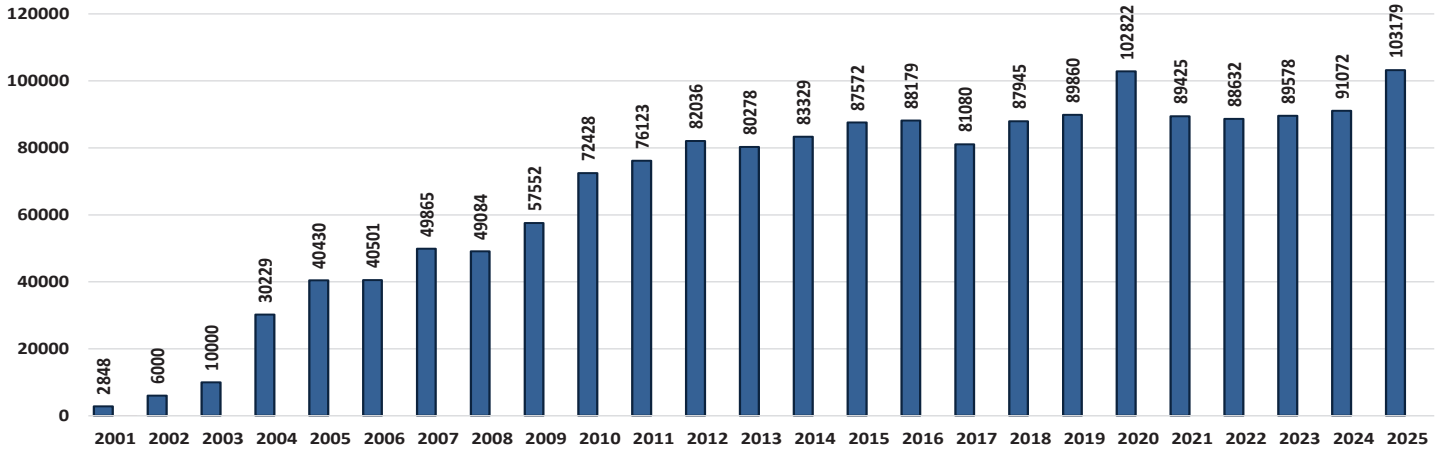
www.LakeStewardsOfMaine.org

www.LakesOfMaine.org

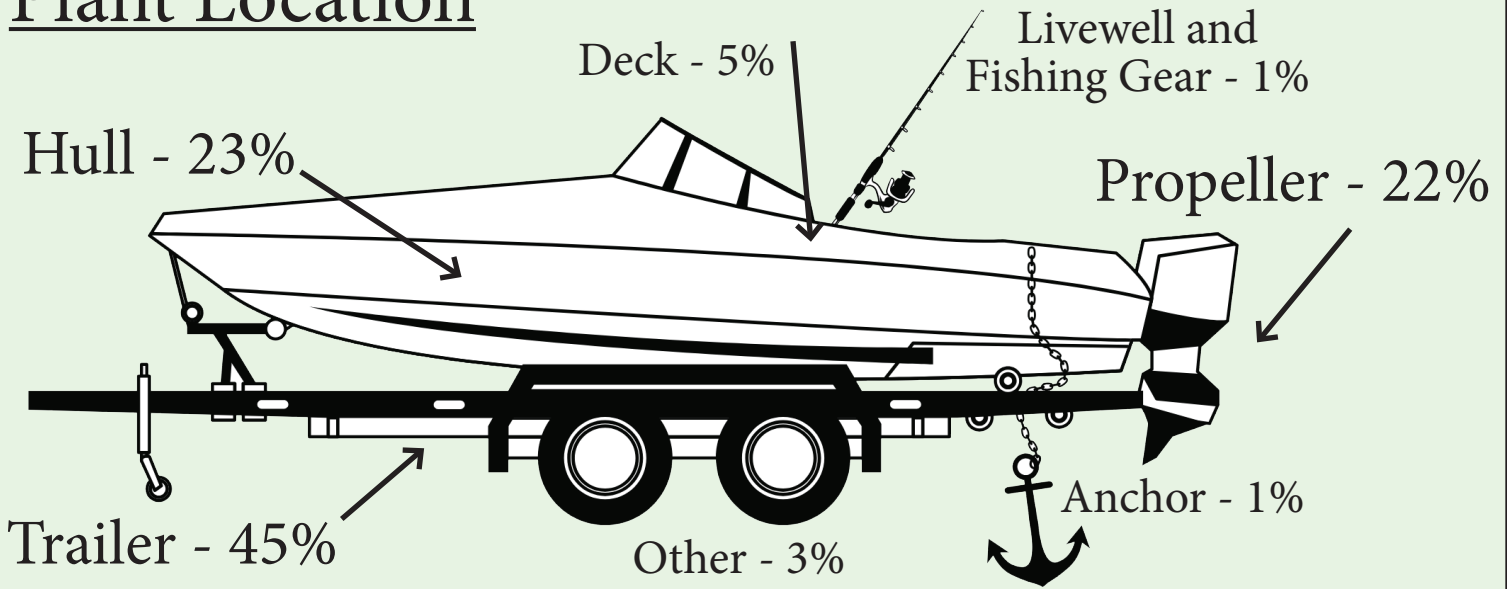
Original poster design by Portland Water District



**25 YEARS OF MAINE BOAT INSPECTIONS -
ANNUAL TOTALS
2001-2025**



Plant Location



Responses to the plant location question in 2024 and 2025 found that 45% of plants were found on the trailer. Many people, boaters and inspectors, focus a lot on the propeller, but the trailer and hull were more likely to catch plants.

**CBI Statistics
2025**

Waterbodies with inspections	89	Invasive plants on entering boats	26	Boats with sticker	65,856
Total plants found	3,895	Invasive plants on leaving boats	132	Motorized inspections	74,676
Total invasive plants found	158	Total Inspectors	543	Non-motorized inspections	22,298
		Inspection Hours	53,612	Participating Bass Clubs	32
		Infested lakes with inspections	21	Participating Lake Associations	32

Maine DEP AIS program update

Program Updates and Funding Increase

The Maine Rapid Response Plan assesses management responses to aquatic invasive species infestations. It considers treatment options based on species, extent of the infestation, presence of rare and endangered species, water and land uses, and available methods and costs. For circumstances where herbicide treatment is considered for an aquatic invasive plant infestation, DEP has developed a method to prioritize herbicide use. This prioritization will assist in managing finite resources of time and funding.

The Maine State Legislature approved an increase in boat registration sticker fees on April 10th, 2024. Sticker fees increased for the 2025 season from \$15 to \$25 for Maine-registered boats and from \$45 to \$60 for out-of-state boat registrations. 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 (DEP) and 30% to Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) as the two agencies continue their united front against flora and invertebrate fauna throughout the state and beyond our borders.

Grants in 2025

Twenty-six community organizations conducted aquatic plant removal utilizing grant funds received from DEP. Plant removal grants totaled \$585,886, an increase from 2024. New for 2025, DEP allowed additional grant funds for AIS survey work. Lake groups contribute significantly more monetary and in-kind contributions than what is awarded in grant funds.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI) saw 56 groups receive \$253,400 in grant awards. 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 and completed a three-year effort building community survey and prevention teams 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

Due to the dedication and hard work of our CBI friends and partners, the 2025 season broke the all-time record for the number of inspections completed with over 103,000 records entered between CBI and Bass Tournament inspections. Unfortunately, this has revealed a 60% increase in inspections with plant fragments found from 2,432 to 3,895 inspections. This also shows a 50% increase in confirmed invasive fragments, from 106 to 158 .

The CBI program has been looking at ways to provide support and fund early detection surveys for groups unable to run a full CBI program; this is a work in progress. Additionally, the program will continue to provide grant funds and to analyze inspection data in the hope of offering insights to groups about focusing on peak usage hours at their locations as well as the locations where plant fragments are most frequently encountered (spoiler alert: it's the trailer!).

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. DEP 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. DEP and DIFW staff have been working with a contractor to use social marketing principles to determine public attitudes and ultimately participation in the CDD process.

New Invasive Plant Infestations in 2025

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) was found for the first time in Maine in August 2025, in Cobbossee Lake. This is the fourth aquatic invasive plant in Cobbossee.

A dedicated plant survey volunteer with Cobbossee Lake Association found the plant after having taken a plant identification course hosted by Lake Stewards of Maine. The discovery prompted the local group Watershed Friends to conduct a survey of the area in which DEP participated. Three plants were found and subsequently removed by a Watershed Friends staff diver; no other plants have been found.

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 DEP.

Per Maine Statute, only DEP may obtain a permit to apply herbicide in state waters. Following are brief summaries of DEP herbicide applications in 2025. Treatments were planned by DEP and executed by SOLitude Lake Management.

Annabessacook Lake (Winthrop) was last treated for variable water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) in 2021. A follow up treatment of ProcellaCOR was done in 2025 on 86 acres. The results will not be known until surveys can be completed in 2026.

The difficulty containing the spread of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, EWM) on Cobbossee Lake continued through 2025 as individual plants and small patches were found in other areas of the lake. Just over 39 acres were treated in late June 2025 with ProcellaCOR to combat the infestation. In August, 24 acres were treated, a portion of which was re-treatment of a portion of the June treatment that had limited efficacy. Other areas of infestation were managed with manual removal by local partner Watershed Friends. Local partners continue to survey for and remove variable water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) in Cobbossee.

This season saw two herbicide treatments of Aquastrike to mitigate the spread of brittle naiad (*Najas minor*). Lake Arrowhead (Waterboro and Limerick) was treated in 2024 and an additional 59 acres were treated in 2025. Just over 4 acres were treated in Sokokis (Holland) Pond (Limerick), as part of a Rapid Response eradication effort. ProcellaCOR was applied to an additional 112 acres of Lake Arrowhead to reduce the variable leaf water-milfoil infestation. 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.

Swollen bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*) continues to be a challenge as groups are seeking the most effective management strategies to deal with this plant. While there have not been any new infestations noted in 2025, *U. inflata* is confirmed in 9 lakes and ponds: Little Ossipee Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Mousam Lake/Goose Pd in Shapleigh, Tilton Pond in Fayette, Horseshoe Pond in Chesterville, Pleasant Pond in Litchfield, Spaulding Pond in Lebanon, Milton Pond on the NH/ME border, and Murdock Pond in Berwick.

These confirmed infestations range from localized to widely spread throughout the lake. DEP is managing a 4-acre cove on Little Ossipee Lake as Rapid Response. Six weeks of DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) seem to have made some impact in reducing the density and preventing further spread. This is also the case with Mousam Lake in Shapleigh where the infestation is in several coves scattered throughout the lake. These areas have been managed by contracted DASH and hand pulling by a local team. End of season surveys show a reduced density in *U. inflata*. While this is encouraging there remains several lake wide very dense infestations of *U. inflata* that are not being managed. DEP continues to work with colleagues in the northeast to find potential effective treatments for these well-established dense infestations.

DIFW's Invasive Species Program

In 2025, Maine Game Wardens worked approximately 14,973 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 7,764 hours on the water enforcing boating rules and regulations. Game Wardens documented checking approximately 11,361 boats.

The Maine Warden Service conducted 193 aquatic invasive species (AIS) details. These details involved working with inspectors from Courtesy Boat Inspector programs at boat ramps and assisting with watercraft inspections. During these details, wardens educated boaters on the hazards that AIS pose to Maine's waters.

As a result of these efforts, Maine Game Wardens issued 92 summonses, along with numerous warnings, to boaters who did not possess current Lake & River protection stickers or valid registrations (resident boaters pay for the resident equivalent of the Lake & River Protection sticker when they register their boat).

In one instance, a game warden worked with MDEP and other partners (LEA and a CBI) to address a subject who illegally launched a motorized kayak contaminated with aquatic vegetation on a pond in the town of Bridgton, as well as another pond in a different region of the state. The

subject was later located at this home in Massachusetts and summonsed for the violations.

Wardens also conducted an additional 189 watercraft enforcement details. While these details were not solely focused on AIS, they included AIS education, enforcement of AIS related laws, and enforcement of headway speed, and wake boat laws.

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 campaign 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 educating the boating community on Clean, Drain, Dry.

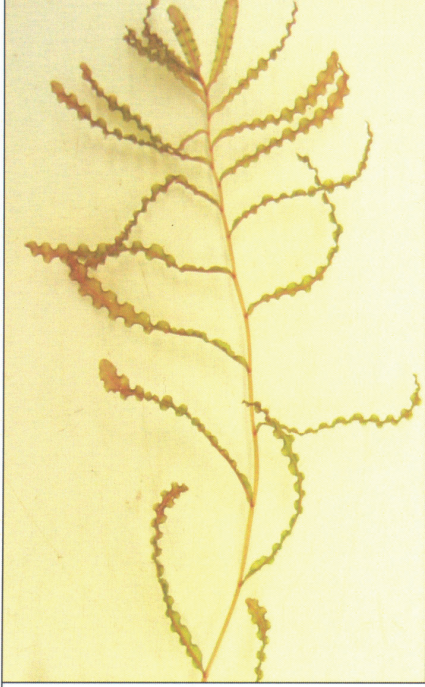
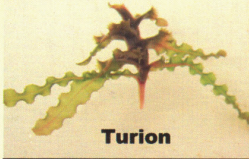

Additionally, Game wardens worked on 42 details focused directly on Bass fishing tournaments. During these details, wardens ensured that Bass tournament organizers and participants complied with required rules regarding boat inspections for invasive species and other permit restrictions. Several violations were detected and addressed, and one bass club was sanctioned, resulting in the loss of its privilege to conduct additional tournaments during the 2025 season.

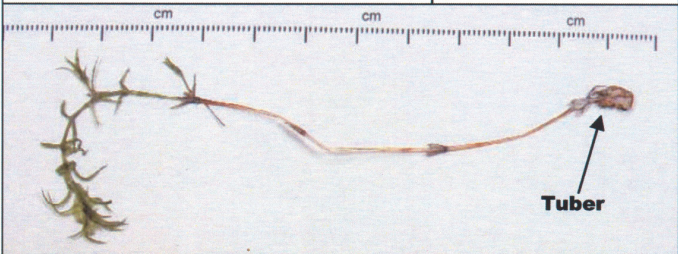
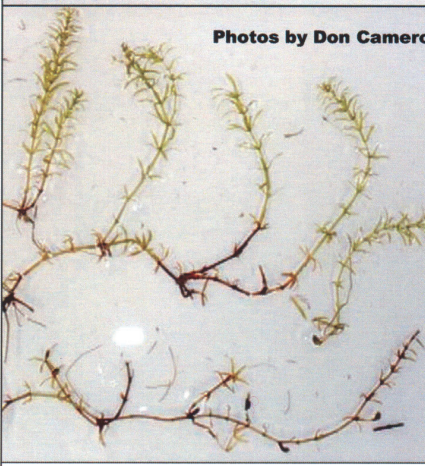
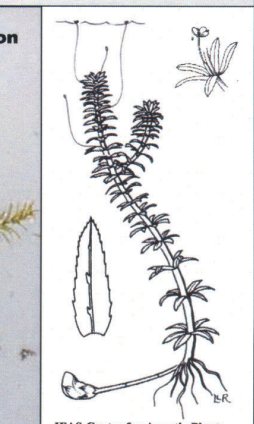




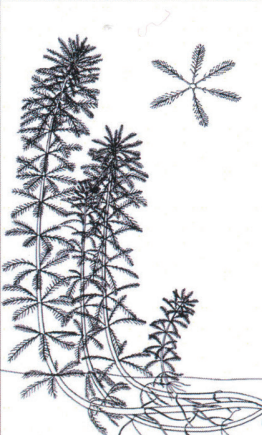
<p>Variable Water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
 <p>Variable Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> By Roberta Hill © 2004 MCIAP</p>	 <p>Photo by Ann Murray University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p>Variable Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> Illustration from: <i>Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England</i> By Crow and Hellquist</p> <p>flower fruits submerged leaf habit</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) Native <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> (Coontail) Native Other <i>Myriophyllum</i> species</p>	

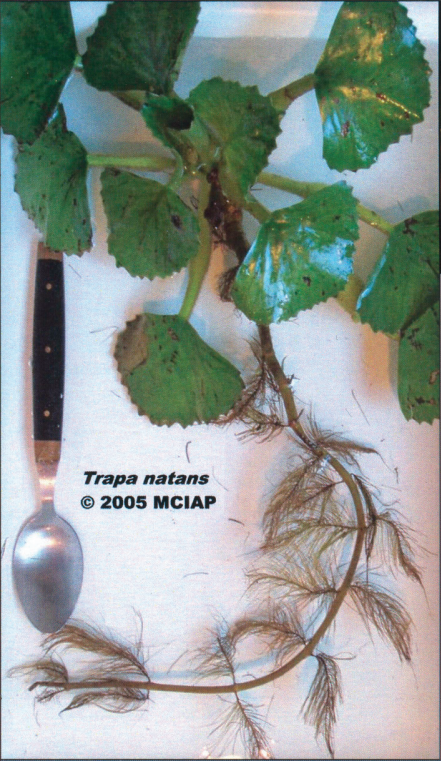
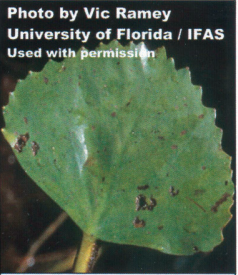
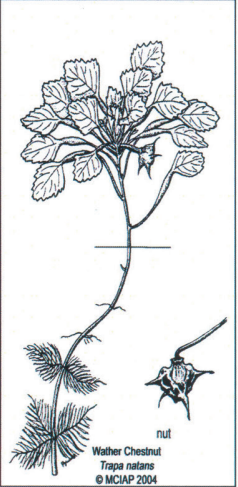
<p>Eurasian Water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
 <p>Eurasian Water Milfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> Collected and photographed by Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy New Hampshire DES</p>  <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) Native <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> (Coontail) Native Other <i>Myriophyllum</i> species</p>	




As of 2008, these four invasive plants have been documented in one or more Maine lakes.

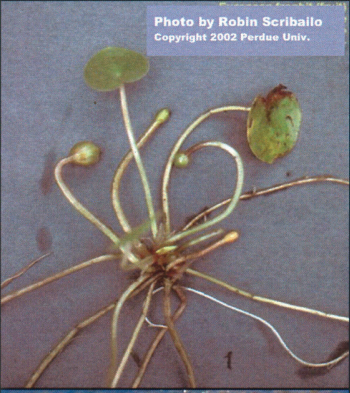
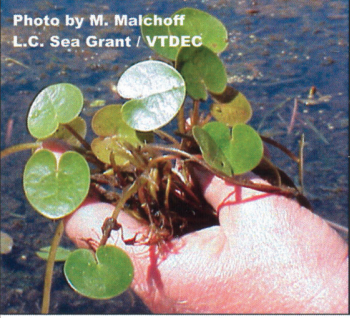
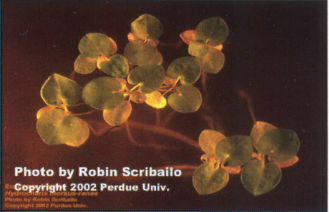
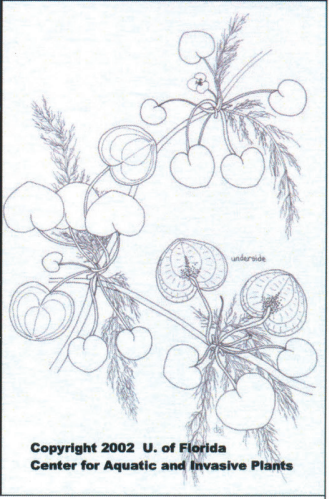
<p>Curly-leaved Pondweed <i>Potamogeton crispus</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
<p>Photos by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	
	 <p>Turion</p>  <p>Copyright 2001 University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> (Clasping-leaf Pondweed) and other <i>Potamogeton</i> species Native</p>	

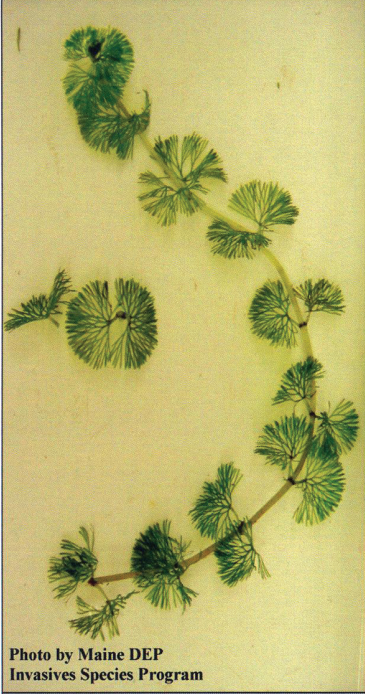
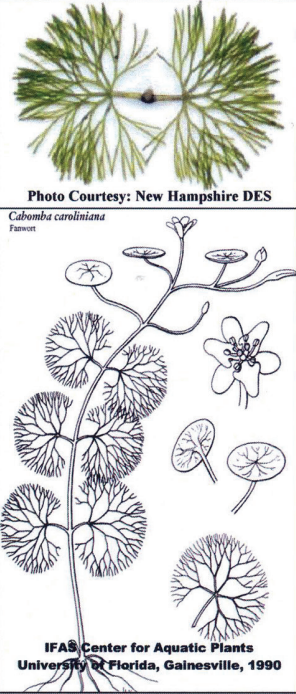
<p>Hydrilla <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
 <p>cm cm cm</p> <p>Tuber</p>	
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p>	 <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants U. of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Egeria densa</i> (Brazilian Elodea) Invasive <i>Elodea canadensis</i> (American Waterweed) Native</p>	



<p>Parrot Feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p> 	<p>Photo by Don Cameron</p>   <p>IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants U. of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Other members of the Myriophyllum genus</i></p>	

<p>Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p><i>Trapa natans</i> © 2005 MCIAP</p>	<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>   <p>Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> © MCIAP 2004</p>
<p>Look Alikes: None</p>	

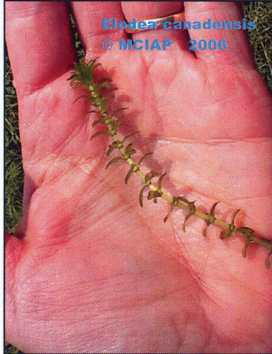

<p>Yellow Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides peltata</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
<p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p> 	<p>Photo by M. Malchoff Lake Champlain Sea Grant / VTDEC</p>   <p>Copyright 2002 U. of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Nuphar variegata</i> (Spatterdock) Native <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> (European Frogbit) Invasive <i>Nuphar microphylla</i> (Yellow Waterlily) Native <i>Nymphaea odorata</i> (Fragrant Waterlily) Native</p>	

<p>European Frogbit <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i></p>	<p>Invasive</p>
<p>Photo by Robin Scribalo Copyright 2002 Perdue Univ.</p>  <p>Photo by M. Malchoff L.C. Sea Grant / VTDEC</p> 	<p>Photo by Robin Scribalo Copyright 2002 Perdue Univ.</p>   <p>Copyright 2002 U. of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Nymphoides Cordata</i> (Little Floating Heart) Native <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> (Yellow Floating Heart) Invasive <i>Nuphar microphylla</i> (Yellow Waterlily) Native <i>Nymphaea odorata</i> (Fragrant Waterlily) Native</p>	

Fanwort <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Invasive
 <p>Photo by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy: New Hampshire DES</p> <p><i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> Fernald</p> <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Bidens beckii</i> (Water Marigold) Native <i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i> (Yellow Water Crowfoot) Native <i>Utricularia</i> sp. (Bladderwort) Native</p>	

European Naiad <i>Najas minor</i>	Invasive
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p> <p>cm</p>	 <p>Image From: <i>Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England</i> By Crow and Hellquist</p> <p>habit leaves</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) Native Other <i>Najas</i> species Native</p>	

Brazilian Elodea <i>Egeria densa</i>	Invasive
 <p>Photo by Maine DEP Invasive Species Program</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy NH DES</p> <p>IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990</p>
<p>Look Alikes: <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> (Hydrilla) Invasive <i>Elodea canadensis</i> (American Waterweed) Native</p>	

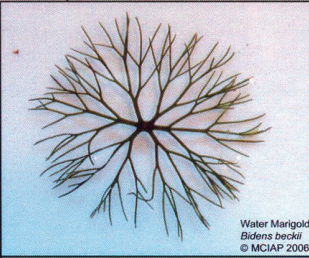
American Waterweed <i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Native
 <p><i>Elodea canadensis</i> © MCIAP 2006</p>	 <p>American Water Weed <i>Elodea canadensis</i> By Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>
<p>From <i>Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i> © 1997</p>	

Water Marigold
Bidens beckii

Native



Photo by Don Cameron



Water Marigold
Bidens beckii
© MCIAP 2006



Water Marigold
Bidens beckii
Photo by Don Cameron
© 2004 MCIAP



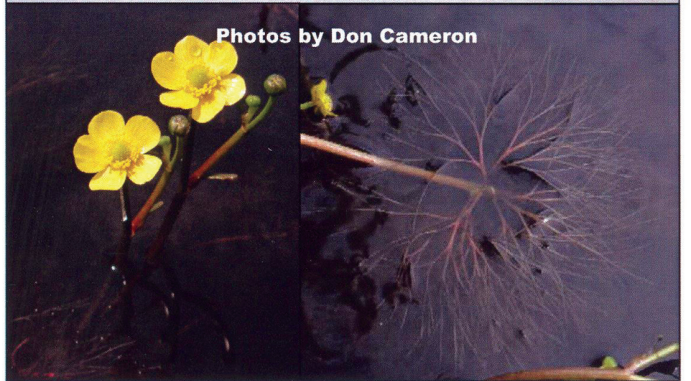
From *Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants*, c1987

Yellow Water Crowfoot
Ranunculus flabellaris

Native



Photos by Don Cameron



Coontail
Ceratophyllum demersum

Native

Photo by Vic Ramey
University of Florida / IFAS
Used with permission

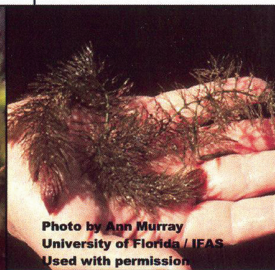


Photo by Ann Murray
University of Florida / IFAS
Used with permission

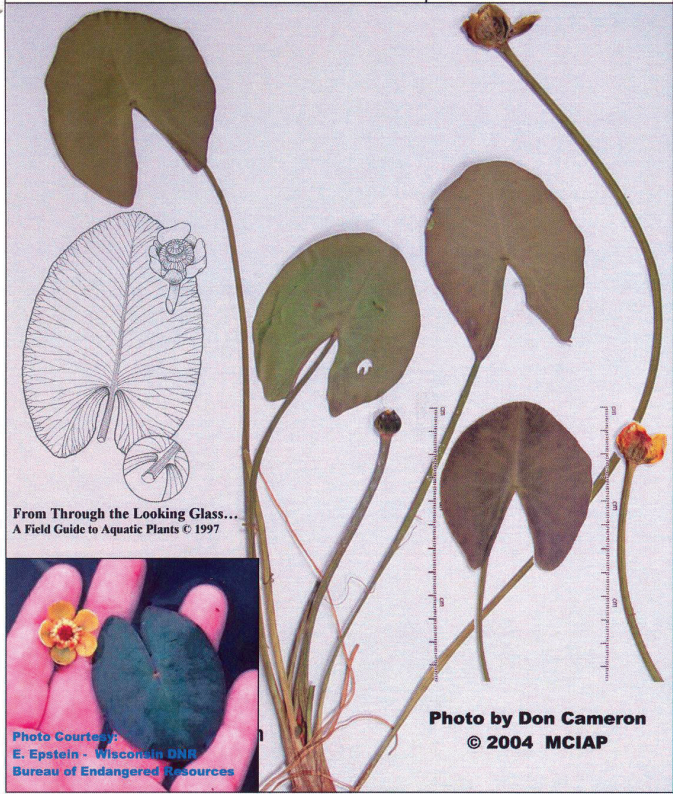


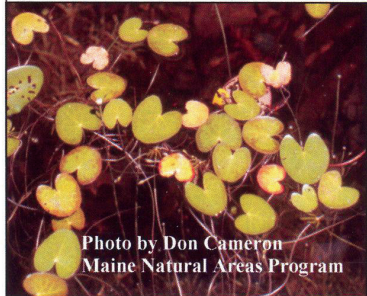
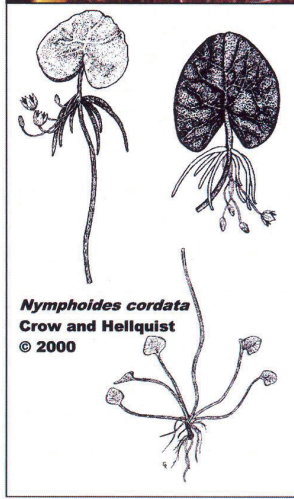

IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants
University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990

Fragrant Water-Lily
Utricularia inflata

Native



<p>Yellow Waterlily <i>Nuphar microphylla</i></p>	<p>Native</p>
 <p>From <i>Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants</i> © 1997</p> <p>Photo Courtesy: E. Epstein - Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources</p> <p>Photo by Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	

<p>Little Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides cordata</i></p>	<p>Native</p>
 <p>Photo by Don Cameron Maine Natural Areas Program</p>  <p><i>Nymphoides cordata</i> Crow and Hellquist © 2000</p>  <p>Little Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides cordata</i> By Don Cameron © 2004 MCIAP</p>	

<p>Clasping Leaf Pondweed <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i></p>	<p>Native</p>
 <p>Photo by Vic Ramey University of Florida / IFAS Used with permission</p>  <p>Richardson's pondweed <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> Photo by Vic Ramey Copyright 2001 Univ. of Florida</p>  <p>Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants Copyright 2001, Univ. of Florida</p>	

<p>Slender Naiad <i>Najas flexilis</i></p>	<p>Native</p>
 <p>Photos by Don Cameron</p>  <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> Slender naiad Crow and Hellquist © 2000</p> 	

Floating Bladderwort
Utricularia radiata

Native



Swollen Bladderwort
Utricularia inflata

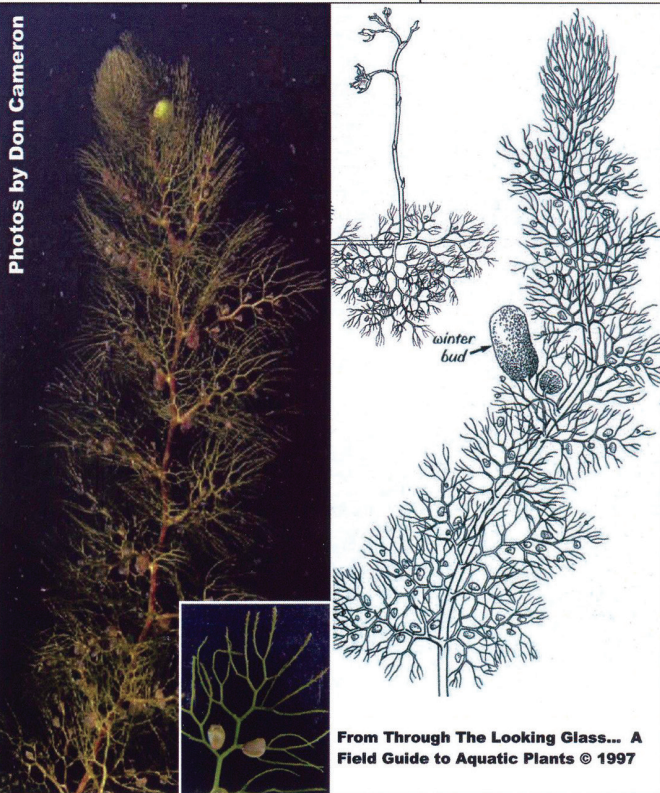
Invasive



Look alikes: other members of the *Utricularia* genus

Common Bladderwort
Utricularia macrorhiza

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 any 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.

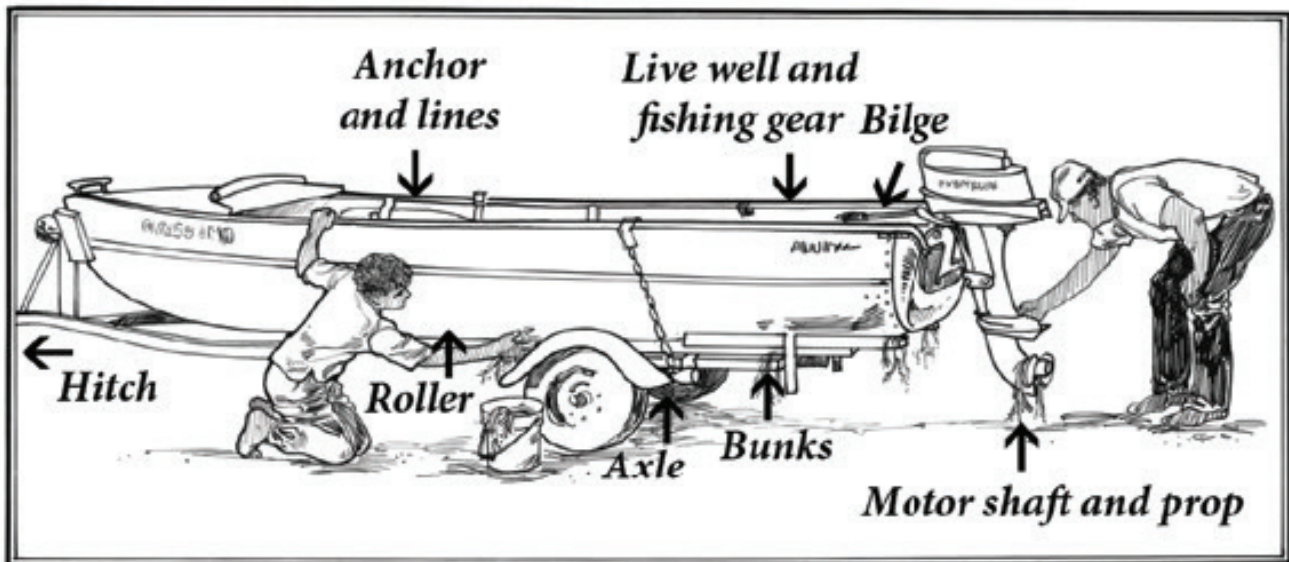
Cost is \$25 for resident; \$60 for nonresidents. Resident/nonresident status depends on where boat is registered, not where owner resides (NH residents may store/register boat in Maine).

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

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

