

These model legislative provisions were developed for two purposes. First, the provisions offer guidance to states with existing WID programs to help build a foundation for multi-state reciprocity. Second, for states without WID programs, the provisions outline a legal framework for the authorization of new WID programs.

Through this review, the NSGLC found that nineteen states (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) had no relevant statutory or regulatory provisions.

Sixteen states have WID programs. Lake Tahoe, NV and Lake George, NY also have in place a WID program.

NY closest state to MD that has a WID no others on East Coast

Conveyance

States with Courtesy Boat Inspection Programs

Maine

Maine prohibits the transport of any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer, or other equipment on a public road. Failure to remove any aquatic plant from the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer, or other equipment on a public road is also a violation of law. In addition, it is unlawful to place a watercraft that is contaminated with an invasive aquatic plant upon the inland waters of the state.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire law prohibits the sale, introduction, importation, and transportation of listed prohibited species of exotic aquatic weeds. It is also unlawful to possess or import prohibited wildlife, such as zebra mussels. In 2002, the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES), with the support of federal and state grants, developed a comprehensive exotic aquatic plant education and prevention program that includes the staffing of public boat ramps with trained “Lake Hosts.” Lake Hosts educate boaters about AIS; encourage self-inspection according to “Clean, Drain, and Dry;” and conduct courtesy boat and trailer inspections of watercraft entering and leaving public waters. In 2013, according to NH LAKES, 81 organizations participated in the Lake Host Program covering 103 boat ramps and conducting 77,806 inspections. To learn more about the Lake Host Program, visit <http://nhlakes.org/education/lake-host/>.

Vermont

Vermont prohibits the transport of aquatic plants, zebra and quagga mussels, or other aquatic nuisance species to or from state waters on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, trailer, or other equipment. To address the recreational boat vector, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has developed the “Boat Access Greeter Program.” The Department does not have any inspection or decontamination authority, so boat access greeters are limited to offering visual inspections of watercraft

and associated equipment, removing any plant material or animals discovered, and educating users on prevention methods and laws. In 2013 the program operated at 23 sites statewide and trained inspectors conducted over 15,000 courtesy inspections. For more information see, <http://www.vtinvasives.org/news/vermont-boat-access-greeter-program-2013-summary>.

States with Launching & Transport Restrictions

Seven states without WID programs, in addition to the states discussed above, prohibit the launching and transport of watercraft with AIS or aquatic plants attached. Although this might seem like a minor provision compared to the extensive laws and regulations related to WID programs in other states, watercraft launching and transport restrictions are the legal foundation of WID programs. Watercraft inspection and decontamination programs in most states are established to provide boater education and facilitate compliance with the state's law regarding transport and possession of AIS.

Illinois

Illinois law, with some exceptions, prohibits any person from placing or operating a vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind in state waters or taking off on a highway if it has any aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to the exterior. A law enforcement officer with reason to believe a person is in violation of the law may order the person to: (1) remove plants and animals; (2) remove the vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object from the water or not place it in water; or (3) not take off on a highway.

Maryland

Maryland Department of Natural Resource regulations prohibit a person from placing, or attempting to place, upon state waters a watercraft or associated equipment with attached or contained aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts has both launching and decontamination requirements. Massachusetts law prohibits the placement in or upon inland waters any vessel, boat transporter, truck-trailer boat transporter, or associated equipment if it has "growing thereon or attached thereto" an aquatic nuisance species unless it has been clean, decontaminated, or treated to kill or remove the aquatic nuisance species

Michigan

No person may place a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer in Michigan waters if it has an aquatic plant attached. Law enforcement officers are authorized to order the owner or operate of a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer to remove aquatic plants

New York

Watercraft may not be launched from state boat launching sites, fishing access sites, or other sites under the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DEC) "if any plant or animal, or parts thereof, visible to the human eye, in, on, or attached to any part of" the watercraft, including live wells, bilges, motor,

rudder, anchor, or other appurtenants; any equipment or gear; or the trailer or other device used to transport or launch. In addition, no person may launch, attempt to launch, or leave from these sites without draining the watercraft. Legislation passed in 2014 imposes a statewide launching restriction that becomes effective on September 2, 2015. The new law, it is unlawful for any person to launch a watercraft “unless it can be demonstrated that reasonable precautions such as removal of any visible plant or animal matter, washing, draining, or drying” have been taken pursuant to forthcoming NY DEC rules. First violations are subject to written warnings with fines increasing for subsequent violations: \$150 for second, \$250 for third, and up to \$1,000 for a fourth or subsequent offense.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations require the removal of all aquatic plants from boats, trailers, or any other gear capable of holding aquatic plants prior to placement in state waters. In addition, boats, trailers, and boat parts must be cleaned free of live zebra or quagga mussels before launching in any public waters.

South Dakota

In South Dakota, no person may launch or attempt to launch a boat, motorboat, or boat trailer of any kind into state waters with an aquatic nuisance species attached or onboard. Law enforcement officers are authorized to require the remove of aquatic vegetation from any boat, motor, trailer, or associated equipment. Pursuant to Department of Game, Fish, and Parks regulations, boats, motorboats, and boat trailers are subject to inspection by a department representative. If an aquatic nuisance species is found, department-approved decontamination process is required before launching

States with Transport Restrictions Only

The laws in five additional states restrict the transport of AIS on watercraft and trailers, but impose no launching restrictions.

Connecticut

Connecticut law prohibits any person from transporting a vessel or trailer in the state without inspecting the vessel for the presence of vegetation and AIS and properly removing and disposing of “any such vegetation and aquatic invasive species that are visible and identifiable without optical magnification...” To facilitate compliance with the law, Connecticut requires that any safe boating operation course approved by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection include instruction on the proper means of inspecting vessels and trailers and proper disposal of vegetation and AIS

Florida

Florida prohibits the sale, transport, and possession of certain listed invasive non-native plants. In addition, Florida has a provision authorizing the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to “quarantine or confiscate noxious aquatic plant material incidentally adhering to a boat or boat trailer.” The state, however, does not have any broad transportation restrictions expressly applying to watercraft.

Indiana

An Indiana Department of Natural Resources regulation prohibits the transport of listed invasive aquatic plants on or within any boat, trailer, motor vehicle, bait bucket, fishing gear, or other means. Indiana's transport restrictions are narrower than other states, however, as a similar provision with respect to aquatic animals was not found.

Kansas

Kansas law prohibits the importation, possession, and release of listed live wildlife species, which includes zebra and quagga mussels. Pursuant to a Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism regulation, all vessels being removed from state waters must have live wells and bilges drained and drain plugs removed before transport on any public highway of the state.

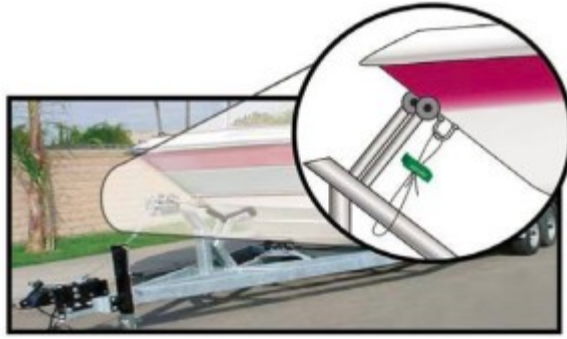
Texas

Texas law requires persons leaving any water of the state to immediately remove and lawfully dispose of any listed prohibited plants that are clinging or attached to the person's watercraft, trailer, or motor vehicle. In addition, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulations prohibit anyone from using a public roadway to transport a vessel to or from a public water body in the state unless all bilges, live wells, motors, and other similar receptacles and systems have been drained. TPWD employees are authorized to inspect vessels leaving or approaching public water for the presence of water.

Lake George, All trailered boats must get inspected and "sealed" at a [regional inspection facility](#) before launching into Lake George. Once inspected (and decontaminated if not clean, drained and dry), you can launch at that site or go to your favorite launch on Lake George (public or private). When you retrieve your boat from the lake, the launch owner or operator will put another inspection seal on your boat before you leave. If that seal is still intact when you return to Lake George again (i.e. you haven't launched into another lake), you do not need to be re-inspected and you can just go to your favorite Lake George launch. However, if you have launched at another lake and/or the seal is broken, you will need to be re-inspected prior to launch into Lake George.



Once your boat has been inspected, a numbered seal is attached.



If this seal is broken, you will need to be re-inspected before you launch into Lake George

<http://lgboatinspections.com/>

<http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us/PDF/LGP%20-%20Revised%20regs%202012-12.pdf>

At the inspection stations you will be greeted by a Vessel Inspection Technician. They will ask you a few questions about your boat and launching history. Then they will physically look and feel for evidence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) inside all compartments of your vessel, including but not limited to the anchor, all bilge & storage compartments, ballast tanks or bladders, ropes & fenders, live or bait wells, etc. They will also inspect the outside of your vessels hull, including the trailer, as well as the engine outdrive & intakes. Once the inspection process is complete, the inspector will inform you if they will need to perform a decontamination, which includes washing and flushing all areas needing decontamination with 140 degree hot water to kill any remaining AIS. Before you leave the inspection station, if you are going to a different launch site, you will receive a wire inspection seal. The seal is typically installed through the bow ring of your boat through a secure location on your trailer. At the launch ramps, the launch owner will inspect your seal and remove it prior to launching and install a new one when you haul your boat out of the water. The next time you go to launch, if the wire inspection seal is still “intact” you will be able to launch without another inspection. However, if you launch somewhere other than Lake George or the seal is not “intact” you will be required to visit one of the inspection stations for another inspection prior to launching and to get a new inspection seal installed.

Clean, Drain and Dry your boat after every use—including the engine outdrive, bilge, ballast tanks, live wells and storage compartments including their contents. Clean up any oil, dirt or debris inside bilges and storage compartments, and remove all items inside these compartments prior to arriving for your inspection. Make sure all systems are operational, including batteries, engine(s), pumps, etc.

Vessel Inspection Technicians will be checking all compartments for wet ropes and/or dirty anchors, etc. so be sure all equipment and compartments are dry when you arrive. Any wet or dirty equipment will need to be decontaminated.

Inspecting your own boat thoroughly and removing any AIS that may be clinging to carpeted trailer bunks or wheel wells on the trailer, will help expedite the process. Arrive clean, drained and dry.

Decontamination is a process where the exterior of the boat and its systems are flushed using 140 degree water to destroy any invasive species that may be present on the boat or trailer. If the boat requires a hot water decontamination, that will happen at one of our six regional Inspection Stations on a first-come first-served basis. There is no cost for this decontamination, and no chemicals will be used. Boats that arrive clean, drained and dry will not be required to go through the decontamination process. Depending on the complexity of your vessel, decontaminations can last anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes. If you flush your boat's engine at home, please bring your flush kit and any adapters with you to the inspection station, as we have only the most common adapters and tools for the decontamination process.