

DON'T PICK UP HITCHHIKERS

Imagine an unwanted guest moving into your room that eats your snacks and takes up your space. Not much fun, right?

This situation is happening in Pennsylvania. Unwelcome plants and



animals from other areas have invaded our state. These invaders hitch

rides between waterways on gear and boats. They crowd out native plants and animals for habitat. They also compete with native creatures for

food. A few examples include the rusty crayfish, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife and Northern snakehead (a fish).

You can help stop the spread of these aquatic hitchhikers.

Never transfer or release bait, plants or animals into a different waterway.

Don't empty your bait bucket into the water (unless from that waterway).

Clean and dry your tackle and waders before heading to another waterway.

Spray down boat hulls (bottom of boat) before heading to a new waterway.

Don't release pet fish and turtles or other invasive critters.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

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

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

rusty crayfish



zebra mussel



See the *PLAY* Spring 2008 Sci-fi in the Real World and *PLAY* Fall 2001 PA's Least Wanted newsletter issues for more information on aquatic hitchhikers.

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