

role in transporting these pests. It takes only one mistake to infect a new area. Think ahead, and save a watershed.

To protect Alaska's waters and native aquatic species, please follow these guidelines:

1. **CLEAN** — Rinse and remove any mud, sediment, and/or plant debris from all gear, boats, and boat trailers, floatplane rudders and floats, and anything that comes into contact with the water. Separate all pieces of wading footgear and waders (remove liners, etc.) to check for and remove visible mud, sediment and/or plant debris before leaving the area. Use a stiff bristle brush to clean all fishing gear.
2. **DRAIN** — Empty all water from coolers, bilge pumps, buckets, and wring out gear before leaving the boat launch or fishing areas.
3. **DRY** — Completely dry gear between waterbodies or trips. Equipment that remains damp can harbor small particles of invasive species that can remain viable for weeks. If drying gear completely is not possible-decontaminate!
4. **DECONTAMINATE** — Freeze gear until solid or wash gear in 140°F hot water scrubbing with a stiff bristle brush. If drying, freezing or heating gear is not feasible, use a 2% bleach solution to clean gear away from fresh water recreation sites. Spray or rinse gear for one minute. A 2% bleach solution can be made easily by mixing 2.5 oz. of chlorine bleach with tap water to make 1 gallon of solution.

NOTE: Bleach solutions may degrade gear made of absorbent materials. Please rinse gear on land, away from fresh water fishing areas and dispose of disinfectants as indicated on the label.

### **Alert! New Footwear Rules**

Research on invasive species pathways conclude that felt soled waders are an effective means for transmitting invasive organisms. The absorbent felt material can trap sediment and living organisms, including whirling disease spores, Didymo cells, and invertebrate larvae, deep within the fibrous matrix. Viable invasive organisms could be found within the fibers of felt soles even after various decontamination protocols were implemented. Furthermore, rubber boots and felt alternatives trap significantly fewer organisms than felt and can be cleaned, dried and decontaminated much more effectively. To reduce the potential for invasive species to be moved to or between Alaska waters the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game have enacted regulations prohibiting felt soled wading footwear use while hunting or fishing in fresh water in Alaska. See [Sport Anglers Prohibited from Using Felt Soles in Fresh Waters of Alaska](#) for more information.

The Alaska Board of Game has deemed invasive species a significant potential threat to Alaska's aquatic ecosystems. Effective January 1, 2013, **felt-soled waders and wading boots will no longer be legal** footwear when hunting in Alaska's fresh water.

### **Other Legal Requirements**

You should also be aware of one other way that anglers and boaters can compromise the ecosystems they value: That's through moving live fish, aquatic invertebrates (including legal or illegal bait) or plants from one place to another. These types of actions are against the law, unless you have gotten an authorizing permit from ADF&G.

It is also unlawful to release any live aquarium or bait fish into local waters. Read more about the