



## Boaters

You can protect recreational boating and fishing areas by not transporting and spreading aquatic hitchhikers. People moving boats and trailers between waterways can carry non-native hitchhikers in bait wells and bilge water and also on the boat hull or trailer. Some non-native hitchhikers can threaten the environment, local economies, and human health. The best method of control is the prevention of species introduction and spread; however, this requires awareness and informed decision making on your part.

## Hydrilla

### *Hydrilla verticillata*

This African and South Asian species is a rooted, submersed perennial herb that was introduced to the southeastern United States in the 1950's. It can tolerate salinity up to 9-10 ppt and can grow up to 8



feet in one day. Boaters can spread this species by carrying detached buds and fragments of roots and stems. Large dense mats are formed, which can raise water pH, decrease oxygen levels, impact the numbers and size of sport fish, and impede navigation. *Photo credit: Wilfredo Robles*

**Other boating invasives include from left to right:** Titan Acorn Barnacle, Green Mussels, and Zebra Mussel.



*Photo credits: Titan barnacle, M. Mitchell; Green mussels, A. Benson; Zebra mussel, USGS.*

*The prevention and control of invasive species requires modifying the public's behaviors, values and beliefs, and changing the way decisions are made.*

— National Invasive Species Council's  
National Management Plan 2001



## What Can You Do?

Become part of the solution to reduce the threat from invasive species by practicing the following responsible behaviors:

- Avoid chopping vegetation with outboard motor propellers.
- Remove any visible plants, mud, or animals from all parts of the boat, trailer, and equipment and dispose of them in a garbage bin.
- Eliminate all water from motors, live wells, and bilges before you leave the area you are visiting.
- Flush raw water through the motor's cooling system and clean sea strainers.
- Follow the cleaning instructions below, especially when moving the boat to a new body of water:
  - Use high pressure, hot (40 °C or 104 °F) water to clean your equipment.
  - If hot water is not available, salt water is the next best alternative.
  - If equipment cannot be exposed to hot water, dip in 100% vinegar for 20 minutes OR 1% table salt solution (2/3 cup of salt for 5 gallons of water) for 24 hours.
  - If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before using in another body of water.

**For more information on aquatic invasive species or to report an unusual sighting, please visit**

**[www.marex.uga.edu/shellfish](http://www.marex.uga.edu/shellfish)**

