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, transom, and keel boxes, inboard and outboard tanks
- Do not plug the hull and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your boating routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while strapping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor, and you have them licked! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Clean-water related equipment is just as important as your boat’s Hull. Even 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 species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope
- Dump waste water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving

These are YOUR waters and it IS YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boat!

AIS Boat Laws

You must drain all water and remove invasive species from your boat to save your boat (and our waters). The DNR recommends bringing treated or tap water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

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

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft Inspectors are here to encourage watercraft and boating are “clean in, clean out”! If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask.

Way you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat and plug your plug as soon as possible, and safely do it. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly
- If the Decal is Determination Tag is present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector, from decontamination to leaving the watercraft. If you have any questions, please take a moment to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- The inspectors have tools, chemicals and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
- If there are weeds that are hard to remove, inspectors can also help pull weeds off docks or other watercraft. They also have grabbing tools for plants

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspectors, 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 sailboards) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition to the life jacket required on the boat, if you are operating a watercraft at a slow no wake speed or less, or in a designated no wake area, a PFD must also be worn. Kayakers, canoeists, and other users in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safe water video is available free of charge.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - 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, submerged vessels, and aquatic vegetation. Other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safe water video is available free of charge.