**PROTECTING THE LAKES**

Draining livewells and boats can stop invasive species in their tracks

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

People may know to inspect their boats for weeds before they leave the lake, but they may not know that some of Wisconsin’s worst aquatic invasive species (AIS) can spread through transported water.

Scott Caven (aquatic invasive species coordinator with the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department) and Jared Neibauer (AIS technician with the department) with their display on invasive species at the Vaughn Library in Ashland. They are helping to raise awareness among boaters, anglers, hikers, bikers, ATV users, and other outdoor enthusiasts about the role they play in preventing the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

“People may know to inspect their boats for weeds before they leave the lake, but they may not know that some of Wisconsin’s worst aquatic invasive species (AIS) can spread through transported water,” said Caven, “but ice is a legal and better alternative.”

University of Wisconsin-Extension’s AIS Communications Specialist Debra Feiler said the campaign came about based on feedback from anglers.

“Across the state, anglers were telling us the rules on fish and water transport just aren’t as clear to them. The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and our AIS partners listened, and we’re trying to help spread the word and offer a good alternative,” she said.

Caven explained that once the day’s catch is out of water, the fish are not considered live and can be transported safely home. Since fish need to be kept fresh on the road, Caven suggests an alternative to livewells that is already preferred by many anglers too.

To help anglers out, the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department handed out ice packs at local fishing events on June 15-16 as part of a statewide effort.

“We know some folks are used to taking their catch home live,“ said Caven, “but ice is a legal and better way to keep those fish fresh. It stops any bacterial growth, and then your catch isn’t exposing the fish larvae that concentrate in dissolved, low-oxygen water on the way home, which some say affects the taste.”

“You also don’t want that water making it to a new lake,” he said. “Fish diseases or very small invasive species can get around that way.”

“Using a bucket for five days can help kill any AIS in residual water, but Caven said a simple disinfection process can do the job for those who plan to change lakes around too.”

“You can follow the DNR’s policy for when they move their boats, he says, but also posted: ‘Mix up one tablespoon bleach per one gallon of water, spray it on, and keep your boat and live well wet with that for 10 minutes. It also works for gear.’

**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Pam Roberts (NCWMA coordinator) along with Sarah Moodie and Mikayla Jocakel (NCWMA interns) with their display on invasive species at the Vaughn Library in Ashland.

**Fish Fry & Clam Bake**

July 5th–8th PM to 9 PM

LCO Convention Center
All-You-Can-Eat!

Beach Gare $15.95
Advanced Beach Gare/Student $12.95
City of Beach Gare/Student $9.95

Everyone under 6 & over 60 eats for free!

Tickets available at Conv. Center Ticket Booth.
Reservations recommended:
715-634-6045 11 AM - 7 PM

“A famous Red Lake Walleye” from Red Lake Nation Fishery.

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Party Club members get one free entry for this promotion. Stop by Customer Service for more information.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

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