Public Access in Minnesota:

The DNR’s Information Center is available to provide answers to questions pertaining to DNR recreational fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of Minnesota State Parks and Trails-Great Rapids

**STATE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS MAP**

**Public Water Accesses in eastern Cook County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body Name</th>
<th>Map Grid Location</th>
<th>Ramp Type</th>
<th>Fish Species</th>
<th>Administrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Valentine</td>
<td>D1</td>
<td>carry in</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>USFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Lake</td>
<td>D2</td>
<td>carry in</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Lake</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>carry in</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoe Lake</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>carry in</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Superior</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Bay</td>
<td>D3</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>LST</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendred</td>
<td>D3</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>LST</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Portage</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>LST</td>
<td>Tribal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swanee River</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Lake</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout Lake</td>
<td>D1</td>
<td>carry in</td>
<td>LST</td>
<td>USFS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 equipment and motor boat fuels.

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

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements**

The DNR boats lakes and rivers as “infringed” with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harboring cruising, commercial fishing, or chanting 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. You can also use LabelYourWater to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested: minnesota.dnr.gov/infirmin.org.

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

1. Clean all aquatic plants and animals
2. Drain water including boats, fenders, floats, anchors, bait buckets, motors and ballast tanks
3. Drain the plug and leave it out

**Get into the habit of taking these 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 (especially kids) with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

**Clean water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so while you’re cleaning your boat, please remember to also:**

1. Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water.
2. Some species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and rope.
3. Pump 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 boats!

**AIS Bait Laws**

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (increase their value), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing in a good idea or 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 disposal place. See your local community for more information about the laws and regulations.

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Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and interest in fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish while releasing others back into the water. Operator age restrictions apply to operator age.

Fishing, Longlife rods, and other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools and can help with other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

1. Ask questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!
2. You can help the Watercraft Inspectors:
3. 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.
4. If there is a Decontamination Limit present, please follow all the instructions given to the inspector for your safety.
5. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean in, clean out.” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

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1. 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.
2. If there is a Decontamination Limit present, please follow all the instructions given to the inspector for your safety. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.

The Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

1. The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask them.
2. If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tools.
3. They also have grabbing tools for plants.

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please cooperate. They can require compliance with inspections, and I’ll find everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

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