Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you must:
- Clean off AIS, aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, hoppers, ballast tanks, light towers and pull the plug and leave it out
- Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will become part of your boat’s protection from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while stealing the boat down. Pull the plug when launching or launching the motor; you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them do it. Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat. Please remember to also:
- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and any objects that are wet in the mud or fishing line and rope
- Remove any AIS, including boat ladders, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving

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

AIS Boat Laws

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save our waters and to prevent invasive species from spreading, you are required to:
- Drain all water before leaving water access or shoreline property
- Clean your boat and trailer, and pull the plug
- Not pump or dump any water

Fishing in Minnesota

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license to fish in Minnesota. Licenses are available at the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center (612-296-6157), or 1-888-MINN-DNR (1-888-646-6367) to purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-FISH (664-7474)

Selective Harvest Fishing - improved technology and modern equipment has caused many species to be forced to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest" fishing is encouraged to take the fish that are ready to take and releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest fishing
- Use barbless hooks
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the eyes
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep.
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back

Sustainable Natural Environments

Practice Sustainable Water Recreation! A healthy and attractive natural environment enable people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment. Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sound activities and reducing the impact of boating and other waterfront activities on the waterbody.

- Avoid boating in areas near other boaters and watercraft
- Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and other aquatic vegetation
- Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect your boat may have on the shoreline and other users
- Operate your watercraft at a slow-no wake speed when appropriate
- Use watercraft that is the appropriate type and size for the water resources
- Boating doesn’t require continuous movement; enjoy floating, anchoring, and beaching
- Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
- Don’t litter and do properly dispose of boat and carry-in waste

Public Water Access in southeastern Itasca County

DNR Information Center
For a brochure or visit DNR Information Center for a brochure or visit www.mndnr.gov/adoptariver