Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, fishing equipment and motor boat fuels. Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut them down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other equipment (including bait) with you, you may need help! Following a cleaning will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water related equipment is just as important as cleaning boats, so 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 carry trash in the mud or sand and along the line and rope.
- Do not dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline.
- Unwanted bait belongs in a trash can or in the compactor.
- Unwanted wares must be disposed of in the trash.

Safe Boating

Operators 17 years old and younger.

Selecting a Harvester Fishing: Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvesting” offers anglers an opportunity to come back home 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
- (2) Pick the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- (3) Never hold the fish by the gills
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut them down
- (4) Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

The DNR inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean, clean, clean!” If you need assistance, have questions about the law, or are curious about the program, please ask.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please share your boat and your plug as soon as you are safely able to. When that way the operator comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
- If there are more than 10 people on your boat, make sure you follow all of the instructions given by the inspectors, remove any aquatic invasive species, and control your boat if the operator asks to take a break.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- Plan inspections and sampling during and outside of hours, so if you are having trouble with your plug, your boat, or your equipment, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other equipment. They also have grabbling tools for plants.

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The cooperation requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

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, or subsistence fishing, or cleaning 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 the lakes list to find out if particular lake is listed as infested river/reservoir. For more information about infested waters, including a up-to-date information and additional location information, visit the resource/river page.

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

- Clean all aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including high levels of seaweed, bucket boats, motor and ballasted tanks
- Get the plug and leave 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 plugs while stopping the boat. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (including bait) with you, you may need help! Following a cleaning will help safeguard our waters.

nice Bay (Cottontail) B3 concrete C,N,L,B,S, DNR
- Safety Boating
- Fishing in Minnesota
- Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, Dispose of unused bait.

Minnesotapass.com and Trails-Grand Rapids (218) 599-7923

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

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails recreation program provides approximately 1,650 boat accesses, over 305 fishing piers and shoreline fishing sites and manages 35 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are supported by fees from boat licenses and tax on motor related use.

Public uses are open across 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramp but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and better sites.

Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, hunting, boating at night, and consuming alcohol beverages. See Minnesota rules, chapter 621B for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes Minnesota boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the Minnesota lakes. Other state operating age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

Licenses: All motorized and non-motorized watercraft operators must be licensed by 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 Auditor's and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-MN-LICENSE (665-4236). To purchase a license by phone or via the internet, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/ LICENSING - On all boats

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats because a watercraft regardless of length must have a readily available Coast Guard approved, wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition on boats 24 feet or less, except canoes and kayaks, and on motorboat travel on all except one Coast Guard approved throwable devices, such as a ring buoy or cast anchor.

Boating while Intoxicated (BWI): Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are several penalties, including fines and possible jail sentence.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Operate at safe and reasonable speeds. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DMV safety video is available free of charge.

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