

# DEC Launches New Aquatic Invasive Species Requirements for Motorized Boats in Adirondack Waters

## Legal Requirements to Combat Spread of Harmful Invasive Pests Start June 8

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced measures to prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species in the Adirondacks. Recent changes to [Environmental Conservation Law](#) (leaves DEC's website) become effective on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, and require motorized boat users to obtain certification that they have inspected and removed potentially harmful aquatic invasive species before launching in waters in, and immediately adjacent to, the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

"Aquatic invasive species like hydrilla, the round goby fish, and zebra mussels are detrimental to the health of our lakes and rivers," **said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos**. "Our boat stewards are on the front lines, protecting our waters from invasive pests on boats and gear, and last year successfully intercepted more than 14,000 plants and animals that could have started new infestations. To protect pristine waterbodies in the Adirondacks, all motorized watercraft operators are now required to obtain Clean, Drain, Dry certification before they launch."

The new law requires all operators of motorized watercraft to obtain certification that they have cleaned, drained, and dried boats and equipment each time they launch into a new waterbody in the Adirondack Park and within [10 miles of the Blue Line \(PDF\)](#). When an aquatic invasive species inspection station adjacent to a public waterbody is open for operation, watercraft operators can receive a watercraft inspection certificate from a boat steward by accepting a free boat inspection or decontamination. Alternately, boaters may follow Clean, Drain, Dry steps on their own and fill out a [self-issued certificate \(PDF\)](#) available on DEC's website before launching. [Boat stewards](#) will be stationed at popular boat launches across the Adirondack Park and can be identified by their blue vests.

To learn more about the New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program, the new certification requirements, and where to find a boat steward, please [visit DEC's website](#).

To view a video message from Commissioner Seggos with Adirondack Watershed Institute boat stewards performing watercraft inspection and decontamination services and receiving a certification from a boat steward at DEC's Port Henry boat launch site, visit [DEC's YouTube page](#).

**Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species Now Available on YouTube**

It's finally here! DEC's new documentary, *Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species*, is now available for [home viewing on our YouTube page](#). DEC's Division of Lands and Forests contracted with the Westfield Production Company to produce *Uninvited*, which dives into the significant threat invasive species pose to New York's biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as public health and the State's economy. The 55-minute film highlights DEC and partner work across the state in preventing the spread of invasive species and managing existing infestations.

One of the biggest ways you can help stop invasive species is by educating friends, family, and neighbors about the small choices they can make that have a big impact, such as:

- [using local or heat-treated firewood](#) for your campfire to prevent potentially moving insects, larvae, and spores that may be hiding in the wood,
- [cleaning, draining, and drying your watercraft and gear](#) before and after using them in a new waterbody to prevent potentially moving invasive plants and animals,
- [and brushing mud and debris off your boots, gear, and pets](#) after a walk to prevent potentially carrying seeds with you.

Help spread the word by watching *Uninvited* with family or friends tonight!

### **Get the Latest Updates in the Adirondack Outdoor Recreation Bulletin**

DEC publishes an Adirondack Outdoor Recreation Bulletin every Thursday afternoon to prepare you for a weekend of outdoor adventure in the Adirondacks. To get the latest information on trail and water conditions, road closures, safety precautions, and more, [sign up to receive the weekly bulletin now!](#) (right click then open hyperlink)