



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality News Release

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For More Information

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Aquatic Invasive Species Week observed June 11-19

Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed June 11-19, 2011 as Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week to raise awareness about the need for citizens to take action to stop new introductions and control the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The Great Lakes and Michigan's inland waters draw millions of tourists and recreational users annually. They are threatened by more than 180 aquatic invasive species now found in the region. Other invasive species poised to impact the lakes include two species of Asian carp that already have overtaken the Des Plaines River in Illinois and are considered a serious ecological and economic threat if they gain access to the Great Lakes.

Federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding helps Michigan better protect our waters from the introduction and spread of aquatic invaders. However, the success and benefit of these efforts also depends on recreational users taking a few simple preventative measures. For example, anglers should inspect their bait and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash to prevent the unintended introduction of species like Asian carp. Watercraft and recreational equipment should be inspected before leaving a water body. Any vegetation or mud should be removed and all live wells or areas that may contain water cleaned and drained.

AIS week is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division with collaborative efforts from other state and federal agencies as well as private and nonprofit organizations. For AIS Awareness Week information and the Governor's proclamation visit the DEQ's Aquatic Invasive Species Web site, www.michigan.gov/deqaquaticinvasives.

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