

# WARNING

Harmful non-native species  
may be present in these waters!

These species threaten native fish, plants and habitat, and they can limit your ability to fish, swim or boat in contaminated water bodies. Learn to identify these invaders and **always** follow these steps:

**CHECK**

**Before leaving the launch site**, remove all plants and mud from your boat, trailer and gear. Even small pieces of an invasive plant like European water milfoil can reproduce if transported to a new area. Leave all plant debris and dirt at the site on dry land above the waterline, and empty all water from your bilge, motor, live well or other equipment. Dispose of baitfish responsibly - never move baitfish from one body of water to another.

**CLEAN**

**Clean all gear** in a 2% solution of bleach or a 5% solution of dishwashing detergent. Hard surfaces should be in contact with the solution for at least one minute, water-absorbent gear (PFDs, waders) should be soaked for 20 minutes. Thorough cleaning can prevent a virus that is not yet present in our waters - viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). This virus KILLS fish - including bass, perch and walleye.

**DRY**

If cleaning isn't possible, **let boat, trailer and gear dry for at least 48 hours** before using in another waterbody. Didymo, also known as rock snot, is a recent invader in our watershed. It smothers river and stream beds, destroying habitat for native species. One drop of contaminated water is enough to spread didymo to an uninfected area.

For more information on how to identify current invasive threats in our watershed and how to protect against their spread, go to [www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org) or email us at [tellus@ctriver.org](mailto:tellus@ctriver.org)

## Clean Boats = Healthy Rivers



The **Clean Boats = Healthy Rivers** campaign  
is a program of the  
**Connecticut River Watershed Council**

