

Spending a day on the water?

Clean In

Boaters

Boats, jet skis, kayaks, and other vessels should be clean and dry before entering the water.

Anglers

Never bring live fish or baitfish from other waters.

Visitors

Never release pets or move mud or plants.

Clean Out

Boaters

Pull boat plugs, drain all water, and remove all plants, animals and mud.

Anglers

Dispose of bait responsibly - never in the water or on the ground.

Visitors

Never transport water, plants, or animals to another location.

Be on the watch for other AIS that threaten Kansas waters:



Marbled Crayfish



Northern Snakehead Fish



New Zealand Mudsnaill



Black Carp



Round Goby



Quagga Mussel

Report

To report new AIS sightings, call the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Research and Survey Office at **620.342.0658** or visit ProtectKS Waters.org.

Love Our Lakes Protect Our Waters

Kansas lake goers either spread invasive species or prevent them.



The difference is what you do.

Aquatic Invasive Species Destroy The Lakes You Love

But together, we can prevent the spread.

Today's shoreline is tomorrow's frontline.

Destructive invasive species have already made their home in some Kansas waters. They arrived as unwelcome passengers via boats, bait buckets, and water toys. They've been throwing delicate aquatic ecosystems out of balance ever since.

We need to prevent their spread. How? [You.](#)

As a lake lover, you are the only hope for preventing the spread in Kansas waters. Learn what you can do to help.

Preventing the spread is simple.

Drain all water and remove all plants, animals and mud from gear and watercraft before leaving waterways. This prevents uninvited species from taking over new waters.



Invasive plants aren't welcome.

These little invaders will photosynthesize you out of house and home.

Left unchecked, their canopy can spread across the lake, enabling them to out-compete and eliminate native plant species, clog irrigation and flood-control canals and seriously interfere with our ability to enjoy our favorite activities on the lakes we love.

By removing all vegetation before leaving the lake you play a vital role in protecting Kansas waters.



Silver carp are selfish.

This invasive species will literally invite themselves onto your party boat. Silver carp spastically fling themselves into passing boats, which is an amusing sight but less so because silver carp are so harmful.

They multiply at alarming rates and their grubby kids are no better than they are.

They help themselves to all the food they find, consuming up to 40% of their body weight daily and stealing vital nutrition from other species.

Stopping them starts with you.

Never release unwanted pets into the wild. Dispose of bait responsibly - never in the water or on the ground. These actions prevent the introduction of invasive species that hurt native plants and animals.



Don't move a mussel.

If you open the door a tiny crack to a zebra mussel, they're going to put their feet up on your furniture and ruin your plumbing too.

They cluster themselves in pipes and on surfaces of every kind. They pretend to be "helpful", each filtering up to a liter of water daily. Although that can make water appear clearer, it doesn't mean it's clean. The clearer water they leave behind promotes harmful algal blooms which are toxic to humans and animals.

Larval fish and native mussels depend on the plankton that zebra mussels take for themselves.



Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks

3 Steps to stop the spread:

Clean anything that touches the water.

Drain water on location.

Dry everything before going to a new water.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Kansas include:



Invasive Carp

Dangerous- can jump several feet into the air.

When young, often mistaken for wild-caught bait fish.



Zebra Mussels

Attach to and completely cover solid surfaces.

Cause damage to boating equipment.

Clog intake pipes for water treatment and electric plants.



White Perch

Associated in declines in walleye and bass populations.

Feed heavily on baitfish utilized by other species.

Look like and hybridize with native white bass.



Rusty Crayfish

Feeds on both plants and animals, dramatically altering local food webs.

Aggressive and resilient to more extreme conditions.

AIS and the Law:

It is illegal to transport live AIS.

Livewells and bilges must be drained and drain plugs removed before transport.

Live fish cannot be transported from AIS Designated Waters.

It is against both state and federal law to release any exotic species in Kansas waters.