

## Boaters Watch Out for Hitchhiking Plants!



Protect your Lakes. Help stop the spread of invasive Aquatic Plants.

Remove all plant fragments from boats, propellers, trailers, bait buckets and anchors.

Dispose of plants on high, dry land away from the lake.

### Invasive Aquatic Plants

- Damage fisheries
- Are unsightly
- Ruin swimming areas
- Replace useful native plants
- Spread from very small pieces
- Foul motors and propellers

Avoid giving a ride to ANY aquatic plants!

For further information,  
CONTACT  
Volunteer Lake  
Monitoring Program  
**207-225-2070**



## Milfoil

Don't let invasive plants choke the life out of your lake!

A single piece of milfoil can cause the infestation of an entire lake! Once exotic aquatic plants become established in a lake they are virtually impossible to eradicate. They grow rapidly and form large dense mats near the surface that make boating, fishing and swimming impossible. And there's no way to get rid of these plants once they are established! Help keep them out of Maine!

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**Your sticker purchase helps weed out the problem.**



This sticker, prominently displayed on the hull, identifies your boat as compliant with the "Preserve Maine Waters" program. It is imperative that we understand the threat of invasive milfoil, and other destructive plant species, to the integrity of our lakes. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

## Be Aware of Aquatic Invaders

Stop Disastrous Illegal Fish Stocking!





# Save Maine's Native Fish Species !



## Stop Disastrous Illegal Fish Stocking!

Maine waters have been hit by an epidemic of illegal fish stockings, with disastrous consequences for our native species - especially brook trout and landlocked salmon.

White perch are now in Moosehead Lake, bass in the Rapid River, crappie and pike in landlocked salmon waters.



Smallmouth Bass

All these predatory fish eat other species and destroy native fisheries.



Largemouth Bass

Introduction of any fish into any Maine waters without a permit from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is a Class E crime, punishable by fines up to \$10,000!

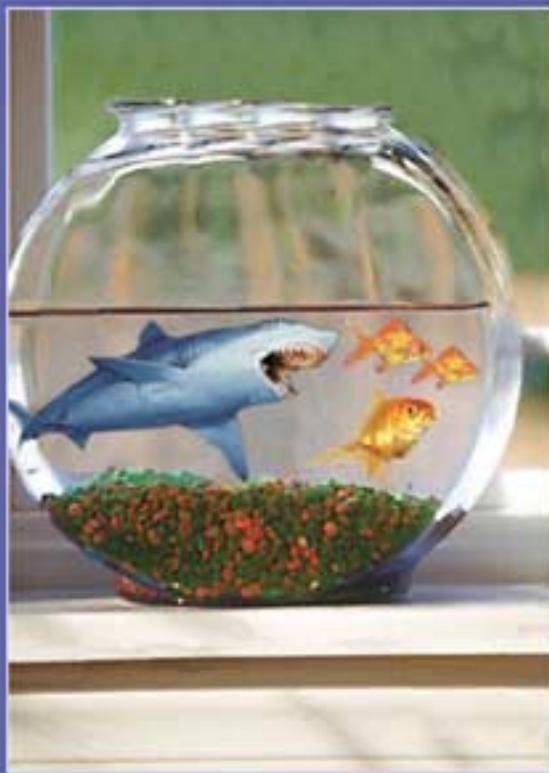


White Perch

**Call Operation Game Thief (1-800-253-7887) to report illegal introductions.**



**Report any exotic species to a DIFW fisheries biologist (207-287-8000)**



**Would you stock a shark in your fish bowl?**

*Of course not!*

But that's just what's happening in hundreds of Maine waters where illegally stocked exotic species are depleting our native fisheries.

*"For those of us who have worked for years to produce a quality trout fishery - not to mention the anglers who cherish fishing for salmon and trout - it is discouraging to witness the demise of these native fisheries as the result of illegal fish introductions by irresponsible individuals."*

DIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist  
Forrest Bonney



Yellow Perch

*"The problem lies not just with 'exotic' species (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, blue gills, northern pike, white catfish, etc.), but also unauthorized introductions of 'native' species (cusk, golden shiner, smelt, white perch, etc.). The rate of new illegal introductions is astonishing.*



Crappie

*Every summer while conducting routine fisheries assessments, we accidentally encounter new illegal introductions, and we're only sampling a small number of waters each year. These species are serious competitors with our indigenous trout and salmon, and have diminished our ability to maintain healthy populations of desirable forage, like smelt."*



Pike

DIF&W Assistant Regional Fisheries Biologist  
Francis Brautigam