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 dinner fishing or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested water.

To identify an infested water, look for orange invasive Species Alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested. More information about infested waters, including up-to-date infested waters list and additional location information, visit midday.mn/gis.

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

- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, baitwells, boxes, buckets, basket, and ballast tanks.
- Clean all watercraft including fish boxes, fish living quarters, baitwells, boxes, buckets, basket, and ballast tanks.
- Do not dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated disposal area. It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait and keep it in good shape:
  - Do not dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated disposal area. It is illegal to transport lake and river water.

AIS Bait Laws:

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (mice, leeches, etc.), the DNR recommends bringing “fish safe” treated water from home and blending it in your vehicle or cooler. Carrying a good mix of water on cool days will cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shoreline. Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated disposal area. Unwanted bait must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters: We all have a role to play in preventing invasive species. The DNR recommends to:

- Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, and remember to:
  - Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that came in the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or in fishing lines and ropes.
  - Dump water out of canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft before leaving.

Get into the habit of taking these simple steps, and it will become part of your routine. Pull out from the boat ramp check for and remove plants while dropping out the boat. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people especially kids with you, have them help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Safe Boating

Life Jackets - On all boats where a safety kit regardless of length there must be at least one available. Good boat safety includes wearing a life jacket for each person on board. In addition, boats 60 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also at least be able to be equipped with a recently serviced throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI) - Statute 356.54, Subdivision 4 states: “ ‘Boating while intoxicated’ means: (a) Any person found to be under the influence of any actual percentage, including the presence of and probable intent.

Personal Watercraft - Special law apply including wearing a life jacket and operating at slow no wake at certain distances from other watercraft, wading, and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

Clean your watercraft, Drain all water, and remember to:

- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, baitwells, boxes, buckets, basket, and ballast tanks.
- Pull the plug and save it out.
- Get into the habit of taking these simple steps, and it will become part of your routine. Pull out from the boat ramp check for and remove plants while dropping out the boat. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people especially kids with you, 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 remember to also:

- Clean, sanitize, rinse, and dry all equipment that may have come in contact with water. This is especially true for inflatable boats, boats with power motors, trailers, and other objects in the water.

- When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires cooperation with inspectors, and it will help everyone do the right way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Photos: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, unless otherwise noted.

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DNR - MN Department of Natural Resources

100 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

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Minnesota State Parks and Trails-New Ulm

(507) 359-6000

The DNR Information Center

The DNR Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers to questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota. 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 651-296-1575 (local) or 1-888-MN-DEER (outside Minnesota). minnesota.gov/kandyiho