



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

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

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

[Stopaquatichitchhikers.org](http://Stopaquatichitchhikers.org)

## Recommended general measures

- Rinse and flush all field equipment with tap water when leaving the waterbody and prior to entering the next waterbody, if possible.
- Do not transport live organisms from one waterbody to another and **never** transport live known ANS.
- During trip planning, sample uninfected waterbodies first before proceeding to known ANS lakes. Lakes infected with the same species of ANS can be sampled consecutively without decontaminating the vessel. However, OWRB does not want to be vectors of contamination and always recommend properly decontaminating boats after visiting an infected lake.
- While unloading the boat after a sampling event, park on a slight incline to encourage water to collect at the rear of the boat. Remove all boat plugs and allow water to drain from all live wells, bilge, and motor areas. Drain the motor by trimming it all the way down to allow water to escape. Once the motor is done draining, properly install the transom saver.

## Measures for known ANS waterbodies

- Inspect trailer and boat *before* launch to ensure no vegetation, debris, or mud is caught on the frame or body of the watercraft that could be introduced during boat launch. Remove and dispose of any vegetation, mud, or debris in an appropriate trash container. **Do not leave refuse on boat ramp or shore.**
- Prior to loading the boat, inspect the empty trailer for any vegetation, debris, or mud that may have been caught on bunks, lights, fenders etc. during launch. Promptly remove any vegetation or debris before backing into the water and dispose of in an appropriate trash container.
- Once the boat is loaded and on shore, inspect the trailer and boat *again* for any vegetation, debris, or mud that may have been captured during the loading process. Promptly remove and

dispose of all vegetation and debris before leaving the boat ramp area. Clean off any mud or film as best as possible and **plan to visit a car wash**.

### Decontamination Protocol

- After visiting a lake with known ANS, field staff should locate a nearby car wash to decontaminate the boat and all equipment that encountered infected water before continuing their trip.
- Special attention shall be given to:
  - Boat;
  - Trailer;
  - Rear of vehicle that may have come in contact with water or ANS;
  - Field equipment such as zooplankton nets, tow ropes, etc.;
  - Anchor and anchor rope;
  - Any additional equipment or clothing that contacted contaminated water such as boots or waders.
- Staff should make note of known car washes on trips to ensure proper decontamination can occur quickly during trip planning, especially those that accept credit cards.
- If a car wash accepts credit card payment, staff may use the boat's gas card. Proceed to the truck fuel card or FTE p-card if previous payments are not accepted. More than likely, a receipt will not be available. Document the total charge(s) and record in the vehicle records book and notify administrators of charges at the end of the trip.
  - If personal cash is used, record on the travel claim as it is a reimbursable expense. In the absence of a travel claim, complete a Form 3. (O:\Purchasing\OMES FORM 3)
- **EXTERIOR:** Select high pressure soap and begin systematically washing the boat, trailer, equipment, and rear of vehicle that contacted infected water. Pay attention to bunks, wheel wells, trailer frame, lights, transom straps, motor, and any location that may harbor ANS. Disconnect transom straps, unfurl, and soak. Trim the motor down to allow water to escape. Allow soap several minutes to soak while moving to the interior of the boat.
- **INTERIOR:** climb onboard and begin interior decontamination, continuing to use high pressure soap to wash away any contaminated water, debris, or sediment. Ensure all surfaces that contacted infected water are sprayed. Lay out any anchor lines, anchor, nets (**do not use high-pressure soap on zooplankton nets**), and tow ropes until clean and allow soapy water to soak as best as possible.
- **RINSE:** after all contaminated surfaces on the exterior, interior, and equipment have been thoroughly sprayed and soaked, begin rinsing in a systematic manner. With the motor still trimmed down, carefully rinse the motor, propeller, and water intake ports. Thoroughly rinse all ropes and nets (again, **do not** use high-pressure rinse on zooplankton nets). Rinse ropes and other material that tend to hold water until there are no visible suds. Carefully direct water up the boat plugs to dislodge any remaining debris. Rinsing of boat and equipment may cease after all water runs clear. Properly secure the motor and ensure transom straps are snug.

### Return from field

- Allow boat and equipment to thoroughly dry before the next deployment.