

A guide to boating on the Mississippi River between Hastings, Minnesota and the Iowa border

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

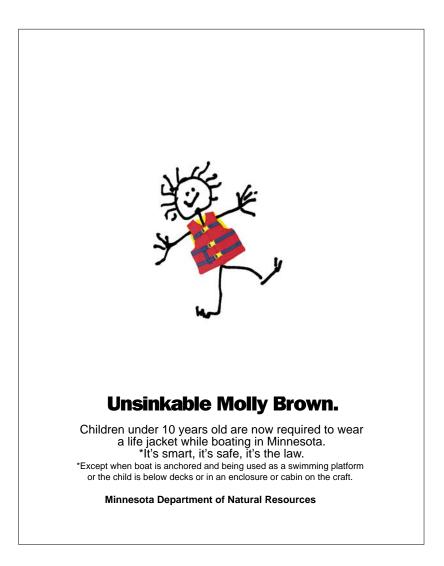
2011

## Mississippi River Guide Department of Natural Resources



While not an approved boating safety course, this publication is recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators to benefit boating safety - 2011.

> Information in this publication was compiled in 2011. Front cover photo taken by ©Lawrence C. Duke.



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## **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has prepared two publications in response to the recommendations of the GREAT I Study and the demand of the boating public for a detailed guide of Minnesota's great rivers. This is one of two river guides that covers the most popular portions of the Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota rivers (see inset on back cover).

These guides are intended to assist boaters on the rivers and to promote safe and enjoyable use of the resource. They contain detailed maps of the rivers and include frequently requested information on boating facilities, safety aspects and hazards specific to the Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota rivers.

Take a few minutes to read through the safety information section in the next few pages. The BOATING ON THE BIG RIVER section on page 6 is especially important to boaters on the Mississippi River. Be informed about submerged wing dams and stump fields. IT COULD SAVE YOUR MOTOR'S LOWER UNIT! Also know the proper boating procedures around towboats as well as locks and dams. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

#### NOTE:

★ A river, by its character, is constantly changing its physical dimensions. The rivers portrayed in this guide are no exception. While the mapping for this guide utilized the latest information, changes may have occurred. It is suggested that the user exercise care when navigating, especially in the backwater areas where changes occur more frequently.

★ The information provided on marinas and other facilities is done as a public service for boaters. This is not an endorsement by the State of Minnesota or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources of the private facilities or services listed in this publication. Facilities are also subject to change.

 Note: The mid-channel sailing line does not always follow the state line. Hunting and fishing regulations may differ between MN & WI. Check the hunting and fishing regulations for details.

#### Using This Guide

Using this river guide is easy. An index of maps and a fold-out legend is located on the back cover. An explanation of each facility is located on the facing or previous page for each map. Facilities are indexed by river mile and side of river *(left or right when going downstream)*. Note: state parks as well as many county and regional parks require entrance fees for motor vehicles.

## **BOATING SAFETY**

#### YOU ARE THE KEY TO WATER SAFETY

Considering the large number of participants in Minnesota, water-based recreation is a relatively safe pastime. Still, an average of 20 persons die in boating accidents each year in the state. In addition, many more people are injured and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property damage results from boating mishaps.

Your water fun depends on you, your equipment and other people who, like yourself, enjoy spending leisure time on, in or near the river.

Let's look at your responsibilities:

- 1. A knowledge of rules and regulations for watercraft use.
- 2. A knowledge of safety equipment required by law to be on board your watercraft.
- 3. A knowledge of the operation of your boat.
- 4. Knowledge of boating hazards unique to large rivers.
- 5. Responsibility for the actions of all persons on board the watercraft.
- 6. Acceptance of the fact that everyone has the right and privilege to use the river in a proper manner.

#### FLOAT PLAN

Leave a float plan with someone who will miss you if you do not return on time. A float plan should include the following information: (See sample float plan on pages 111 - 112.)

- 1. A description of your car and where you will park it.
- 2. Where you intend to boat.

3. A description of your boat including the registration number.

4. Communication equipment on board and cell phone number or radio call sign if you have one.

5. The names of all persons on board.

- 6. Safety equipment on board.
- 7. Estimated time of arrival back home.

- 8. The latest return time home.
- 9. Your alternate plans in the event of an emergency or bad weather.
- 10. The phone number of the county sheriff for the area in which you will be boating.
- 11. Don't forget to cancel your float plan when you return home.

## **BOATING ACCIDENTS**

Many boating accidents can be avoided if you follow these safe boating practices:

- 1. Wear your life jacket.
- 2. Avoid alcohol when boating.
- 3. Be especially careful around cold water. Hypothermia kills.
- 4. Turn your navigation lights on at sunset.
- 5. Carry a fire extinguisher aboard at all times.
- 6. Be aware of changing weather conditions.
- 7. Keep a constant lookout for other boats and navigational hazards.

Remember:

- \* Most boating accidents occur during the day and in clear weather.
- ★ The majority of boat operators involved in accidents have considerable experience in using their craft, but have never taken a formal boating safety course.

#### **Reporting Accidents**

Federal and state rules require that any accident, collision, or other casualty involving a motorboat or other vessel, must be reported if it resulted in:

- 1. a fatality, or
- 2. personal injury involving loss of consciousness, requiring medical treatment, or resulting in incapacitation for 24 hours or more, or
- 3. property damage of \$2,000 or more.

In Minnesota, all accidents must be reported to the county sheriff's office where the accident occurred. The telephone numbers for each county sheriff's office are on pages 107-108 of this publication. In an emergency - call "911."



Photo by Tim Smalley

**High speed operation can cause accidents.** A single occupant was ejected into the water when he hit a wake while operating his boat at high speed near the Twin Cities. The boat continued "unmanned" towards shore where it hit a swimming raft. The raft launched the boat skyward and it came down on top of a boat lift, causing heavy damage to the boat, lift and dock. Amazingly enough, there were no injuries and alcohol was not involved.

## **BOATING ON THE BIG RIVER**

#### LOCKS AND DAMS

In the 1930s, the United States Army Corps of Engineers built a series of locks and dams on the Mississippi River to maintain a navigational channel of at least nine feet in depth. Eleven such lock and dam facilities are located on the Mississippi north of the Minnesota-Iowa border. These locks and dams present a special hazard to recreational boaters who are unfamiliar with them. Special precautions must be taken when approaching and going through these navigational structures. In addition to these facilities, there are other dams on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix rivers that have no locks.

#### What is a lock?

The dams on the Mississippi River create a series of navigational pools. Each dam can be thought of as a step in the river as it descends to the Gulf of Mexico. A lock is used to raise or lower boats to the next pool in the system. A lock is a chamber that may be opened on either end to allow boats to enter or leave. Once a boat is in the lock, water is added to the chamber to raise a boat to the upstream pool or released from the chamber to lower a boat to the downstream pool.

#### **Deceptive Currents**

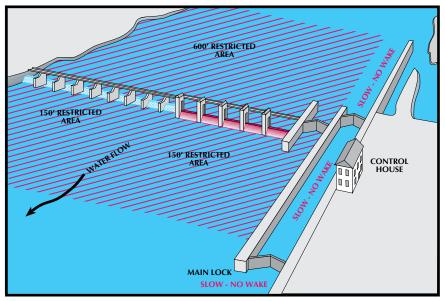
Near each lock and dam the water is turbulent and dangerous. Currents are strong, swift, and deceptive. As water is drawn in and discharged from a lock chamber or drawn over a dam, undercurrents are created that are powerful enough to drag a boat and its occupants to the bottom.

#### **Restricted Areas**

There are certain restricted areas to protect boaters in the vicinity of locks and dams. The water near each lock and dam has dangerous currents. Boats *may not enter* the following areas:

\* The area 600 feet upstream and 150 feet downstream from the dam (*including auxiliary locks not in service*).

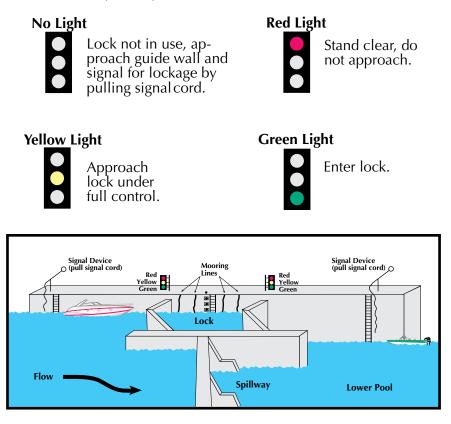
Additional restrictions may be posted at each dam or spillway. Obey all signs and buoys.



Mississippi River, Lock and Dam No. 6

## Locking Through

Upon approaching a lock, a set of traffic signals (the same as you would find at a road intersection) will inform the boater as to the lock's status. See below for a description of these lights and their meaning. Upon approach to the lock, you can contact the lock-master via channel 14 on your VHF marine radio or simply pull the signal cord on the lock approach wall. You should be aware that the lock may be in use as you approach, locking craft through from the other side, and you may have to wait.



Upon receiving a green light, proceed slowly into lock and observe mooring lines spaced along lock wall. <u>The lines should be held by</u> <u>hand and not tied to the boat while in the lock chamber</u>. Do not tie a line to a recessed ladder. Insure that passengers remain seated at all times and keep hands inside the boat to avoid the chance of crushed fingers. If construction of craft requires handling lines on deck, a life jacket should be worn. Do not leave the engine running during lockage, nor climb ladders of the lock structure.

Upon completion of the lock filling or emptying operation and when the gates are fully open, a signal will be given by the lock operator that it is safe to depart the lock. *The signal will be either a P.A. announcement, one short toot of the signal horn or a hand* 

*signal by the lock operator.* Leave the lock at a slow speed assuring that you are well clear of the lock structure before gaining speed. The approaches to the locks are considered no wake areas.

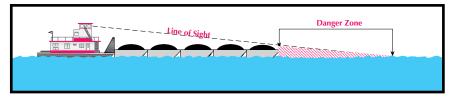
Recreational craft and towboats are locked through on a first-come, first-served basis. Only government craft and regularly scheduled passenger craft have priority. Boaters should be aware that delays in locking through may occur. Lock and dam personnel monitor channels 14 and 16 on the VHF marine radio and can be contacted about waiting periods. There is no charge for locking through.

#### HAZARDS

#### Towboats

When encountering a towboat, always obey the following rules:

- 1. Stay clear of towboats! They usually have the right-ofway over recreational boats and they create strong wakes.
- 2. Never anchor in their course; it may require a half-mile or more for them to stop.
- 3. Remember, at night their lights appear far apart compared to small boats.
- 4. They have a blind area directly in front of the barges and on each side.



- 5. Stay clear of the stern of the towboats. They may suddenly turn on a burst of power and overturn a small boat.
- 6. Turn your bow into the wake of barges and boats.
- 7. When meeting a barge at a bend in the river move to the <u>inside</u> of the bend where possible.

#### Wing Dams

To help improve the navigability of the Mississippi River by controlling the direction of channel flow, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has placed hundreds of wing dams.

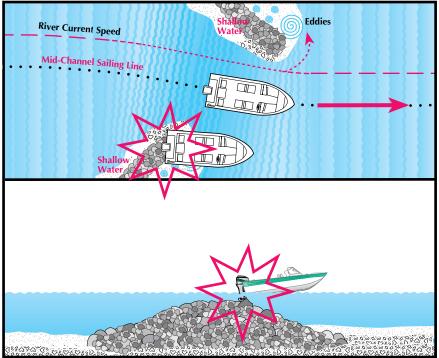
A wing dam is an elongated pile of rocks or concrete which is usually submerged. Because wing dams often lie just below the water surface, they cannot be visually detected, are not marked and pose a great danger to the unwary boater. If you follow these boating practices, however, you can avoid an unwanted encounter with a wing dam.

- 1. Stay within the main channel, indicated by buoys and markers (*see fold-out flap on back cover*). It is continually dredged and maintained.
- 2. If approaching shore, proceed slowly from a perpendicular angle.
- 3. Stay clear of ripples in the water surface; these are a tell-tale sign of a wing dam lying just below.

## WARNING!

The dam symbols in this guide show *approximate* locations of the wing or closing dams. *The actual locations may vary.* 

#### Wing Dams and Closing Dams Are Not Buoyed!



#### Closing Dams

Top drawing is not to scale

Closing dams were constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help control the direction of channel flow on the river. These dams are located on some side channels of the Mississippi River and may not be visible from the surface. A number of these dams are located between Hastings and Red Wing and others between the 10 lower end of Lake Pepin and the Iowa border. Although most of these are marked on this set of maps - boaters are cautioned to always proceed at a slow speed outside the main channel of the river to avoid striking either natural or artificial obstructions.

## **Stump Fields**

When the dam system on the Mississippi River was built in the 1930s, many low-lying areas were covered with trees. Although the trees were cut down, many submerged tree stumps still remain. We have shown the *approximate* locations of stump fields on the river maps; but please remember, whenever you are in a backwater area there is always a chance that you will encounter a stump. Use extra caution in these areas.

#### **Changing Water Levels**

Water levels change frequently on the rivers, causing changes in currents that may not be immediately obvious to boaters. High water can produce unpredictable and swift currents and moving debris that may come in the form of logs, timbers, docks and whole trees. Conversely, low water can produce hazards above and below the water's surface (*stump fields, wing dams, etc.*).

## **BUOYS AND MARKERS**

A list of the buoys and markers you will encounter on the river can be found on the fold-out flap of the back cover. A knowledge of them is essential for safe navigation on the river. Not all structures including wing dams are marked by the buoys.

All boaters are cautioned not to rely solely on buoys for navigation because of their potential unreliability. U.S. Coast Guard buoys are removed, relocated or established whenever the U.S. Coast Guard determines a change is desirable for the safety of navigation.

While the U.S. Coast Guard makes every reasonable effort to ensure buoys are properly located to serve their intended purpose, they cannot keep all buoys and navigable channels under constant surveillance. Between visits of a Coast Guard buoy tender, it is possible for a channel or obstruction to have shifted, the water depth to have changed, or for a buoy to have moved, sunk, or gone adrift.

Daymarks are square, triangular or diamond-shaped boards *(usually red or green in color)* that are used to mark channels on the large river systems. On the Mississippi they will also indicate the river mileage upstream from Cairo, Illinois on a white board beneath the daymark. They may also be lighted *(green or white lights on green boards and red or white lights on red boards)*. Even with lighted buoys and markers, boating at night should be avoided if at all possible.

#### **VHF-FM MARINE RADIO**

Channel 16 is a calling and *distress* channel. Communications on channel 16 should be kept short, limited to initial contact only, unless there is an emergency.

Channel 22A is for non-emergency communications with the U.S. Coast Guard. It is also used by the U.S. Coast Guard to make broadcast notices to mariners.

Locks on the Upper Mississippi River monitor channels 14 & 16. Initial contact with locks should be made on channel 14, which will also be the working channel in most cases.

When important marine events occur, broadcast notices to mariners are issued. These notices are broadcast by U.S. Coast Guard radio stations on channel 22A (157.1 MHz). Non-scheduled broadcasts are often made to supplement scheduled broadcasts. U.S. Coast Guard preliminary announcements of broadcasts are made on channel 16 (156.8 MHz) and channel 19 (156.450 MHz) as a secondary channel. The U.S. Coast Guard broadcasts are then given on channel 22A (157.1 MHz). Broadcast times for this area are 3:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

For more information on marine radio use, contact the Federal Communications Commission (*website and telephone number are at the end of this guide*).

#### DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

For drawbridges over the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, the usual sound signal for opening the draw is a prolonged blast (4 to 6 seconds duration) of a whistle or horn, followed by one short blast (one second duration), sounded not more than three seconds after the prolonged blast. This sequence is repeated at intervals until acknowledged by the drawtender. If the draw can be opened immediately, acknowledging signal is one prolonged blast followed by one short blast, sounded not more than 30 seconds after opening signal. If the draw cannot be opened immediately, or if open and must be closed immediately, five short blasts, sounded in rapid succession not more than 30 seconds after the opening signal, shall be repeated at intervals until acknowledged by a signal which has the same meaning from the vessel. Some drawbridges are equipped with VHF marine radios; a list is provided on the next page. Mariners approaching these drawbridges are urged to contact the bridge tender to confirm requests for opening, or to exchange information. Bridges may also have opening schedules to reduce the backup of traffic. These schedules can vary with the hour, day and time of year and are usually posted on the bridge itself. You should factor this possibility into your float plan.

#### Locations of Drawbridges

Mississippi River	Mile	Call Sign	Channel
La Crosse Railroad	699.8	KVY 631	13 & 16
Hastings Railroad	813.7	KTD 538	14 & 16

## **REGULATIONS AND EQUIPMENT**

(This is not a complete summary of regulations. Rules and laws are subject to change. A current copy of federal, Minnesota and Wisconsin regulations should be consulted. Unless noted, all rules summarized below are from Minnesota and were in effect in 2011.)

#### **REGISTRATION** (LICENSING)

All watercraft, except wild-rice boats and duckboats used during the appropriate season, non-motorized boats nine feet or less in length, and seaplanes, are required to be licensed by the DNR. This rule does not apply if the watercraft is licensed by another state, federal agency or foreign country. All canoes, sailboats, kayaks and rowing shells used in Minnesota must be registered either in Minnesota or the user's home state.

To obtain or renew a watercraft license, go to the nearest deputy registrar's office (where you license your car) or the DNR's License Center (address is at the back of this guide).

#### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

#### Personal Flotation Devices - PFDs

The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that 80 percent of the boating fatalities in the country could have been prevented if boaters were wearing their life jackets. This is especially important in boats less than 20 feet in length. The most common boating fatalities are capsizing and falling overboard. Minnesota rules require that:

★ On all boats\* a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable device (Type I, II, III or V) must be worn <u>or</u> readily accessible for each person on board as well as any persons being towed on water skis or similar devices. Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft (Jet Ski, Sea Doo etc.) must WEAR a Type I, II, III or V USCG approved device (see page 16).

\*The following are exempt from state PFD carriage laws: 1) All sailboards, and 2) rowing team members specified in law and accompanied by a chase boat carrying the required PFDs.

★ In addition, on all boats 16 feet or more in length, except canoes and kayaks, at least one U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved Type IV throwable device must be immediately

available aboard the craft. Type IV devices include buoyant cushions, ring buoys and horseshoe buoys.

- All flotation devices must be U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved and bear the USCG approval number. The devices must be in serviceable condition and, if wearable, must be of the correct size for the person who is or would be using it.
- \* As of 2005, Minnesota law requires that children less than 10 years of age wear a PFD when aboard a boat that is underway, unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. There are also exemptions for commercial vessels and also any boat at anchor when swimming or diving activities are taking place.

#### Lights

All watercraft must display the navigation lights required by law when operating between sunset and sunrise. These lights are to warn others and in many cases indicate what the watercraft is doing.

Boaters should check the state or federal regulations for the lighting requirements for their craft.

#### **Fire Extinguishers**



All watercraft using motors *should* carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher. Both state and federal laws require fire extinguishers on watercraft carrying or using fuel or other flammable fluid in any enclosure of the boat. Check the state or federal regulations for specific requirements.

#### Signaling Systems

A whistle or horn is required on all motorboats 16 feet or longer. Check the current regulations for exact requirements.

#### Other Desirable Equipment

- ★ Anchor and line
- ★ Flashlight

Fenders

- $\star$ First aid kit
- ★ Marine radio
- Cell phone
- ★ Paddle, oars or auxiliary outboard
- Bilge pump or bailing devices
- \* A tool kit and spare parts (including an extra propeller)
- Battery box or non-conductive cover for terminals (required by  $\star$ State of Wisconsin)

#### **RULES OF THE ROAD**

There are traffic rules afloat, as well as on our highways. Common sense tells us we should know what to do when passing, meeting and/or crossing the path of another craft. These rules are simple and they provide uniform patterns of passing and direction that otherwise would not exist.

#### Port to Port or Head to Head

Each watercraft must pass on the port or left side of the other when meeting port to port or head to head.

#### Starboard to Starboard

When courses of two boats are so far on the starboard or right of each other as not to be considered a head to head meeting, they may pass on the starboard side of each other.

## Crossing

When two boats approach each other at right angles, the boat on the starboard (*right*) side has the right-of-way. The stand-on boat must hold course and speed while the give-way boat must keep clear and pass behind the boat with the right-of-way.

## Overtaking

In an overtaking situation, the boat being overtaken has the right-ofway and must hold course and speed, even if the overtaking boat is a sailboat.

#### Non-Motorized Boats

Except when passing, sailboats and non-motorized craft have the right-of-way over motorized watercraft. Steer clear of them, and remember that your wake can cause them trouble.

#### **Commercial Vessels**

Small boats should not insist on the right-of-way when approaching large commercial vessels, which are limited in maneuverability.

#### Emergency Craft and Move Over Law

- \* All watercraft will yield right-of-way to an authorized watercraft displaying a red or blue flashing light.
- \* When approaching and passing a law enforcement watercraft with its emergency lights activated, the operator of a watercraft must safely move the watercraft away from the law enforcement watercraft and maintain a slow-no wake speed while within 150 feet of the law enforcement watercraft.

## At Night

At night, running lights indicate which boat has the right-of-way. The green light is on the starboard (*right*) side and a red light on the port (*left*) side of the craft. If the red and white lights are the only ones visible, then that boat is stand-on and has the right-of-way.

#### Whistle Signals

- **1 BLAST** passing on the port (*left*) side.
- 2 BLASTS passing on the starboard (right) side.
- 3 BLASTS operating in reverse.
- 5 BLASTS DANGER may be used to indicate passage is not safe.

#### WATERCRAFT OPERATOR'S PERMIT

See the chart on page 17 to determine Minnesota's age and permit requirements. Permits may be obtained by contacting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat and Water Safety Section at:

> MN DNR Boat & Water Safety 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4046 Boat & Water Safety (651) 259-5400 DNR Information: (651) 296-6157 or in Minnesota Toll Free: 1-888-646-6367

www.mndnr.gov/boatingsafety

Wisconsin also has permit and age requirements for motorboat operators, including some adults. More information on Wisconsin's boating education requirements can be obtained from the Wisconsin DNR (address located on page 24 of this guide).

#### PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

What is a personal watercraft? Sometimes known as *Jet Skis, Wave Runners,* PWCs, etc., a personal watercraft is defined by law as a motorboat that is: 1) powered by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or by an outboard or propeller-driven motor; and 2) designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the craft, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside a motorboat.

All personal watercraft are considered motorboats and therefore, any regulations that govern other motorboats (such as fishing boats, cabin cruisers, etc.), also govern personal watercraft.

#### Personal Watercraft Laws In summary, the law requires that:

- Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket).
- Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.
- ★ A personal watercraft rules decal issued by DNR needs to be on the craft in full view of the operator.
- ★ Personal watercraft must travel at slow no wake speed (5mph or less) within 150 feet of non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.
- ★ If you tow a person on water skis, or any other device, there must be an additional person on board the personal watercraft to act as an observer. (The observer does not have to be facing

backward.) The skier/kneeboarder etc. must also be wearing a PFD or there must be one on board the personal watercraft for the skier. Factory-installed or factory-specified rearview mirrors are allowed instead of an observer when pulling a skier or other device (tube, kneeboard, etc.). The mirrors must be specified by the personal watercraft manufacturer. After-market mirrors,

(continued on next page)

Type of Craft and Age	As of 2011
Motorboats (Except personal watercraft - see below)	
Less than 12 years old	<ol> <li>25 hp or less - no restriction,</li> <li>more than 25 thru 75 hp - must have someone at least 21 on board in reach of controls**,</li> <li>over 75 hp - cannot operate, even with adult on board</li> </ol>
12-17 years old	<ol> <li>25 hp or less - no restriction,</li> <li>over 25 hp - must have:         <ul> <li>a watercraft operator's permit, or</li> <li>someone at least 21 on board in reach of controls**</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Personal Watercraft</b> (PWC, Jet Skis etc.) regardless of horsepower	
Less than 13 years old	Cannot operate, even with adult on board.
13 years old	<ul> <li>Must either have:</li> <li>someone at least 21 on board, or</li> <li>a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21</li> </ul>
14-17 years old	Must either have: ★ a watercraft operator's permit, or ★ someone at least 21 on board

#### Motorboat Operator Age Laws in Minnesota\*

- \* this is only a summary of the legislation and not a copy of the actual law
- \*\* for purposes of the BWI law, both the youthful operator and the supervising adult are considered to be in actual physical control of the motorboat

stick-on mirrors, motorcycle mirrors etc., do not qualify for the observer exemption.

- ★ If the machine is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyardtype engine cutoff switch, it must be attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator when underway.
- You may not operate a personal watercraft if any part of the springloaded throttle system has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.
- ★ You may not chase or harass wildlife.
- You may not travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than slow - no wake speed.
- \* You may not operate a personal watercraft in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb or property.
- You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.
- You may not operate a personal watercraft while facing backward.

#### ENFORCEMENT

Whenever you are boating or fishing on the rivers in this book you are subject to laws and rules similar to those in effect on streets and highways. Enforcement of state regulations is the responsibility of Minnesota conservation officers, Wisconsin DNR conservation wardens, and county sheriffs' deputies. You are also subject to federal laws which are enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### ALCOHOL & DWI

Alcohol will influence your balance, coordination, vision, judgment and reaction time. The use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all the boating deaths that occur in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This includes not only the spectacular collisions, but the lone angler who drowns after falling out of their boat on a peaceful backwater.

Operating a motorboat while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or other illegal chemical is unlawful. Operators who are impaired may be required to take tests by an enforcement officer to determine their sobriety.

Penalties for DWI or refusal to submit to a chemical test on a motorboat can include any or all of the following:

- \star a fine
- ★ a jail sentence
- loss of your motorboat operating privileges
- ★ loss of your driver's license
- ★ loss of your car or truck license plates
- ★ forfeiture of your motorboat and trailer

#### WAKE DAMAGE AND EROSION

Watercraft operators are responsible for damage to property, shoreline and moored boats caused by their wake. Wake damage is more likely during periods of high water with normal operation. A combination of factors should be considered when assessing the possibility of damage caused by your wake including speed, draft and nearness to the bank. Operating out of the normal navigation channel also increases the likelihood of wake damage.

#### The Problem

A serious riverbank erosion problem is occuring in a portion of Pool No. 4, extending from Lock and Dam No. 3 (north of Red Wing) to the northern end of Lake Pepin. The banks in this section of the river are composed mostly of fine silt and sand that is easily eroded by wake or wave action, especially during high water levels.

#### Research

Research done on the river by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) near Red Wing from 1989 through 1992 revealed that high energy wakes from motorboats can greatly accelerate natural erosion, *causing the banks to erode by as much as two feet per year on the inside of a riverbend and up to 14 feet on the outside of the riverbend over a three-year period!* This erosion was most common during periods when the river was at least three feet above the normal low water level. The study used locations and techniques to reflect the specific effects attributable to recreational boat wakes, realizing that the river is also subject to commercial barge traffic, as well as the natural action of waves and currents. As an example, a parallel channel in the same area of the river, which receives very little recreational boat traffic, did not show the same accelerated bank erosion.

This erosion has the potential for serious consequences for river ecology, fishing and boating resulting in a loss of shoreland, increased sediment in the water and a loss of trees and vegetation along the river.

#### The Effects

- 1. **Reduced Recreation** Sediment washed into the river clouds the water, creating poor swimming, fishing and boating conditions.
- 2. **Damage to Fish and Wildlife Habitat** Sediment settles out of the water and fills in important backwater areas choking out aquatic vegetation that is essential to fish and wildlife.
- 3. Additional Dredging Over time, this extra sediment will probably require additional dredging to maintain the navigation channel. This costs additional taxpayer dollars and presents the problem of where to safely place the extra dredge spoil.
- 4. **Property Loss** When land is lost, it cannot easily be replaced.

Owners of riverbank property, whether private or public, are deprived of its use. In addition, the expenditure of thousands of dollars may be necessary by the owners in an attempt to stabilize the shoreline.

- 5. **Damage to Boats** Trees and large branches can float downstream after falling into the water (creating *snags* or *deadheads*), sometimes lodging in the bottom of the river. These become serious hazards to watercraft. Many of them also float just below the surface of the river, hidden like a mine from the unsuspecting boater and serious damage can result from hitting one of them. At best you will be left with a repair bill for hull repairs, a new propeller or a lower drive unit (which can cost up to \$3,000 to repair or replace). At worst, your boat could hit a deadhead at night and capsize, resulting in injury or death.
- 6. Damage to Facilities When floating snags hit an obstruction (such as a bridge, navigational buoy, dock or lock and dam) they can cause damage. In addition, removal of the floating trees and repair to buoys and facilities costs money, which comes from you as a taxpayer.

#### The Solution

As a boater, *you* are the key to reducing shoreline erosion when you are on the river by reducing the speed and resulting wake from your boat, especially when the water level is above normal. To reduce your wake, you first need to understand that most modern power boats operate in three different speed zones:

- **Displacement Speed** This is the slowest speed for most motorboats and occurs when the boat operates with the bow down at slow speeds resulting in very little wake.
- **Transition Speed** When power is applied, the bow rises and the engine is using the maximum amount of fuel as it attempts to get the boat up on *plane* (if the boat has a planing hull). It also creates the largest wake, since the boat is now plowing through the water.
- **Planing Speed** When a boat reaches planing speed the bow drops, fuel consumption is less than transition speed and only a small portion of the hull contacts the water (which creates less of a wake than transition speed). Note: many cruisers and houseboats cannot reach this speed.

When the water level is three feet or more above the normal low level (667 feet above sea level) on this section of the Mississippi River, minimum wake speed is recommended. **During this period, boaters need to slow down and make sure their wakes are five inches high or less in this area.** The best way to do this is to always be aware of the wake behind your craft and what it looks like as it impacts the shore. *As a boat operator, you need to know that you*  are legally responsible for your wake under both federal and state law.

A river level three feet above normal low pool will be encountered approximately 80 percent of the time during April, but that drops to 17 percent during the month of August. During years in which there is a low river flow, it is likely that there will be little need to restrict your boat wake during the months of July through October. However, you should be alert for water level changes that sometimes vary unexpectedly as the result of heavy rains upstream.

#### The Future

If all boaters become aware of the wakes their boats create and take action to reduce them when necessary, shoreline erosion can be reduced and conditions should improve. If this does not occur voluntarily, however, mandatory speed and wake restrictions may have to be placed on the river.

#### POLLUTION

#### Trash Disposal

Many people receive cuts and other injuries from trash thrown in our rivers and on shorelines. This same trash can injure wildlife through cuts, entanglements, strangulation, suffocation and digestive disorders. Throwing trash in the water is against the law. A



fine, jail sentence, or other penalty can be imposed on anyone who is convicted of this offense. Remember, "If you carried it in, carry it back!"

#### **Marine Toilets**

Both federal and state laws prohibit the discharge of raw sewage from boats. Minnesota law requires that sewage from marine toilets be retained through the use of a U.S. Coast Guard Certified Type III holding tank which is pumped out at dockside, or a portable device which retains waste on board for disposal on shore (there is one exception noted below). Pumpout locations are listed with the information on marinas in this publication. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations (which preempt state law) allow the use of U.S. Coast Guard Certified Type I or Type II treatment/discharge marine sanitation devices (MSDs) only on the Mississippi River below Lock and Dam No. 2 (Hastings).

#### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) & DRAIN PLUG LAWS

See the DNR website (www.mndnr.gov/invasives) for more information:

- 1. Inspect all watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment; remove any visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species before leaving any water access.
- 2. Drain water from motor, boat bilges, live wells, and other boating equipment holding water. Drain plugs must be removed from bilges and live wells at the water access, and all water draining devices must remain open while trailering or transporting your boat.
- 3. Watercraft owners or operators must display an Aquatic Invasive Species Rules decal, issued by the DNR, on watercraft before launching, entering into, or operating on any waters of the state.

#### FINAL NOTE

This discussion of rules and regulations is by no means complete. Reference should be made to the current state, federal and local regulations before you embark on your first cruise. The *Minnesota Boating Guide* is a summary of laws and rules and is available from the Minnesota DNR or a Minnesota county sheriff. Wisconsin regulations can be obtained from the Wisconsin DNR (see page 24 for address.)

## AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota's lakes and rivers offer a wealth of canoeing, boating and fishing opportunities.

#### Public Access/State Water Trails

The DNR State Water Trails Program provides printed maps for 32 rivers and the North Shore of Lake Superior. The free maps show access points, campsites, rest areas and portages. Hazards such as dams, waterfalls and rapids are marked. A description of each water trail lets paddlers know what to expect along the way.

The DNR also provides online digital mapping, and a real-time river level reporting service at www.mndnr.gov/watertrails. Paddlers and boaters can call the DNR Information Center to order printed maps or check the condition of water trails at (651) 296-6157 or toll free in Minnesota 1-888-646-6367, TDD: (651) 296-5484 or toll free in Minnesota 1-800-657-3929.

Minnesota DNR accesses are usually open 24 hours a day. No fee is charged for their use, nor is there a fee for any of the accesses shown on the county access maps. Note: State parks as well as many county and regional parks require entrance fees for motor vehicles and may not be open 24 hours a day. Remote water trail campsites are typically free and non-reservable, unless otherwise noted on the maps.

For public access and water trail maps and brochures contact:

DNR Information Center 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 (651) 296-6157 or in MN toll free 1-888-646-6367 DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov Telecommunications device for the deaf: (651) 296-5484 or in MN toll free: 1-800-657-3929

#### Adopt-a-River Program

This program encourages Minnesota volunteers to "adopt" a section of a lake, river, wetland or ravine to ensure its long-term health by doing at least one annual trash cleanup.

DNR Parks and Trails 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4052 (651) 296-6157 DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/adoptriver



#### **Boat and Water Safety Program**

One of the boat and water safety program's primary responsibilities is education. Using brochures, boating courses, pamphlets, billboards, television and radio public service announcements, media interviews and news releases, the public is kept informed of boating safety issues.

DNR Boat and Water Safety Section 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4046 (651) 259-5400 DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/boatingsafety

#### **Division of Enforcement**

The Division's responsibilities on the river include enforcement of fish and wildlife regulations, boating safety laws, water-use regulations and water pollution laws. DNR conservation officers also conduct firearm, snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training programs; enforce snowmobile and ATV laws; and patrol state parks and campgrounds.

DNR Division of Enforcement 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4047 (651) 259-5222 DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/enforcement

#### WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Wisconsin DNR is also involved with enforcement, boating safety, pollution control, boat licensing, and information and education. For more information about Wisconsin DNR programs contact:

Wisconsin DNR West Central Region 1300 West Clairemont Avenue Box 4001 Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 839-3700 DNR web site: www.dnr.state.wi.us

#### VIOLATIONS

Report law violations by calling 911. Report fish and wildlife violations by calling Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation officers at:

Minnesota 1-800-652-9093 (Turn in Poachers) Wisconsin 1-800-TIP-WDNR

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of the Interior, manages a wide range of areas throughout the United States to conserve natural, cultural and recreational resources while providing for their enjoyment today in such a manner that leaves them unimpaired for future generations. The NPS manages two units of the National Park System in and near the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, the upper 27 miles of the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (NSR) and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area along the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area was designated by Congress in 1988. It covers the Mississippi River and adjoining shore areas from the mouth of the Crow River at Dayton to the Goodhue County line southeast of Hastings. The National Park Service provides interpretive and information programs about the Mississippi and cooperates with local and state agencies in managing the river's scenic and recreational characteristics.

#### **Mississippi River**

National Park Service Mississippi National River and Recreation Area 111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105 St. Paul, MN 55101-1256 (651) 290-4160 www.nps.gov/miss

#### UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Since 1943, the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) has been promoting the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River. Composed of representatives from the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the UMRCC serves as a forum for formulating policies and plans and conducting cooperative studies. For more information contact:

UMRCC 1830 2nd Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201

#### **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Many of the bottomlands on the Mississippi River lie within the boundaries of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Beginning at the mouth of the Chippewa River (River Mile 763.4) and extending 261 miles downriver, the refuge encompasses 241,000 acres of wooded islands, and backwaters.

The refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect habitat for migratory birds, mammals, fish, and other aquatic animal and plant life. Millions of ducks, geese and swans rest and feed here during spring and fall migration. Hundreds of American bald eagles winter along the river where they feed on fish taken from open water areas.

The popularity of fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, sightseeing, boating, and camping have made this one of the most visited National Wildlife Refuges in the country.

Please note that the USFWS has implemented regulations in the refuge that affect boat use and hunting, primarily in back water areas that are off the main navigation channel of the river. These restrictions are noted on the river maps.

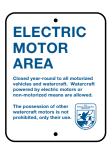
Information, maps and current regulations governing public use are available from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge 51 East 4th Street, Room 101 Winona, MN 55987 (507) 452-4232 TTY 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay) www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver

# UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE and FISH REFUGE SIGNS

The area marked by these signs is closed to all migratory bird hunting. Other hunting and trapping is allowed beginning the day after the close of the state duck hunting season, until season closure or March 15, whichever occurs first, except spring turkey hunting is allowed during state seasons. Please avoid entering the area from October 15 to end of regular state duck hunting season to allow waterfowl to rest and feed.





Areas marked with this sign are closed yearround to all motorized watercraft and vehicles. Watercraft powered by electric motors, or those that are being propelled by non-motorized means, are allowed. The possession of other watercraft motors is not prohibited, only their use.

In areas marked by these signs, watercraft must travel at slow, no-wake speed and no airboats or hovercraft are allowed from March 16 through October 31.





Refuge Boundary Sign

## U.S. COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard, the nation's lead agency in boating safety, has three primary roles on the rivers: 1) to ensure waterway safety & safe river commerce, including the inspection of ports and commercial vessels for safety, 2) the maintenance of aids to navigation, and 3) the protection of the environment, including pollution prevention, and the response to oil spills or other marine incidents. All portions of the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers fall into the Eighth U.S. Coast Guard District - Sector Upper Mississippi River (this sector includes all of the Twin Cities Metro Area and the Mississippi River to Cairo, IL):

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, MO 63103 Non-emergency (314) 269-2500 24 hour emergency 1-866-360-3386 or contact using marine channel **16** - 24 hrs-a-day.

www.uscg.mil/d8/sectumr

#### U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers public courses in boating safety and seamanship. They are taught by experienced Auxiliary members and the only charge is for course materials. These courses are usually given in the winter and spring.

www.cgaux.org

#### **U.S. POWER SQUADRONS**

U.S. Power Squadrons is a private, non-profit organization dedicating themselves to boating and boating safety. The Power Squadrons offer free public boating courses.

www.usps.org

## **HELP ON THE RIVER**

#### EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY

**Emergency** (illness, injury, accident, etc.) dial 911 on your cell phone or send a distress call on Channel 16 of your marine radio. Remember to give your position and the nature of the emergency and be prepared to stay on the line or have someone stand by the radio.

**Non-Emergency** (out of fuel, engine failure, etc.) first try to summon help from a passing boat or call one of the marinas in this publication for assistance. Law enforcement craft may not be available to respond in non-emergency situations. If an officer or deputy is able to assist, they may only be able to tow you to the closest safe mooring or marina where you can call for or obtain mechanical assistance.

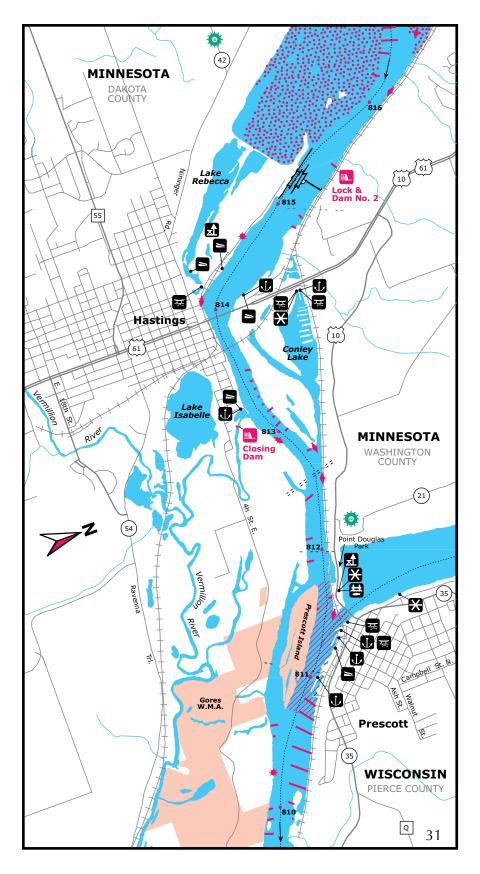
Mississippi River	see map on page 31
<b>815.3</b> R	Lock and Dam No. 2, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lock on right
815.0R - 814.1R	Lake Rebecca Municipal Park, City of Hastings concrete plank ramp on lake, picnic area, trail, portable chemical toilet (across road)
Lake Rebecca	
<b>814.3</b> R	Mississippi River - Hastings Public Access, MN DNR and City of Hastings concrete slab ramp
Conley Lake	
€ <b>3</b> 13.8L	King's Cove Marina, LLC, Private entrance at River Mile 812.7L, dockage, fuel, pumpouts, repair facilities, restrooms, service and canvas department, ship's store, transient slips for rent, storage, brokerage (651) 437-6186, (651) 480-8900, fax (651) 480-8926 www.kingscove.com
₩ X 813.8L	<b>Great River Boat Rental, Private</b> entrance at River Mile 812.7L, boat rental, dockage, transient slip rental
Mississippi River	
815.3 - 812.0R	Hastings area food, lodging Dakota County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (651) 322-2323
₩ 814.2R	Hastings Public Dock, City of Hastings 150 feet in length
<b>11.2</b> 814.2L	Hub's Landing and Marina, Private concrete slab ramp (fee), transient slips, overnight parking, pumpout, restrooms, ship's store, store & launch (651) 755-6540 www.hubslanding.com
<b>11.3</b> 813.3 R	Hastings Marina, Inc., Private concrete slab ramp (fee), fuel, pumpouts, restrooms, showers, snacks, water & pop (651) 437-9621, fax (651) 438-9924
20	

St. Croix River	
0.4- 810.8L	<b>Prescott area</b> food, lodging away from river <u>www.saintcroixriver.com</u> Pierce County Sheriff emergency 911 or all other services (715) 273-5051
<b>X</b> 0.5L	<b>Prescott Public Beach, City of Prescott</b> beach
£1 💥 .3R ₩ €	<b>Point Douglas, Washington County Parks</b> fishing pier, picnicking, restrooms, swimming beach (651) 430-8240
_	www.co.washington.mn.us/parks
.1L	<b>Prescott City, Courtesy Dock</b> temporary docking (fee)
Mississippi Rive	r
811.5- 810.8L	<b>Prescott area</b> food, lodging www.saintcroixriver.com Pierce County Sheriff emergency 911 or all other services (715) 273-5051
<b>11.4</b> L <b>811.4</b> L	<b>Leo's Landing, Private</b> temporary dockage, fuel, full service marina, pumpouts, restrooms (715) 262-5998, fax (651) 770-8870 e-mail: jande10136@aol.com
<b>811.4</b> L	<b>Point St. Croix Marina, Private</b> <i>restrooms, temporary slips</i> (715) 262-3161
<b>&gt;&gt; 811.3</b> L	<b>Prescott Public Access, City of Prescott</b> two paved concrete ramps (fee)
<b>811.1L</b>	Miss Croix Yacht Harbor, Private fuel, pumpouts, 35 ton travel lift, boat repair, snacks, water & pop (715) 262-5202, (651) 480-0406
811.8- 802.2R	<b>Gores Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR</b> Contact DNR for more information on this area.
See the Metro A north of Presco	area Rivers Guide for information on the rivers tt.

#### No wake zones

Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.





#### **Mississippi River**

811.8-
802.2R

**.8- Gores Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR .2R** Contact DNR for more information on this area.

#### **Vermillion River**



#### **Vermillion River Public Access, MN DNR** concrete plank ramp (shallow water access, small boats only), located near the confluence of Truedale Slough



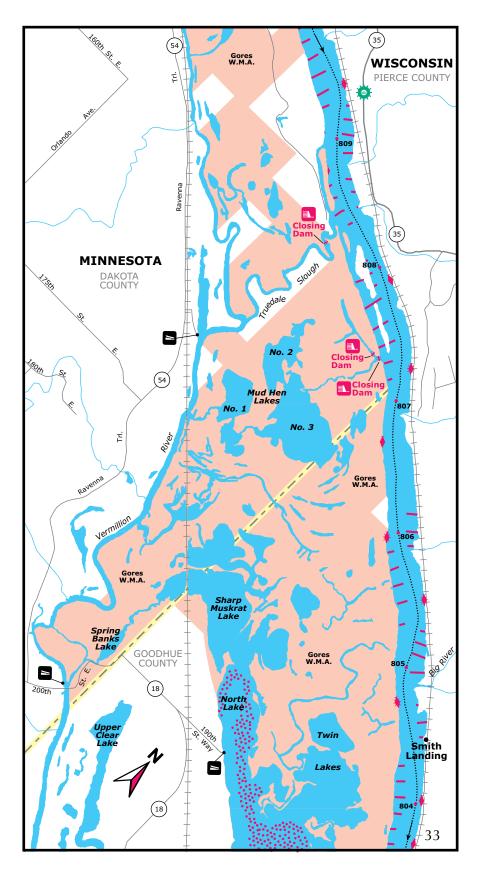
#### **Vermillion River Public Access, MN DNR** concrete plank ramp, located by 200th St. E.

#### North Lake

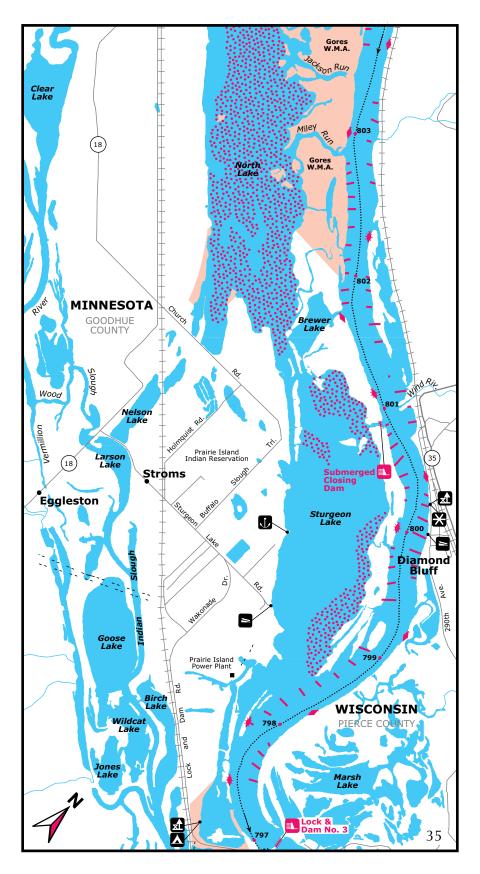


North Lake Public Access, MN DNR earth ramp (shallow water access, small boats only)





Mississippi River	see map on page 35
811.8- 802.2R	<b>Gores Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR</b> Contact DNR for more information on this area.
799.9L - 800.9L	<b>Diamond Bluff, Unincorporated</b> <i>Pierce County Sheriff emergency</i> 911 or <i>non-emergency</i> (715) 273-5051
800.2L	Sea Wing Memorial Park, Diamond Bluff City two rock fishing piers, picnicking parking, piers
<b>799.9L</b>	<b>Diamond Bluff Landing, Public</b> crushed rock ramp (limited parking)
Sturgeon Lake	
<b>800.0</b> R	Treasure Island Resort & Casino Marina, Private - owned and operated by Prairie Island Indian Community
	overnight dockage, electricity, fuel (gas & diesel), lodging, pumpouts, restrooms, restaurants, showers, 81 transient slips, ship's store, water (800) 222-7077 ext 2335 www.treasureislandcasino.com
	(enter Sturgeon Lake at river mile 798.2R)
<b>&gt; 799.4</b> R	Sturgeon Lake Public Access, MN DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concrete plank ramp - access suitable for small boats only.
797.5- 796.1R	<b>Gores Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR</b> There are restrictions on the use of personal watercraft (jet skis), airboats and amphibious vehicles inside this wildlife management area. Please see the DNR website or call the DNR Information Center for more information.
x 🖍 797.4R	<b>Commissory Point Campground, U.S. Army</b> <b>Corps of Engineers</b> <i>camping (no fee), picnic area (accessible by</i> <i>boat only)</i>
Mississippi River	·
<b>796.9</b> R	Lock and Dam No. 3, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lock on right

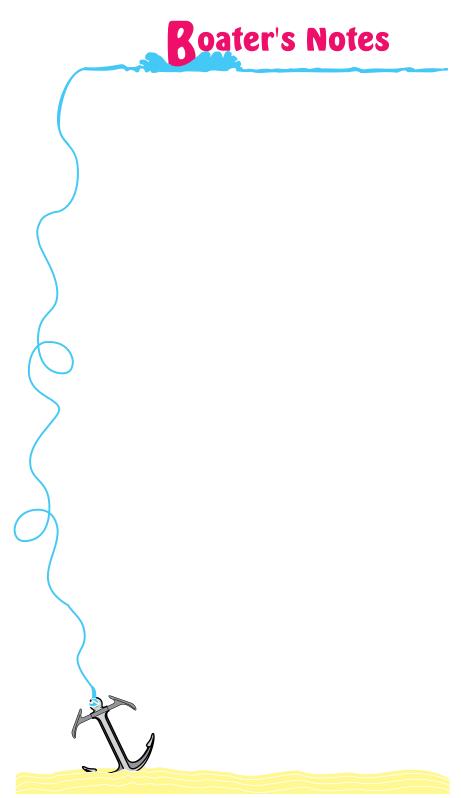


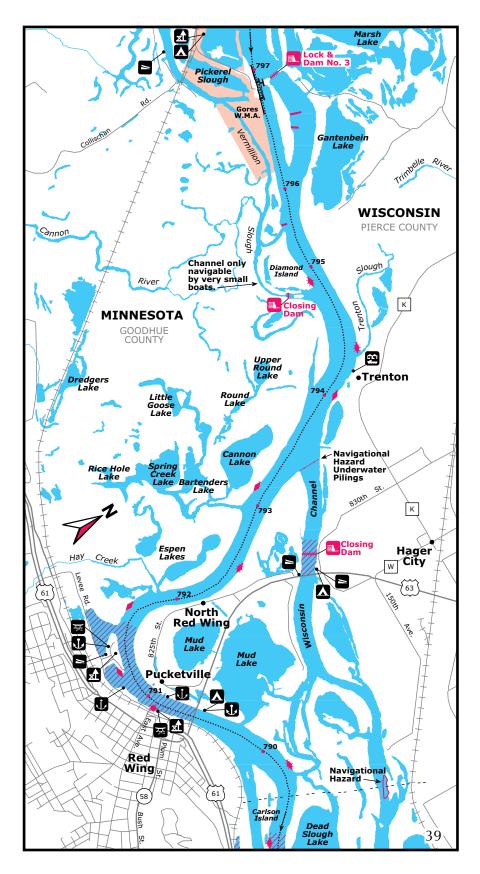
Mississippi River	see map on page 39
797.5- 796.1R	<b>Gores Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR</b> There are restrictions on the use of personal watercraft (jet skis), airboats and amphibious vehicles inside this wildlife management area. Please see the DNR website or call the DNR Information Center for more information.
x 🕅 797.4R	<b>Commissory Point Campground, U.S. Army</b> <b>Corps of Engineers</b> <i>camping (no fee), picnic area (accessible by</i> <i>boat only)</i>
Vermillion Sloug	h
<b>797.6</b> R	<b>Vermillion River Public Access, MN DNR</b> concrete plank ramp (shallow water access, small boats only, access road may be inaccessible during periods of high water)
Mississippi River	
<b>796.9</b> R	Lock and Dam No. 3, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lock on right
794.2L	Evert's Resort, Private concrete slab ramp (fee), bait shop, fuel, lodging, boat rental, restrooms (715) 792-2333 www.evertsfishingresort.com
Wisconsin Chan	nel
<b>792.7</b> R	Wisconsin Channel Boat Launch, Wisconsin DOT asphalt ramp
<b>792.7</b> L	<b>Mr. Sippi, Private</b> concrete ramp, camping, transient docking, food, play area, restrooms with showers, ice & supplies, water (715) 792-2992
Mississippi River	
791.7- 788.5R	<b>Red Wing area</b> food, lodging Goodhue County Sheriff emergency 911 or Sheriffs's Water Patrol non-emergency (651) 385-3155
26	

Mississippi River Continued		
포 🕕 791.4R	Ole' Miss Marina at Bay Point, City of Red Wing temporary & overnight dockage, gas dock, ice, pumpouts, restrooms, showers, drinking water, boat storage, office (651) 388-5839, gas dock (651) 388-8643 www.olemissmarina.com	
<b>&gt; 791.4</b> R	Bay Point Municipal Access, City of Red Wing concrete ramps	
<b>xt</b> 791.4R	<b>Bay Point Municipal Park, City of Red Wing</b> picnic area, public restrooms, drinking water, walking path	
<b>791.2</b> R	<b>Red Wing Marina, Private</b> temporary & overnight dockage, electrical hookup and cable, ice, fuel, pumpout, restrooms, shower drinking water (651) 388-8995 www.redwingmarina.com	
₩ xt 790.9R	Levee Park, City of Red Wing short term boat mooring	
790.8L	<b>Trenton Island Marina, Private</b> temporary dockage, overnight docking (fee), slip rental, restrooms, service, showers, drinking water (715) 792-2035	
790.6L	Island Campground & Marina, Private concrete ramp (fee), camping (fee), courtesy boat dock, dumping station, electricity, firewood, fish cleaning house, laundry, children's play area, showers, slips available, flush toilets, portable waste area, water (715) 222-1808 www.islandcampingandmarina.com	

Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.

**Note:** See section on wake damage and erosion on page 19. The section from Lock & Dam No. 3 to the upper end of Lake Pepin is particularly prone to shoreline erosion from boat wakes, especially during high water.



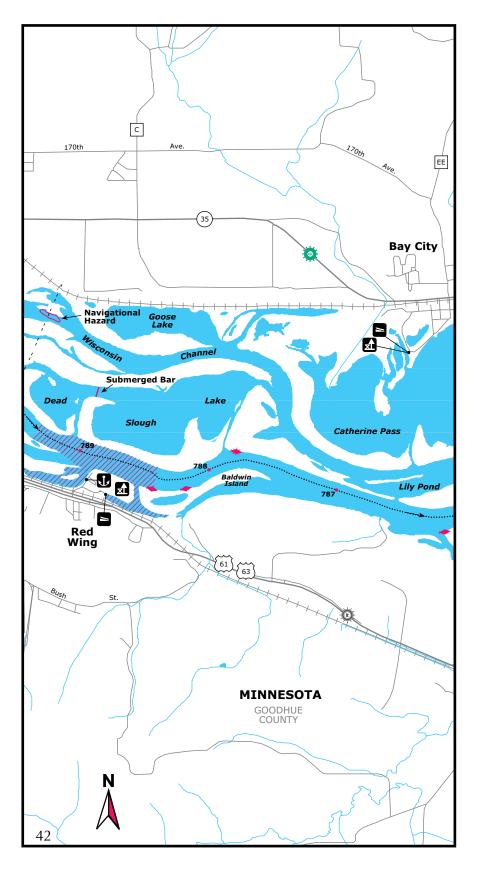


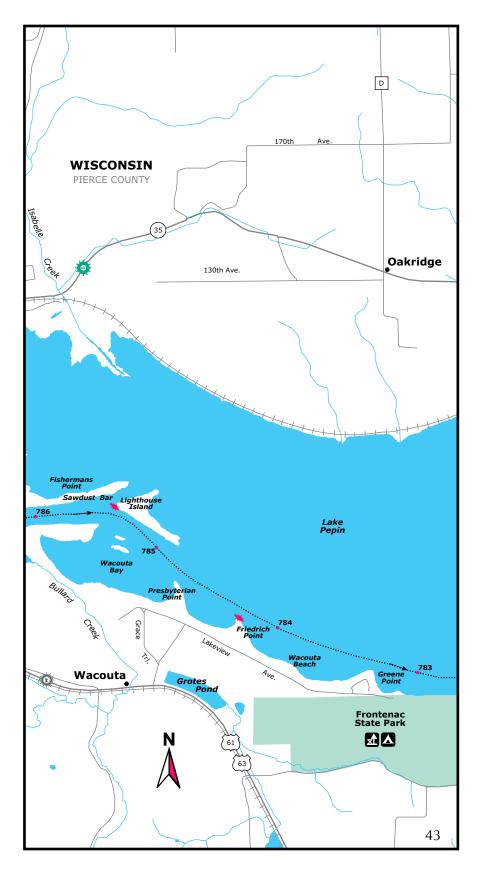
Colvill Bay	see maps on pages 42-43
<b>788.9</b> R	<b>Bill's Bay Marina, Private</b> concessions, temporary dockage, fuel, haul out (up to 55'), mechanical service, pumpout, supplies, water (651) 388-0481 www.billsbay.com
<b>x1</b> 788.7R	<b>Colvill Municipal Park, City of Red Wing</b> concessions, picnic area, public restrooms, shelter & pavilion (fee - reservations (651) 385- 3674), drinking water, Aquatic Center (fee)
► 788.6R	<b>Colvill Municipal Park Public Access, City of Red Wing</b> concrete plank ramp, asphalt parking lot
Lake Pepin	
786.4L	<b>Bay City</b> food www.baycitywi.org Pierce County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (715) 273-5051
x 🔁 786.8L	Bay City Village Park and Access, Bay City concrete slab ramp, beach, camping (fee), picnic area, public restrooms, drinking water camping hours 6am - 10pm, camping reservations May - October (715) 594-3229 www.baycitywi.org
783.9- 776.4R	Frontenac State Park, MN DNR bird watching, public camping, 13 miles of hiking trails, picnicking & panoramic overlooks, shelter, Minnesota State Park vehicle (boats excluded) permit required (651) 345-3401, www.mndnr.gov/parks

Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.

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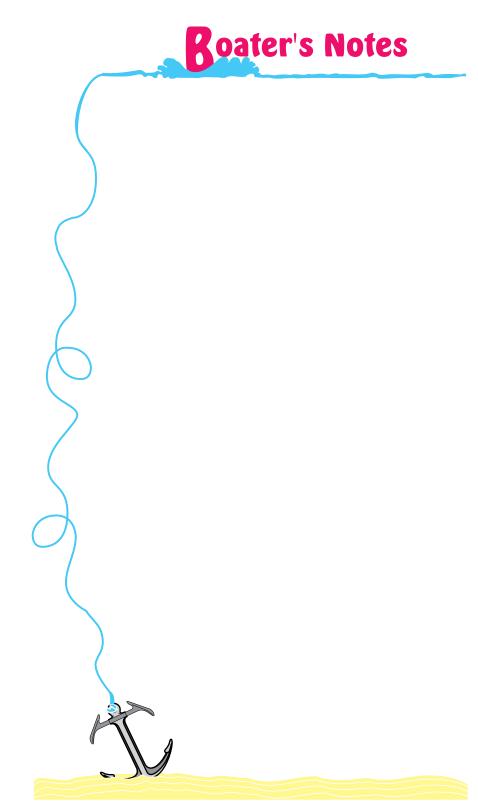


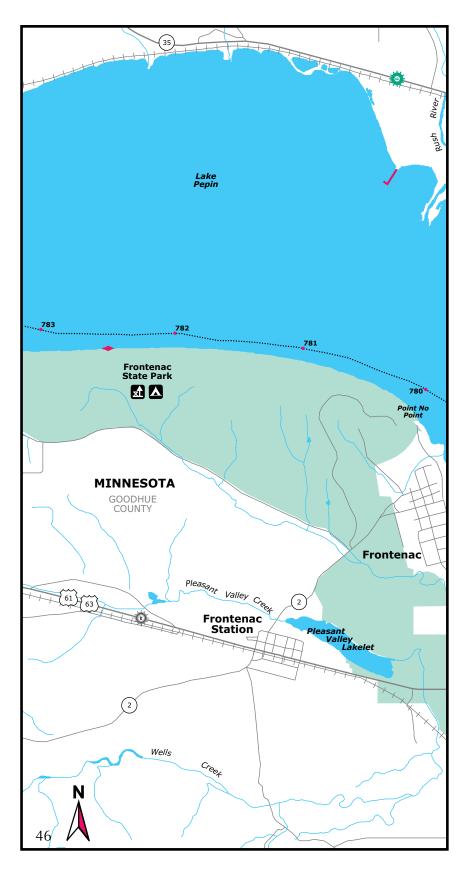


see maps on pages 46-47

Lake Pepin

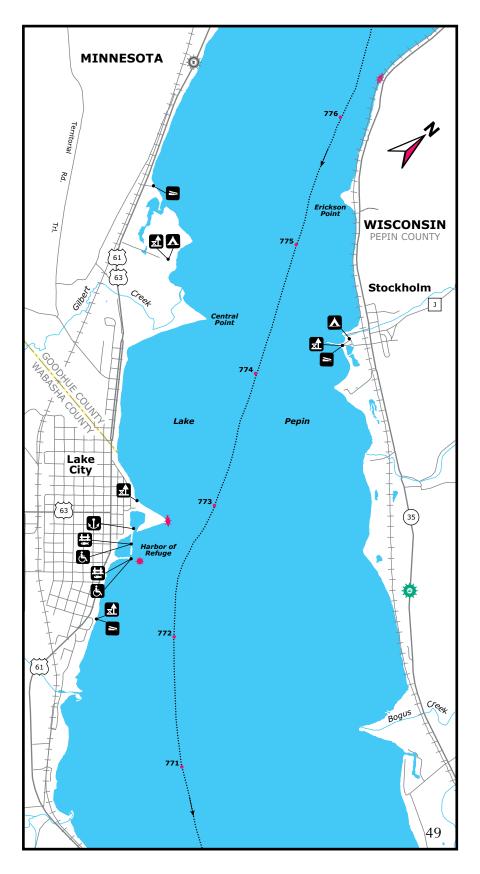
	783.9- 776.4R	Frontenac State Park, MN DNR bird watching, public camping, 13 miles of hiking trails, picnicking & panoramic overlooks, shelter, Minnesota State Park vehicle (boats excluded) permit required (651) 345-3401, www.mndnr.gov/parks
	779.7L	Maiden Rock food www.maidenrock.org Pierce County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (715) 273-5051
	779.7L	Maiden Rock Village Park, City of Maiden Rock Village gravel ramp (shallow water access - small boats only), camping, temporary dockage, baseball field, picnicking, park shelter (715) 448-2205 (ask for village clerk)
	779.0R	Frontenac Goodhue County Sheriff emergency 911 or Sheriffs's Water Patrol non-emergency (651) 385-3155
	778.8R	Florence Township Beach, Public concrete slab ramp
J	776.4R	Hansen's Harbor & Trailer Court, Private concrete ramp (fee), overnight dockage, fuel (including diesel), pumpout, restrooms & showers, full service, ship's store (651) 345-3022 www.hansensharbor.com
X	776.2R	Lake Pepin Rest Area, MN DOT pay phone, pet exercise area, picnic area, restrooms, vending machines, drinking water (open all year)



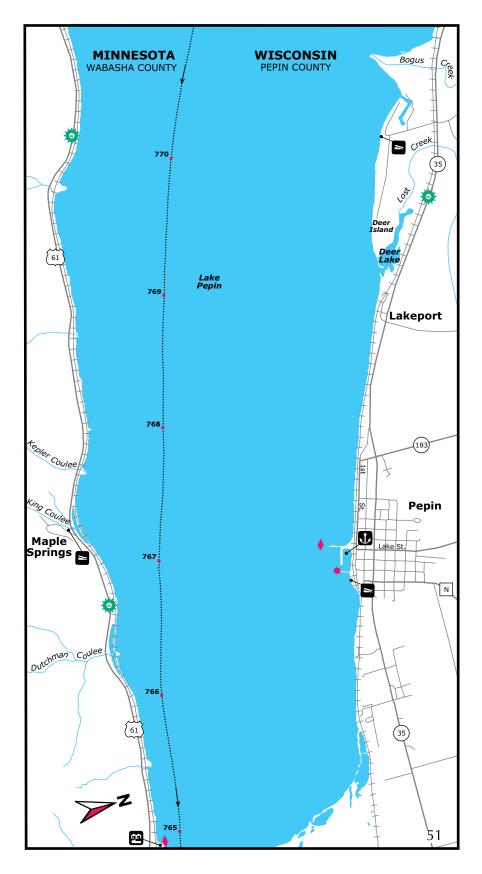




Lake Pepin	see map on page 49
► 775.4R	Hok-Si-La Park Public Access, Lake City concrete slab ramps
x \Lambda 774.8R	Hok-Si-La Park, Lake City camping (fee, tents only), dining hall (fee), picnic area, restrooms, shelters (day use only, fee), showers, swimming beach, drinking water, open May 1 - October 31 (651) 345-3855 www.ci.lake-city.mn.us
774.3L	<b>Stockholm</b> food, shops Pepin County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (715) 672-5944 or Pepin Police non-emergency (715) 442-2461
774.2L	<b>Stockholm Campsite, Stockholm City</b> camping (fee), electrical hookup, restrooms, hand water pump, first-come, first-served
xt 🚬 774.2L	Stockholm Municipal Park and Access, City of Stockholm concrete slab ramp, restrooms, drinking water
774.2- 771.5R	Lake City area food, lodging www.lakecitymn.org Goodhue County Sheriff emergency 911 or Sheriffs's Water Patrol non-emergency (651) 385-3155 Wabasha County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (651) 565-3361
<b>X</b> 773.0R	<b>Ohuta Municipal Park, Lake City</b> restrooms, drinking water
772.8R	Lake City Marina, Lake City concrete slab ramp (fee), temporary overnight dockage (water & power on dock), 35 ton straddle crane, fuel, 2 pumpouts (651) 345-4211, (651) 345-3382
₹ ₹ 772.7R	Fishing Platform, Lake City fishing platform on breakwater
€ ₩ 772.7R	Government Fishing Platform, MN DNR fishing platform on breakwater
xt 🖿 772.1R	<b>Roschen Park and Access, Lake City</b> paved concrete ramp, picnic area, restrooms
4.0	



Lake Pepin	see map on page 51
► 770.3L	<b>Deer Island Boat Ramp, City of Pepin</b> concrete slab ramp
767.2L	<b>Pepin</b> food, lodging Pepin County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (715) 672-5944 or Pepin Police non-emergency (715) 442-2461
► 767.3R	Maple Springs Public Access, MN DNR concrete ramp (shallow water access - small boats only) k parking, ramp
767.1L 7	Dan's Pepin Marina, Private concrete ramp (fee), temporary dockage, pumpouts, yearly rental slips, restrooms, snacks and beverages, drinking water on season call (715) 442-4900, off season (Nov Mar.) call (715) 442-2606, fax (715) 442-3403
<b>&gt; 766.9</b> L	Sportsman Landing, Private concrete slab ramp
264.8R	<b>Camp Lacupolis Resort, Private</b> concrete slab ramp (fee), camping, temporary dockage, protected harbor, fuel, lodging (cabin rental), boat rental, snacks (651) 565-4318, winter (507) 324-5216 e-mail: bea@camplacupolis.com
	Boater's Notes



see map on page 55

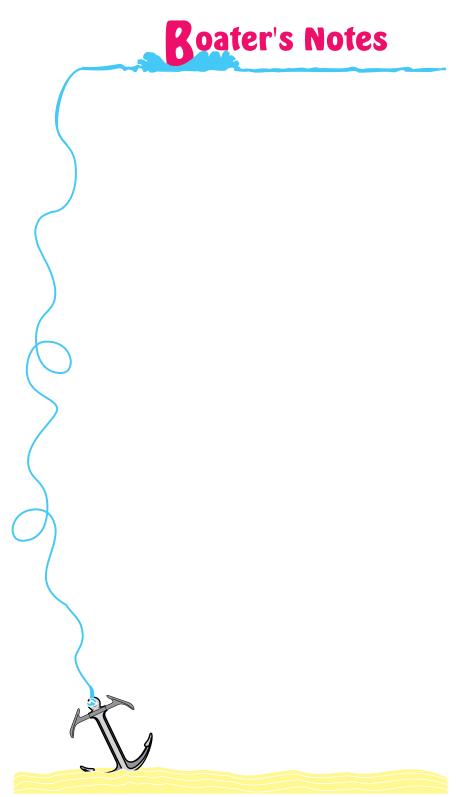
## Lake Pepin

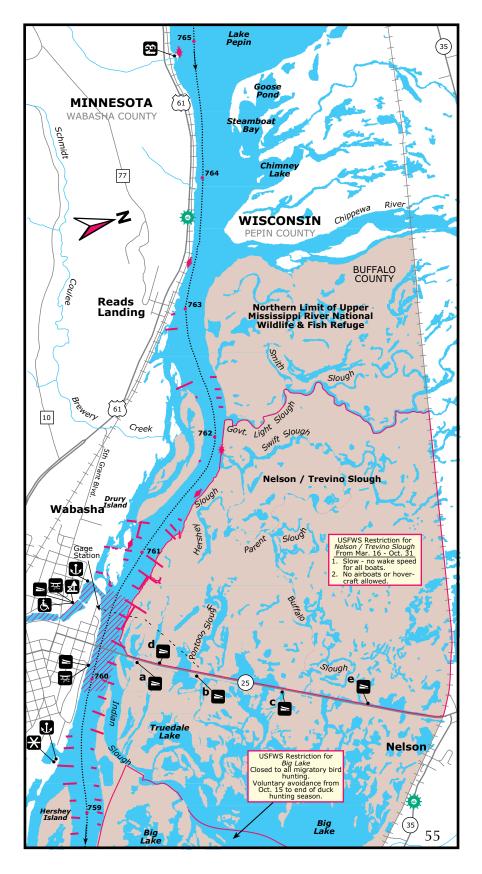
	-	
£.	764.8R	Camp Lacupolis Resort, Private concrete slab ramp (fee), camping, temporary dockage, protected harbor, fuel, lodging (cabin rental), boat rental, snacks (651) 565-4318, winter (507) 324-5216 e-mail: bea@camplacupolis.com
Missis	sippi River	r
	763.2- 762.9R	<b>Reads Landing</b> Wabasha County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (651) 565-3361
		Northern Boundary of Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
	761.1- 759.5R	<b>Wabasha</b> food, lodging Wabasha County Sheriff emergency <mark>911</mark> or non-emergency (651) 565-3361
J	760.6R	Mississippi Parkside Marina, Private temporary dockage, fuel, laundry, pumpouts, repairs & boat painting, ship's store, showers, supplies (651) 565-3809 www.parksidemarina.com
	760.6R	<b>Ike's Park, City of Wabasha</b> paved ramp, dockage and overnight dockage parking, ramp, dock, toilet
Highv	vay 25	
<i>M</i>	760.2L	(a) Indian Slough Landing, USFWS one concrete plank ramp, one gravel ramp
<u>y</u>	760.2L	(d) Unnamed Landing, USFWS gravel ramp
<i>J</i>	760.2L	(b) Pontoon Slough Landing, Buffalo County gravel ramp
	760.2L	(c) Beef Slough Landing, USFWS gravel ramp
52	760.2L	(e) Unnamed Landing, USFWS gravel ramp

🛫 🚬 760.1R	Wabasha Municipal Dock, City of Wabasha asphalt ramp, temporary dockage
759.4R	Wabasha Marina / Boat Yard, Private temporary & overnight dockage, fuel, pumpouts, repairs, ship's store (651) 565-4747
759.4R	Great River Houseboat, Private houseboat rental, marina pickup (651) 565-3376 www.greatriverhouseboats.com

Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.

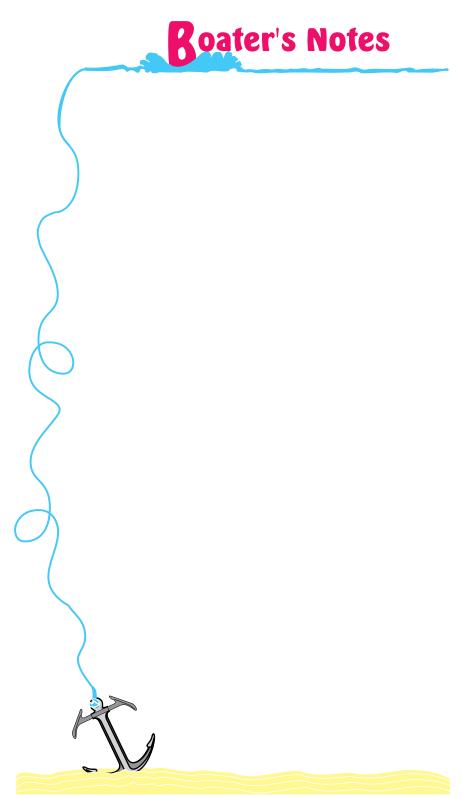


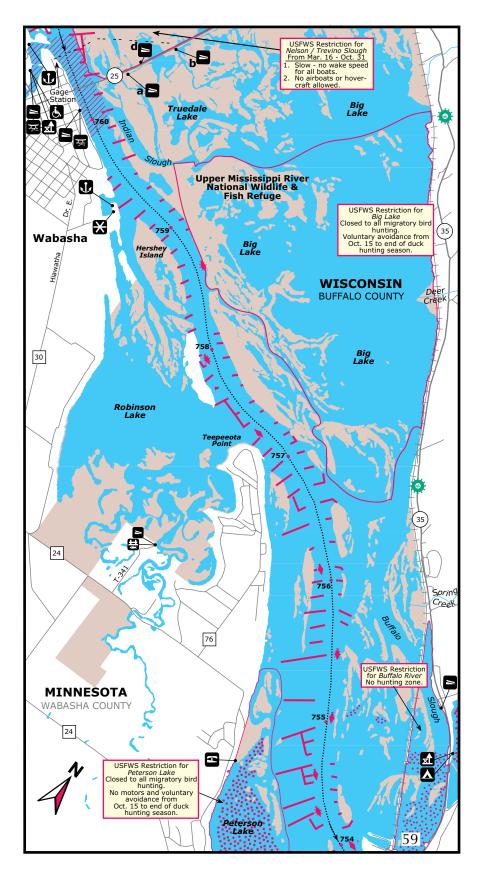




Mississippi River	see map on page 59
761.1 - 759.5R	<b>Wabasha</b> food, lodging Wabasha County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (651) 565-3361
	Upper Mississippi National River Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
<b>760.6</b> R	Mississippi Parkside Marina, Private temporary dockage, fuel, laundry, pumpouts, repairs & boat painting, ship's store, showers, supplies (651) 565-3809 www.parksidemarina.com
x > 760.6R 곳	<b>Ike's Park, City of Wabasha</b> paved ramp, dockage and overnight dockage parking, ramp, dock, toilet
Highway 25	
<b>760.2</b> L	(a) Indian Slough Landing, USFWS one concrete plank ramp, one gravel ramp
<b>760.2</b> L	(d) Unnamed Landing, USFWS gravel ramp
<b>760.2</b> L	(b) Pontoon Slough Landing, Buffalo County gravel ramp
Mississippi River	r
🐺 🚬 760.1R	Wabasha Municipal Dock, City of Wabasha asphalt ramp, temporary dockage
<b>759.4</b> R	<b>Wabasha Marina / Boat Yard, Private</b> temporary & overnight dockage, fuel, pumpouts, repairs, ship's store (651) 565-4747
759.4R	Great River Houseboats, Private houseboat rental, marina pickup (651) 565-3376 www.greatriverhouseboats.com

Robinson Lake 756.4R	<b>Wilcox Landing, MN DNR</b> entrance at Teepeeota Point, two paved ramps, fishing pier, shore fishing,
Buffalo Slough	
► 755.0L	Buffalo River Landing, USFWS/City of Alma concrete plank ramp
xt \Lambda 754.7L	Rieck's Lakeside Park, Alma City camping, picnic area, restrooms
Peterson Lake	
<b>754.7</b>	<b>Peterson Lake Landing, USFWS</b> concrete ramp (small boats)
	Booter's Notes



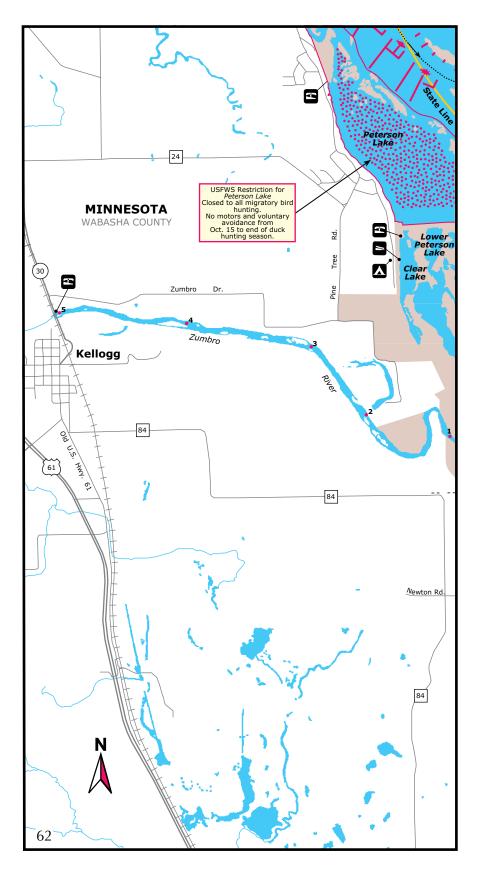


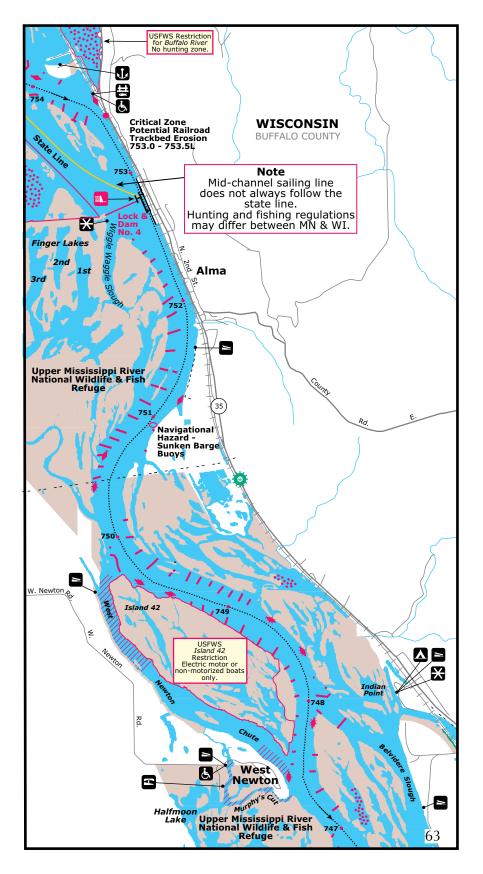
see maps on pages 62-63

Mississippi Rive	see maps on pages 62-63 er
	<b>Upper Mississippi River National</b> <b>Wildlife and Fish Refuge</b> Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
Peterson Lake	
<b>754.7</b> R	<b>Peterson Lake Landing, USFWS</b> concrete ramp (small boats)
Mississippi Rive	er
754.0L	Alma Marina, Private concrete ramp, bait, temporary dockage, fuel, haul out, pumpouts, boat rental (pontoon, house- boat), restrooms, full-service, winter storage, supplies (608) 685-3333, (608) 685-3707, 800-982-8410 www.northportmarine.com
53.8L	Tank Pond, City of Alma, Public fishing pier
752.8L	Lock and Dam No. 4, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
752.8R	<b>Alma Fishing Float, Private</b> located just below Lock and Dam No. 4.
Finger Lakes	
Ч	Lock and Dam No. 4 Landing, MN DNR carry-in
No.	<b>Pioneer Landing, MN DNR</b> plank ramp - canoes and small boats (backwater, no access to main channel) for parking, ramp, dock
	<b>Pioneer Campsite, Private</b> camping, children's play area, groceries, restrooms, rental canoes, showers (fee) (651) 565-2242
Mississippi Rive	er
752.2L	<b>Alma</b> food, lodging, Buffalo County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 685-4433
60	

Mississippi River Continued		
► 751.6L	Alma Landing, Wisconsin DNR/Alma concrete ramp, restrooms	
Zumbro River		
<b>5.1</b> L	Zumbro River, Kellogg Access, MN DNR carry-in	
West Newton Chute		
► 749.7R	West Newton Chute, MN DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers single concrete plank ramp toilet	
Belvidere (Pomme De Terre) Slough		
748.0L	<b>Great River Harbor, Private</b> concrete ramp (fee), cabins, camping, fuel & L.P. gas, boat rental (canoes, kayaks), marine sales & full service repair, restaurant (limited hours), showers, overnight slips, monitors channel 16 on season call (608) 248-2454 off season call (507) 459-2941 (November - April)	
<b>&gt;&gt;</b> 746.9L	<b>Belvidere Slough Landing, WI DNR</b> paved ramp	
Murphy's Cut		
🤹 🖿 747.5R	Halfmoon Landing, USFWS concrete slab ramp, transfer dock, portable toilets	
<b>47.3</b> R	Halfmoon Canoe Access, USFWS carry-in (shallow water access - for small boats)	

Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.





see maps on pages 66-67

## **Mississippi River**

#### Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.

## Goose Lake

≥ 746.8R	<b>Goose Lake Public Access, MN DNR</b> concrete plank ramp (shallow water access - for small boats)

744.6R	Weaver Landing, USFWS
744.7R	<b>Weaver</b> Wabasha County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (651) 565-3361

for small boats), restrooms

concrete plank ramp (shallow water access -

# Belvidere (Pomme De Terre) Slough

745.8-	Buffalo City
743.5L	food, lodging
	Buffalo County Sheriff 911 or
	non-emergency (608) 685-4433

**744.3L** Buffalo City Landing, Buffalo City paved ramp

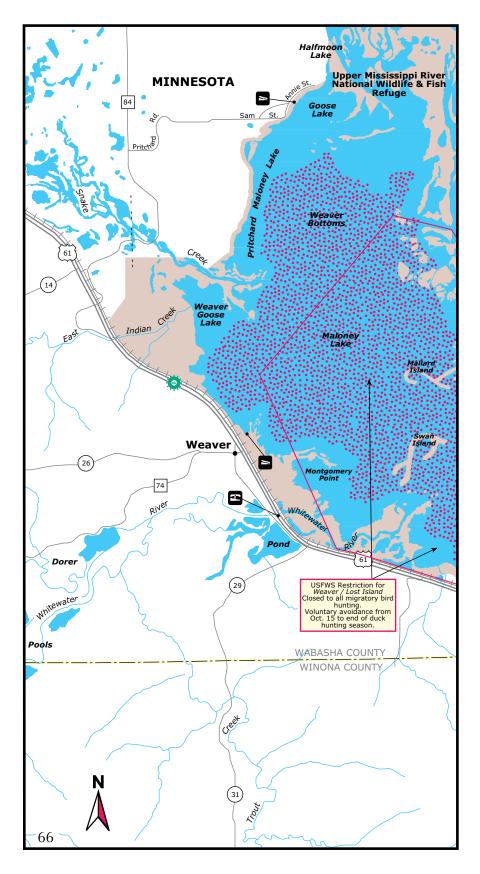
## Whitewater River

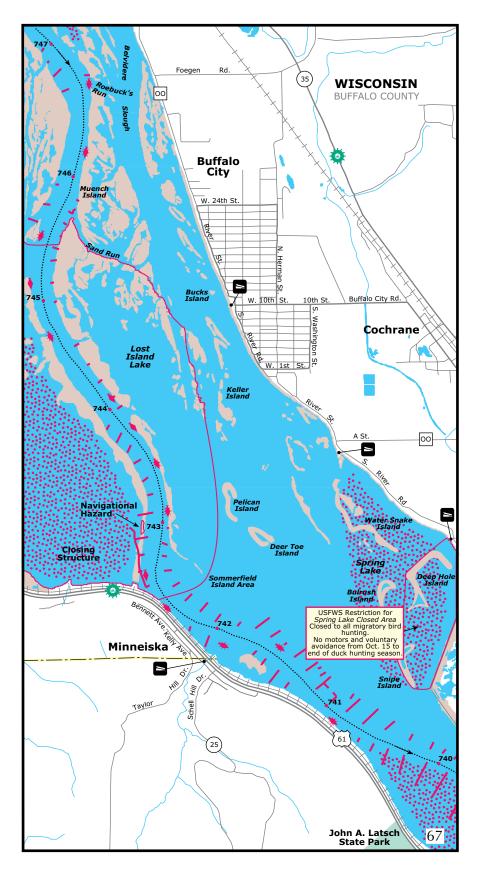
743.3R Whitewater River - Old Hwy. 61 Access, MN DNR carry-in

## Spring Lake

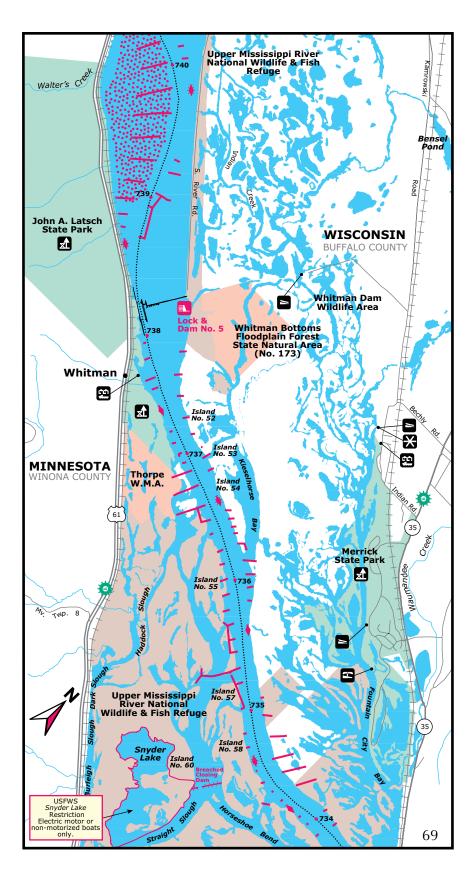
- **742.4L** Upper Spring Lake Landing, USFWS/Buffalo City gravel ramp
- **741.2L** Lower Spring Lake Landing, WI DNR/Buffalo City concrete slab ramp

small boats)	ess - for
741.7R Minneiska Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 non-emergency (507) 457-6368	or
<b>John A. Latsch State Park, MN DNR</b> camping, wayside rest, restrooms (Facilit are not available to boaters because of ra and highway constraints.) www.mndnr.gov/parks	

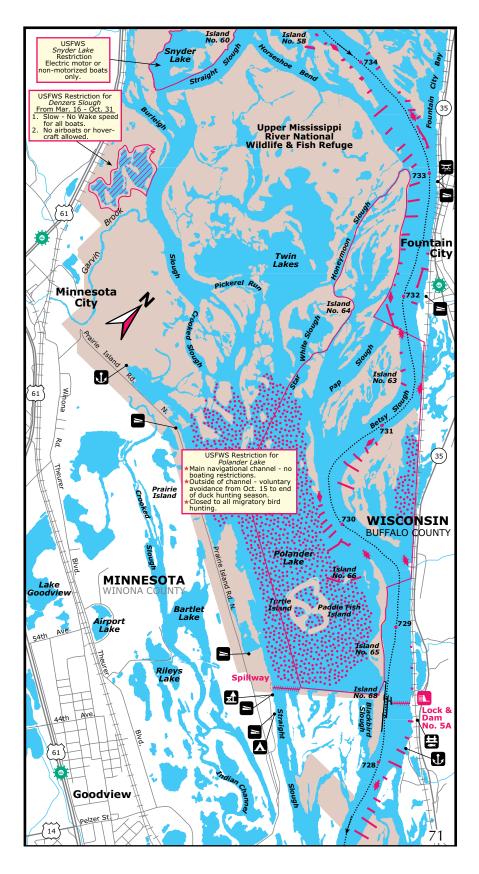




Mississippi Riv	er
	<b>Upper Mississippi River National</b> <b>Wildlife and Fish Refuge</b> Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
740.0- 737.0R	John A. Latsch State Park, MN DNR camping, wayside rest, restrooms (Facilities are not available to boaters because of railroad and highway constraints.) www.mndnr.gov/parks
738.1R	Lock and Dam No. 5, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
👥 737.7R	<b>Bass Camp Resort Inc., Private</b> double concrete ramps (fee), camping, concessions, temporary dockage, fuel, lodging, canoe & boat rental, restrooms (507) 689-2856
737.5 - 736.5R	Thorpe Wildlife Management Area, MN DNR
Whitman Dam	Wildlife Area, WI DNR
<b>738.2</b> L	Whitman Dam Wildlife Area, WI DNR gravel ramp
736.6L	<b>Bay's End, Private</b> asphalt ramp (fee), courtesy dock, slip rental (608) 687-8216
<b>91</b> 736.5L	Indian Creek Resort, Private bait, temporary dockage, food, fuel, ice, pumpout, camping, lodging (608) 687-9581
Fountain City I	Bay
736.4- 734.0L	Merrick State Park, WI DNR two asphalt ramps, camping, restrooms, drinking water (608) 687-4936 www.dnr.state.wi.us



Mississippi River	see map on page 71
	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
732.9L	Fountain City food, lodging Buffalo County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 685-4433
₩ ► 732.8L	Fountain City Boat Dock, Fountain City concrete ramp, temporary dockage
► 732.1L	Lower Fountain City Landing, Fountain City two concrete ramps, temporary dockage
Straight Slough	
731.3R	Minnesota City Boat Club, Inc., Private live bait, temporary dockage, fuel, water (507) 689-2412
<b>&gt; 730.8</b> R	Verchota Landing, USFWS concrete plank ramp
► 728.7R	<b>Upper McNalley Landing, USFWS</b> concrete plank ramp
Mississippi River	
728.5R	Lock and Dam No. 5A, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
728.4L	Freddies Float, Private fishing pier (fee)
728.1L	Breezy Point Marina, Private concrete ramp
Straight Slough	
xt 🔁 728.4R	Latsch Prairie Island Park and Access, Winona City earth ramp, camping, picnic area, restrooms, drinking water
<b>70 728.2R</b>	<b>Prairie Island Campground, Private Facilities</b> <b>For Campers Only</b> concrete ramp (free), 1/3 mile of sand beach for swimming and landing boats, camping, boat dock & landing, firewood, canoe rental, restrooms, showers, drinking water (507) 452-4501



see map on page 75

Straight Slough

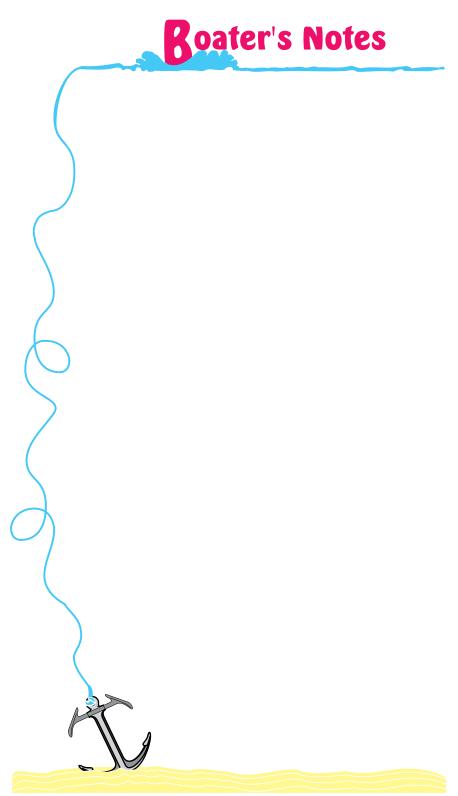
Strangint Slough	
728.2R	Prairie Island Campground, Private Facilities For Campers Only concrete ramp (free), 1/3 mile of sand beach for swimming and landing boats, camping, boat dock & landing, firewood, canoe rental, restrooms, showers, drinking water (507) 452-4501
Mississippi Rive	r
	<b>Upper Mississippi River National</b> <b>Wildlife and Fish Refuge</b> Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
<b>728.5</b> R	Lock and Dam No. 5A, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
728.4L	Freddies Float, Private private fishing pier (fee)
728.1L	Breezy Point Marina, Private concrete ramp
728.5- 723.4R	<b>Winona area</b> food, lodging Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368
726.2L	Dick's Marina, Private fuel (230' gas dock), overnight dockage, pumpouts, repairs, restrooms, ship's store, monitors channel 16 (507) 452-3809
► 725.8L	Winona Municipal Harbor Public Access, Winona City concrete ramp
≥ 725.7L	Latsch Island East, USFWS concrete ramp
<b>725.6L</b>	Latsch Island Park and Landing, Winona City gravel ramp, picnic area
₩ x 725.4R	Levee Park, Winona City restrooms, temporary dockage
<b>725.2L</b>	<b>Bluff Siding</b> food, Buffalo County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 685-4433

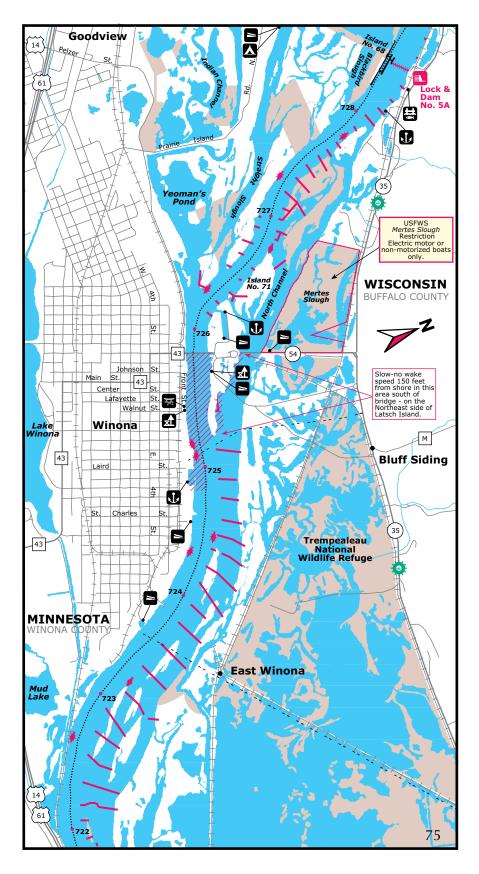


### No wake zones

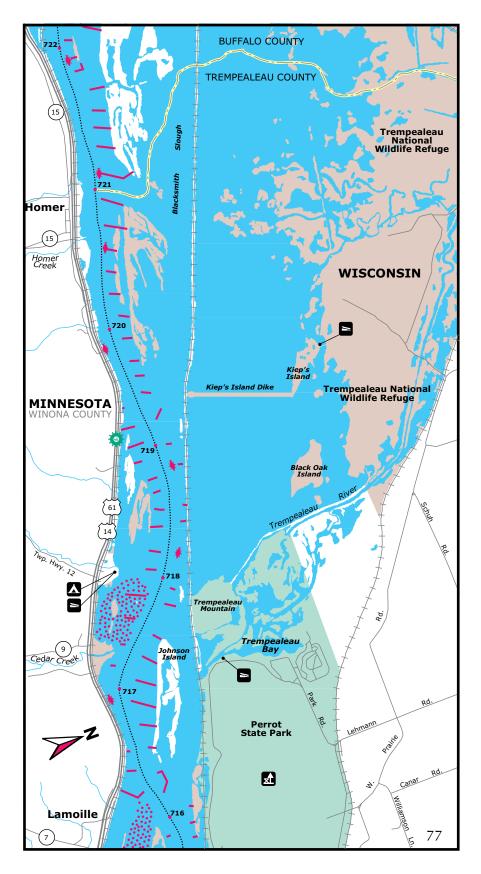
Special "slow - no wake zones" (indicated with red hatch marks on map) are enforced in congested and hazardous areas of the river. In No Wake Zones, motorboat operation is restricted to "the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour." To improve safety conditions and make the river experience more enjoyable for more people, please obey the speed limits and maintain special vigilance when traveling through such zones.







	see map on page 77
Mississippi River	
	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
	<b>Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge</b> 6,200 acre refuge lies within the Mississippi flyway, along the Mississippi River providing resting and feeding areas for waterfowl and other birds.
720.8R	<b>Homer</b> Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368
<b>&gt; 719.5</b> L	Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge Access, USFWS concrete ramp (electric motors only)
A 🗲 718.0R	<b>Pla-Mor Campground, Private</b> concrete ramp (fee), camping & camping cabins, concessions, docking (fee), showers (fee) (507) 454-2851, info@camppla-mor.com
Trempealeau Bay	,
x > 718.1- 714.8L	<b>Perrot State Park, WI DNR</b> concrete plank ramp, camping, canoe rental, restrooms, Great River Trail, drinking water (608) 534-6409 www.dnr.state.wi.us
Mississippi River	
716.0R	<b>Lamoille</b> Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368



see map on page 81 Mississippi River Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois. 718.1-Perrot State Park, WI DNR хÌ 714.8L concrete plank ramp, camping, canoe rental, restrooms, Great River Trail, drinking water (608) 534-6409 www.dnr.state.wi.us 715.4R Trout Creek Public Access, MN DOT carry-in 714.5-Trempealeau 714.0L food, lodging, Trempealeau County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (715) 538-4509 714.3L Lock and Dam No. 6, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 714.0L Trempealeau Landing, WI DNR two paved ramps 714.0L Trempealeau Public Landing, Trempealeau concrete ramp 714.0L Sunset Bay Marina, Private concrete slab ramp, transient docking, pumpouts, ship's store, slip rentals, full service marina, winter storage, showers (fee) (608) 534-6033, (800) 627-4629, fax (608) 534-7713 🗙 713.7L Larry's Landing Hungry Point, Private bait & tackle, temporary dockage, food, fuel, boat rental (608) 534-7771 Second, Third, Long and Round Lakes Second Lake Access, WI DNR/USFWS gravel ramp 713.5L Third Lake Access, WI DNR/USFWS gravel ramp 713.4L Round Lake Landing, USFWS gravel ramp 713.3L Long Lake Landing, USFWS concrete plank ramp

**Mississippi River** 



Great River Bluffs State Park, MN DNR

Located in the Blufflands Landscape Region. This landscape features half-dome bluffs with sheer rock cliffs, steep valley walls, and rolling uplands. King's and Queen's Bluff Scientific & Natural Areas (S.N.A.) are located in park. No boat access to the river.

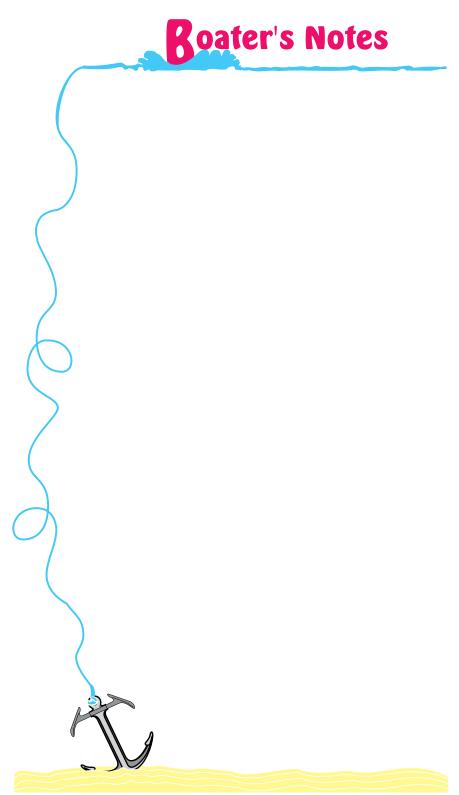
www.mndnr.gov/parks

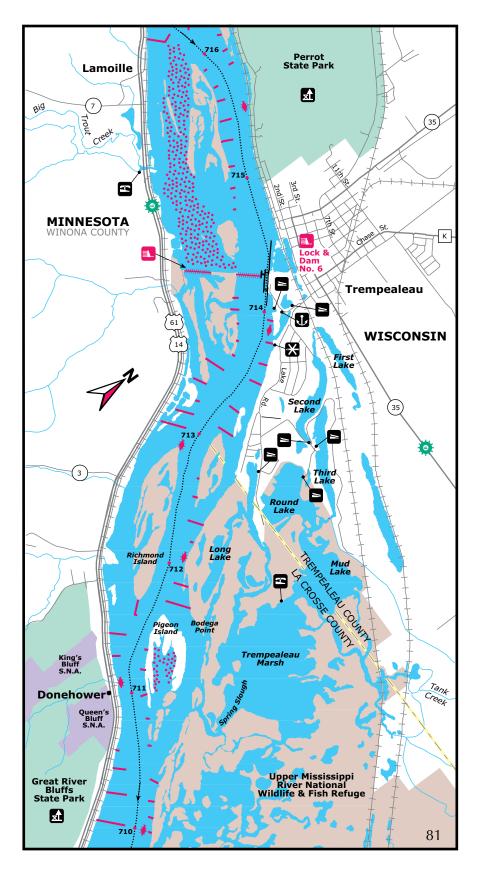
# Trempealeau Marsh



Lonetree Landing, USFWS carry-in



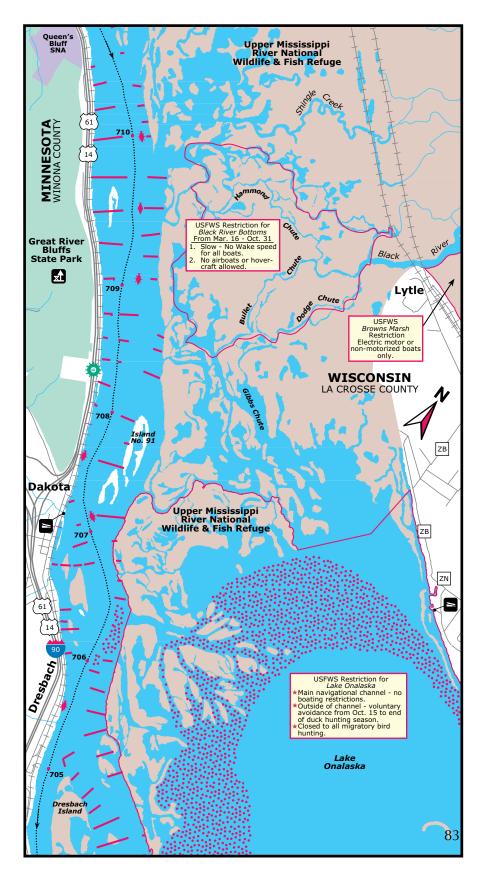




see map on page 83

### Mississippi River **Upper Mississippi River National** Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois. 711.6-Great River Bluffs State Park, MN DNR 707.3R Located in the Blufflands Landscape Region. This landscape features half-dome bluffs with sheer rock cliffs, steep valley walls, and rolling uplands. King's and Queen's Bluff Scientific & Natural Areas (S.N.A.) are located in park. No boat access to the river. www.mndnr.gov/parks 707.1R Dakota Public Access, MN DNR concrete plank ramp (shallow water - small boats only) 706.9R Dakota food Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368 705.0R Dresbach Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368 Lake Onalaska 706.2L Upper Brice Prairie Landing, USFWS/Onalaska Township

two concrete ramps, boarding dock, restrooms



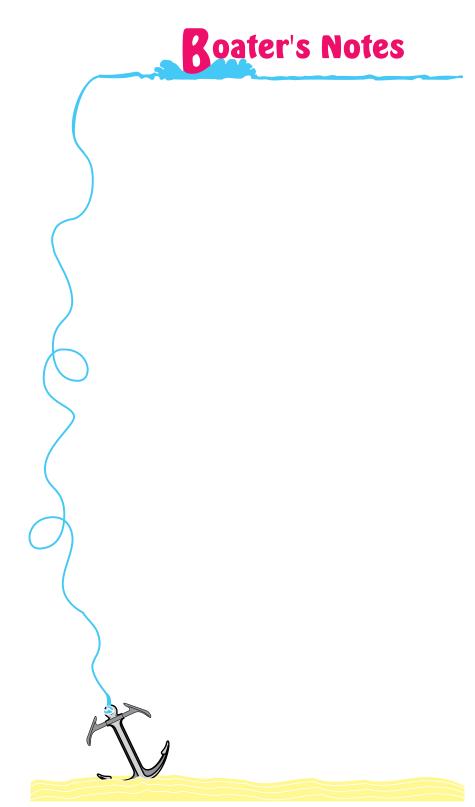
Mississippi River	see maps on pages 88-89
	<b>Upper Mississippi River National</b> <b>Wildlife and Fish Refuge</b> Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
705.0R	<b>Dresbach</b> Winona County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 457-6368
702.5R	Lock and Dam No. 7, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>702.2</b> R	Upper I-90 Access, MN DNR two concrete ramps parking, ramp, dock, toilet
xt 🗙 701.9R	<b>Dresbach State Travel Information Center,</b> <b>MN DOT</b> <i>state information, picnic area, restrooms</i>
<b>&gt; 701.7</b> R	Lower I-90 Landing, USFWS concrete ramp
Lake Onalaska	(Shallow waters. Use caution - there are underwater obstructions on this lake.)
704.3L	(a) North Shore Landing, Private concrete ramp, camping, lodging, boat rental (stump field area - use caution) (608) 781-0288
704.0L	(b) Schafer's Boat Landing, Private bait & tackle, fishing, lake & river maps available (free), motorboat rental, restrooms, snacks, drinking water, (stump field area - use caution) (608) 781-3100
≥ 704.0L	(c) Mosey's Landing, Onalaska Township/USFWS two concrete ramps (stump field area - use caution)
莱 703.1L	(d) La Crosse Sailing Club, Private (Located on north end of French Island.) private docks (rental) (608) 781-2226
xt 🚬 703.0L	(e) Nelson Park and Landing, La Crosse County concrete ramp, picnic area, restrooms
<b>701.8L</b>	(f) Upper Dike Landing, La Crosse County gravel ramp
0-т	

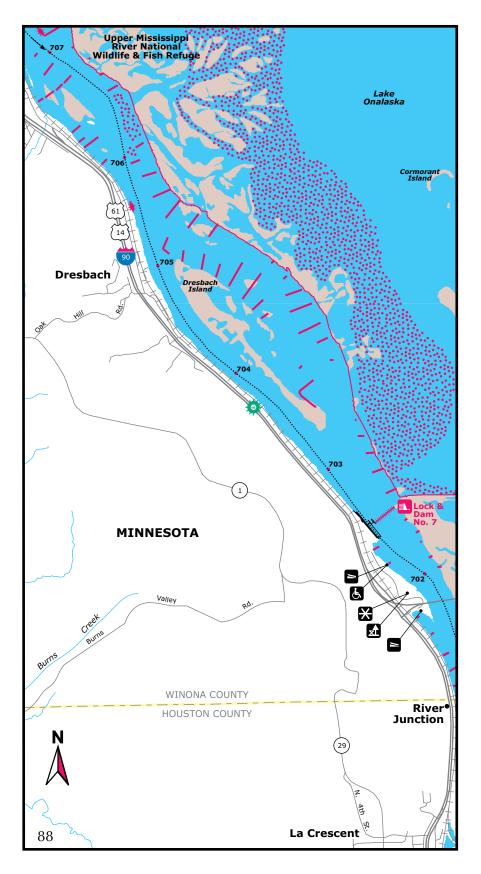
French Lake	
<b>&gt; 701.7</b> L	(g) Lower Dike Landing, La Crosse County gravel ramp
French Slough	
<del>ग</del> 699.8L	<b>(h) Al's Marina, Private</b> docking, paddle boat rental (608) 784-3308
Black River	
703.0- 701.4L	<b>Onalaska</b> food, lodging, La Crosse County Sheriff emergency <mark>911</mark> or non-emergency(608) 785-5942
<b>&gt; 701.8</b> L	(i) Fisherman Road Landing, USFWS concrete slab ramp
<b>X C</b> 701.7L	(j) Sias Isles Boat Livery, City of Onalaska canoe (carry-in), shore fishing, hiking
S 701.5L	(k) Black River French Island Landing, City of La Crosse gravel ramp
701.3- 695.5L	<b>La Crosse area</b> food, lodging La Crosse County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 785-5942
700.4L	(I) Black's Cove Marina & Boat Rental, Private temporary & overnight dockage, ice, repairs, restrooms, shower (with overnight docking), drinking water, monitors channel 16 (608) 781-1212
₩ ₩ <sup>700.2L</sup>	(m) Best Western Midway Hotel Riverfront Resort docking (free to registered guest of hotel), slips, lodging, restaurant (608) 781-7000
► 699.5L	(n) Logan Street Landing, City of La Crosse two paved ramps
🕿 699.4L	(o) Clinton Street Landing, City of La Crosse two paved ramps
699.4R	<b>(p) Bob's Bait Shop Marina, Private</b> bait & tackle, docking, restaurant (608) 782-5552
<b>599.4</b> R	(q) Clinton Street Landing West, City of La Crosse two concrete paved ramps

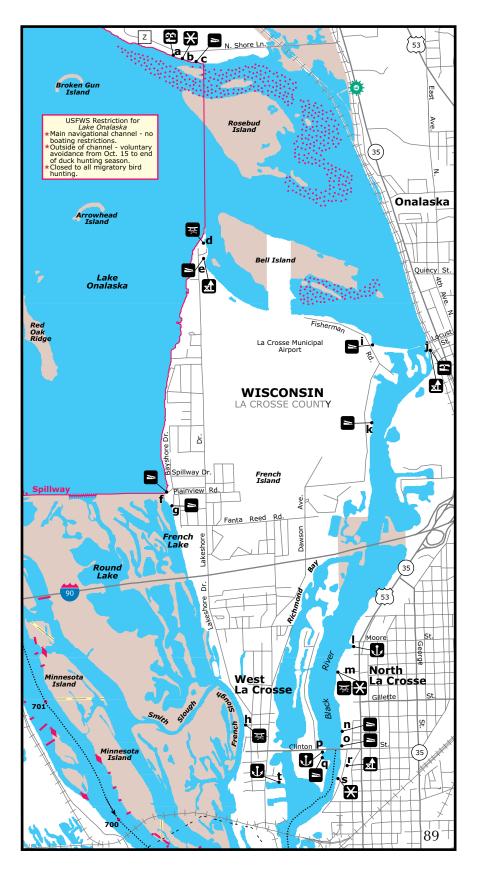
# **Black River Continued**

<b>x1</b> 699.3L	(r) Copeland Park, City of La Crosse picnic area, restrooms, drinking water
₩ 699.3L	<b>(s) Copeland Boat Stop, Private</b> live bait, fuel, rowboat rental, restrooms, snacks, drinking water (608) 782-1325
699.4R	(t) Skipperliner Harbor, Private temporary dockage, fuel, haul out, pumpouts, repairs, restaurant, restrooms, supplies (608) 791-3509







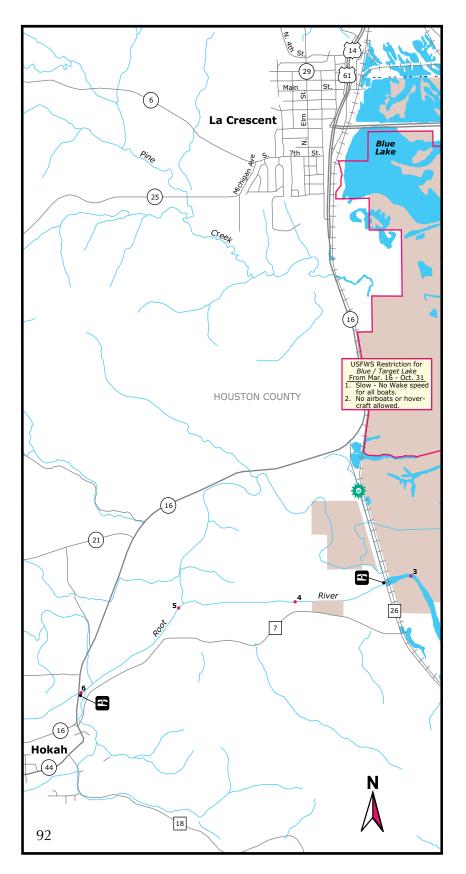


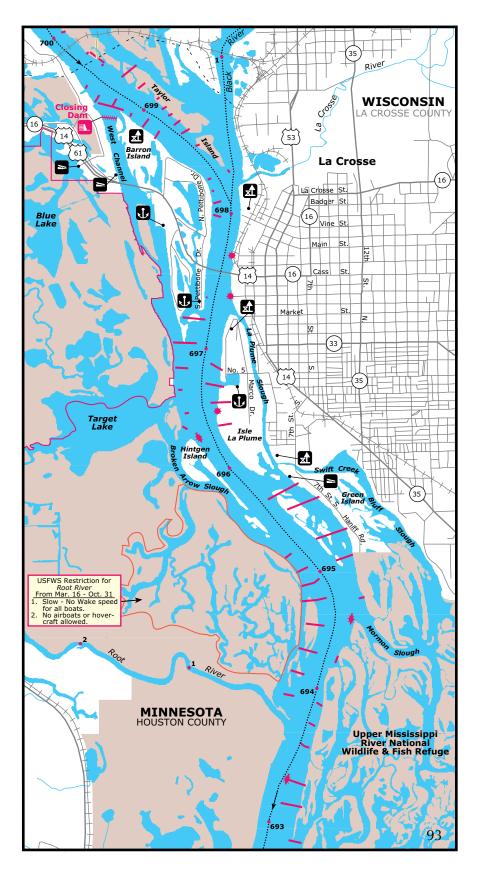
see maps on pages 92-93

<b>er National ge</b> Chippewa River in ear the towns of ordova, Illinois.
iff emergency <mark>911</mark> or 785-5942
ff emergency <mark>911</mark> or 725-3379
Access oat rental, restrooms
<b>La Crosse</b> 5, drinking water
MN DNR
toilet
<b>ate</b> (May - Oct.), temporary dging, pumpouts, repairs, transient slips
La Crosse
<b>Dat Club, Private</b> rary dockage, food, fuel pouts, restaurant vations for overnight (608) 785-2011

Mississippi Rive	r Continued
<b>x</b> 697.2L	La Crosse Houska Park, City of La Crosse
696.7L	La Crosse Municipal Boat Harbor, City of La Crosse concrete ramp, temporary dockage, fuel, laundry, pumpouts, restrooms, showers, supplies (608) 782-7077
<b>896.1</b> L	Green Island Park, City of La Crosse picnic area
S 695.8L	<b>Green Island Ramp, City of La Crosse</b> paved ramp
<b>Root River</b>	
<b>6.0</b> R	<b>Canoe Access, City of Hokah</b> Confluence with Thompson Creek, a designated trout stream.
<b>3.3</b> L	<b>County Highway 26 Bridge, MN DNR</b> carry-in landing
	_







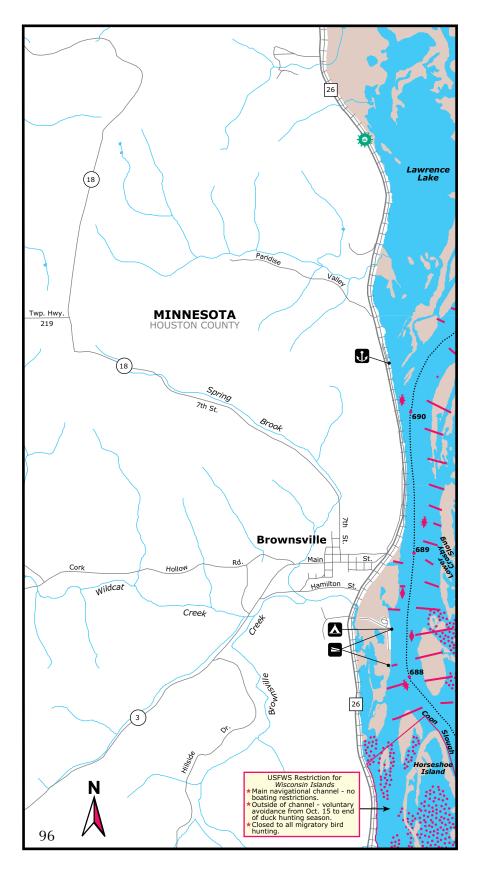
Mississippi River	see maps on pages 96-97
	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
Goose Island / W	/igwam Slough
► 692.8L	Upper Goose Island Landing, La Crosse County concrete ramp
<b>692.0L</b>	Goose Island Landing, La Crosse County two concrete ramps
<b>XL</b> 691.7L	<b>Goose Island County Park, La Crosse County</b> <i>camping, picnic area, canoe rental, restrooms,</i> <i>drinking water</i> (608) 788-7018
<b>S</b> 690.6L	Hunter's Point Landing, USFWS/La Crosse County gravel ramp
Mississippi River	
690.5R	<b>Lawrence Lake Marina, Private</b> paved ramp (fee), bait, temporary dockage, fuel, pumpout, boat rental (507) 482-6615
688.9R	<b>Brownsville</b> food Houston County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 725-3379
▲ ► 688.4R	Wildcat Campground & Landing, Houston County two concrete slab ramps, camping (fee) - (30 day sites and 30 seasonal sites), picnicking, restrooms, reservations & site rental, shelters, showers, drinking water May - September (507) 482-6250, toll free 866-558-0510 wildcatlanding.com
Channel Marker	684.7 to Stoddard
685.7L	Waters Edge Motel, Private concrete slab ramp, camping, boat rental, restrooms (look for channel marker 684.7 to Stoddard - stump field area - use caution) (608) 457-2126
94	

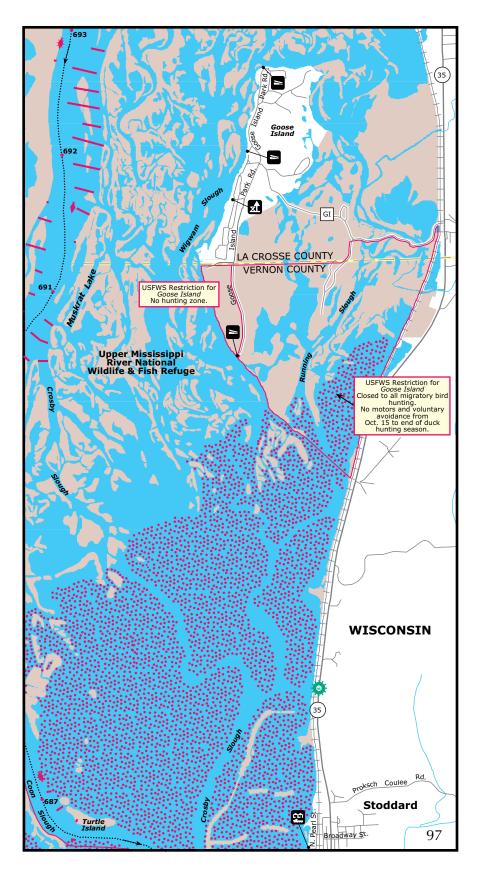
685.6L

Stoddard

food, lodging (stump field area - use caution) Vernon County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 637-2123



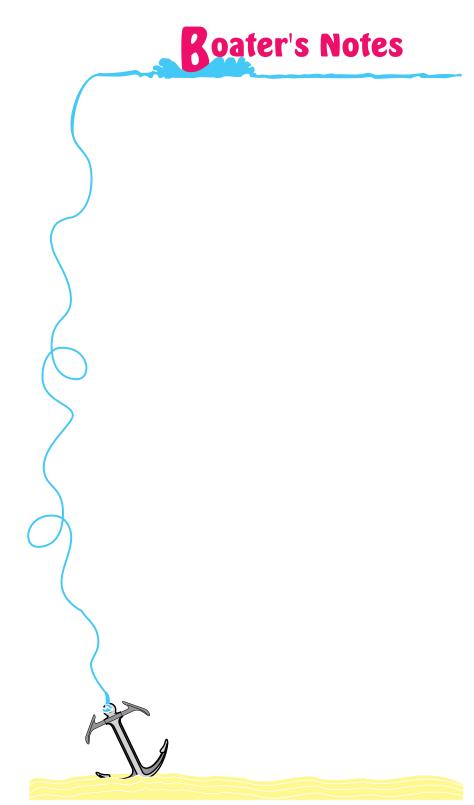


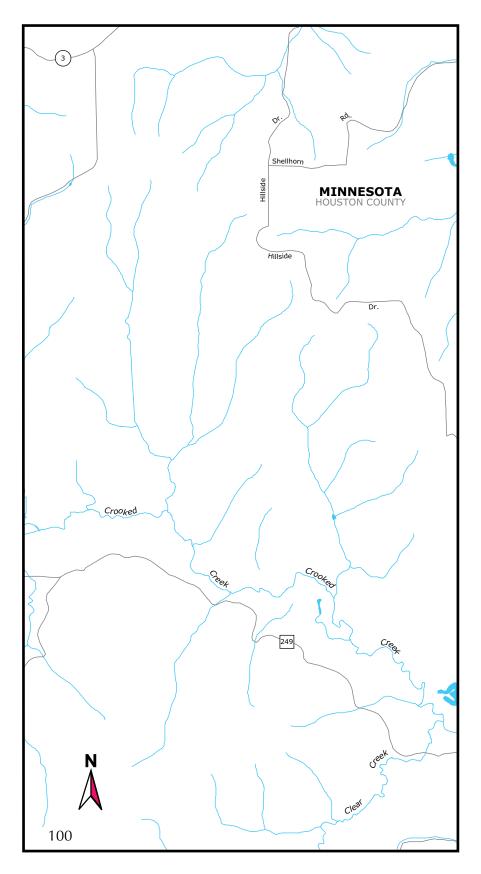


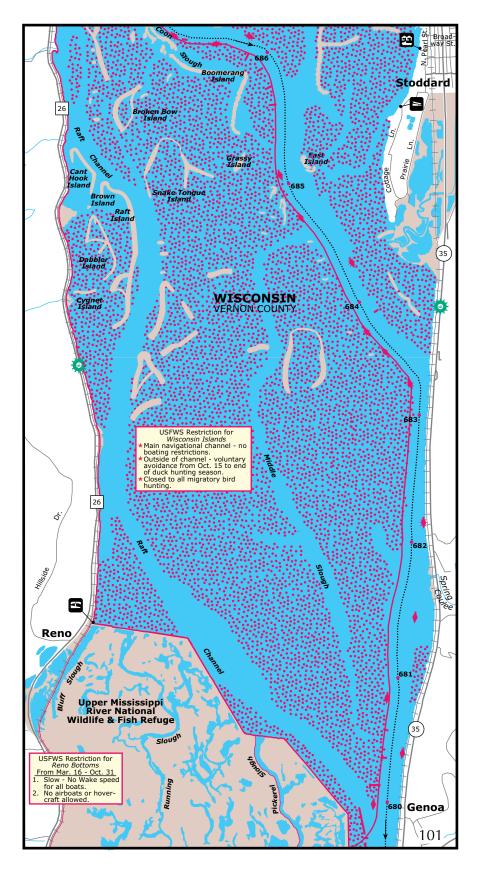
see maps on pages 100-101

Mississippi River	see maps on pages 100-10
	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
Channel Marker	684.7 to Stoddard
🎦 685.7L	Waters Edge Motel, Private concrete slab ramp, camping, boat rental, restrooms (look for channel marker 684.7 to Stoddard - stump field area - use caution) (608) 457-2126
685.6L	<b>Stoddard</b> food, lodging (stump field area - use caution) Vernon County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 637-2123
S 685.5L	<b>Stoddard Park Landing, City of Stoddard</b> concrete ramp (stump field area - use caution)
Raft Channel	
<b>681.4</b> R	<b>Reno Public Access, MN DNR</b> carry-in at Lock & Dam No. 8
681.2R	<b>Reno</b> food, lodging (stump field area - use caution) Houston County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (507) 725-3379
Mississippi River	
679.5L	<b>Genoa</b> food, lodging (stump field area - use caution) Vernon County Sheriff emergency 911 or

non-emergency (608) 637-2123







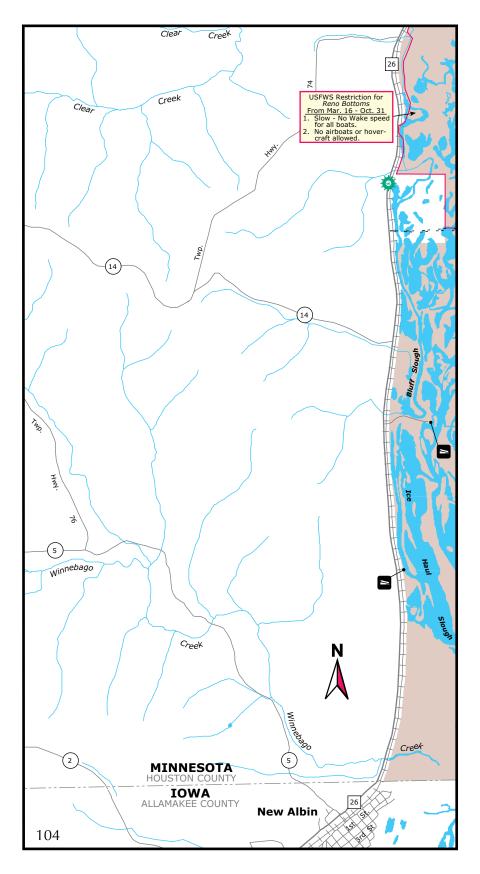
Mississippi River	see maps on pages 104-105
	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Covers 261 miles from Chippewa River in Wisconsin and ends near the towns of Princeton, Iowa and Cordova, Illinois.
679.5L	<b>Genoa</b> food, lodging (stump field area - use caution) Vernon County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (608) 637-2123
► 679.3L	Genoa Harbor, Village of Genoa concrete ramp
679.2L	Lock and Dam No. 8, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comfort station, observation platform
Thief Slough	
<b>677.8</b> L	Dairyland Power Access, Dairyland Power Co-op concrete ramp
Ice Haul Slough	
<b>677.3</b> R	Millstone Landing, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concrete ramp (shallow water access for small boats)
<b>676.0</b> R	<b>Visgers Landing, USFWS</b> gravel ramp (shallow access for small boats)
Bad Axe River	
S 675.2L	<b>Bad Axe Landing, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b> paved ramp, restrooms
Minnesota Slough	, Iowa
673.3R	<b>New Albin, Iowa</b> bait & tackle, food, gas Allamakee County Sheriff emergency 911 or non-emergency (563) 568-4521

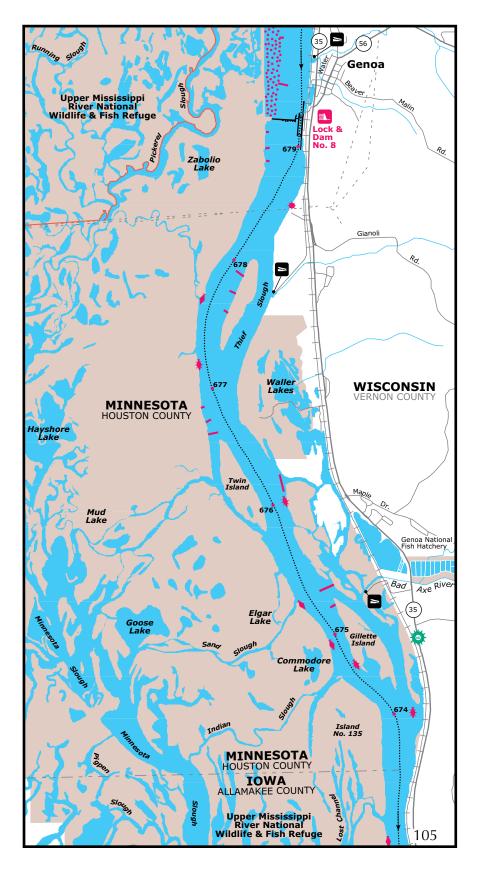
# For copies of river guides for Iowa, please contact:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wallace State Office Building 502 East 9th Street Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Iowa DNR: (515) 281-5918 www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/Wheretofish/MississippiRiver.aspx







### AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH BOATING ON THE RIVER

### **MN Department of Natural Resources**

### **DNR Information Center**

500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 DNR Information: (651) 296-6157 or in Minnesota Toll Free: 1-888-646-6367 www.mndnr.gov

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: (651) 296-5484 or in Minnesota Toll Free: 1-800-657-3929

### **License Center**

500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4026 (651) 296-2316 or in Minnesota Toll Free: 1-800-285-2000

### **Region III / Central**

1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106 (651) 259-5800

### **Region IV / Southern**

261 Highway 15 South New Ulm, MN 56073 (507) 359-6000

### **Federal Agencies**

# Fandourug

# U.S. Coast Guard & Coast Guard Auxiliary

USCG Boating Safety www.uscgboating.org USCG Auxiliary: www.cgaux.org or

Sector Upper Mississippi River Non-emergency (314) 269-2500 24 hour emergency 1-866-360-3386 24 hour Marine Radio on Channel 16 www.uscg.mil/D8/sectUMR

# **Federal Communications Commission**

Phone 1-(888) 225-5322 TTY 1-888-835-5322 Fax 1-866-418-0232 www.fcc.gov 106 Enforcement, boating and water safety education, public access, and resource management

Type of Program

Watercraft licensing and titling

Resource management in Central and Southeastern Minnesota

Resource management in Southern and Southwestern Minnesota

**Type of Program** 

USCG-Aids to navigation, inspection of boat manufacturers, federal regulations, marine event permits and pollution control USCG Auxiliary -Boating safety classes, safety patrols

Administration, information, licensing and regulation of radio communications

# **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

St. Paul District Sibley Square at Mears Park 180 5th Street East, Suite 700 St. Paul, MN 55101-1678 (651) 290-5200 www.mvp.usace.army.mil

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge 51 East Fourth Street, Room 101 Winona, MN 55987 (507) 452-4232 www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/

Wildlife refuge administration, wildlife requirements, information, maps, current regulations governing public use

Administration of locks

and dams, channel maintenance and river

charts

**County Sheriffs** 

Enforcement, search and rescue and general water safety

# Minnesota

**Dakota County** Hastings, MN 55033 (651) 322-2323

**Goodhue County** Red Wing, MN<sup>'</sup> 55066

Houston County Caledonia, MN 55921 (507) 725-3379

Wabasha, MN 55981-5033 (651) 565-3361

Winona County Winona, MN<sup>255987</sup> (507) 457-6368

Wisconsin

**Buffalo County** Alma, WI 54610-0396 (608) 685-4433

La Crosse County La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 785-5942

# Pepin County

Durand, WI 54736 (715) 627-5944

# Pierce County

Ellsworth, WI 54011 (715) 273-5051

Wisconsin continued on next page

# (651) 385-3155

# Wabasha County

Enforcement, search and rescue and general water safety

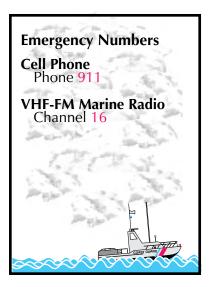
# Wisconsin (continued)

Trempealeau County Whitehall, WI 54773 (715) 538-4509

Vernon County Viroqua, WI 54665 (608) 637-2123

lowa

Allamakee County Waukon, IA 52172 (563) 568-4521





# THE SILENT KILLER – CARBON MONOXIDE

Passengers of nearly any boat with a motor on board can be victims of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be toxic even in very small quantities.

Carbon monoxide's effects are cumulative over time and there have been injuries and deaths caused by the infiltration of this poisonous gas into boats' living and sleeping spaces, and also on the stern deck and swim platform area.



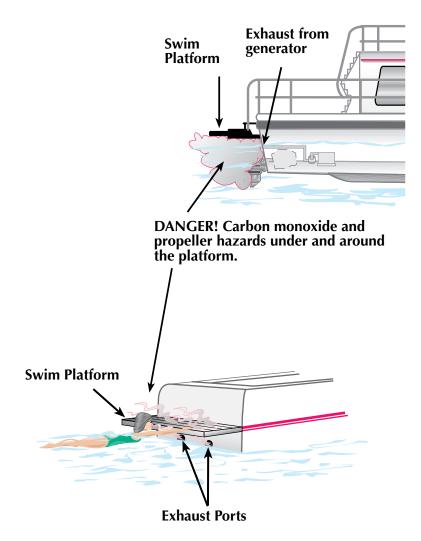
Common signs of carbon monoxide poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness and dizziness. These symptoms can often be misdiagnosed as seasickness or intoxication!

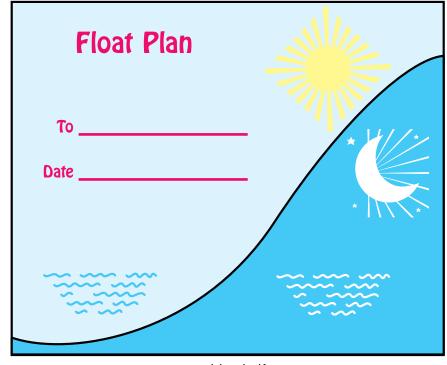
A newly recognized phenomenon has been discovered where a swimmer died when they ventured too closely to a houseboat's swim platform while engines or generators were running or have been overcome while being towed or dragged too near the stern of a boat. The U.S. Coast Guard has issued the warning that if your boat "has a swim platform and its electrical generator vents through the transom into a stern cavity, do not run your generator when not underway if someone is swimming in the area near the stern or sitting on the stern deck or swim platform."

To help avoid the dangers of carbon monoxide on your watercraft:

- \* Keep air flowing throughout the boat whenever any gas or diesel engine, generator or propane appliance is running.
- \* Stay away from any area where engine or generator exhaust is vented.
- ★ Do not allow anyone to swim near the stern of the boat or sit on the stern deck or swim platform when the generator is running.
- ★ Do not leave your generator running at night, or when anchored, or when people are near the stern of a boat that is not in motion.
- Do not ski, drag, or tube closer than 20 feet from a motorboat. Any closer, and carbon monoxide can be fatal!

- Install carbon monoxide detectors in the living areas of your boat, test them frequently and never remove the batteries unless you are replacing them with new ones.
- Keep your boat and motor properly maintained including keeping exhaust clamps tight and in place. Also, it's a good idea to replace exhaust hoses if there is cracking or deterioration.
- ★ If your boat is more than a few years old, hasn't been regularly professionally inspected and maintained or the generator or other engine was originally installed by a "backyard mechanic," have it checked by a service technician before you use it!





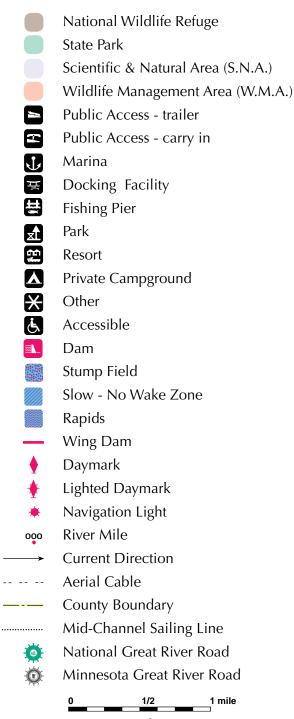
Fold in half

Tear Out

# **SAMPLE FLOAT PLAN**

If you are planning on an extended or even a weekend boating or fishing trip, you should leave a float plan with someone who can notify the county sheriff, should you not return as scheduled.

et Color
addresses)
Departure
Date / Time
Date & Estimated Return Time
adio call letters, cell phone, pa
adio can letters, cen priorie, pr
nicle



Scale

### Warning

Wing dams, stump fields, daymarks, lighted daymarks and navigation lights were mapped using estimated locations; actual locations may vary. The user is warned to exercise caution when navigating near the mapped hazards.

# **BUOYS AND MARKERS**

# GREEN

Port (left) side when traveling upstream



Can Buoy



Daymark



Daymark

If lighted, green buoys and daymarks will show a green or white light with a single flash.

# RED

Starboard (right) side when traveling upstream



Nun Buoy



Daymark



Daymark

If lighted, red buoys and daymarks will show a red or white light with a double flash.

# INFORMATION/REGULATORY MARKERS



Slow - no wake



Danger



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would like to thank all of the federal, state and local agencies and private organizations that contributed to the completion of this guide.

Written by Tim Smalley and Kim Elverum Cartography Narrative by Sharon Ketelsen Design and Layout by Sharon Ketelsen Front cover photo by Larry Duke Valuable Assistance in the production of this book by Tim Loesch, Chris Pouliot, Dave Lonetti, Jason Peterson, Terri Roesler, Deb Ethier and Sue Fleury.

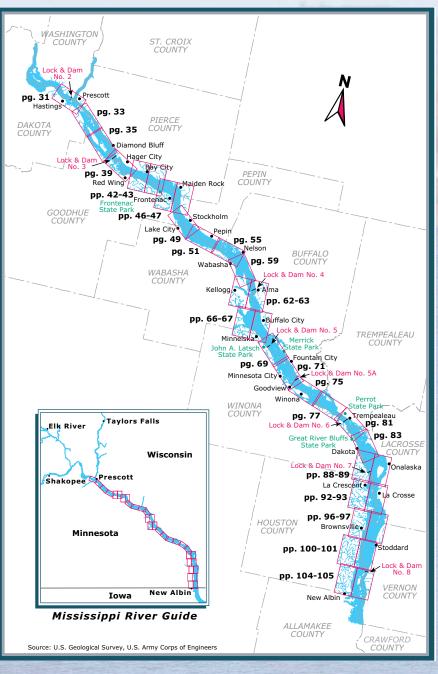
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> Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155 - 4049

> > or the

Office of Civil Rights U.S. Coast Guard 2100 2nd St. SW Washington, DC 20593 - 0001







Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul. MN 55155-4046

MRG