

# ATTENTION



## **Boaters must drain all water from their vessels and receptacles when leaving or approaching any public body of fresh water in Texas.**

**This state rule applies to all types and sizes of boats, whether powered or not. Vessels must be drained, including livewells, bilges, motors and other receptacles.**

In addition:

- Live fish, including personally caught bait, cannot be transported in a vessel in water that came from the originating water body.
- Commercially purchased live bait, contained in water other than from a public water body, can be transported and used provided a receipt identifies the source of the bait. Live bait contained in water purchased from a location on or adjacent to a public water body that is transported in water that came from a public water body can only be used on that same water body.
- A vessel may be transported on a public roadway from one access point to another on the same water body during the same day without water being drained, provided the vessel is transported via the most direct route.
- Fishing tournament participants, limited to one water body, are allowed to transport live fish in water to an identified off-site weigh-in location (proof of tournament participation required). Before leaving the off-site weigh-in location, all water must be drained and properly disposed.

Please see the Texas Administrative Code (31 TAC §57.1001) for the complete rule.

## **Possession or transportation of prohibited aquatic invasive species is illegal.**

If your boat has been stored on a zebra mussel infested water body (see [TexasInvasives.org](http://TexasInvasives.org)) or you find zebra mussels attached, please contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for information on what to do before transporting your vessel to another water body. The vessel must be cleaned to ensure ALL zebra mussels – including those that aren't easily found – are removed. Having the vessel professionally cleaned and allowing it to dry thoroughly for at least a week helps ensure all mussels are removed and killed.

Please see Texas Administrative Code (31 TAC §57.112) for the complete rule.

**Report violations to (800) 792-4263**

**TexasInvasives.org**

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