

# Rock Spot

## Biology

- Invasive aquatic algae native to circumpolar climates
- Green, white, yellow, or brown masses coat streambeds
- Slimy in appearance, feels like wet wool
- Stalks attach this diatom to rocks and plants, and reach 3 feet in length
- Stalk ends shred and look like paper



River invaded by Rock Spot

## Spreading Mechanisms

- Contaminated fishing gear, water craft, paddles, lifejackets, anchors
- A single microscopic algal cell goes unnoticed on gear and is transported to new waterways



## Problems

- Established in New York state
- Massive algal blooms smother stream bottoms, reducing habitat for and killing native species
- Decreased invertebrate and plant populations result in diminished food availability for fish
- Fouls fishing gear
- Remains viable out of water if conditions are moist



Shredded stalk ends

## What YOU can do

- Remove all plants, fragments, animals, mud and debris from gear and boat, discard in trash
- Drain bilge water, livewells, and bait buckets prior to leaving access
- Soak and scrub waders and other gear in soapy hot water for 10 minutes
- If cleaning is not possible, dry equipment for 48 hours