

It's not just a good idea, it's the Law!

Wisconsin law requires that you remove aquatic hitchhikers before you launch your boat or leave the access area. **Invasive species are now in 51 Forest County water bodies, and over 2000 statewide!** (see <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISByWaterbody.asp> for the complete list by county.)

5 Easy Tips That **DO** Make a Difference:

#1 Before leaving the water launch area, clear all visible plant and animal hitchhikers from the boat, trailer and equipment. Note that many types of invasive species are very small and easily overlooked. In fact, some aquatic hitchhikers, including zebra mussel larvae, are invisible to the naked eye. To prevent the transport of these aquatic hitchhikers, it is important to drain all water from the boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers and all equipment before you leave the launch area.

#2 Dispose of unused bait properly. Minnows obtained from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer or registered fish farm may be transported and used again on the same waterbody (or on another waterbody if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container). Dispose of unwanted bait (including earthworms) in a trash can at the boat landing or access point. Otherwise, take them home and dispose of them by placing them in the trash, composting them, or using them in a garden as fertilizer. Any aquatic plants or animals that you collect, or buy in a pet store, should NEVER be released into the wild. (This is presumably how milfoil got started in the 1940s.)

#3 When possible, wait 5 days before putting your boat into a new body of water. Or, wash boat, trailer and equipment appropriately.

#4 Check lures and water sport accessories, and clean appropriately before your next launch.

#5 In Wisconsin, it is illegal to transport any aquatic plants, mud, live fish or live fish eggs away from any state waterbody. This includes live gamefish and roughfish.

Why It's Important to You



Whether they come in ballast water, on the hulls of recreation boats or from the water of an angler's bait bucket, many non-native species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil have found their way into Wisconsin's waterways. Their presence can cause severe damage to local ecosystems, industry and tourism.

The Wisconsin DNR is part of a strong partnership of public and private stakeholders in Wisconsin committed to an effective strategy of prevention, containment and control. The more you know about these invaders, the more you can do to help stop the spread to Wisconsin's precious waters.

Information provided by WDNR at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/species>

2019 Dates to Remember:

May 4	General hook and line fishing season opens
May 27	Memorial Day
June 1-2	Free fishing weekend
July 5	Lake Metonga Association annual meeting
July 6	4th of July Boat Parade-2 pm, and Picnic-3 pm (Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort)
July 27	Kentuck Day (Forest County Courthouse lawn)
September 14	Art in the Square (Forest County Courthouse lawn)
October 12	Lake Metonga Association Weeds 'n' Walleyes Banquet (Mole Lake Casino Convention Center)

The Lake Metonga Association, founded in 1970, is a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to preserving Lake Metonga. The Association works with the community and property owners to protect the aesthetic beauty, water quality, wildlife habitats and fisheries for future generations, and very much appreciates your cooperation and support of Wisconsin's Clean Boats – Clean Waters program.

LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 32, Crandon, WI 54520



Please!

Enjoy the lake today.
Help protect it for tomorrow.



Welcome to Lake Metonga!

This beautiful lake is home to many native aquatic plants and animals. Small mouth bass, walleye and perch are most abundant. Other panfish, largemouth bass, and northern pike are also found.

Unfortunately, invasive species including **rusty crayfish**, **zebra mussels** and **eurasian water-milfoil (EWM)** have hitchhiked their way into the lake on unknowing boats and trailers.



Please review these tips to do your part to prevent the spread of ALL invasive species in Wisconsin's waterways.

Thank you!

Fishing Regulations

Panfish

(Yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, sunfish, crappie)
Open all year. No minimum length, daily bag limit is 25.

Smallmouth bass

May 5, 2019 to June 15, 2019
Fish may not be harvested (catch and release only)

June 16, 2018 to March 3, 2020
Minimum length: 14", daily bag limit is 5

Largemouth bass

May 5, 2018 to June 15, 2018
Fish may not be harvested (catch and release only).

June 16, 2019 to March 3, 2019
Minimum length: 14", daily bag limit is 5

Northern pike

May 5, 2019 to March 1, 2020
No minimum length, daily bag limit is 5.


Walleye May 5, 2019 to March 3, 2019
Minimum length is 15", but walleye from 20" to 24" may not be kept, and only 1 fish over 24" is allowed. The daily bag limit is 3.

Bullheads


Open all year. No size limit, no daily limit.
Do not return to lake – bring to land, dispose or bury.


Legend


 EWM (Eurasian water milfoil)

 Bullrushes


 Rafting Areas

 Loon Nesting Areas *

 Eagle Nest

 Public Boat Launch

 Public Beach

 Public Fishing Pier

**When boating, skiing and jet skiing, please take extra precaution in the areas where loons are taking care of their offspring in the late spring-early summer period. While adult loons all around the lake can easily keep a safe distance from speeding boats by diving, baby and infant loons and their protective parents cannot. Until they are ready to swim on their own, infants ride on the adult loon's back making it impossible for the parent to dive out of the way to avoid boaters. And even after they can swim on their own, the young loons are often not prepared to avoid high speed boating activity.*

PLEASE NOTE: It should go without saying, but for those not knowing, harassment of loons is a federal offense under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 which protects over 1000 species of birds throughout the US and Canada. The statute makes it unlawful, without a waiver, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell any birds listed. The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds, and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs, and nests. Offenders can be fined up to \$5,000 and up to 6 months incarceration, plus state fines and penalties.

