**§419-C. Prevention of the spread of invasive aquatic plants**

**1. Prohibition.**  A person may not:

A. Transport any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road; [PL 1999, c. 722, §2 (NEW).]

B. Possess, import, cultivate, transport or distribute any invasive aquatic plant or parts of any invasive aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, in a manner that could cause the plant to get into any state waters; [PL 2003, c. 627, §6 (AMD).]

C. After September 1, 2000, sell or offer for sale in this State any invasive aquatic plant or any plant of the species and varieties in the genus Myriophyllum that is indigenous to the State; or [PL 2023, c. 5, §2 (AMD).]

D. Fail to remove any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, from the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road; or [PL 2023, c. 190, §1 (AMD).]

E. Drain or release water held on or within a watercraft, allowing that water to enter any inland water body of the State. This restriction applies solely to water transported from a different water source. For the purposes of this paragraph, "watercraft" has the same meaning as in Title 12, section 13001, subsection 28. [PL 2023, c. 190, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 5, §2 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 190, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

**1-A. Draining of watercraft and equipment.**  Just prior to launching and when removing a watercraft from an inland water body and prior to transport away from the launch site, a person:

A. Shall remove or open any hull drain plugs, bailers, valves, live wells, ballast tanks and other devices designed for routine removal or opening and closing to encourage water to drain from areas containing water. Containers holding live baitfish for personal or commercial use are exempted from requirements in this subsection; and [PL 2023, c. 190, §3 (NEW).]

B. May not allow drains to be opened in a way that allows water to enter any inland water body of the State pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph E. [PL 2023, c. 190, §3 (NEW).]

For the purposes of this subsection, "watercraft" has the same meaning as in Title 12, section 13001, subsection 28.

Nothing in this subsection allows a person to directly or indirectly discharge pollutants into any inland water body of the State. This subsection does not apply to emergency response watercraft and their related equipment.

[PL 2023, c. 190, §3 (NEW).]

**2. Penalty.**  A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed $500 may be adjudged for the first violation and a forfeiture not to exceed $2,500 may be adjudged for a subsequent violation.

[PL 2001, c. 434, Pt. A, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 722, §2 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 434, §A6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 627, §§6,7 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 5, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 190, §§1-3 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.