Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you must:
- Clean off all aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, transoms, bait boxes, motor and ballast tanks
- 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 strapping the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so while you're cleaning your boat, please remember to also:
- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many AIS are often imported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope.
- Dump waste into black bags, and other watercraft before leaving.

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

AIS Boat Laws

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

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
- The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
- 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:
- Courteous
- 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 (PFD) - On all boats (except a sailboard) 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 slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers, and other objects in the water. Operate the boat only if you are sober.

Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.