

Western Upper Peninsula Lakes



There are over 700 lakes and ponds in Gogebic, Iron, and Ontonagon Counties, including approximately 167 developed public boat access points.

Local Infestations:

Eurasian Watermilfoil: Bass*, Buck*, Chicagon*, Clearwater*, Crooked*, Duck*, Ice*, Iron*, Lac Vieux Desert*, Langford*, Lower Paint Reservoir*, Michigamme, Morley*, Paint Lake, Paint River Pond*, Peavy Pond, Pomeroy, Prickett, Runkle*, Smoky, Thousand Island*.

Curlyleaf pondweed: Cisco Lake, Cooks Run, Fishhawk Lake, Lake Emily, Lac Vieux Desert, Lindsley Lake

Rusty crayfish: Bond Falls, Brule L., Brule River, Bush Creek, Cisco Chain, Duck L., Golden Creek, Ice L., Lac Vieux Desert, L. Ottawa*, Moosehead Lake, Paint River Forks, Pendleton Creek, Perch L., Perch River, Pomeroy L.*, Smokey L., Tamarack L.

Spiny waterflea: Lake Gogebic, Lake Superior

Zebra mussel: Chicagon L., Fortune Lakes, Fortune Pond, Lake Emily

Quagga mussel: Fortune Pond

Yellow perch parasite: Lac Vieux Desert, Lake Emily

* = Infestation under treatment

Please report new sightings of Aquatic Invasive Species to:

*Iron County Conservation District
906-875-3765*

Ottawa National Forest 906-932-1330



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

In Michigan, it is illegal to place a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer in the water with an aquatic plant attached. (\$100 fine, PA 91 of 2009).

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

VHS is a serious fish disease threatening the Great Lakes region. Please visit www.michigan.gov/vhs for more information, including new regulations for boaters, anglers, and the bait industry.



Invasive Species
Control Coalition
of Watersmeet
P.O. Box 725
Watersmeet, MI 49969
www.isccw.org



www.mymisa.org/cbcw

Brochure originally created by Dickinson Conservation District

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

Lakes Protection-
How to do your part!



WePIC

*Western Peninsula
Invasives Coalition*

www.wepic.org

**Boat Launch
Education Program
to Slow the Spread
of Aquatic Invasive
Species**

Photo: Watersmeet Lakeguards

2015

What is “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” about?

Fishing, boating, skiing, swimming, scuba diving, and beautiful scenery are great local attractions of area lakes in Michigan’s western Upper Peninsula.

Like other areas in the Great Lakes, we are seeing an increased threat from non-native aquatic invasive species. Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, zebra mussel, and spiny waterflea are some of the aquatic invasive species threatening our area lakes. Some of these pests can be treated with manual and chemical methods, while others have no feasible treatment.

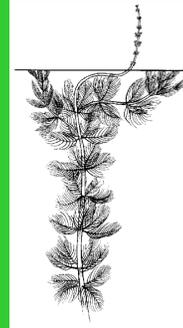
Local lake associations and members of the Western Peninsula Invasives Coalition (WePIC) are sponsoring a “**Clean Boats, Clean Waters**” Education Program to slow the spread of aquatic invasives that hitchhike on boats and water-related gear. They join other lake groups and volunteers across Michigan and Wisconsin in this unified effort, which emphasizes checking and ridding your equipment of water, plants, mud, etc. *before* going to another lake. Watch for volunteers in blue “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” t-shirts at area boat launches, “Working together with boaters to protect our waters.”



The Facts About Two Main Threats

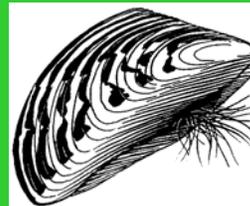
Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

- Highly invasive plant, able to form dense mats near the surface that entangle motor boat propellers and interfere with swimming.
- Delicate feather-like leaves with 12 to 21 leaflet pairs.
- EWM spreads by fragmentation – a two inch piece can grow into a new plant.
- EWM can live two days out of water.



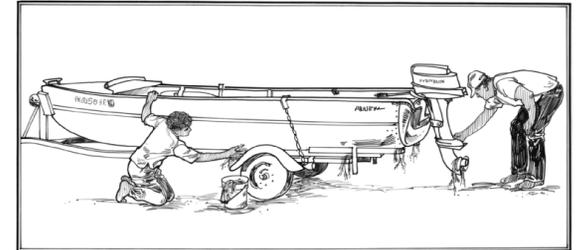
Zebra mussel

- Fingernail-sized freshwater shellfish from eastern Europe.
- Can become abundant in lakes, covering rocky lake bottoms and other hard surfaces with sharp shells.
- Often spreads to new lakes when attached to aquatic plants picked up by boats or trailers.
- Can survive out of water for several days.
- Quagga mussels are similar and also present in Iron County, MI.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP SAVE OUR LAKES

- **INSPECT** your boat and equipment before you launch and before you leave a lake.
- **REMOVE** all aquatic plants from all recreational equipment: trailer, boat, jet skis, motors, fins, floats, fishing gear, anchors, etc.



- **DRAIN** all water from the boat motor, bilge, live well and bait wells before you leave a lake.
- **DISPOSE** of leftover bait in a trash bin, not back in the water.
- **Clean** your boat and fishing equipment with hot water (at least 140 degrees), or dry your boat and your fishing equipment — leave them in the sun for at least five days before heading to a different lake.
- **Never** transfer live fish, other animals, or plants to water-bodies other than where they were caught.

Clean Boats = Clean Waters
Thanks for your help!