Public Water Access in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails water recreation program provides approximately 1,450 boat accesses, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 85 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local community operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific information. The DNR boatage programs are funded by boat license fees and gas tax related to marine use.
Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some sites, especially on smaller rivers, are carry-in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and busier sites.
Public Water Access Rules - The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: fishing, camping, building, and creating alcohol beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 62B for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota:

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes Minnesota fishing laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information about operating watercraft on the range areas. Check for and remove plants while stopping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (person(s) (less than 3) with you, have then help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning and Disposing Water-related Equipment:

Clean in Minnesota:

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 online through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related products. Fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-MN DNR88. To purchase a license by phone or in 4 hours, call 1-888-MN-DNRWIS (368-3636).

Selecting Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased water quality have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Select Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to select some fish home while releasing others back into the water to improve fishing quality. Here are some tips to use for effective Select Harvest Fishing:

Safe Boating:

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

AIS Bait Laws:

Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) Laws and Requirements:
The DNR lists lakes and rivers in “checklist” with certain aquatic invasive species. If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or dreaning or taking water, you might need to follow special regulations in infested waters.

To identify an infested water, look for storage/invasive species alert signs at the access. You can also use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested: mndnr.gov/lakefind. For more information about infested waters, including up-to-date infested water lists and additional information, visit mndnr.gov/invasives.

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

Working Together to Protect the Waters:

Watercraft inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean in, clean out”! If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are unsure about the program, please visit:

Accessible Watercraft:

Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designated with accessible parking spaces, restrooms, and ramps to the top of the boat ramp. Some sites have additional accessible routes to a dock or other site amenities. These sites are identified with a hand, a wheelchair, and accessible symbol shown here.

Fishing piers and developed shore fishing sites have been designated to show the needs of people with disabilities. Fishing piers are generally located within 300 feet of the site and there is a hand- and wheelchair accessible ramping area to the fishing pier. The DNR cooperates with a variety of local units of government to maintain the fishing piers.

Sometimes, weather or vandalism can make these designated sites not longer accessible. If a site is found to be out of compliance, please report problems to the site administrator listed in this guide, or Contact the DNR Information Center, 651-296-6157 (M-F 8-4PM) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

RICE COUNTIES

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - LICENSE REQUIRED**

**Select Harvest Fishing**

- Clean off all aquatic plants and animals
- Keep all water including edge, reedswamps, buckets, motor and ballasted tanks
- Pull plug in and take boat 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 plants while stopping the boat down. Pull the plug when adjusting the motor. If you have other people (person(s) (less than 3) with you, have then help! Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

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