

Aquatic Invasive Species

Non-native aquatic species – plants, fish and animals – are invading our state’s coastal and inland waters. These pests can increase dramatically under the right conditions, displacing native species, clogging waterways and impacting navigation and recreation. Once introduced, they are nearly impossible to eliminate.

You can help prevent the introduction and spread of non-native species from one body of water to another by cleaning, draining and drying you boat and taking these steps:

- Avoid chopping vegetation with your boat’s propeller.
- Inspect your boat and remove aquatic plants or animals before you leave any body of water.
- Inspect all exposed surfaces. Small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch.
- Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.
- Drain all water and dry all areas.
- Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.
- Clean and dry all live-wells.
- Empty and dry any buckets.
- Dispose of all bait in the trash.

Be sure to report new infestations of non-native aquatic species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (209) 946 6400. Visit <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ais/> for more information.