**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:**

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

- **Clean:** All aquatic plants and animals
- **Drain:** All water including bilge, livewells, transoms, bait buckets, motor and ballast tanks
- **Pull** the plug and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will save the fish, the plants, and the wildlife! Large fishing engines or you can drive them out.

Cleaning-water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat. While you're cleaning your boat, please remember to:

- Clean anchors, rope, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many AIS live on boat hulls or in fishing lines and rope.
- **Pull** the plug of your boat and remove all water including bilge water, transom sump, and ballast water from before leaving the water access or shoreline property.

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

**AIS Ball Laws:**

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your boat (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing bottled or tap water home from the lake, keeping it 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.

**Working Together to Protect the Waters:**

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are "clean in, clean out!" If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

- **Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:**
  - Clean in, clean out
  - Pull plugs
  - Set watercraft to "off" before you launch
  - Drain water out of canoes, kayaks, and other vessels

- **Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:**
  - The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
  - The inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants

The DNR's Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational facilities. The DNR Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational facilities.

**Fishing in Minnesota:**

**Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through 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 at (851) 296-6157 or 1-888-644-6637. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN LICENSE (665-4736).**

**Selective Harvest Fishing -** Improved technology and new fishing methods have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest Fishing" offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while 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 gills
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too thick
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back

**Sustainable Natural Environments:**

Practise Sustainable Water Recreation! A healthy and attractive natural environment enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment. Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sustainable land uses practices along rivers and throughout watershed.

- Be courteous to other boaters and water users
- Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and aquatic vegetation
- Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect your wake has 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 resource
- Boating does not require continuous movement, enjoy floating, anchoring, and beached
- Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
- Don't litter and do properly dispose of boat and sanitary wastes

**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, waterfowl and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.**

**Public Water Access in northern Koochiching County:**

- **Black Bay Rainy Lake**
  - **Water Body Name:** Black Bay
  - **Map Grid Location:** 5N 6W
  - **Ramp Type:** Concrete
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **Administrator:** DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **County:** Koochiching
  - **Capacity:** 100
  - **Launch Type:** Public

- **Rainy Lake**
  - **Water Body Name:** Rainy Lake
  - **Map Grid Location:** 5N 6W
  - **Ramp Type:** Concrete
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **Administrator:** DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **County:** Koochiching
  - **Capacity:** 100
  - **Launch Type:** Public

- **Rainy River**
  - **Water Body Name:** Rainy River
  - **Map Grid Location:** 5N 6W
  - **Ramp Type:** Concrete
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **Administrator:** DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **County:** Koochiching
  - **Capacity:** 100
  - **Launch Type:** Public

**Minnesota State Parks and Trails-Grand Rapids**

- **Water Body Name:** Black Bay
  - **Map Grid Location:** 5N 6W
  - **Ramp Type:** Concrete
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **Administrator:** DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
  - **Fish Species:** LB - Largemouth Bass, M - Muskellunge, N - Northern Pike, S - Sunfish, SB - Smallmouth Bass
  - **County:** Koochiching
  - **Capacity:** 100
  - **Launch Type:** Public