Aquatice Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

The DNR lists lakes and rivers as “infested” 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 infested waters.

To identify an infested 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 infested: mndnr.gov/invasives. 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:

- Clean off all aquatic plants and animals
- Drain water including: fish tanks, boat motors, and ballast tanks
- Dry all plug and lower 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 (especially kids) 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, as while you’re cleaning your boat, please remember to also:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water.
- Many species can be transported in the mud or soil at the bottom of a boat.
- Drain water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving.
- There 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 (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe,” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Dragging one can be a great idea on very hot days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwatered bait into water bodies or on the shorelines! Unwatered minnows can become a disease or a designated compost bait. Unwatered worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and waterway equipment are clean, new balls or used! If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask.

When you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please carry your own bag and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
- If there is a documentation form 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 watch them work from a safe distance.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask them.
- The inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. 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 to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.