

**Press Release** – For immediate release please!

### **Remember Prevention Steps for this Weekend's Opener!**

The fishing season opener is full of traditions for many families. While out on the water—remember to practice the tradition of prevention to stop the spread of any aquatic invasive species (AIS) or diseases.

- **Drain** all water from the boat, containers and fishing equipment when leaving any state waters, banks or shores; this includes temporarily dropping a motor to drain it.
- **Inspect** the boat, motor, trailer and equipment for attached plants and animals.
- **Clean** off all plants animals, mud, and debris from the boat, motor, trailer and equipment before entering a roadway.
- **Rinse** down the boat, trailer, and equipment, if possible, before entering another water body, **OR**
- **Dry** boat, trailer and equipment for 5 days.

There are additional steps to follow when angling:

- Never move live fish away from any water body—ice your catch.
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.
- If these minnows are kept in the same water, they can be reused anywhere.
- If these minnows had water or other fish added to their bucket from where you are fishing, use them **only** on that water body.

Following these steps is crucial for the protection of the water resources and fisheries of the state. To help remind and assist you with these steps, watercraft inspectors will be at landings across the region. They are part of the Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) Program of the state which helped contact over 111,080 people and inspect over 50,070 boats across the state in 2008. 92% of boaters said they inspected their boat and equipment for plants and removed any found, and another 90% said they drained all water from their boat and equipment. These actions most certainly slow down the AIS/disease spread, but the goal for any prevention is 100% compliance! Lets make 2009 the 100% year!

If you want to take a more active role in prevention, attend a CBCW and AIS Monitoring workshop! There will be a CBCW Workshop May 7<sup>th</sup> in Cable, and an AIS Monitoring workshop June 25<sup>th</sup> in Iron River. Check out these programs websites for additional workshops in the region.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/cbcw/>

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/clmn/>

For additional prevention information, view these websites,

[http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs\\_prevent.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs_prevent.html)

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

or contact the Bayfield County AIS Coordinator, Stefania Strzalkowska, 373-6167, [sstrzalkowska@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:sstrzalkowska@bayfieldcounty.org)