



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Aquatic Invasive Species

Keeping Unwanted Organisms at Bay

Aquatic invasive species are organisms that invade waters beyond their natural range. Their unwelcome presence harms native ecosystems and disrupts commerce, agriculture, fishing, boating, and hunting. They may even harm our health. For example: zebra mussels encrust boats and public waterworks; giant salvinia rapidly covers duck marshes; Asian carp rob food from native fishes and present a threat to boaters.

Mission

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works to:

- Identify and prevent invasive species threats;
- Detect and respond to new invasive species threats;
- Manage and control existing invasive species; and
- Coordinate a national response to aquatic invasive species, including educating the public about threats so they can take action.



Silver carp leap at the sound of boat motors and injure people on the water. Their size causes this behavior to be quite hazardous to recreational boaters.

How Can You Help?

□ Clean, Drain, and Dry all recreational equipment before moving to a new body of water. (See ProtectYourWaters.net)

□ Choose regionally-native or non-invasive plants and animals for water gardens. Never put unwanted non-native plants in a compost pile; dispose of



Zebra mussels choke a native mussel. The invasive mussels encrust pipes, piers, marinas and boats, with great economic and ecologic costs.

them by freezing, then putting in a sealed plastic bag in the trash. (See water garden guidelines at www.anstaskforce.gov)

□ Don't release bait fish or unwanted pets into the wild. Trade or give to another hobbyist, school, or pet/bait store. (See www.habitattitude.net)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Fish & Aquatic Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-FAC
Falls Church, VA 22041



703.358.1715
<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/>

