Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:
The DNR lists lakes and rivers as “infested” with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or diving or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

To identify an infested lake, look for orange invasive Species Alert signs at the access. You can also use a labelFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. Many ports have posted signs. For more information about infested waters, including up-to-date information on the latest aquatic invasive species, visit this page [website link].

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

Check off all aquatic plants and animals.

Drain all water-holding devices. Hoses, boats, boats, boat motors, and ballast tanks. Fill 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 and remove plants while stopping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (personally kill) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

CISW waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and dry 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 “fish safe” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. This is a good idea on warm days to cool down the struck. DO NOT dump unwanted bait water into bodies of water or on the shorelines. Unwanted bait belongs in the compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean, clean, clean!” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask a watercraft inspector.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

Please drain your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.

If there is a Declaration of Infestation 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:

If you have 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 cooperative. The laws require compliance with inspections, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.