Fishing in Minnesota:

Fishing Regulations and Licensing: All persons 18 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR Licensing Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing-related goods. Some fishing requires a boat stamp. For more information call the DNR Licensing Information Center at (651) 296-6137 or 1-888-646-6687. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4736).

Selective Harvest Fishing: improved technology and increased fishing has caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest" often means anglers offer an opportunity to catch fish that are released or released others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest Fishing:

1. Use barless hooks.
2. Use the right size hook for the fish you are catching.
3. Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep.
4. 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 (or any other live bait) the DNR recommends bringing "cold" treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shore. Unwanted bait belching to 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 equipment are "clean in, clean out." 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. Clean your boat and plug your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
2. If there is a Decontamination Unit 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 wait for work to be done.
3. Be safe and watchful. Inspectors must be able to help pull weeds off boats or other equipment. 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 be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

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