Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

The AIS laws and rules in Minnesota are regulated by the DNR. If you are boating, commercial fishing, or collecting or selling 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. You can also look at fisherfinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested waters and related location information, visit endgov.org/invasives.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you must:
- Clean all aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water, including Kegs, barrels, buckets, motor and ballast tanks
- Bag all plug and leaf 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 strapping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (personally) led 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:
- 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
- Drain water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving
- Ensure that all AIS-related vessels are ROF (Remove Of Vessels) to inspect, check and drain your boats!

AIS Bait Laws

It is illegal to transport lake and river water to: Source your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe”, treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing in can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.
- Do NOT dump unbaited water into water bodies or on the shore (uninspected boat ballast) into or on or near your boat’s compartment. Uninspected waters must be disposed of in the trash.
- To identify a lake as infested: mndnr.gov/lakefind. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date list of infested waters and related location information, visit endgov.org/invasives.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

The DNR’s AIS inspectors are here to make sure watercraft and equipment are “clean, in, clean out”. If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please call.

Waters with Invasive Species

Accessible Water Access Sites

Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designed with accessible parking spaces and accessible routes to a dock or other site amenities. These sites are identified with the red, accessible symbol shown above.

Ritchie Lake

The watercraft inspectors have all the tools and equipment to help you. Watercraft inspectors are here to help: if you’re having trouble with your plug, and it will help everyone on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Sometimes, weather or vandalism can make these designed sites no longer accessible. If a site is found to be out of compliance, please report problems to the site administrator listed in this guide, or contact the DNR Information Center (651) 296-6157 or email info@state.mn.us.

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

Clean out, Dispose of unused bait.

Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuel.