Public Water Access in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail’s Water recreation program provides approximately 1,500 lake access points, over 350 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 15 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate busy access sites. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR-buoys are provided only for buoys 1 type & gases related to marine use.
Public access sites are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Check your launch before launching, especially on small boats, carry-in services, or carry-in services. See Minnesota-boats, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, swimming, boating, fishing, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota-Boats, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota
The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries permit requirements and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state’s waterways. All ages must adhere to appropriate restrictions to operate a 17 years old and younger.

Fishing in Minnesota
Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license on them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR-DNR license office located in the Department of Natural Resources. See Minnesota-Boats, chapter 6218 for complete rules. Please visit the DNR License Bureau for information.

Personnel with disabilities may request this information in an alternative format.

Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, Dispose of unused bait.

AISC Laws and Requirements
It is illegal to transport live and container water. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe”, treated water from home and keeping it in your vessel cooler. Draining ice can be a good idea at warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shorelines! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or designated compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash. Do not throw it on the ground or throw it away.

Working Together to Protect the Waters
Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are clean, or clean them if needed. If you have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask a inspector.

You can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
- Please clean your boat and plug your plug as soon as you are safely able. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quicker.
- If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow the instructions given by the inspectors for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch the work from a safe distance.
- If you see weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for photos.

Waters with Invasive Species
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