Public Water Access in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails water recreation program provides approximately 1,650 boat accesses, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 35 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees including boat licenses & gas tax related to marine use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry-in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located on the larger and busier sites.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be clean and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, shading, building fires, and consuming alcohol (levages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota:
The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries Minnesota boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state’s lakes and rivers. Operator age restrictions apply to operations 17 years old and younger.

Licenses - All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

Fishing in Minnesota:
Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6517 or 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-DISCOVER (664-3267).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an effective way to improve fishing quality. It results in a better chance of catching a fish. See the Minnesota Fishing Regulations and Licensing for specific location information.

Safe Boating:
Life Jackets: On all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length there must be a readily available Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 6 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or vessel cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI): Boating while intoxicated is illegal. Persons found to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other substance capable of impairing mental or physical abilities are prohibited from operating watercraft.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

Aquatinc 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 diverting or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

To identify an infested water, look for orange invasive species. Alert signs at the access. If you can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. Visit mn.dnr.gov/infested for more information. Use aquatic invasive species in lakes and rivers identified as infested.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

- Clean fish, plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, bait buckets, motor and ballasted tanks
- Decontaminate your boat, trailer and equipment
- Clean your fishing equipment

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat, tow it to the next spot, check for and remove plants while towing the boat down. Pull the plug and adjust the motor. If you have other people—especially kids with you, have them help! A few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning bait, but you’re cleaning your boat, please remember:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or on fishing lines and rope.
- Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving the water.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and dry your boats!

AIS Bait Laws:
It is illegal to transport lake and river bait. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe”, treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring the bait on a good site on 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 worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters:
Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean, clear, safe & soft.” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
1. Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able. This will prevent the inspector from inspecting your boat, and prevent you from having to disassemble your boat or equipment. An inspector will not inspect a boat or equipment if an inspector feels that it is too messy, dirty, or for any other reason.
2. When leaving a body of water, do not dump any unwanted bait into the water. Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving 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 worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:
1. The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so sometimes they are just here to help. If you are having trouble with your plug, ask! If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds out of boats or other such tools. They also have grappling tools for pots
2. When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please cooperate. The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Public Water Access in Minnesota:

- **Selective Harvest Fishing**: Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an effective way to improve fishing quality. It results in a better chance of catching a fish.

- **Safe Boating**: On all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length, there must be a readily available Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 6 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or vessel cushion.

- **Personal Watercraft**: Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

Public Water Access in Minnesota:

- **Persons with disabilities may request this information in an alternative format.**
- **Photos: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, unless otherwise noted.**

**STATE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS MAP**

**SHERBURNE COUNTIES**

**and shorefishing sites**

**Feder**

**P**

**answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational**

**fishing equipment and motor boat fuel.**

**Dispose of unused bait.**

**Safe Boating**

**Life Jackets**: On all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length there must be a readily available Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 6 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or vessel cushion.

**Boating While Intoxicated (DWI)**: Boating while intoxicated is illegal. Persons found to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other substance capable of impairing mental or physical abilities are prohibited from operating watercraft.

**Personal Watercraft**: Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

**Aquatinc 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 diverting or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

To identify an infested water, look for orange invasive species. Alert signs at the access. If you can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. Visit mn.dnr.gov/infested for more information. Use aquatic invasive species in lakes and rivers identified as infested.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

- Clean fish, plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, bait buckets, motor and ballasted tanks
- Decontaminate your boat, trailer and equipment
- Clean your fishing equipment

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat, tow it to the next spot, check for and remove plants while towing the boat down. Pull the plug and adjust the motor. If you have other people—especially kids with you, have them help! A few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning bait, but you’re cleaning your boat, please remember:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or on fishing lines and rope.
- Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving the water.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and dry your boats!

**AIS Bait Laws**: It is illegal to transport lake and river bait. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe”, treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring the bait on a good site on 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 worms must be disposed of in the trash.

**Working Together to Protect the Waters**: Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean, clear, safe & soft.” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
1. Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able. This will prevent the inspector from inspecting your boat, and prevent you from having to disassemble your boat or equipment. An inspector will not inspect a boat or equipment if an inspector feels that it is too messy, dirty, or for any other reason.
2. When leaving a body of water, do not dump any unwanted bait into the water. Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving 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 worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:
1. The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so sometimes they are just here to help. If you are having trouble with your plug, ask! If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds out of boats or other such tools. They also have grappling tools for pots
2. When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please cooperate. The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.