**Aquatique Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:**

The AIS DNR lakes and rivers as “inhabited” with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or diverting or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in inhabited areas.

To identify an AIS water, look for orange invasive Species Alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as inhabited — your county.gov/Forestry. For more information about inhabited areas, including an up-to-date inhabited waters list and additional location information, visit mind.gov/invasives.

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

- **Clean** all aquatic plants and animals.
- **Drain** all water including tanks, hoppers, motor, motor and ballast tanks.
- **deploy** your plug and leave it out.

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for and remove plants, while stopping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people immediately with you, have them help. Adding 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 ensure to:

- **Clean** anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. These future species can be transported in mud or silt and fishing gear and lures.
- **Drain** out water of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before storing. These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, clean, and dry your boats!

**AIS Bait Laws:**

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (introduced or hatched), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe”, treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good way on hot days to cool down your bait.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait water into bodies of water on the shore. Unwanted bait belonging to a commercial or a compact bin. Unwanted woods must be disposed of in the trash.

**Working Together to Protect the Waters:**

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

**Safe Boating:**

- **Life Jackets** - On all boats (except a small boat) regardless of length there must be a fully accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet long or larger, except canoes and kayaks, there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Wear a life jacket while boating.

- **Passenger Craft** - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow wake 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 saltwater video is available free of charge.

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