

Aquatic Invasive Species

AIS Definition

An Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is any freshwater or marine species that is not native to an ecosystem and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic, human health, or environmental harm

AIS Characteristics

- High reproductive rates
- Broad diets
- Wide environmental tolerances
- Long lived
- Habitat generalists
- Gregarious
- Associated with humans



<http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/extra/aquaticinvaders/>

What are some of the problems that can be caused when AIS are introduced?

- Fouling of boats, docks, water intake pipes, and other objects in the water
- Competition with native species
- Reduced water quality (lowered dissolved oxygen levels, increased pH, or decreased light levels)
- Decreased biodiversity in the ecosystem



Photo credit: Jeff Schardt, Florida D.E.P.

What can I do to prevent the spread of AIS?

- Thoroughly clean and empty all boating equipment, including trailers, bilges, and live wells, when moving between bodies of water
- Never dispose of unwanted aquarium plants or animals in local waters
- Use only local live bait when fishing
- Landscape using native plants
- Educate yourself and others about invasive species in your area
- Report any AIS sightings

Have You Seen Me?

Forms are available on our website: <http://www.marex.uga.edu/shellfish>

Want to learn more about invasive species?

Check out the following websites:

- www.invasivespeciesinfo.org
- www.invasive.org
- nas.er.usgs.gov
- www.sgnis.org/kids
- www.protectyourwaters.net
- www.habitattitude.net



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Who should I contact if I find an AIS?

Shellfish Research Laboratory
 UGA Marine Extension Service
 20 Ocean Science Circle
 Savannah, GA 31411
 Phone: (912) 598-2348
 Fax: (912) 598-2399



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