

Controlling the Spread of Aquatic Invaders

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<http://naturechange.org/2017/10/05/controlling-the-spread-of-aquatic-invaders/>

All summer long and into the fall, Jane Perrino and two dozen volunteers have been setting up a portable boat washer and an information station at lakeside boat launches all across Leelanau, Benzie and Manistee Counties. By mid-September, they had visited at least 22 different boat launches for one or more days, handing out literature, logging information and providing free power-washes to every boat that entered or exited the lake at that location.

Perrino is the *Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator* for the Benzie Conservation District. In this video, Perrino explains why the Benzie Conservation District is running this program and why it matters. Boats of all kinds can quickly accumulate plant remnants and seeds as well as many small forms of animals, including zebra mussels. Then, when these watercraft are moved, they can transfer that material to other lakes. In fact, that's how zebra mussels were transferred from one lake to another in Northwest Lower Michigan, hitching a ride on a trailer, a boat or fishing gear that was not been properly cleaned or thoroughly dried out (e.g., out of the water for 10 days to two weeks).

Topics Covered

Invasive Species; Biodiversity; Plant biology; Ecology; Water Quality

Next Generation Science Standards

- K-ESS3-3. Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.*
- 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
- 3-LS4-4. Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.*
- MS-LS2-5. Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.*
- HS-LS2-7. Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.*