

PROTECT YOUR WATERS



Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) are plants and animals that can:

- interfere with boating and fishing,
- harm native plants and animals,
- destroy habitat,
- lower waterfront property values, and
- reduce the quality of drinking water.



YOU can help prevent AIS from spreading to new lakes and rivers.



CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

- Inspect your watercraft and trailer, and remove anything that shouldn't be there, like plants, animals, mud, or debris.
- Drain all water-holding compartments.
- Wash your boat and allow it to fully dry before entering a new waterbody.

INSPECT AND CLEAN

your gear before using it in another waterbody.

VISIT a launch with a boat steward for help inspecting your boat and a free wash.



NEW YORK STATE

has more than **70,000 MILES** of rivers and streams, and more than **7,600** freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

REHOME unwanted pets responsibly—never release them into the wild.

Dispose of plants and aquarium gravel in the trash.

THINK before you buy—make smart choices about the pets and plants you bring home.



DISPOSE of unused bait in trash cans and dump bucket water on dry land (not into the water).

Purchase only certified, disease-free bait.



TELL A FRIEND!

Together, we can all help protect the lakes and rivers we love.

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Use the hashtags:
#ProtectNYWaters
#CleanDrainDry



Thank you for keeping New York's waters swimmable, fishable, drinkable, and livable!

Learn more by searching for "aquatic invasive species" on our website: dec.ny.gov.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation