



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!



You can do your part to help prevent the introduction and spread of fish diseases and nuisance aquatic organisms. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recommends the following actions to help protect Vermont's valuable natural resources!

VERMONT FISH HEALTH FACT SHEET

- ✓ Do not import or release any kind of fish without first obtaining a permit from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The careless movement and release of fish for stocking or use as bait is a threat to the health of Vermont's waters and recreational fisheries. The unauthorized movement of fish is the primary way most serious fish diseases and unwanted fish species could be introduced and spread throughout Vermont.
- ✓ Anglers should not discard unused bait, dead or alive, into Vermont waters. Emptying bait buckets can lead to the introduction of undesirable species. Only certain fish species can be used as bait (see the fishing regulations in the Vermont Digest of Hunting, Fishing and

Trapping Laws or [Click Here](#)).

- ✓ Do not clean fish or dispose of fish parts in streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes. Put them in a landfill or bury them in the ground away from water.
- ✓ Drain water from boat motor, live well, bilge, and transom wells before leaving any waterbody.



- ✓ Keep It Clean! Inspect and clean all equipment of mud and aquatic plants. This includes: waders,

boots, fishing gear, canoes, boats, live wells, bilge, anchors, trailers, float tubes, and any other equipment used in a particular body of water. Thoroughly disinfect, rinse and dry equipment and gear before using it again.

- ✓ Learn how to identify nuisance aquatic species. Go to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation aquatic nuisance species website: www.vtwaterquality.org/ans/ans-index.htm
- ✓ Report illegal fish introductions, fish diseases (fish kills), and suspected nuisance aquatic species to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, (802) 241-3700.
- ✓ To learn more about preventing the transport of nuisance species visit: www.ProtectYourWaters.net.

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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