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

The DNR lists lakes and rivers as "infested" with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or drilling or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

- To identify an infested water, look for orange invasion species Alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. More information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested lakes and additional location information, visit mendota.mn/infestations.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST: [Checklist provided]

- Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, and/or Seal watercraft including Algae, brackets, boats, baskets, motors and ballast tanks
- Decontaminate and save it out

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will become part of your routine. Pull all water from the boat’s engine. Check for and remove plants and debris. Drain down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other practices pertaining to anything, you have them helping a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Clean water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat, so while you’re cleaning your boat, please remember to also:

- Clean, clean, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that are on it. Many species can be transported in the mud or dirt from the bottom of the water. It is illegal to transport lake and river water into Minnesota.
- If drainage is not possible, please ask!

**AIS Bait Laws**

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (minnows or worms), the DNR recommends bringing the "safe" trout bait water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Boating can be a good opportunity to warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unwanted bait must be disposed of in the trash.

**Safe Boating**

- Use life jackets
- Play the fishing game
- Never use a needle nose pliers or cut the line if it is too tight
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back

**Working Together to Protect the Waters**

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

**Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors**

- Please clean your boat and put your plug in as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quicker.

**Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you**

- The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask! **or**
- If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also pull weeds off boats or other such tools. They also have grappling tools for plants.

**When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative.** The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it helps everyone to do their way in a timely and pleasant manner.