

THE BATTLE AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

How You Can Help

Based on the FMCE Forum "Battle Against Invasive Species" held 11/16/2010

Updated: 2/14/2011

Aquatic Invasive Species

- 1.) Do not use round gobies as bait.
- 2.) Dump bait buckets on land.
- 3.) Help stop the spread of all aquatic exotics by cleaning your boat and trailer before going to a new water body.
- 4.) Drain the water from your boat motor and wells on land.
- 5.) Remove plants and debris from your trailer before leaving the launch ramp.
- 6.) Do not bring home fish for aquaria, and then get rid of them by dumping them in a pond, lake or stream.
- 7.) Never move live fish from waterbody to waterbody.

D.E.C. BAIT REGULATIONS:

In response to VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), NYS DEC modified baitfish regulations as follows:

1. Anglers must obtain bait for movement from a licensed dealer, who can only sell bait that has been tested and shown free of fish diseases, purchased from a commercial rearing facility, or bait that is captured by legal means in the waterbody where the angler is fishing.
2. Purchased bait can only be retained for 10 days, and the angler must produce the dated receipt on demand. While there may be ways to cheat on these regulations, they would all involve greater costs and efforts than simply complying with the regulation. We've all heard the stories of the alligators in the NYC Sewer system!

Plant Invasive Species - in your own backyard:

- 1.) Learn about the plants on your property.
- 2.) Do you have invasive plants?
- 3.) Consider removing invasive plants from your yard and garden, and replace them with non-invasive and native plants in your landscaped areas.
- 4.) Don't feel like you have to do it all at once; remove and replace invasive plants as your time and budget allow. Every little bit helps.

Plant Invasive Species - in Parks & Natural Areas- Volunteer your time

Local groups and park managers host year-round volunteer work parties, so consider lending a few hours to help protect and restore your favorite parks and natural areas. Removing invasive plants is a healthy form of outdoor exercise suitable for all ages, and it's rewarding work.