

You can prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species into Pokagon waters

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are nonnative animals and plants that do not naturally occur in our waters and cause ecological and economic harm. Once introduced into an ecosystem where they have few natural predators, they can do irreparable damage to lakes, streams, and wetlands — and their native inhabitants. AIS harm our environment, outdoor recreation, and tribal resources which all depend upon healthy water resources.

How AIS spread

The main way aquatic invaders are spread is by “hitching” rides on watercraft and equipment used by anglers, boaters and others. Sometimes they are very small and can be overlooked when exiting a water body.

Once AIS are introduced into a water body, it is very difficult and time consuming to remove them. They spread uncontrollably, displace native species, harm fish populations, damage habitats, impair water quality and water recreation, and can cost a lot of money.

Additional Resources

Midwest Invasive Species Information
Network

www.misin.msu.edu

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

www.protectyourwaters.net

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations

www.mymlsa.org/aquatic-invasive-species



Michigan DNR
Invasives



Aquatic Invasive
Field Guide

Department of Natural Resources
32142 Edwards Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

(269) 782-9602 | (800) 517-0777

[www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/
departments/natural-resources](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/departments/natural-resources)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**



Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Department of Natural Resources

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Love Pokagon Waters

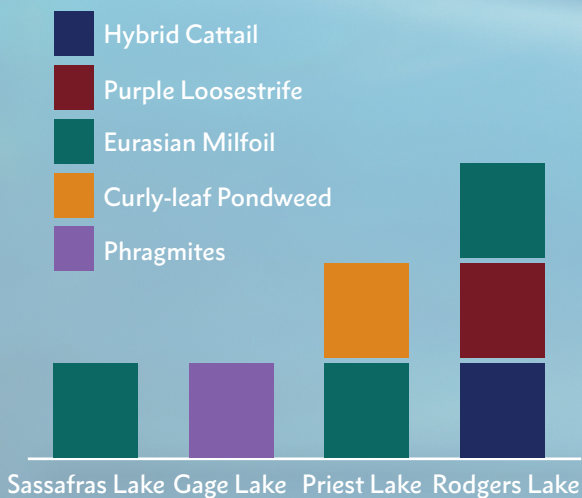
What can you do?

Preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species is very important to protecting the health of Pokagon waters.

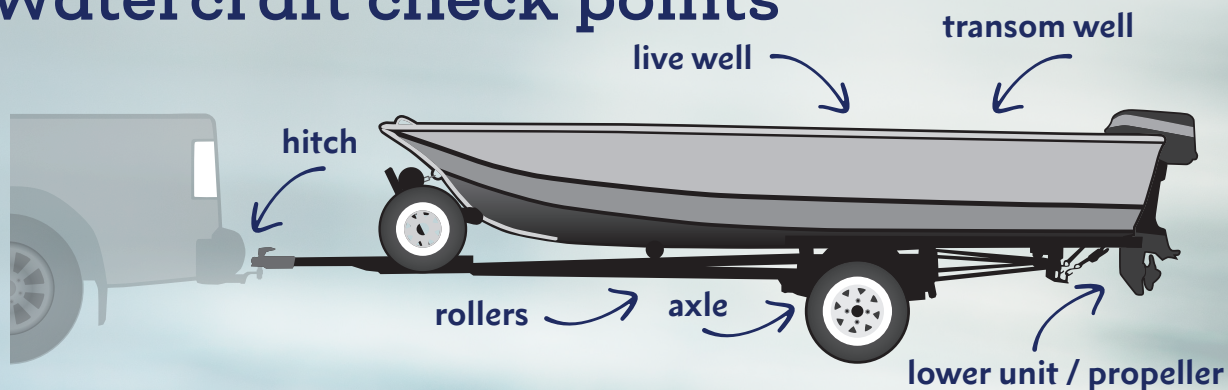
According to the *Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Rules and Regulations*, Section 5.05, Pokagon citizens are required to do the following when utilizing Pokagon waters:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals from boats, trailers and fishing equipment before transport.
- Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting.
- Dispose of unwanted fishing bait in the trash.

Invasive plant species present in tribal lakes



Watercraft check points



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> anchor | <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> spare tire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> axle | <input type="checkbox"/> landing net | <input type="checkbox"/> tackle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bait bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> license plate | <input type="checkbox"/> tow rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bunks | <input type="checkbox"/> motor | <input type="checkbox"/> trailer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bow line | <input type="checkbox"/> wheels | <input type="checkbox"/> transducer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fishing line | <input type="checkbox"/> live well | <input type="checkbox"/> transom well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> floor | <input type="checkbox"/> lights/wiring | <input type="checkbox"/> trolling motor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hull | <input type="checkbox"/> rollers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> intake pipe | <input type="checkbox"/> prop | |

Pokagon citizens are also encouraged to:

- Wash boats and trailers with a power washer, if available.
- Clean and dry anything that comes in contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, pets, etc.)
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water.
- Learn to recognize the appearance and characteristics of aquatic invasive species.