

## **Lake and River Protection Sticker Required on Seaplanes**

All seaplanes – owned by residents or non-residents – landing in Maine are required to carry a “Lake and River Protection Sticker” on their aircraft.

In 2009, the Maine Legislature passed a law requiring that seaplanes have the sticker affixed to both of its pontoons as a way to bring attention to the threat and prevention of invasive plants in Maine’s nearly 6,000 lakes and ponds. Seaplanes, like motorized watercrafts, have the potential to transport and transfer invasive aquatic plants.

The sticker reads: “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers – Preserve Maine’s Waters.”

The “Lake and River Protection Sticker” is \$20 and can be purchased from the IF&W online store at [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com), or at most of the Department’s license agents statewide. Seaplane owners receive two stickers, one for the outside edge of each pontoon.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection facilitate the Invasive Aquatic Species Program in attempts to stop the spread of invasive species in Maine’s waters, and the effort is funded by proceeds from the sale of “Lake and River Protection” stickers.

An invasive species is a plant, animal or microbe that is introduced from other regions and aggressively out-competes native species. Usually they are spread as a result of peoples’ activities, such as variable-leaf milfoil being carried out of one body of water on motorized watercraft and then introduced into another body of water when the watercraft is launched there. Invasive aquatic plants can grow densely, crowd out native plants, reduce fish movement, stunt growth, shade out the bottom, and change water chemistry.