

Subdivision (i) of § 377.1 of Title 9 NYCRR is amended by adding new paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 to read as follows:

(8) Prior to launching, or attempting to launch a boat or watercraft from a boat launch site, a fishing access site, or any other site from which a boat or watercraft can be launched, or leaving such site, the operator shall:

(i) inspect the boat or watercraft for plants, aquatic life, animals, or parts thereof, which are visible, in, on, or attached to any part, including livewells and bilges; the motor, rudder, anchor or other appurtenants; any equipment or gear; or the trailer or any other device used to transport or launch the boat or watercraft that may come into contact with the waterbody; and

(ii) remove any plant, aquatic life or animal, or parts thereof, observed during inspection prior to launching or leaving the site and dispose of it in designated receptacles provided at the site, or if no such receptacle is provided dispose of it in such a manner to avoid contact of the material with the waterbody.

(9) (i) An operator of a boat or watercraft shall not arrive at a boat launch site, a fishing access site, or any other site from which a boat or watercraft can be launched, or leave such a site after exiting a waterbody, without having drained the boat or watercraft, including bilge areas, livewells, bait wells and ballast tanks.

(ii) An operator of a boat or watercraft shall drain the watercraft, including bilge areas, livewells, bait wells and ballast tanks at a distance from the waterbody and in such a manner to avoid contact of the drainage with the waterbody.

(10) The provisions of paragraphs 8 and 9 of this subdivision shall not apply to:

(i) plants not otherwise defined in law or regulation as invasive species affixed to or transported in watercraft for use as camouflage for hunting or wildlife viewing purposes;

(ii) bait, including baitfish, legally used on a waterbody and possessed consistent with all applicable laws and regulations;

(iii) the use of plants or animals for habitat restoration, weed control, scientific research, or other activity approved by the office, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations; or

(iv) a dog or other companion animal as defined in section 350 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.