

## HOW CAN I HELP?

- ✓ **CLEAN** off any visible plants, zebra mussels, or other debris from your hunting boat and equipment (check detachable card for details).
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from your motor and bilge before leaving your hunting area.
- ✓ **DRY** all of your equipment before moving to a new waterbody.



- ✓ **REPORT** invasive species to the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or online at [www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario](http://www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario).



## HELPFUL TIPS

- ✓ Switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped, or strap anchors on decoys to avoid collecting submersed and floating aquatic plants.
- ✓ If you find zebra mussels or aquatic plants on your boat, equipment (e.g. anchors) or decoys, wash it with hot water (greater than 50°C) or a high pressure washer (>250psi) or dry all parts for 5 days.



Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

- ✓ Avoid using invasive vegetation such as invasive Phragmites for your duck blind.

INVADING SPECIES HOTLINE  
**1-800-563-7711**

OR

[WWW.EDDMAPS.ORG/ONTARIO](http://WWW.EDDMAPS.ORG/ONTARIO)

The Invading Species Hotline is a partnership of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

**EDD MapS Ontario**  
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



ONTARIO'S  
**INVADING SPECIES**  
AWARENESS PROGRAM

*Don't forget to detach your info card  
and put it in your wallet!*

*A healthy environment today is key to a  
successful hunt tomorrow!*

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS WATERFOWL HUNTERS:

*Working together  
to stop the spread of  
Aquatic Invasive Species*



*This project was undertaken with the financial support of*



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## WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of Ontario's waters and woodlands. Invasive species are defined as harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. Once established, invasive species are extremely difficult and costly to control and eradicate, and their ecological effects are often irreversible.

Common aquatic invasive species include (but are not limited to):

**INVERTEBRATES:** Zebra Mussel

**FISH:** Round Goby

**PLANTS:** Eurasian Water-milfoil & invasive Phragmites.

## WHY ARE INVASIVE SPECIES A CONCERN TO US AS WATERFOWL HUNTERS?

- Invasive species reduce the biodiversity in our watersheds.
- Invasive species threaten our favourite waterfowl hunting spots with dense patches of invasive plants.
- Invasive species have economic and social impacts on businesses that rely on the hunting industry.

## THE EFFECTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES ON WATERFOWL HUNTING

Hunting is part of our cultural heritage. To preserve this heritage, we must also preserve the ecosystems where we hunt. When you're out hunting, remember:

- We can inadvertently spread aquatic invasive species from one lake or wetland to another by way of boats, motors, trailers, decoys, and even our hunting dog.

*For example, zebra mussels have microscopic larvae that can attach to plant fragments or equipment.*

- We can unintentionally build our hunting blinds with invasive plants.

*For example, invasive Phragmites is a robust grass species popular for building hunting blinds. In all accounts, this plant should be avoided in favour of native vegetation.*

- By spreading these invasive species, they can directly affect the amount of waterfowl in a particular area.

*For example, large, dense, single-species stands of invasive Phragmites do not support waterfowl habitat.*

*This means that as Phragmites out-competes native grasses, fewer waterbirds use this area as staging habitat which decreases the quantity and quality of the hunt.*

## YOU'RE NOT ALONE:

### *What is the OFAH doing to help?*

Since 1992, the *Invading Species Awareness Program* has been monitoring and raising awareness about invasive species in Ontario through a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

This program's goals are to:

- Generate education and awareness of invasive species.
- Address key pathways contributing to invasive species introductions and spread.
- Facilitate monitoring and tracking the spread of invasive species.

Invasive Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* sub sp. *australis*)

This is an example of vegetation that should be avoided during the construction of a duck blind.

