Public Water Access in Minnesota:

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails’ water recreation program provides approximately 1,500 boat accesses, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 55 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 funded by fees including boat license & gas tax related to motor use.

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ranges but some sites, especially in cities, are open only in the morning. 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 unaltered: littering, camping, shouting, building fires, and consuming alcohol beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota:

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summaries Minnesota boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the state’s lakes. Operator age restrictions apply to 17-year olds and younger.

Licensing - All motorized and non-motorized watercraft operators are required to have a license by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

AquaInvasive Species (AIS)

AquaInvasive Species (AIS) are harmful and invasive species that can negatively impact the natural and economic resources of lakes, streams, and wetlands. Invasive species can alter aquatic ecosystems and affect water quality, fish populations, recreation, and the economies of local and regional communities. Invasive species can also be harmful to humans and domestic animals.

Conservationists have reported over 40 different species of watercraft invasive species found in Minnesota. Boaters can help stop the spread of these species by cleaning, draining, and drying watercraft before leaving the water access.

Invasive Species Alert Signs - Boaters must actively look for the Invasive Species Alert Signs at the launch area or mooring area. When you see the signs, stop and clean your watercraft.

Waters With Invasive Species:

Fish Species: C - Crappie,  CF - Catfish, LB - Largemouth Bass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body Name</th>
<th>Map Grid Location</th>
<th>Ramp Type</th>
<th>Fish Species</th>
<th>Administrator</th>
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<tr>
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<td>concrete</td>
<td>C, N, W</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Lake</td>
<td>A5</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>C, N, W</td>
<td>DNR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A5</td>
<td>earth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Various</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, Dispose of unused bait.

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

Minnesota State Parks and Trails-Warner Road 651-259-5841

The DNR Information Center

The DNR’s Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answer questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.

500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 651-296-6157 (local) or 1-888-MINNDNR

mndnr.gov

Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, Dispose of unused bait.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats. (Inflatable jacket, regardless of length, must be readily accessible.) Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer, one adult and one child, or one adult and one baby, must also have at least one Coast Guard approved throwable flotation device, such as a ring buoy or used cushion.

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

Personal Watersports - 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. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. ADDA safety video is available free of charge.

Watersports Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are "fit for, clean and safef.

AIS Bait Laws

It is illegal to transport live fish in Minnesota. 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. Bringing it can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline. Unwanted bait belches in the trash on a designated compost bin. Unwanted worms must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “fit for, clean and safef. They need assistance, have questions about the law, or are curious about the program, please ask.

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

1. Please share your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
2. If there is a Decontamination Unit 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.
3. Do not obstruct the inspector’s work.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

1. The inspector has tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you have anything in the water, ask! If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds out of boats or other such tools. 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 the same page in a timely and pleasant manner.