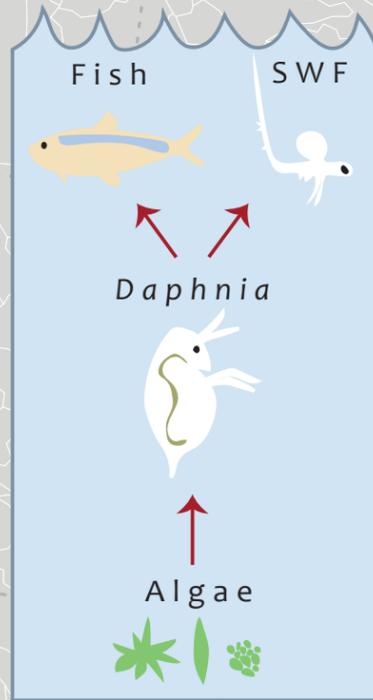
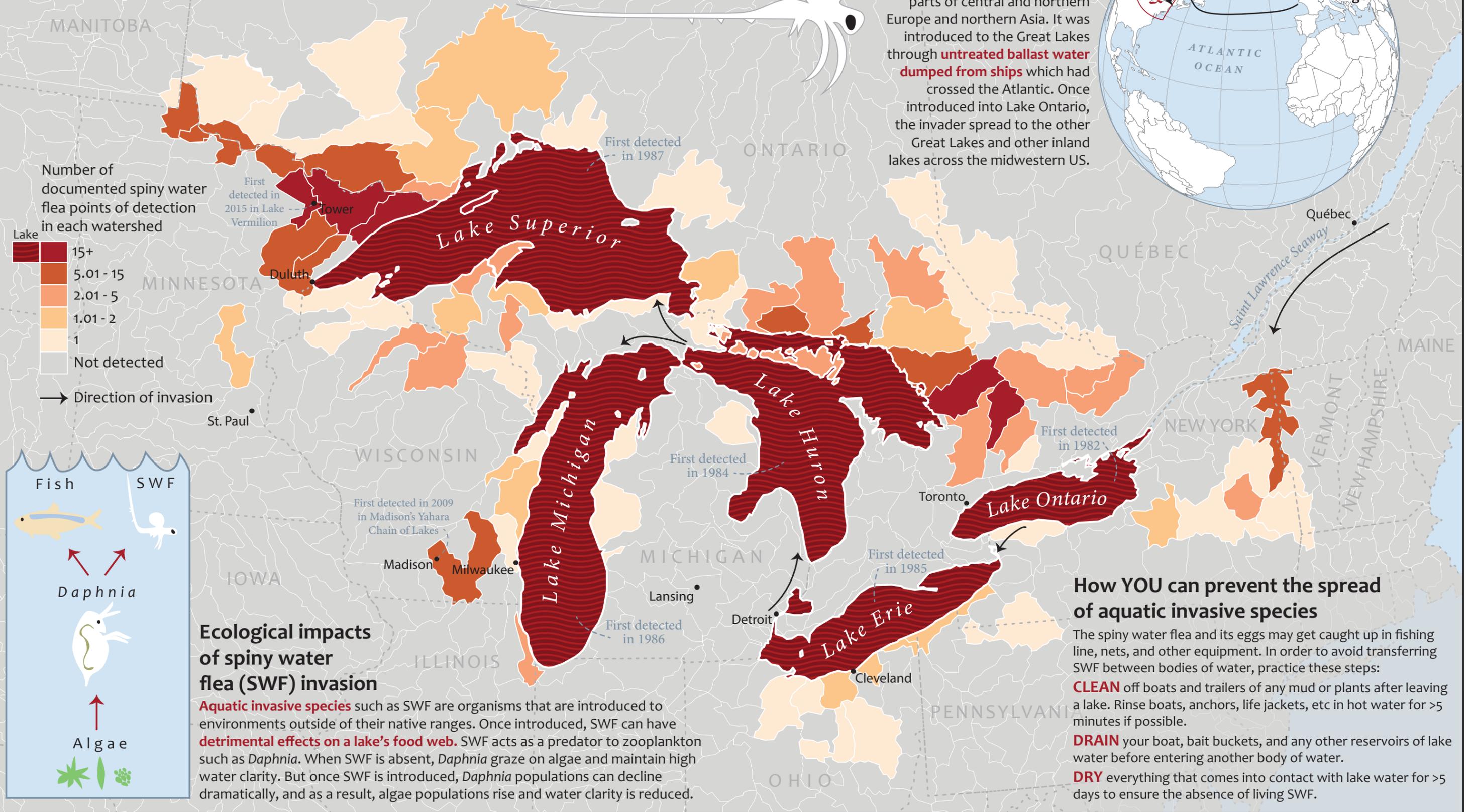


A TINY INVADER: The Spread of the Spiny Water Flea Across the Great Lakes Region

Invasion to the US

The spiny water flea is native to parts of central and northern Europe and northern Asia. It was introduced to the Great Lakes through **untreated ballast water dumped from ships** which had crossed the Atlantic. Once introduced into Lake Ontario, the invader spread to the other Great Lakes and other inland lakes across the midwestern US.



How YOU can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

The spiny water flea and its eggs may get caught up in fishing line, nets, and other equipment. In order to avoid transferring SWF between bodies of water, practice these steps:

- CLEAN** off boats and trailers of any mud or plants after leaving a lake. Rinse boats, anchors, life jackets, etc in hot water for >5 minutes if possible.
- DRAIN** your boat, bait buckets, and any other reservoirs of lake water before entering another body of water.
- DRY** everything that comes into contact with lake water for >5 days to ensure the absence of living SWF.