Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

The DNR has lists and rules as “invasive” 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 lakefind to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. Request free publications of facilities and services as well as equipment and motor boat fuels.

Dispose of unused bait.

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 Division, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (800) 666-6967 or 1-888-MN DNR. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN DNR (837-3673).

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

- Use barbless hooks
- Pick the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the eyes
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut them if it is too deep
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw back.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats except a sailboat regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 24 feet or less, except canoes and kayaks, there must be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable life jackets, such as a float bag or waist cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Boating while intoxicated is Illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow nozzle mode at certain distances from other watercraft. Warehouses and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety伐 is available free of charge.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

If you are harvesting or transporting watercraft, please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

Boating in Minnesota

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

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.

Purchasing a License:

The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information.

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 lakefind to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. Request free publications of facilities and services as well as equipment and motor boat fuels.

Dispose of unused bait.

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 Division, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (800) 666-6967 or 1-888-MN DNR. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN DNR (837-3673).

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

- Use barbless hooks
- Pick the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the eyes
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut them if it is too deep
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw back.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats except a sailboat regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 24 feet or less, except canoes and kayaks, there must be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable life jackets, such as a float bag or waist cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Boating while intoxicated is Illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow nozzle speed at certain distances from other watercraft, warehouses and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety伐 is available free of charge.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

If you are harvesting or transporting watercraft, please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.