



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Aquatic Invasive Species Guidelines for Fishing Contest Participants

*Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are a big threat to our fisheries!
We need your help to prevent the spread of AIS.*

AIS can be aquatic animals such as zebra and quagga mussels or rusty crayfish or aquatic vegetation such as hydrilla or Eurasian watermilfoil. These species are often called “aquatic hitchhikers” because they can hitch a ride on your equipment or boat. AIS can have far-reaching impacts on our water resources if they become established. AIS could lead to water closure and impact recreation opportunity. Many AIS permanently change stream and lake ecology negatively affecting native species and prized sport fisheries. In addition, zebra and quagga mussels can attach to your boat and equipment and cause damage.

There are several regulations in place to protect Wyoming’s resources. Fishing contest participants need to be aware of these regulations. Compliance with aquatic invasive species regulations is a requirement to operate a boat on waters of the state.

AIS regulations, inspection and decontamination requirements:

- Any watercraft transported into Wyoming from March 1 through November 30 must undergo a **mandatory inspection** by an authorized inspector prior to launching. Information on inspection locations is available at: wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS
- Any watercraft that has been in a water infested with zebra/quagga mussels within the last 30 days, is required to undergo a **mandatory inspection** by an authorized inspector prior to launching during ALL months of the year. Waters positive for AIS are often posted at boat ramps and launches. A list of waters known to be infested and other information is available at wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS. Schedule an inspection if you are unsure whether a water you visited is positive for AIS.
- Boat Inspections: All boaters must stop at established check stations. Check stations are established at port of entries, major routes of entry to a water, or at boat ramps and are set-up to ensure watercraft are Drain, Clean and Dry before launching. Inspections are also available at WGFD Regional Offices during normal business hours.
- If watercraft are suspected or determined to contain AIS they will be decontaminated using hot water of 140°F to flush interior compartments, the motor and equipment, and to spray the exterior of the watercraft.
- All watercraft must have a valid Wyoming AIS decal before boating on any waters of the state. Decals are available online, at regional offices and at automated license vendors.

Live baitfish regulations

- Live baitfish cannot be imported into Wyoming. Check Wyoming fishing regulations for current regulations on the use of live baitfish in the state.
- Live baitfish must be contained in a bait bucket or small container and must be accompanied by a valid Wyoming live baitfish receipt or trapping and seining license.

For more information: Wyoming Game and Fish Website: wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS or
Contact your local Game and Fish Regional Office or call 1-877-WGFD-AIS

All boats should be Drained, Clean, and Dry prior to launching.

Drain: drained of all water including ballasts, bilge, live wells, motor, and any internal compartments. Boaters are encouraged to travel with bilge plugs out.

Clean: cleaned of all mud, plants and debris.

Dry: watercraft should be as dry as possible. Watercraft in Wyoming should dry for at least 5 days in the summer, 18 days in the spring or fall or 3 days at freezing temperatures.