

## **Aquatic Invasive plants in Connecticut waters.**



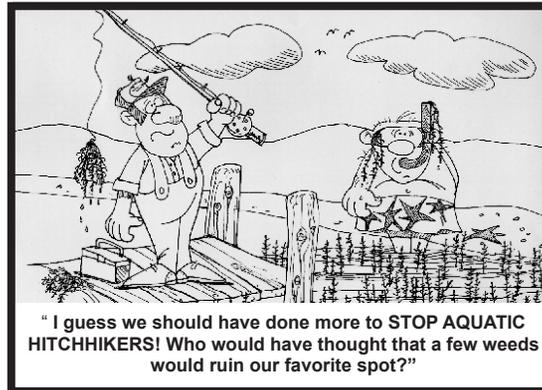
This is an example of an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) on Pickeral Lake in Colchester. You can help to prevent the spread of ANS through the tips in this brochure.

## **How are non-native species harmful?**

- ✓ Reducing native species by:
  - Introducing diseases.
  - Consuming nutrients from the water column.
  - Outcompeting for available light.
  - Reducing oxygen content.
  - Disrupting food chains.
- ✓ Ruining boat engines & steering equipment.
- ✓ Reducing swimming & boating areas (by forming large mats).
- ✓ Ruining access to good fishing spots and potentially eliminating fishing in the area.

## **Help save our waters from Aquatic Hitchhikers.**

- ✓ Boaters must inspect their vessel for vegetation and properly remove and dispose of any vegetation before transporting the vessel.
- ✓ It is illegal to release invertebrates such as Zebra Mussels into Connecticut waters.
- ✓ The importation, transportation, sale, purchase, possession, cultivation or distribution of many species of invasive plants is prohibited.
- ✓ You may be fined up to \$95 per violation.



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# **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**



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## What is a non-native Aquatic species?

A non-native species may also be called an invasive or nuisance species or an aquatic hitchhiker. It is an aquatic plant or animal that has been introduced and becomes established in salt or fresh water. Its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

## How are non-native species introduced?

Non-native species can be brought into Connecticut waters in a few ways:

- ✓ Attached to the hulls of commercial ships or transported from foreign waters in the ballast waters.
- ✓ Carried into ponds, lakes, rivers and the Sound on recreational boats and trailers.
- ✓ Transported on a bird's body or in feces.
- ✓ Dumped into the water from bait buckets.
- ✓ Attached to fishing equipment.



## What can I do to prevent the spread of non-native species?



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

#### Before leaving the launch:

- ✓ **Clean:** remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- ✓ **Drain:** eliminate water from equipment, such as a live well, before transporting.

#### At home or prior to your next launch:

- ✓ **Dry:** anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, anchors, propellers, fishing equipment, clothing, dogs, etc) for a minimum of 1 week.
- ✓ If drying isn't possible, wash with hot water (preferably high pressure).
- ✓ Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- ✓ Dispose any unused bait in an upland trash.



## How can I clean my boat to prevent the spread?

- ✓ Drying equipment for a minimum of 1 week (hot/dry weather) and a minimum of 4 weeks (cool/wet weather) before entering new waters.  
OR.....
- ✓ Washing with hot water, preferably high pressure.
- ✓ Dipping equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes prior to rinsing.
- ✓ Using a 1% salt solution and leave on for 24 hours prior to rinsing. To make the solution see chart below:

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3
10	1 1/4
25	3

- ✓ "Wet" with bleach solution (1 oz. per gallon) or soap and hot water (Lysol, boat soap, etc.) for 10 minutes prior to rinsing.

