Public Water Access in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails-fish water recreation program provides approximately 1,400 boat launches, over 365 fishing piers and shore-fishing sites and manages 15 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 boatage programs are funded by fees included boat launch A, gun top 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 only on the larger and busier sites.

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

Boating in Minnesota:
The annual Minnesota boating Guide summarizes 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 operators 16 years old and younger.

Licence - All restored 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) 296-6157 or 1-888-MINNDNR. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4236).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing has caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest" offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest fishing:
- Use barbless hooks.
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully.
- Never throw the fish by the eyes.
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it has been cut.
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back.

AIS Bait Laws
It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (minnows or minnows), the DNR recommends bringing "fish safe," treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Draining the water can be a good idea 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.

Waters with Invasive Species

Public Water Access in Carlton County:
The Carlton County Public Water Access Map shows locations of public access sites on Carlton County lakes and rivers. The map includes Depths, Water Quality Information, Aquatic Invasive Species, Bass fishing, Jumbo Trout fishing, and specific Baker fishing regulations.

Aquatc 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 harvesting or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

To identify an infested water, look for invasion Species Alert signs at the access. You can also see LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested - remove-live/deadfloat. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date infested waters list and additional location information, visit mndnr.gov/AIS.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:
- Drain all water:
  - including bilge, hawsehole, baitwells, bait buckets, motor and ballast tanks
  - Pull the plug and leave it out.

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for and remove plants while docking the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so while you’re cleaning your boat, please remember to also:
- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope.
- Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and drain your boat!

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Waters with Invasive Species

Safe Boating
Life Jackets - on all boats except a sailboard or rigfailure of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must be at least one Coast Guard-approved Throwable device, such as a ring buoy or vest coutail.

Beating While Intoxicated (DUI) - Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

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

Working Together to Protect the Waters
Watercraft inspections are here to make watercraft and equipment clean, clear, and safe! If you need assistance, have questions about the law, or are curious about the program, please ask.

When you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
- Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
- If there is a demarcation line present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from afar.

Watercraft Inspectors can help you:
- Preparation tools, wrenches, and pliers, so you are fishing trouble with your plug, and:
- If there is a demarcation line present, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats and other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants.

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