

# High Risk - Low Frequency ... Docks, Lifts, and Used Boats

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There are a number of different ways that human activities can move aquatic invasive species from one waterbody to another. A lot of attention and effort is spent inspecting transient boats at lake access sites, but there is a backdoor that needs to be shut.

## The secondary market for docks, lifts, rafts and other water related equipment.

These structures are VERY HIGH risk because they sit immobile in lakes and rivers for long periods of time. They are often made of tubular steel, providing difficult to see hiding places for zebra mussels. And while owners do not move them around the state with the same frequency, when they do, this water related equipment poses a VERY HIGH risk.

*PHOTO: Boat lifts removed from Green Lake, 2015, second year of zebra mussel infestation - West Central Tribune*



## AIS Guidance for Docks, Boat Lifts, Swim Rafts, Mooring Buoys, Etc.

MN laws state a person may not place or attempt to place into waters of the state any water-related equipment (docks, boat lifts, rafts, mooring buoys, weed-rollers, etc.) that has aquatic macrophytes (plant or alga) or prohibited invasive species attached. MN laws specifically state that the equipment must be out of the water for 21 consecutive days. The best way to prevent the spread of any AIS species is to clean and decontaminate any used boat lifts, docks, swim rafts, mooring buoys, etc. after purchase and prior to launching into your home lake and/or stream.

If the water-related equipment is to be transported, it is illegal to transport any aquatic macrophyte or prohibited invasive species attached. If you plan to move a dock, lift or other water equipment from one lake or river to another, all visible zebra mussels, faucet snails, and aquatic plants must be removed whether they are dead or alive.

It is also illegal to place (or attempt to place) any water-related equipment with any aquatic macrophyte or prohibited invasive species into any other body of water.

**The equipment must be dried out of the water for at least 21 consecutive days, or stored outside over the winter, before it can be placed in another water body.**

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland\\_owners.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html) Some AIS species can live out of the water for 30 days or longer, so a longer dry time is recommended based on seasonal temperatures and humidity conditions. Follow this link for suggested dry times based on location, time of year, and typical weather conditions.

<http://www.100thmeridian.org/emersion.asp> Equipment should also be decontaminated by a DNR-approved provider.

## AIS Guidance for Roadside Sales, Craigslist, and Related Online Advertisements (Boats, Pontoons, Trailers, Other Watercraft and all Water-Related Equipment)

Attention prospective buyers of used boats and related watercraft (including weed-rollers), MN laws state a person may not place or attempt to place into waters of the state boats, trailers, and other water-related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes (plant or alga) or prohibited invasive species attached. If you have purchased a used boat/watercraft and/or trailer, the best way to prevent the spread of any AIS species is to purchase the water-related equipment after it has sat over the winter. All AIS will be killed from extended freezing temperatures.

Follow the DNR's steps and Minnesota law to avoid spreading AIS when you sell a watercraft - the best is to sell watercraft and water-related equipment after being subjected to freezing temperatures over the winter. Clean, Spray, Rinse, Drain, and Dry guidance (**Spray** with high-pressure water; **Rinse** with very hot water [120° for at least 2 minutes; 140° for 10 seconds]; **Dry** for at least 5 days).

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Please visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives) for more information.