


WISE WATER WAYS

make our lake blue



Environmentally Responsible Boating...begins on land

Warm and sunny weather is in the forecast. The water is warm, the car is packed, the boat and trailer are ready. A perfect opportunity for some recreational boating, as long as we don't take water quality for granted.

Most boaters act responsibly and share in protecting water quality. All boaters can help prevent water pollution problems by making simple changes in the way they handle fuel and motor oil, sewage, garbage, and critical boat and trailer maintenance.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS It's the Law (Public Acts 03-136 and 04-203)

Boaters must inspect their vessel for vegetation and properly remove and dispose of any vegetation before transporting the vessel. You can be fined up to \$100 and may have to appear in court for failure to comply.

Boaters and anglers can prevent the spread of non-native aquatic species from invading our waters. According to the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, an increasing number of damaging aquatic species are invading the waters of Connecticut. Zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil are most familiar to

anglers, but other exotic species may cause problems as well. You can help prevent the spread of problem species by following these simple suggestions!

Before leaving a boat launch:

1. Completely drain all water from the boat, including bilge water, livewells, and engine cooling systems.
2. Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment. Remove and discard all aquatic plants and animals you may have picked up while on the water.

At home:

1. Rinse boat, trailer, and equipment with tap water. A bleach solution can be used to clean livewells. Dispose of all rinse material properly!

Please:

1. Don't dump your bait bucket or release live bait! Avoid introducing unwanted plants and animals. Unless your bait was obtained on site, dispose of it in a suitable trash container.
2. Do not transport fish, other animals, or plants between water bodies. Release caught fish, other animals, and plants only into the waters from which they came from.



Produced
by
East
Hampton
Parks and
Recreation
Department

Summer 2009
Vol. 1, No. 2

Page 1



Environmentally Responsible Boating

GARBAGE

Good boaters know **bring back what you take out on the boat.** It is **ILLEGAL** to dump anything plastic into navigable waters around the world.

To reduce the chance of trash going overboard, remove excess wrapping on shore and carry food in reusable containers. Keep a supply of trash bags on board, and be sure to take the full garbage bags off the boat and dispose of them properly.

While moored or docked, pick up any trash or litter on the shore and encourage your youngsters to do the same.

SEWAGE AND FISH WASTE

It is **ILLEGAL** to dump or discharge untreated sewage into Connecticut waterways. It is important to prevent introducing pathogens and nutrients into lakes and rivers.

If the boat does not have a toilet, remember to use the rest rooms before heading out and then be sure to make frequent stops. If using a portable

toilet, be sure to empty it on shore, not into the water.

Pouring live bait into fresh water increases the chances of introducing invasive species such as zebra mussels into the water. Throwing fish guts into the water near the shore can add to low dissolved oxygen during the hot summer months.

Recycle fish waste and bait by freezing it for the next trip, or simply bury it in your garden for fertilizer.

FUEL AND MOTOR OIL

Small spills caused by overfilling tanks or pumping out oily bilge water adds up to millions of gallons of toxic petroleum-based fuels ending up in the water each year.

When filling your fuels tanks, remember that fuel expands in hot weather. To avoid overfilling fuel tanks and prevent splash-backs, don't rely on automatic shut off nozzles, instead listen to the filler pipe and don't try to "top it off".

In the event of fuel or lubricant spills, keep an oil absorbent pad on the boat to clean up any drips. Dispose of any clean-up materials at a marina waste oil recycling station.



Resources Cited and Acknowledgements

State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Connecticut Sea Grant Extension Program

EPA