

## ANGLERS: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AIS?

Montana has some of the best fishing in the nation. An invasion of aquatic invasive species (AIS) can ruin these opportunities and impair our fisheries.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that cause harm to the environment, the economy, and human health.

Preventing the spread of AIS is important because, once introduced, AIS can disrupt ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and cost time, money, and resources. *Once established, AIS are nearly impossible to eradicate. Prevention is our best defense against AIS!* **CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY every time you use watercraft or equipment, regardless of destination.**

**AIS threatens recreational fishing.** AIS compete for food, reduce spawning habitat, feed on young, and impact water quality. Some species can become a nuisance to anglers by fouling fishing lines and stealing bait. Aquatic invasive plants impact fishing because they invade aquatic habitats, limit access to fishing spots, and make navigation difficult.

### TIPS FOR ANGLERS

To prevent AIS from spreading to new locations anglers must take action to remove any aquatic “hitchhikers” from their equipment, boots, nets, clothing, and other gear used in the water while fishing.



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[CleanDrainDryMT.com](http://CleanDrainDryMT.com)

# CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.



# ANGLERS: CLEAN YOUR GEAR. STOP AIS.

When anglers travel to fish at different lakes and streams, they can unintentionally transport aquatic invasive species (AIS). Montana's biggest threats are boaters and anglers using Montana's waters after fishing in another state or province. Some AIS are so tiny—such as fish diseases, parasites and invasive mussel larvae—you can only see them under a microscope.

**Take these simple steps every time you fish to be sure you're not moving invasive species from one waterbody to another.**



## CLEAN

all plants, mud and debris from fishing gear, waders and boots before leaving the water. Use a scrub brush if needed.

## DRAIN

any standing water from gear. A sponge can help.

## DRY

everything before using it again. Gear should be dry to the touch. When possible use different waders for different waterbodies.

## DISPOSE

of unwanted bait in the trash, not on land or in the water.

## NEVER

transport plants, fish or animals into a different body of water.

In addition to the steps above, anglers should:

- Use non-felt soled boots to further reduce the risk of spreading AIS.
- Completely dry waders before moving to a different waterbody.
- Always stop at inspection stations if transporting watercraft—including rafts, belly and drift boats.



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