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 bilges, ballast tanks, bait buckets, motor and bulbous tanks
- Pull the plug and leave it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and the AIS will not become part of your family. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while strapping the boat down. Pull the plug and a gill plate on the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Clean up the boat and equipment by:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many objects are not cleaned or removed in the mud or in fishing lines and rope
- Drain watercraft and bilges, and other watercraft before leaving

There are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to drain them of 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 from home and using it in your water cooler or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted boat water into the shore! Unwanted ballast being dumped in the trash or designated compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters:

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure waterfront and equipment are “clean, dry, free of AIS.” If you suspect AIS is present, please contact the nearest inspector or call.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat (minnows or leeches) before you go as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector sees the boat, the inspector knows you did it quickly
- If you are self-decontamination ready, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, for your boat and your outfit. It is important to use as much time as possible to ask questions and work with them from the safety of your distance

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- The inspectors have to work with you, please cooperate. If you are having trouble with your plug, the inspector can help you.
- If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other objects. They also have grabber tools for plants
- When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires complete inspection with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Safe Boating:

Personal Floatation Devices (PFD): All boats (except a sailboard regardless of length) must have a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, on board 14 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, the must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable life ring, 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 no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, waterways 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.