



**For Immediate Release**  
May 22, 2008

**Contacts: James Schardt**  
Office: 312-353-5085  
Schardt.james@epa.gov

**Lisa Wojnarowski**  
Office: 312-407-0177  
lwojnarowski@cglg.org

### **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION LAUNCHES "CLEAN BOATS EVERY DAY"**

Chicago, Illinois -Through a new "Clean Boats Every Day" Initiative, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has declared the 2008 boating season a summer-long celebration of sustainable recreational boating throughout the Great Lakes. Through the Initiative, Great Lakes Governors, Mayors, Members of Congress, Tribes, Federal Agencies and other partners have joined forces to promote sustainable boating practices that will protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The basin-wide "Clean Boats Every Day" Initiative will be highlighting the work of several national, state, and local outreach campaigns. Events throughout the summer will help participants learn how to inspect, clean, and drain their boats in order to prevent the spread of AIS.

Recreational boating is a hugely popular activity in the Great Lakes and a significant component of the region's economy. Nearly 4.3 million boats are registered in the eight Great Lakes states. These boaters spend nearly \$16 billion on boats and boating activities in a single year. Recreational boating is also responsible for 250,000 jobs in the Great Lakes region. Recreational boaters can easily reduce the impact of their activities and help protect the Great Lakes.

More information on the "Clean Boats Every Day" Initiative, including a comprehensive list of events, is available at [www.glrc.us/](http://www.glrc.us/).

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) is a wide-ranging, cooperative effort to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

###