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, 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 it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while strapping the boat down. Pull the plug when you move more than you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help. Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat, if you’re cleaning your boat! please remember to also:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many AIS are transported in the mud or in fishing line and rope
- Dump the contents of ballast bags, and other watercraft before leaving.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to keep them clean, don’t drain your boats!

AIS Boat 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 from home and 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 untreated water into lakes or rivers. Unleash AIS into the environment. Unwanted water-related waste must be disposed of in the proper waste stream.

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 the Watercraft Inspectors.

How can you 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 go quickly
- If there is a Decimation Unit inspection present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, 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 inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having 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 tools. They also have grabbing tools for plants

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires cooperation with inspection, 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 a sailboat) regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also have at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI) - 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, swimmers and shorelines. For more information visit www.mndnr.gov/boatingapply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.