Public Access Water in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail's recreation program provides approximately 1,650 boat access sites, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 35 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local community cooperate to operate boat access sites. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees including boat license fee and boat tax related to marine use.
Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry-in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and busier sites.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clean and the following activities are unallowed: littering, camping, storing, building fires, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota rules, chapter 628B for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota:
The annual Minnesota Boating Guide contains Minnesota boating regulations and information. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state’s waterways. The guide also contains special area restrictions applicable to operators 17 years old and younger.

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

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 supplies. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-646-6677. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (664-2345).

Selective Harvest Fishing: Improved technology and increased fishing laws have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. The practice of “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest Fishing:

- Use barbless hooks.
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully.
- Never hold the fish by the side of its head.
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut in fishing lines and rope.

Fishing is illegal to transport water or fish to the state. To save your bait (minimum of six), the DNR recommends bringing “fishing water” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler before fishing. Also, you can be a good citizen on warm days and cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unseaworthy bait into water bodies or on the shorelines. Unwanted bait belongs in your freezer, compost bin. Unseaworthy baits must be disposed of in the trash.

Aquatic 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 may 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.com to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested - Minnesota DNR site. For more information about infested waters, including up-to-date information on AIS and additional location information, visit minnesota.gov.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:
- Check out all aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, ballast tanks, motor and ballasted tanks.
- Fill the tank and leave at the dock.
- 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 stopping the boat. Prop up the prop when adjusting the motor. If you or other people (including you) see them, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning-water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat, please clean out the bilge when you're cleaning your boat, please ask!

Working Together to Protect the Waters:
Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and their equipment are “cleaned, clean-out” if you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask us.

Watercraft Inspectors:
- Please dry your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way the moment the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
- If you are a Discharge Indicator Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspector, for your protection 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 basic training, experience and skills, and 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 grabber tools for plants.
- If you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspection, and we will help everyone be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Waters with Invasive Species:

Public Water Access in Hubbard County:
Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designed with accessible parking spaces and ramps that allow boats to dock at the top of the boat ramp. Some sites also have additional accessible roads in a deck or other site amenities. These sites are identified with the red, accessible symbol shown above.

Accessible Accesses:
Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designed with accessible parking spaces and ramps that allow boats to dock at the top of the boat ramp. Some sites also have additional accessible roads in a deck or other site amenities. These sites are identified with the red, accessible symbol shown above.