



ANGLERS | Action Plan

When invasive species enter our waters, they can eat native species, out-compete them for food and habitat and introduce and spread disease.

Learn what you can do to stop them from taking over.

KNOW THE RULES

It's illegal to:

- Import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade prohibited invasive species in Ontario. If you catch one, you must destroy it right away so it can't reproduce or spread. Don't return it to the water.
- Stock fish into Ontario waters without a permit.
- Transport live fish over land (except baitfish) without a permit.
- Transport baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, into or out of a Bait Management Zone, with limited exceptions.
- Introduce aquatic species to areas where they are not naturally found.

Sport fish transported over land must be dead and should be transported on ice, not in a livewell filled with water.

KNOW THE RULES FOR BAIT MANAGEMENT ZONES

As of January 1, 2022, Ontario is separated into four [Bait Management Zones](#) (BMZs).

BMZs limit the movement of baitfish and leeches between zones to help reduce the risk of anglers introducing invasive species or diseases.

KNOW YOUR FISHING HOLE

You can't use bait in some sensitive rivers and lakes. Visit [Fish ON-line](#) to learn if your favourite fishing spot is one of them.

NEVER DUMP YOUR BAIT INTO THE WATER OR ON THE ICE

It is illegal to deposit, or release into or within 30 metres of any waters (including onto the ice):

- live or dead bait or baitfish, including fish eggs, gametes or fish parts
- any water, soil or other materials you used to hold live or dead bait

FISHING WITH A BOAT

As of January 1, 2022, Ontario has regulated watercraft (boats) and watercraft equipment as a carrier of invasive species under the [Invasive Species Act](#).

These rules help prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in Ontario.

RINSE OUT YOUR LIVEWELL BEFORE TRAVELLING TO A NEW BODY OF WATER

Prevent the spread of fish-harming pathogens like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) by cleaning your livewell with a 1:10 solution of bleach and water.

DON'T MOVE PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES

It's illegal to import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade prohibited invasive species in Ontario. If you catch one, you must destroy it right away so it can't reproduce or spread. Don't return it to the water.

If you're boating in a body of water where prohibited invasive aquatic plants are found, avoid the infested area. You must also:

- avoid spreading these plants to another part of the body of water
- remove the plants from your boat, motor and trailer before travelling over land
- dispose of the plants so they won't end up back in the water

USE BAIT LAWFULLY

There are rules about the bait you can use and where you are allowed to transport bait in Ontario. For example:

1. Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, cannot be transported into or out of a BMZ, with some limited exceptions
2. You can only use crayfish in the same body of water you catch them in and can't transport them over land
3. Northern leopard frogs are the only species of frog that you can use as bait
4. Not all small fish or minnows are legal baitfish

Learn about the [laws and rules of fishing with live bait and which species of baitfish you can use as live bait](#).

REPORT INVADERS

Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at [Toll-free: 1-800-563-7711](tel:1-800-563-7711) to report an invasive species sighting or download the [EDDMapS Ontario app](#) to report an invader on the spot.

For more information on invasive species and a list of our partners, visit ontario.ca/invasionON