



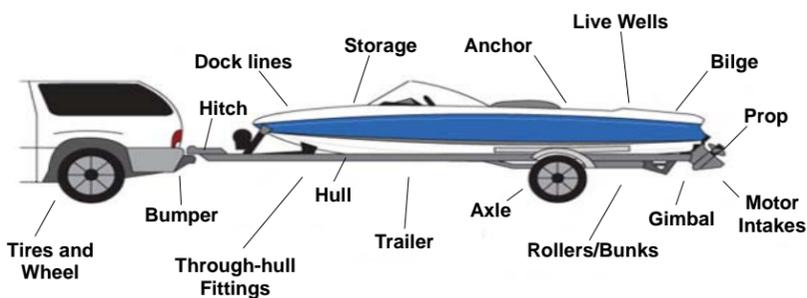
HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Before *launching* and before *leaving*:

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all aquatic plants, animals, and mud.
- ✓ **DRAIN** water from boat, motor, live well, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live animals from one water-body to another.
- ✓ **DO NOT** release worms or unused bait.

Inspect everything!

It is illegal to launch with aquatic plants attached to boat or trailer (MI Public Act 91 of 2009).



Questions? Contact the Ottawa National Forest at 906-932-1330



Look Out for these Harmful Species



The mat-forming **Eurasian water-milfoil** spreads by fragments that can be transported on boats and trailers. Look for leaves with 12 or more leaflet pairs.



Curly-leaf pondweed forms dense mats in the spring. Look for stiff, crinkled leaves with small 'teeth' around their edges.



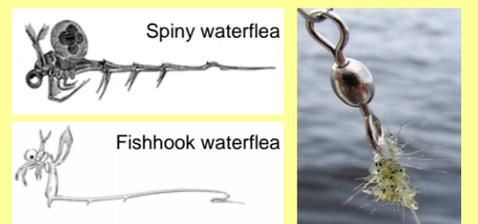
Rusty crayfish destroy weed beds, fish habitat, and native crayfish populations. Look for dark, rust-colored patches on the shell.



Small **zebra** and **quagga mussels** are filter feeders, consuming plankton that young fish need. Surfaces such as boats and docks may be covered by their sharp shells.



The fish disease **viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)** kills muskies, walleye, whitefish, yellow perch, and others. Disinfect the hull and live wells of boats used on the Great Lakes with a solution of 1/3 cup chlorine bleach per 5 gallons of water.



Spiny and **fishhook waterfleas** are tiny (< 1/2 inch) crustaceans that compete with small fish for food and collect in masses, fouling fishing lines and equipment.

Photo credits. Eurasian water-milfoil: Wisconsin DNR (small) and A. Fox, Univ. of Florida, Bugwood.org (large). Rusty Crayfish: J. Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant. Waterfleas: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (drawings) and J. Gunderson, MN Sea Grant (photo). VHS: M. Faisal, Michigan State Univ. Curly-leaf pondweed: C. Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org (left) and Leslie Mehrhoff, Univ. Connecticut, Bugwood.org (right).