Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

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

1. Clean off all aquatic plants and animals
2. Drain all water, including bilge, livewells, hardware, live wells, hold tanks, and ballast tanks
3. Pull the plug and let it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you'll soon become part of your waterway. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while stopping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help. Adding a is easier and will help safeguard our waterways.

Cleaning water and related equipment is just as important as cleaning fish, as 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 impacted in the mud or
dumping plus and eggs
- Dump water or fish of carcases, eggs, and other watercraft before leaving

These are your waters, and it's your responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boats!

Boat Laws:

- It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your boat (mice, seeds, etc.), the DNR recommends bleaching bottles or tap water from your vehicle or cool. Bringing dirty water can result in an animal having 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 to Protect the Waters:

Watercraft Inspectors are here to service watercraft and equipment and are licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DBR). They may contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. If you are not at the dock, please clean your boats and drain the water while you are still on the waterway, Have your boat decontaminated by the inspector, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

- Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and watercraft; wildlife and watercraft
- Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect on other watercraft and other users
- Operate your watercraft at a slow enough to wake speed where appropriate
- Use watercraft that is appropriate for the body of water you are using
- Boating doesn't require continuous movement; stop and enjoy the scenery
- Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
- Do not litter and do not properly dispose of bait and sanitary waste

Fishing in Minnesota:

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and over are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, many county auditors, and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trap fishing is regulated as a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information line at (612) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367.

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Practicing selective harvest can be as easy as:

- Use barbless hooks
- Play the fish quickly, and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the gills
- Use a mesh net 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 enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment. Communities working together can improve water resources by protecting and maintaining a sustainable natural environment practices along rivers and throughout waterways.

- Be courteous to other boaters and water users
- Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife, and watercraft
- Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect on other watercraft and other users
- Operate your watercraft at a speed low enough to wake speed where appropriate
- Use watercraft that is appropriate for the body of water you are using
- Boating doesn’t require continuous movement; stop and enjoy the scenery
- Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
- Do not litter and do not properly dispose of bait and sanitary waste

Minnesota State Parks and Trails
www.mnstateparks.com

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails water recreation program provides approximately 1,600 boat accesses, over 350 fishing piers, and more than 400 fishing piers, and manages 34 designated Water Accesses to Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government, and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees including boat launch fees and tax related to motor fuel.

Public Access Fee

- Public access fees annually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most state and local parks have rushed ramps, but some have a smaller number of hours, are carry in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger boat accesses.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clean and the following activities are unlawful:
- Boating while intoxicated
- Family fishing
- Carry in only
- Fishing pier
- Concrete
cement
- P, S, and W

Cleaning Water and Related Equipment

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water
- Many species can be impacted in the mud or
- Dump water or fish of carcases, eggs, and other watercraft before leaving

These are your waters, and it’s your responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boats!

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Working to Protect the Waters:

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Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly
- If there is a Decontamination Unit 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:
  - The inspector is not just looking at what you have, but also at what you are doing. If you are having trouble with your plug, add
  - If there are laws that are hard to remember, inspectors can also help you fill in off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for boats

When you witness a Watercraft Inspector, please cooperate. The law requires compliance with inspectors and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Safe Boating:

- The National Recreational Boating Stewardship Program (NRBP) on all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length must have a minimum of a Certified 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 sea saran

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For anyone found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences

Personal Watercraft - Speed of boats applies in boating area; is operating at 6 knots on a wake-surfing at certain distances from other watercraft, watercraft, and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.