Public Access in Minnesota:
The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail’s water recreation program provides approximately 1,450 boat access areas, over 365 fishing piers and shore fishing sites and manages 35 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 listing boards are updated by user feedback but boat launches & gas be updated on a regular basis.

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 keep clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, hunting, building fires, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota
The DNR’s Information Center is available to provide questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, remember to also:
- Phone 651-296-6157 (888-MINNDNR)
- Email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

Persons with disabilities may request this information in an alternative format.

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 Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing license-related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (612) 296-6157 or 1-888-296-6157. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LIZARD (645-3723).

Selective Harvest Fishing: Improved technology and improved fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” 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 Harvest Fishing:
- Use barbless hooks.
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully.
- Feel the fish with your hand.
- 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 readily accessible 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 be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a life ring buoy or seat 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 no wake speed on certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and other objects in the water. Some age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

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, or collecting 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 LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infected infested/waters. For more information about infested waters, including an up-to-date infested waters list and additional information, visit mndnr.gov/inv.

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:
- Clean all AIS aquatic plants and animals
- Drain water including bilge, freshwater, ballast tanks, buckets, motor and ballast tanks
- Dry the hull and blow it out

Get into the habit of taking these simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp. Check for and remove plants whileoslap民营企业 the boat down. 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.

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

Accessible Accesses
Public water access sites developed after 2012 have been designed with accessible parking spaces and accessible routes 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 the red, accessible symbol shown above.

Fishing piers and developed shore fishing sites have been designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Fishing is generally located within 300 feet of the site and there is a hard surface path from the parking to the water. The DNR cooperates with a variety of local units of government to maintain the fishing piers.

Sometimes, weather or vandalism can make these designed sites no 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 (888-MINNDNR) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

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

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 answer questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.

MCP Ace

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