

STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

BOATER ADVISORY: PREVENTING DAMAGE FROM ZEBRA MUSSELS

Tips for protecting your watercraft and water-related equipment.

MOTORS

Larval zebra mussels (veligers) cannot be seen with the naked eye. They move with water currents and require water to survive. Veligers can enter water intakes, where they mature into adults, then attach and continue to grow. This could result in reduced water flow within the motor and can cause motors to overheat.

To prevent this you should:

- drain all water from the motor. Before shutting down your outboard motor, remove the lower unit from the water and keep the motor running until there is no water leaving the telltale. To prevent motor damage, stop the motor immediately if there is no water being ejected from the telltale.
- prop the lower unit of the motor upwards out of the water body when it's not in operation.
- perform a full motor flush routinely using water close to 60°C (hotter water may damage the motor; check the motor's manual).
- service your motor to remove any trapped zebra mussels shells before storing your watercraft for the season.



Adult zebra mussels colonizing propellers after 1, 3 and 4.5 months in an invaded water body.

WATERCRAFT

Adult zebra mussels can encrust underwater surfaces, such as watercraft hulls, when left in the water increasing drag and fuel consumption.

To prevent this you should:

- pull the watercraft out of the water routinely.
- inspect surfaces that came into contact with surface water for zebra mussels. Pay special attention to recessed or shaded areas and remove attached zebra mussels regularly.



A cross-section of a pipe showing colonization of adult zebra mussels.

MOVING FROM A ZEBRA MUSSEL INVADDED WATER BODY?

If you wish to move your watercraft and water-related equipment away from a **zebra mussel invaded water body or any other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Zone** and place them into another water body, you must:

- 1. CLEAN** i.e., remove all AIS and aquatic plants before leaving the shore. If a surface that came into contact with surface water feels like sandpaper, it may mean zebra mussels are attached. Remove attached zebra mussels using a scraper or pressure washer. If it is not feasible to remove attached AIS before leaving the shore, **you must obtain a Transportation Authorization in advance.**
- 2. DRAIN** all water from the watercraft and water-related equipment before leaving the shore. This includes live wells, bilge, motor and bait bucket. **Pull drain plugs out while transporting watercraft over land.**
- 3. DISPOSE** of all bait before leaving the shore.
- 4. DECONTAMINATE** watercraft and water-related equipment before placing them into another water body.

To decontaminate you can:

- visit a provincial Watercraft Inspection Station (where available). There is no cost for this service.

OR

- self-decontaminate by following the Approved Decontamination Methods (Schedules B and C) of the Manitoba government's AIS Regulation. When choosing this option, **watercraft and water-related equipment must also be dried completely** before they are placed into another water body.

The AIS Open-water Season and Winter (Ice-covered) Season checklists are step-by-step resources that can help you comply with the Manitoba government's AIS Regulation.

To obtain a Transportation Authorization or for more information on control zones, approved decontamination methods and the AIS checklists, visit:

Manitoba.ca/StopAIS or call (toll-free):
1-87-STOP AIS-0
(1-877-867-2470)

**PROTECT MANITOBA'S WATER BODIES FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION AND DO YOUR PART - EVERY TIME.**