



Invasive Species Guidelines

U.S. COAST GUARD, [USCG-2000-7206], Voluntary Guidelines on Recreational Activities To Control the Spread of Zebra Mussels and Other Aquatic Nuisance Species

(f) *Seaplanes:* Many ANS, such as the zebra mussel and Eurasian water milfoil, can be unintentionally transported from one waterbody to another on the floats of seaplanes. Therefore, it is important to clean the aircraft to remove ANS before traveling, rather than after landing at new locations. In addition, it is important for you to incorporate the procedures listed here into the operation of your seaplane. However, plane safety is the first priority when considering and following these guidelines.

Seaplane Guidelines:

Before entering the aircraft-

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants from the floats, wires or cables, and water rudders;
- Pump floats, which may contain infested water; and
- If moored in waters infested by zebra mussels for extended periods, check the transom, chine, bottom, wheel wells, and step area of floats. If zebra mussels are present on the floats, you can use (any) one of the following methods to remove or kill them:

(1) Wash the floats with hot water.

Over, please

(2) Spray the floats with high-pressure water.

(3) Dry all parts of the floats for at least 5 days.

Before takeoff-

- Avoid taxiing through heavy surface growths of aquatic plants before takeoff;
- Raise and lower water rudders several times to clear off plants. This will also minimize cable stretch and improve the effectiveness of the rudders for steering.

After takeoff-

- Raise and lower water rudders several times to free fragments of aquatic plants while over the waters you are leaving or while over land; and
- If aquatic plants remain visible on floats or water rudders, return to the lake and remove the plants.

Storage or mooring-

- Remove aircraft from the water, as is often done at seaplane bases, and allow all parts of the floats to dry. A few days of hot, summer temperatures will kill adult zebra mussels (longer drying times of up to 10 days are required to kill adult mussels during cool, humid weather); and
- Aircraft moored for extended periods in zebra-mussel-infested waters may have zebra mussels attached to the floats and should be cleaned regularly. In remote locations, where zebra mussels are present, but where there are no provisions for drying, spraying, or treating the floats with hot water, the best option available for preventing the spread of the mussels is to hand-clean the submerged portions of floats with a scrub brush and to physically remove adult mussels. (Aircraft moored for extended periods in zebra-mussel-infested waters may have zebra mussels attached to the floats and should be cleaned regularly.)