



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.

1. 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.
- 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.

2. NEVER DUMP YOUR BAIT INTO THE WATER OR ON THE ICE

It's illegal to release your bait or dump the contents of your bait bucket into any body of water, including onto the ice. You must dispose of your bait at least 30 metres from any body of water.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. USE LOCAL BAIT

Collect or purchase your bait as close as possible to where you plan to fish. This reduces the risk of introducing species or diseases that aren't normally found in the area.

There are rules about the bait you can use in Ontario. For example:

- You can only use crayfish in the same body of water you catch them in and can't transport them over land.
- Northern leopard frogs are the only species of frog that you can use as bait
- Not all small fish or minnows are legal baitfish.

Learn about the 48 species that can be used as live bait in Ontario.

6. REPORT ALL INVADERS

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

7. STOP THE INVASION

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, visit ontario.ca/invasionON to download action plans for Boaters, Hikers, Cottagers and Gardeners.

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