

## Aquatic invasive species lurk under ice

Winter has arrived and lakes are starting to freeze. With this change in season comes placing your boat in storage and bringing out the ice auger, tip-ups and shanty.

However, the threat of aquatic invasive species doesn't go away when the lake starts to make ice. When on the ice please follow these rules to prevent the spread of zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive species.

- Inspect ice fishing equipment.
- Remove attached aquatic plants, mud

and animals before leaving the ice.

- Drain all water from equipment and containers containing fish prior to leaving the ice.
- Two gallons of water may be kept for minnows.
- Do not move live fish away from a water body.
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer and use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.
- Leftover minnows can be taken home and reused on the

same body of water. Leftover minnows can be used on other waters only if no lake water or fish were added to their container.

Remember it is up to all of us to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

John Preuss is the Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development aquatic invasive species coordinator for Lincoln, Langlade and Forest counties, and he can be contacted at (715) 369-9886 or [john-preuss@frontier.com](mailto:john-preuss@frontier.com)

