

Nebraska Watercraft Inspection Protocol

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H.E.A.D is an acronym that can help you remember where to look for mussels on during entrance and exit inspections.

Use Log sheet on pg. 4 to document inspections

H = Hull and Trailer

E = Engine or Motor (including Transom)

A = Anchor, Anchor Rope and Equipment

D = Drain Interior Compartments

Watch a watercraft inspection demonstration at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaRquDXOsQk>

Hull and Trailer – Rapid Exterior Inspection

- Look over (visual) and feel (tactile) the entire watercraft on both sides of hull and trailer
- Physically inspect the through hull fittings and document those that are for ballast tanks
- Check trailer bunks or rollers, tire wells, lights and electrical
- Remove any plants or plant fragments that are present
- Ask the boater to remove the bilge plug when inspecting the transom
- Physically and visually inspect the bilge area (e.g. feel the bilge area) and use a flashlight to visually see if any ANS are present
- If applicable, have the boater activate the bilge pump
- If the watercraft has an inboard engine, be certain to inspect the prop, prop shaft and rudder

Engine or Motor

- Ask for the outboard or I/O to be lowered
- Visually and physically inspect the engine with a flashlight
- Visually and physically inspect the gimbal area of the outboard or I/O with a flashlight
- Visually and physically inspect the transom or rear of the boat including instruments such as pitot tubes or transducers

Anchor and Equipment Checked

- Ask to see the anchor and anchor rope or chain
- Visually and physically inspect the anchor and rope or chain for mud, plants and/or ANS
- Check any additional equipment such as life vests, buoys, paddles, ropes, nets, etc.
- Ensure all equipment is clean and dry

Drain and Check Interior Compartments

- Ask for permission to board the watercraft and ask the boater to climb in first. Follow the boater into the watercraft in the same way they entered. Be careful to prevent the boater(s) and inspection staff from falling or getting hurt
- Ask the boater to open up compartments so you can see all bait wells, live wells, equipment lockers and ballast tanks or bags
- If the watercraft has standing water in the bait well or in any container, the inspector should work with the boater to remove standing water from the watercraft using a pump, sponge, or towel
- Ballast Tanks and Bags – physically and visually ballast tanks and bags
- I/O or Inboard Engine: carefully inspect the engine compartment and its bilge
- Ensure that the compartments are fully drained and dry

Wakeboard Boats and Jet Boats normally have ballast tanks or ballast bags that do not completely drain, Follow the high risk inspection protocol on pg. 5 to inspect these watercrafts.

1. Educate—Why we Clean, Drain, and Dry

- Explain that zebra and quagga mussels have been found in neighboring states.
- Adult mussels and weeds can be transported on watercraft and equipment.
- Mussel larvae, weed seeds, and fish diseases can be transported in water.
- Remind that **Clean, Drain, and Dry** is the most effective way to stop the spread of mussels.

2. Ensure Watercraft Hull is Clean

- Look quickly for and remove all plants or mud.
- Ask to see the **anchor** and ensure it is not dirty and does not have plants, mud, or mussels on it.
- Feel along hull and on lower unit, if sandpaper like feel, conduct a **High Risk Inspection**.
- If any mussels are found, conduct a **High Risk Inspection** and send to decontamination.

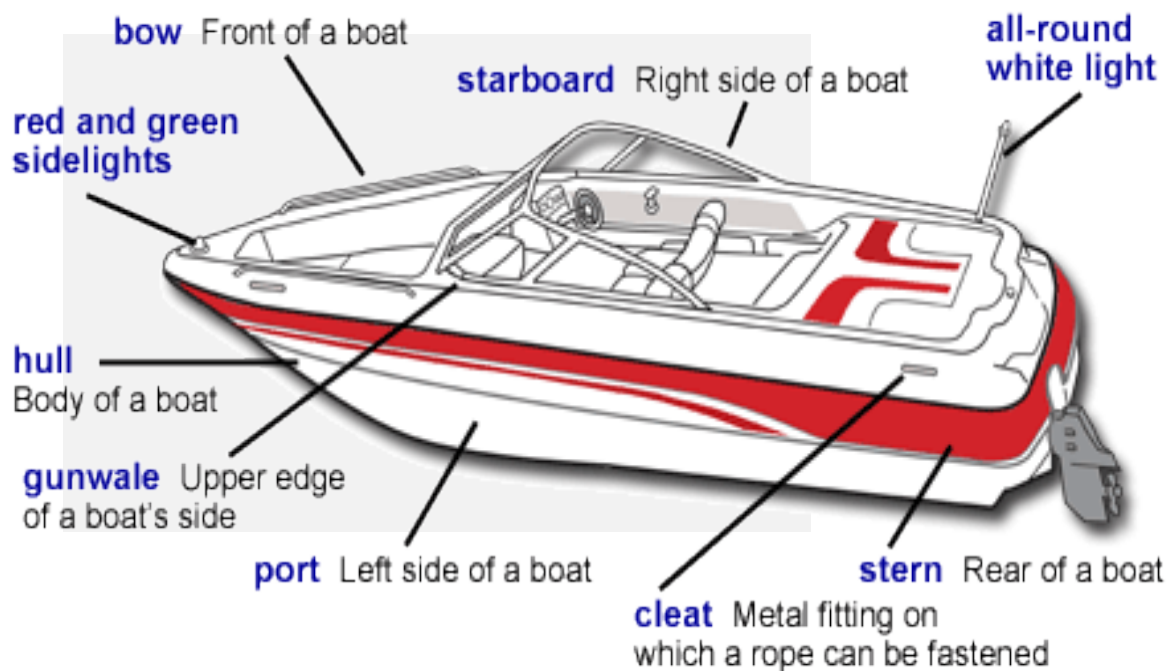
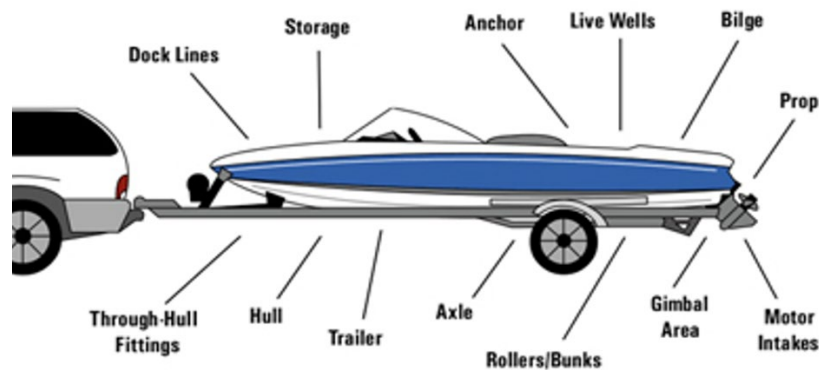
3. Ensure Watercraft is Drained

- Ask watercraft owner to open bilge plug (may need a tool) to show it is drained.
- Ask to see the live well and ensure it is drained.
- Ask to see ballast tanks or any other compartment with water and ensure they are drained.

4. Encourage Additional Cleaning and Drying

- Encourage them to clean watercraft with hot water and dry out equipment before next use.
- Thank them for protecting our boating and our lakes!

Inspect everything!



Can I disinfect my watercraft using bleach or other chemicals?

Hot water or drying are the recommended decontamination methods in Nebraska. Chemicals, such as bleach, have not been proven to be effective in disinfecting all AIS and may damage your watercraft and equipment, so caution should be taken. Vinegar can be an effective method to decontaminate areas that do not drain completely; however, again, this can damage your watercraft and equipment. Dipping equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes will help to kill harmful aquatic hitchhiker species. Chlorine and vinegar are corrosive to metal and toxic to fish at this concentration, so thoroughly rinse with tap water. **Ensure that the solution does not run-off directly into waterways.**

Also, a 1 % table salt solution for 24 hours can replace the vinegar dip. This table provides correct mixtures for the 1 % salt solution in water:

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt		Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3		50	6 1/4
10	1 1/4		100	12 2/3
25	3			

If hot water is not available, **spray** equipment such as boats, motors, trailers, anchors, decoys, floats, nets, **with high-pressure water, and always allow enough time to DRY Equipment.**

What is recommended if watercraft will be used again in less than five days from previous use?

Day Use Decontamination Procedures:

1. Remove any clinging material such as plants, animals and mud from anchor, boat, motor, and trailer.
2. Remove the plug (if applicable) and drain the water from the bilge, live-well and any other compartments that could hold water. Drain water from engine and engine cooling system(s).
3. Ensure watercraft, vehicle, equipment, or conveyance are allowed to dry completely.
4. Replace bilge drain plug and disinfect the bilge by pouring in not less than one gallon of vinegar; the vinegar can be drained from the bilge upon arrival at home (vinegar can be reused several times).

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION ACTIVITY LOG

*See line one for example; √ = Yes

Location: _____

Results	Other (describe on back)																			
	Clean, Drain, Dry Exit Inspection																			
	Refused inspection/decontamination																			
	Decontamination (vegetation)																			
	Decontamination (mussels found)																			
	Decontamination (suspected AIS)																			
	Decontamination (standing water)	√																		
Procedures Used	Closeout	√																		
	Watercraft Drained	√																		
	Interior and Equipment Checked	√																		
	Trailer Checked	√																		
	Motor Checked	√																		
	Watercraft Exterior Checked	√																		
Protocol Used	High Risk Inspection	√																		
	Standard Inspection																			
Determine Risk Factors	Large/complex watercraft	√																		
	Dirty below Waterline																			
	Infested Water w/in 30 days																			
	Out-of-state w/in 30 days	√																		
	Standing Water	√																		
Initial Contact & Assessment	Last Water/State Visited		Lake Mead-NV																	
	Seal Removed #		12345																	
	Trailer License Plate #		ABC-123																	
	Watercraft Registration #		NB 123 ABC																	
Inspector #/initials	Inspector #/initials		KLD																	
	Date		1-1-11																	

Inspection #

State of Nebraska

Water Code Date (month,day,year) Boat Registration #

HIGH RISK AIS INSPECTION FORM *For use on High Risk Trailered Watercraft

Inspection Location: _____ Date/Time: _____ Water Name: _____

Watercraft Registration # _____ Vehicle License # _____ Trailer License # _____

REASON FOR HIGH RISK INSPECTION (check all that apply)

- Used in state with known infested waters within last 30 days.
- Been in infested waters within last 30 days: Name/State of water _____ Date watercraft in infested water _____
- Big/Complex watercraft
- Voluntary Request
- Dirty/Crusty/Slimy below waterline
- Entering/Leaving marina
- Other:

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION (inspect very methodically and carefully)

Overall look and feel of the hull (check box):

- Clean/Smooth
- Bumpy/Sandpaper feel (if bumpy/sandpaper feel, then look at bumps with magnifying glass to see if mussels)
- Other:

Watercraft Exterior Checked

- Entire hull
- Trim tabs (top and bottom)
- Through hull fittings
- Transom
- Transducers
- Pilot tubes
- Centerboard box
- Anchors and ropes
- Depth sounders
- Water intakes/Outlets
- Water holding pockets
- Recessed bolts
- PWC—foot recesses
- Motor well
- Cavitations plate(s)
- Lights

Motor Checked

- Exterior housings
- Propeller and assembly
- Propeller shaft
- Prop., shaft supports
- Propeller guards
- Rudders
- Propulsion system
- Lower unit
- Gimbal area
- Water intake/Outlets

Trailer Checked

- Rollers, bunks, pads
- License plate
- Trailer lights
- Trailer wiring
- Trailer axels
- Trailer springs
- Fenders
- Pockets and hollows
- Wheels and tires
- Hangers

Interior/Equipment Checked

- Bait and live wells
- Internal ballast tanks
- PFD's
- Float cushions/belts
- Rope and equipment lockers
- Anchors
- Waterfowl decoys
- Nets
- Water skis and ropes
- Other equipment

Sailboats

- Centerboard box
- Rudder and transom
- Keel
- Fittings

Watercraft Thoroughly Drained

- Bilge plug or pump
- Bait and live wells
- Ballast tanks
- Drain lower unit on outboard
- Drain inboard motors fully by pulling plugs.
- Drain water cooled generators, swamp coolers with plugs
- Large watercraft- **ask driver to activate bilge pump.**
- If **entering** a reservoir with standing water and from infested water or state with known infested waters in last 30 days, send to decontamination!
- If **entering** a reservoir with standing water from non-infested state, require draining. For lesser volumes of water, assess risk to determine whether to decontaminate.
- If **leaving**, drain and educate about Clean-Drain-Dry.
- Closeout (if nothing is found)** Ask owner to replace bilge or other plugs
- Yell "stand clear"
- Thank them for draining, cleaning, drying

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION FINDINGS (check all that apply)

- Did not find** any identified or suspected AIS species
- Found:** ___ Large volume of water ___ Suspected AIS in water ___ Mussels ___ Vegetation ___ Other: _____
Location(s): _____

Action Taken: ___ Decontaminated ___ Drained

INSPECTION COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE PROCEDURES:

Inspected by (print # and name): _____

Inspected by (signature): _____