



## Western States and Provinces Best Management Practices to Comply with State/Provincial Laws and Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

### Prevent Delays and Reduce Costs Associated with Transporting, Buying, and Selling Boats

Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, pose a threat to the economy and natural resources of western states and provinces. In addition, fines and costly delays associated with transporting boats with aquatic invasive species can affect you and others in the recreational boating industry.

In an effort to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Regional Panel, and others are making information on state laws and best management practices available to boat haulers, auctioneers, marinas, manufacturers, and brokers to make it easy to comply with state, provincial and federal laws, prevent costly delays in transporting or selling boats, and help reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.

A few key facts you should know:

#### **It's the Law!**

A U.S. federal law, called the Lacey Act, makes it illegal to transport invasive species regulated by federal or other jurisdictional laws into the U.S. and across state and international borders. In addition, the western states and provinces have enacted legislation to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. Businesses and individuals have been cited for transporting boats into and through western states and provinces with invasive mussels attached, resulting in costly fines and significant delays.

#### **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY**

If you follow these three simple steps, your chances of experiencing any delays or fines associated with transporting or selling a boat are minimized. A Clean, Drained, and Dry boat has no plants or animals attached and is not carrying water in its wells,

ballast, or engine. Most states have drain plug laws – any boat out of water should have a pulled drain plug.



#### **Communication Prevents Delays**

The western state and provincial AIS coordinators know the laws and regulations for their jurisdictions, and they're available to assist you by informing you of their laws and providing you with any other tools and information you need to successfully transport a boat, or sell/auction a boat, particularly those coming from water bodies infested with aquatic invasive species. Contact any western state or provincial AIS coordinator via our website:



<https://www.westernais.org/watercraft>

## Boat Haulers - Call Before You Haul

Here's what you can do to comply with state laws and help prevent the spread:

Access our website

<https://www.westernais.org/watercraft> to become familiar with information about moving a boat between states or from one water body to another.

If you are transporting a boat:

- **CLEAN** the boat – Remove all plants, animals, and mud, and thoroughly wash everything, especially FROM all crevices and other hidden areas. Inspect the plumbing system for hitchhikers!
- **DRAIN** the boat – Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water. Pull the drain plug!
- **DRY** the boat.
- **ALWAYS CONTACT** the destination state or province to understand the laws and regulations that jurisdiction has for boats coming from other states. To minimize travel delays and ensure compliance with laws, an inspection of your watercraft will be scheduled in your destination state.

**CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL**  
1-844-311-4873

States have requirements for commercially hauled watercraft. If you are transporting a boat to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or Montana, **Call Before You Haul** to avoid costly delays.

**You Provide . . .**

- Waterbody origin
- Travel route
- Time frame
- Destination
- Hauler and boat owner contact info
- Last waterbody
- Est. time out of water

**What Happens After You Call?**

The destination state will contact you to ensure your boat is inspected, and if necessary, decontaminated, before or upon arrival to its destination.

**Why is This Important?**

**Call Before You Haul** prevents unnecessary delays for you and your customers and ensures you will not be violating state or federal laws pertaining to unlawful transport of invasive species.

**Prevent Delays**

Aquatic invasive species hitchhike on boats, trailers, and motors in both visible and hidden locations. Trained professionals will inspect and certify your boat to prevent costly delays.

A commercial trucking company, or hauler, may be held legally responsible for violations of state law and the federal Lacey Act if a company driver is intercepted hauling a vessel infested with quagga or zebra mussels. Boat brokers may also be held liable if the broker contracts with an independent contractor to haul a contaminated watercraft across state lines. Save yourself costly delays - **Call Before You Haul** to ensure your destination state can provide you with the services needed to inspect your cargo. One toll-free call notifies all four western states.

An online map of regional watercraft inspection stations, and contact information for AIS coordinators in the western states and Canadian provinces is available at <https://www.westernais.org/watercraft>.

## Boat Auctioneers, Sellers and Brokers

Never sell a dirty boat. Period. When you do sell a boat, ensure you comply with the best management practices described in this brochure. Any boat you sell should be clean, drained, and dry so that the buyer does not unknowingly purchase, transport, and/or launch a dirty boat – and so that you help protect the boating industry and your livelihood. Do everything possible to ensure the individual that purchases the boat you auction, sell, or broker is aware of the information in this brochure. You have a vested interest in seeing that your boat buyer has a positive experience from the time he/she purchases a boat through to the time that boat launches in its destination waters.