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

STATE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS MAP

The DNR’s Information Center is available to provide Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

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

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 related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-646-6677. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LENS (6635-4334).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing time have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing "Selective Harvest" offers anglers an opportunity to live by the rules and keep that "fish safe," treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring in a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

Selective Harvest fishing is used for effective:

- Use barbless hooks
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the eyes
- 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.

AIS Bait Laws

It is illegal to transport lake and river water into your boat (except when necessary), the DNR recommends bringing "fish safe," treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bring in 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 belongs in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unused worms must be disposed of in the trash.

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 curious about the program, please ask.

Access to Watercraft Inspection Stations

Access to Watercraft Inspection Stations

Accessible Access

Public Water accesses 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 100 feet of the site and has a hard surface path from the parking area to the facility. 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 (BBW-MN/DMR) or email info.dnr@state.mn.us.

Public Water Access in Minnesota

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trail's water recreation program provides approximately 1,450 boat access sites, 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 boating programs are funded by fees from boat licenses, fishing stamps, and other fees. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 6218 for complete rules.

Boating in Minnesota

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summarises Minnesota boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read form. The guide supplies information on operating watercraft on the state's lakes and rivers. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 16 years old and younger.

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