



Portland's Shane Nichols Wins Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest *In "Happiest Boater on the Water" category*

"There's no question that I was a happy boater that day," says Portland, Oregon resident Shane Nichols, 41. The broad smile in his photo displaying a 47-pound Chinook salmon he caught in the Columbia River says it all. "It was my personal biggest salmon to date," he noted.

Nichols' photo won a prize in the Happiest Boater on the Water category of the Focus on Fish Health photo contest, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS). It will be featured on the www.FocusonFishHealth.org website until mid-July when the June winners will go up.

Nichols, who has been fishing since he was seven years old and now goes out two to three times a week, was drawn to the www.FocusonFishHealth.org website and the photo contest. The USDA/APHIS-sponsored Focus on Fish Health campaign targets recreational boaters and fishermen with information about preventing the spread of fish diseases and invasive species.

"You won't find any more environmentally conscious people than we Oregonians," he says. "We've started having some trouble with zebra mussels and invasive aquatic plants and we are very concerned."

He washes his boat and drains his bilge water and water out of his motors every time he goes out. "It only takes five minutes and it can help preserve a fishing habitat for a lifetime," he says.

Contestants can enter the competition all summer long by submitting their photos to www.FocusonFishHealth.org. New winners are announced every month.