

Integrated Pest Management

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County

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Anti-fouling Paints and Boat Bottom Maintenance

3.5 Best Management Practices for Divers and Aquatic Invasive Species

Scuba diving, especially when moving between different waters, is a great way to transport aquatic invasive species.

Microscopic aquatic invasive larvae can easily be missed on wet suits and diving gear.

First do a thorough inspection of your wetsuit and dive gear (BEFORE you leave the dive access point) for visible plants, animals, and MUD on:

- Mask
- Snorkel
- Wet suit
- Dry suit
- Buoyancy compensator (BC)
- Weight belt
- Cylinder
- Regulator
- Booties
- Fins
- Underwater camera equipment
- Dive watch

- Watercraft
- Motor
- Trailer

Disinfect gear by:

- Soaking any gear possible used in a SALTWATER dive in 5% dishwashing liquid solution (1 cup/gallon).
 - NOTE: Do not discard used solution into body of water, discard in upland area.
- Soaking any gear possible used in a FRESHWATER dive in 3.5% salt solution, (½ cup/gallon) for 30 minutes.
 - Good for zebra mussel larvae, and small or larval aquatic invasives.
- Hot water rinse for inside and outside of gear when possible

BEFORE leaving water access make sure you drain water from ANY water containing devices.

DRY everything for FIVE days or more, especially if you are moving between waters.

- If drying is not possible, you should use a towel to wipe gear thoroughly before reuse.

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Funding provided by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Any opinions, findings, and/or interpretations of data contained herein are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretations, or policy of Rochester Institute of Technology and its NYS Pollution Prevention Institute or the State.

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