

REGULATORY ALERT FROM THE ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION – January 2016

Boaters and waterfront land owners should be aware of new regulations promulgated to curtail the spread of alien and invasive species (AIS).

NYSDEC has proposed for implementation this season a new 6 NYCRR Part 576 that will require all forms of boats and docks to be placed into the State's public waterways – including Oneida Lake and its tributaries – to be free of any plant or animal matter.

The draft language states that:

"No person shall launch, or attempt to launch, a watercraft or floating dock into a public waterbody unless the following reasonable precautions of (a) cleaning, (b) draining, and (c) treating have been taken:

(a) Cleaning. Cleaning shall include all of the following reasonable precautions:

1. inspecting the watercraft or floating dock and removing any plant or animal, or parts thereof, visible to the human eye, in, on, or attached to any part of the watercraft or floating dock, including livewells and bilges, the motor, rudder, anchor or other appurtenant, equipment or gear on the watercraft or floating dock that may come in contact with the waterbody; or the trailer or any other device used to transport or launch a watercraft or floating dock that may come into contact with the waterbody before launching into a public waterbody; and

2. any plants, animals, and parts thereof, including bait or other fish parts, visible to the human eye, shall be disposed by depositing these materials in a refuse receptacle where available or other receptacle designated for invasive species disposal, or if no receptacle is available, disposing the materials upland from the mean high water mark of the waterbody and in a manner to avoid contact by the material with the waterbody; and

(b) Draining. Draining shall include all of the following reasonable precautions:

1. draining water from the watercraft and the watercraft's motor, bilge, livewell, bait wells and ballast tanks and other areas of the watercraft capable of holding water before launching a watercraft into a public waterbody at a distance from the waterbody and in such a manner to avoid contact of the drainage with the public waterbody; and

2. for personal watercraft only, draining water from the cooling system of personal watercraft immediately following its removal from the water by running the motor out of water for five seconds, unless advised differently by the manufacturer and at a distance from the waterbody and in such a manner to avoid contact of the drainage with the public waterbody; and

(c) Treating. Treating shall include at least one of the following reasonable precautions:

1. Drying method. Treatment by drying must include one of the following steps:

i. Removing any boat cover and air dry watercraft, trailer or floating dock out of the water and in an area exposed to the sun or in a heated building for a minimum of five (5) days; or

ii. Storing watercraft and trailer or floating dock in subfreezing temperatures for a minimum of three (3) days; or

iii. If the drying methods described in subparagraph (i) or (ii) above and the rinsing methods described in paragraph 2 below are not available prior to launching, towel dry portions of the watercraft hull, engine, trailer and associated equipment that have been in contact with the waterbody prior to launching in another waterbody; or

2. Rinsing method. Treatment by rinsing must include one of the following steps:

i. If equipment is available at the launch site or other reasonably accessible location prior to launching, consistent with manufacturer's directions, spraying/rinsing hull and other external areas or equipment with high pressure (2,500 psi) hot water (140 degrees F for 30 seconds) at a location that does not drain into a waterbody;"

BE VIGILANT!!! AVOID TICKETS - FINES CAN BE IMPOSED!
Do your part to keep our waterways healthy.