Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

1. Clean all aquatic plants and animals
2. Drain all water including bilge, livewells, transoms, bait buckets, motor and bilge tanks
3. Pull the plug and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while stripping the boat. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them do it too. Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so while you're cleaning your boat, please remember to also:

1. Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many invasive species have been transported in mud or in fishing line and rope.
2. Dump waste of洞察, bird feed, and other waste before leaving.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boats!

AIS Bait Laws:

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing bucketed or tap water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

1. Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
2. If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

1. The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask.
2. If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants.

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspector, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Safe Boating:

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) - On all boats (except a sailboat) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI) - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a PFD and operating at no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and shoreline. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

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