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

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 supplies. In addition, fishing requires a state stamp. For more information call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-MINNDNR. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (695-3423).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fish to decline in many waters. Practices like “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 handnets instead of skimmer nets.
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully.
- Never hold the fish by the eyes or throat.
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut them from the fish's body.
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back.

AIS Bait Laws - It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your bait (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing “lake safe” treated water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Baiting can be a good activity on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted bait into water bodies or on the shore. It is illegal to transport lake and river water. When fishing, be aware of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and keep this list with you:

- Clean, dry everything that comes in contact with the water.
- Carry AIS free bait or usa AIS free baits only.
- Never release bait into the water. Makes the water unsafe and is a violation.

Invasive Species - Certain aquatic invasive species (AIS) can harm our waterways, wetlands 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.

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