Fishing in Minnesota

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Unless you are a senior, students and many stores that sell fishing related items, you may purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-NRWR (6667). The MN DNR Information Center, Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Selective Harvest Fishing - improved technology and increased demand for fish have created the need for fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers 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 Harvest fishing:

- Use live baits
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish too long
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats (except a sailboat) regardless of length there must be a at least one available life jacket approved for use by each person on board. In addition, boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must have at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a life ring or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) - Driving while intoxicated (DWI) on the water is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait longer accessible. If a site is found to be out of compliance, please report the problems to the site administrator listed in this guide, on the Minnesota DNR Information Center, (651) 254-6217 or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

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