

Updated Aquatic Invasive Species Transport Law in Vermont – Act 67

As of June 8, 2017, the Vermont Legislature enacted new legislation regarding aquatic nuisance control. Act 67 adds four animals to the species list of which transport is restricted, and requires boat operators to visually inspect their own vessels and remove drain plugs while transporting a vessel.

While the transport of ANY aquatic plant or plant parts, as well as zebra and quagga mussels, is still prohibited, it is now also prohibited to transport the following species:

- ❖ **Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)**
- ❖ **Fishhook waterflea (*Cercopagis pengoi*)**
- ❖ **Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)**
- ❖ **Spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*)**



Act 67 requires any person transporting a vessel to or from a body of water to **visually inspect** the vessel, the transport vehicle, trailer, and other equipment used, and **remove** any aquatic plants, aquatic plant parts, and other aquatic nuisance species. The act also requires **removal** of drain plugs, bailers, valves, and all other devices designed to control the drainage of water from vessel while transporting it. All draining of contained water must occur in a manner that avoids discharge into a water of the State.

Boat inspection and decontamination are now mandatory at all authorized aquatic nuisance species inspection stations if:

- ❖ the inspection station is maintained where the vessel is entering or leaving the water,
- ❖ the inspection station is open, and
- ❖ an individual operating the inspection station identifies the vessel for decontamination.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation will make signage available at public boat accesses and marinas to alert those utilizing Vermont's water resources to the changes in aquatic nuisance species laws. The State is currently developing an inspection/decontamination training program as well as a process for authorizing aquatic nuisance species inspection stations for the 2018 greeter program season. Lake associations will be able to apply to Vermont ANR to obtain status as an approved inspection/decontamination station.

For more information:

- ❖ Visit: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/ACTS/ACT067/ACT067%20As%20Enacted.pdf> for the full text of the updated Vermont aquatic nuisance species laws.
- ❖ For any questions about aquatic invasive species please contact: