



## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

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

# Protect the Places You Paddle

Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and help protect your waters! Clean your kayak or canoe before launching into and leaving a waterbody.

**BEFORE** you leave, just follow these simple steps:

## **INSPECT** your kayak or canoe

- Inspect on land, not in the water
- Look for animals and plant fragments
- There are lots of places for AIS to hide; check the rudder, scupper holes, carry handles, cockpit, and more!

## **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals

- ALWAYS remove plants, animals, and sediment from your boat, boots, fishing equipment, and gear
- Use a stiff brush and tap water to scrub gear
- Take one of the following optional but powerful steps:
  - » Dry (at least 5 days in the sun)
  - » Use hot water/steam (at least 120 °F)\*
  - » Soak in Formula 409® for 10 minutes and rinse\*

\* Use tap water away from surface waters and storm drains



## **DRAIN** water from all equipment

- Drain water from hatches, cockpit, and holding tanks before leaving a site
- Turn kayak or canoe upside down to allow all water to escape

## **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish

- Never move plants, live fish, or fish eggs away from a waterbody
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash
- Only buy minnows from a Wisconsin dealer
- Only use leftover bait when fishing the same waters or when no other water or fish have been added to the container

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can harm our health, the nature we love, and the economy, making once beautiful waters unsafe and inaccessible.

**Preventing the spread of AIS with these simple techniques is vital for the health of our environment, and it's the law (NR-40).**

To learn more, visit [DNR.WI.Gov](http://DNR.WI.Gov)  
and search "Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention"

