



# Waukesha County

## Department of Parks and Land Use

Contact: Cassie Taplin  
Phone: 262-483-9687

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019

### **ANGLERS URGED TO DRAIN LIVEWELLS TO HELP PROTECT WISCONSIN WATERS FROM INVASIVES AND DISEASE**

*Statewide 2019 Drain Campaign, May 31- June 2*

**(WAUKESHA, WI)** – Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) staff urge boaters and anglers to drain live wells, bait buckets, motors, and bilges before leaving a boat launch to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and fish diseases between lakes, rivers and streams.

“Water left in boats can transport fish diseases and aquatic invasive species between waters,” said Cassie Taplin, the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Washington and Waukesha Counties. “Anglers are our greatest spokespeople for the annual Drain Campaign because they are passionate about protecting their waters.”

Volunteers from the *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* project will talk with boaters at launches around the state during the statewide Drain Campaign from May 31 – June 2. Many locations will also provide free icepacks to remind people that icing is the best way to keep fish fresh. “Ice is a great way to keep your fish fresh, since it inhibits bacterial growth and protects the flavor,” added Taplin.

The following steps are required by law to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- **INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
- **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash – **CONTAIN YOUR CRAWLERS.**
- **BUY** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.
- Only use **LEFTOVER** minnows on the same body of water or on other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been added to the container.

For more information, contact Cassie Taplin, AIS Coordinator for Washington and Waukesha Counties at (262) 483-9687 or [Cassie.Taplin@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:Cassie.Taplin@co.washington.wi.us).

To learn more about Waukesha County’s invasive species program, visit:  
[www.waukeshacounty.gov/aais](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/aais) or <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives>.

###