Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

- The DNR lists lakes and rivers as "Infested" with certain aquatic invasive species.

To identify an infested lake, look for orange invasive species Alert signs at the gate. You can also use labelFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested with a specific species. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested waters and additional location information, visit mndnr.gov/Invasives.

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

1. Clean all watercraft aquatic plants and animals
2. Drain all water including bilge, sewers, ballast tanks, bidets, bucket motors, and ballast tanks
3. Dry out your vessel
4. Get in the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine.

Fishing in Minnesota

Fishing Laws and Licenses - 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. Those fishing requiring a license have an orange "fish" stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4736).

Selective Harvest Fishing: Improving technology and increasing fish harvest have 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. Here are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest Fishing:

- Use bare hands to
- Set the fish free in the water
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep

Boating in Minnesota

The DNR offers free boating lessons and regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state's lakes and rivers. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

License: All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please consult the DNR License Bureau for information.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets: On all boats (except sailboats) regardless of length/size, there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on all boats six feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there must at least be two Coast Guard approved throwable devices, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

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

Personal Watercraft: Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at low water 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 online.

Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails' recreation program provides approximately 1,650 boat accesses, over 650 fishing piers and more fishing sites and manages 31 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 fully funded by fees including boat license fees & gas tax revenue to maintain use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. If your launch is out at some sites, especially on smaller rivers, it is very likely to be open only during boating season and is usually located on the larger and busier rivers.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clean and the following activities are unlawful: littering, landscaping, building fees, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete regulations.