

ANGLERS, THESE AGGRESSIVE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WILL IMPACT OUR FISHERIES!

Starry Stonewort

What is it? A plant-like macroalga that is loosely rooted to the lake bed, grows rapidly, and spreads easily.

How will they impact fishing?

- Forms dense mats greater than 6 feet thick
- Grows in water depths up to 30 feet
- Completely engulfs the most sensitive and productive critical spawning habitats, resulting in increased competition within remaining spawning habitats
- Greatly reduces vertical and horizontal structural complexities necessary for good nursery and refuge habitats
- Eliminates native submerged aquatic plants
- Invades lakes, rivers, reservoirs and ponds via trailered watercrafts
- Dense mats will clog and damage boat motors and impair navigation

Photos by Paul Skawinski



Zebra Mussels

What is it? A shellfish named for its striped shell, growing up to 2 inches long. They are prolific invaders from Eurasia that disrupts a lakes ecosystem.

How will they impact fishing?

- Impact food webs, which directly impact the fish you may be angling for!
- Their sharp shells can scrape, nick, and cut fishing line
- An adult can filter just over one liter of water per day
- Female zebra mussels can produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year
- They form dense colonies on any surface in the water column or bottom including boats, pipe, piers, docks, rocks, plants, crayfish, native clams, and each other
- Their dense colonies will clog and damage boat motors, hulls, and water intakes



Spiny Water Fleas

What is it? A small aggressive zooplankton that's native to Europe and Asia.

How will they impact fishing?

- They lack predators and compete with young fish for food.
- Their long, sharp, spine tails and thorn-like barbs can get stuck in the throat of young fish, causing fish to choke.
- If swallowed, their tails may puncture internal organs, causing death.
- They reproduce sexually and asexually, which means their populations can explode in numbers.
- While adult females die out of water, under certain conditions they produce eggs that resist drying and freezing, and can establish a new infestation.
- Once their sharp spine tails hook on a line, they accumulate into large clumps clogging the first eyelet of fishing rods, damaging a reel's drag system, and preventing fish from being landed.





ANGLERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!



EARLY DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THESE RAPIDLY GROWING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) IS CRITICAL TO SPARING YOUR FAVORITE FISHING SPOT FROM THE ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS CAUSED BY THEIR INVASIONS!

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF THESE AIS BY REPORTING SIGHTINGS TO THE DNR OR COUNTY AIS COORDINATOR.



PREVENT THE SPREAD OF **INVASIVE SPECIES** IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before *launching* and before *leaving* **YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law



*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."



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