



# Reconnect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues, their effect on your community and actions for your involvement.



## How to spot invaders, stop their spread

By ANNA MCCARTNEY  
Contributing writer

Are you a boater, angler, hiker, birder, gardener? Are you someone who enjoys outdoor recreation or someone who loves aquariums and aquatic pets?

You can prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species to ensure cleaner, healthier waterways and wetlands for people and wildlife.

Learn to identify the invaders and follow these basic preventive actions:

- Remove any visible mud,

plants, fish or animals and eliminate water from every conceivable item before leaving the area

■ Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, boots, clothing, dogs, toys, floats, etc.).

■ Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. This includes aquarium plants and aquatic pets and bait (even if they appear dead).

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulates 11 of the least-wanted aquatic invasive

species (AIS) in Pennsylvania. It is illegal to sell, barter, possess or transport those framed in red below.

However, all of these invaders and many more threaten our fragile ecosystem and economy. To learn more about the invaders and how to stop and report them, visit the sites listed.

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## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

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

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

CONTRIBUTED POSTER



DNR.WI.GOV/Contributed photo



DAN O'KEEFE, MI SEA GRANT/Contributed photo



ROB COSGRIFF, USGS/Contributed photo

Bighead carp, *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* (Asian carp)

Silver carp, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Asian carp)

Black carp, *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Asian carp)



WIKIMEDIA/Contributed photo



BRIAN GRATWICKE, WIKIMEDIA/Contributed photo



SEAN RAFFERTY, PA SEA GRANT/Contributed photo

Ruffe, *Gymnocephalus cernuus*

Snakehead, *Channa argus* (all species are regulated)

European rudd, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*



ERIC ENGBRESTON, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE/Contributed photo



USGS/Contributed photo



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Round goby, *Neogobius melanostomus*

Zebra mussels, *Dreissena polymorpha*

Quagga mussels, *Dreissena bugensis*



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JEFF GUNDERSON, MN SEA GRANT/Contributed photo



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Tubenose goby, *Proterothinus marmoratus*

Rusty crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*

Sea Lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus*

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Check out these websites to learn more:

- <http://fishandboat.com/ais-reporting.htm>
- [www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/](http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/)
- <http://seagrants.psu.edu/publications/ais.htm>
- [www.glfcc.org](http://www.glfcc.org)

A good democracy relies on the participation of all its citizens. Find examples of citizens who are actively involved in their community. How are they making it a better place to live?

A healthy environment also relies on people power.

There are far too few scientists available to monitor and protect it. What are you doing at home, school, or in your neighborhood to keep an eye on changes that harm the air, water, and earth? Share your activities for protecting the environment and send them to [axm40@psu.edu](mailto:axm40@psu.edu) for possible publication in Your Space.

