

Ways to Inform Your Community about Preventing Spread of AIS

Messages to Prevent Spread of AIS

- When leaving a body of water, clean off all visible mud, plants, fish, and animals.
- Remove any water from all equipment before leaving.
- Do not gather bait from waters known to be infested by invasive species. Check with your state department of natural resources or environmental management office to determine which waterways are affected.
- Clean any boating or fishing equipment that came in contact with the water with hot water, salt water, or vinegar. Dry thoroughly.
- If your dog plays in or near the water, check the feet and coat for any visible mud, plants or animals. Wash your dog with clean, warm water and brush out the coat.
- Do not release plants, fish, or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- Do not release plants, fish or animals into storm drains. Most lead to water bodies or wetlands.
- If you see an invasive species, report it immediately to your state department of natural resources or environmental management office.

Sample Action Steps

- Design posters and brochures or pamphlets that highlight species of concern in your area. They can be displayed or distributed at events such as sports shows and county fairs.
- Write an article for a boating/fishing organization's newsletter or web site about AIS issues.
- Set up an AIS awareness day at a local marina or dock. Show boaters and fishers how to clean their boats, motors, trailers, equipment, and properly dispose of bait.
- Set up an AIS awareness day at a local aquarium or pet store. Show people the proper way to clean aquaria and dispose of plants, fish and animals.
- Write letters to the editor of local newspapers to discuss AIS issues and actions that others can take.
- Write letters to local, state and federal officials and to environmental and regulatory agencies in support of legislation regarding AIS issues.
- Hold an AIS day at your school to educate other students and teachers about the problem.
- Design T-shirts about exotic aquatic species and wear them in public.