



Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Landing Blitz

THE PROBLEM

The Great Lakes Basin is home to many aquatic invasive species, including Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, zebra mussels, starry stonewort, water chestnut, and stargrass. One common way they can spread to other aquatic areas is through often microscopic larvae or plant parts 'hitchhiking' on watercrafts, trailers, and gear, releasing them into new bodies of water, and establishing novel populations there.

A SOLUTION: THE GREAT LAKES AIS LANDING BLITZ

The Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz is an outreach event organized by the Great Lakes Commission that works with multiple partners, such as lake associations, conservation districts, metroparks, and local nonprofits, to coordinate efforts relating to managing invasive species and raising awareness on this issue.

The Landing Blitz takes place over a two-week period in the summer (usually coinciding with the Fourth of July and Canada Day) where all participating agencies deliver messaging about preventing AIS introduction and spread. They also offer the Landing Blitz Grant Program (USA only) that has the aim of recruiting and training local event partners. The events are promoted locally and statewide.

The focus of the event is on:

- AIS prevention and containment: engaging boaters in inspection and cleaning processes
- Increase AIS awareness and responsible behaviour: inform and educate boaters and landing visitors
- Promote partnerships: grant-funded awardees also collect and report event data, including social media engagements and impressions, total boaters educated, total site impressions, and identified invasive species

RESOURCES

- Discover more of the GLC's projects and initiatives at the [Great Lakes Commission's webpage](#)
- Learn more about the blitz at the [Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz webpage](#)
- Gain detailed guidance for preventing AIS introduction for specific recreational activities [here](#)
- Learn more about the [UMPS \(Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards\) boat cleaning protocol](#)
- Reference the [Clean/Remove, Drain, Dry Outreach Postcard](#)
- Reference the [Boater's Reference Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species in the Great Lakes](#)
- Reference the [Boat Inspection Point Checklist](#)

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