

# Squash Lake



## AIS Prevention Step Prompts to Assist Inspector

If boaters are not familiar with the prevention steps or have questions, help them understand the reasons for taking these actions. **Remember the goal is to make this as relevant as possible to the boater by localizing the issue through the conversation.**

**Step 1 – INSPECT**

**Step 2 – REMOVE**

### Why this is important?

Plants and animals can easily attach to boats and equipment or become entangled in boat motors and fishing lines and then moved to another lake. This is a concern for Squash Lake because:

- Squash Lake already contains the invasive species, Eurasian Water Milfoil, which can easily spread to other areas of the lake and other waterbodies.
- Of the 428 waterbodies in Oneida County, 123 have some sort of invasive species.
- We know that many of the boaters who frequent Squash Lake also spend time on Manson Lake, Boom Lake, and Lake Nokomis and those lakes contain **multiple** types of AIS.

**Step 3 – DRAIN BOAT AND EQUIPMENT**

**Step 4 – DRAIN LIVEWELLS & CONTAINERS HOLDING CATCH**

**LIVE BAIT**

### Why is it important to drain everything?

- Because many organisms such as spiny water flea, juvenile zebra mussels, and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) are microscopic, invisible to the naked eye and easily transported in water - from one waterbody to the next.
- It is against the law to transport water from one waterbody to another waterbody!
- It is against the law to transport live fish from a waterbody (except for minnows)!
- Try transporting your catch on ice, which will reduce bacteria and rigor mortis.
- If live bait comes in contact with water that contains AIS, the bait or water within the container can carry AIS and might be transported to another waterbody. Microscopic organisms that cannot be seen may be transported via the water or live bait.

**AIS OF CONCERN: VHS. Why?** Because VHS is a virus that kills fish! It spreads via urine and reproductive fluids and the immune systems of the fish are defenseless. Squash Lake does not contain VHS - please help keep it that way.

**OF CONCERN: Lake Metonga Why?** Metonga has both Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Water-Milfoil. Lake Metonga, located in Forest County, is only 7 miles from the Oneida County line.

### Types of Live Bait



**Earthworms**



**Minnows**



**Leeches**



**TRASH**