



## CBI Newsletter

Getting Started

May 2015

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The Courtesy Boat Inspection program is the first line of defense against the spread of invasive aquatic plants. This newsletter is a way for inspectors around the state of Maine to stay connected and informed.

Do you have a great CBI story? Would you like to share your experiences with other CBIs around the state? Submit an article with photo to [mary@leamaine.org](mailto:mary@leamaine.org) and maybe you will be in the next CBI Newsletter!

### What makes a good inspection?

The ability to approach and speak to boaters is one of the most important skills an inspector needs to be effective.

Creating a relationship with boaters is an important step which allows an inspector to educate the boater about the importance of self inspection. Each year CBIs across the state watch the Courtesy Boat Inspector training video. For years this video has been and continues to be a valuable tool for CBIs. It illustrates how an inspector can approach a boater and the positive, friendly attitude with which the inspection process should take place. No matter how many times you have seen it this video will always provide good information. Watch it now!



CBI Training Video

### Updated Inspection Form

At this year's Milfoil Summit many coordinators brought up the fact that there are multiple lakes of the same name in one state. When a boater reports that their previous waterbody visited was Long Pond in Maine that can create some confusion. The DEP decided to update the form to include town along with the lake name. This will give inspectors another way to engage the boater and increase the depth of the data collected. We have also added a clarification in the top two lines. We changed the "Time" box to "Shift Time". This space is where you write in your actual shift time. If you have a busy day and there is more than one form the top two lines on all should be identical. Click on the photo of the inspection form to download a copy.

# Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg?



The "word" above is the name of a lake in central Massachusetts. While this is an extreme case there may be times when you have trouble spelling a lake name. Many times inspectors will take their best guess and sound out the spelling of a lake name. While this method is better than not writing anything this is an area where we can improve the inspection form data. The Lakes of Maine website is a great source; not only for the correct lake names but also as a general resource for water quality and lake research data. Visit the website: [www.lakesofmaine.org](http://www.lakesofmaine.org) today. Once in the Lakes of Maine web site, you can easily call up an alphabetical list of all lakes in Maine. Simply click in the lake search box on the home page, and without entering any criteria in the box, hit "Search". You get an alphabetical list of all lakes in the database, each one hyperlinked to the lake's page.

## The Importance of Good Data

Each summer Courtesy Boat Inspectors conduct tens of thousands of inspections. Each inspection is documented and at the end of the season the DEP enters that information into a database. The more inspections that are done the more vital and robust our program becomes. Each inspector within their organization adds to the pool of data collected from hundreds of people throughout the state. You are not alone! We all work together to maintain and enhance this program.

There are some very common mistakes that occur in almost every one of Maine's 50+ CBI programs. Some mistakes are small and don't seem to be a big deal but when you multiply that mistake by a hundred it can cause a drop in the quality of overall data. Here are a couple of hints to help you improve your data collection:

1. The most common mistakes are leaving something blank, usually forgetting to circle whether someone has a sticker or if there were plants found on the boat. These seem like small things but they are also the easiest to fix.
2. Make sure that the top two lines of your form are filled out completely and accurately. Remember that if you have more than one survey form per shift the top two lines on all forms should be identical.
3. Write legibly! Before turning your inspection forms in make sure the handwriting is neat and readable. If you have had issues with handwriting in the past show it to someone else and if they can't read parts of it redo it! You can always transcribe an inspection form at the end of your shift.
4. **Always double check your inspection forms at the end of your shift.** Make sure each line is filled out entirely. If you have forgotten to circle something it is better to catch it early as the inspections you did that day will be fresh in your mind.

Check out these inspection forms from last year. See if you can find the mistakes.

"Clean, Drain, Dry" - New message for boaters

Maine DEP Invasive Species staff urges Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) to express to boaters the importance of emptying live wells, bait buckets and bilge water to prevent the introduction of spiny water flea (and other tiny invasive organisms) to Maine lakes. Found in Lake Champlain in late summer 2014, the spiny water flea poses a threat to native fishery food sources.

Originating in Eurasia, spiny water flea isn't a flea at all but a zooplankton (tiny animal). This tiny invasive zooplankton is easily overlooked by humans because of their size (less than ½ inch when mature). Humans are primarily responsible for their rapid spread. Besides easy transport in standing water, spiny water fleas also attach to fishing lines, nets, waders, lures, anchors, and motors. At peak abundance fishing may become impossible because so many have attached to lines preventing the angler from reeling in the line (see the picture).



Spiny Water Fleas Photo by Emily DeBolt, Lake George Assn.

The ½ inch spiny water flea has a long barbed tail, collects on lines as a gelatinous blob and lives in open, cold waters. The long barbed tail protects it from predators, particularly small fish and the young of larger fish. It is a voracious predator of organisms eaten by native plankton and fish, leading to direct competition for food of native species and ultimately affecting the food web.

Maine waters are a hospitable environment for the spiny water flea as it adapts rapidly to environmental extremes (low temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and a wide range of pH). About the only thing it cannot tolerate is desiccation; both the eggs and adults do not survive drying out.



Spiny Water Flea on fishing line. Photo by Emily DeBolt

Therefore, the most effective way to prevent the spread of spiny water flea is for boaters to drain their bilge, live wells, and bait buckets before leaving the ramp as well as inspect and completely dry all part of their boat, trailer, and fishing equipment before launching into another water body (five days in the sun is recommended). Complete drying will kill all life stages of the spiny water flea. DEP Invasive Species staff realizes complete drying isn't practical in many instances but it's something inspectors can recommend to boaters to further

limit the spread of invasive species.

Based on past CBI data, we know that boats from Lake Champlain visit Maine lakes. Maine CBI's can help reduce the risk of spread of these tiny creatures by sharing the prevention message "Clean, Drain, Dry". See the "Where and What to Inspect" section on page 3 in the [CBI Handbook](#) for more information on the message and visit the Lake Champlain Basin Program website for more information on the spiny water flea: <http://www.lcbp.org/water-environment/aquatic-invasive-species/ais-in-the-lak/>