

## **Ripple Effect # 58 - Boating and Aquatic Invasive Species**

Fishing or riding boats on the lakes is a favorite summer past time for many of us. Want to make sure that those lakes stay healthy?

This is the perfect time to review the boater's checklist for launching your boat. Just four routine steps:

- Remove all aquatic plants, mussels or other visible organisms and put them in the garbage.
- Drain the water from your boat, including the motor, livewell and bilge.
- Never release live bait! If you have left-over bait, empty the bait bucket on land, or freeze or salt the bait to use later.
- And don't forget to remove organisms you can't see – on your boat, your waders and your gear. You can do this by rinsing with hot water, or spraying with high-pressure water, or drying in the sun for 5 days.

These simple measures can help insure that unwelcome species won't strip your favorite lake of its health and beauty and that you can enjoy its pristine waters and aquatic life for many years ahead.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.