

AIS Word Search

M U S S E L S M A B G W R J A
A S G Z S D B W H I R L I N G
H C J O E C L E A N U E R Q E
S P R E A D K D I F Q U Z E G
D S H Z F V Y Q Y X H R U A A
C I N V A S I V E L Y A D V Q
G H I T C H H I K E R S M T U
R P S M I L F O I L I I B T A
N B A L L A S T H X Y A V R T
G S C C J C M M F L L Z Q O I
D L F J N K A X E M A S U U C
N L H F I L T E R R K U A T M
S E T G H W N X V N E O G R Q
S Q G D T R J B H M S W G U J
Z E B R A O D I D Y M O A B V

Search for the words in bold in the puzzle above. Words are arranged up, down, and backwards.

Aquatic **Invasive** Species (AIS) threaten to Montana's **aquatic** resources. Many AIS are from **Eurasia**. AIS reach North America as **hitchhikers** in the **ballast** water of ocean cargo ships. Most AIS are introduced to the Great **Lakes**. From there they spread to inland waters via recreational boaters. **Zebra** and **Quagga** mussels are two of the worst AIS. These **mussels** can attach to any hard surface and reach incredible numbers. These mussels are **filter** feeders and interfere with food webs and nutrient cycles.

Whirling disease is a parasite that effects young **trout** and can be spread by humans and animals.

Didymo is an algae that can blanket stream bottoms and lead to shifts in macroinvertebrate populations.

Eurasian water **milfoil** is an aggressive competitor that reduces native aquatic plant populations. It will **spread** by tiny fragments that attach to boats or boat trailers. Once AIS are established they are impossible to get rid of. AIS spread can be reduced if we **clean**, drain and dry our fishing or boating gear after each use.