

ATTENTION ANGLER

Do your part to protect Minnesota waters

The majority of Minnesota anglers take action to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Before leaving a water access or shoreland, take these steps:



Clean your gear to remove plants, small animals and debris.



Drain all water on shore away from the water body, including from livewells and bait containers.



Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.



To Keep leftover live baitfish: (1) bring extra bottled or dechlorinated tap water with you and (2) on shore before leaving, drain your bait container and refill it with the extra water.



Never Release Bait.

Releasing bait is illegal because it threatens Minnesota's fisheries. Bait and bait water can harbor fish diseases and invasive species. All earthworms are non-native to Minnesota and damage forests if released.

Know the laws

- It is illegal to release bait in Minnesota.
- It is illegal to transport water away from a lake or river.
- It is illegal to bring live minnows and leeches into Minnesota from out of state.
- With few exceptions, bait cannot be harvested from lakes and rivers listed as infested with aquatic invasive species (AIS).
- Violating AIS laws may result in fines up to \$1,000.

Additional best practices

- Keep a cooler with ice in your vehicle, to keep your catch fresh.
- Bring extra dechlorinated water with you or get extra water where you purchase live bait.
- Be prepared to bring unwanted bait with you when you leave, since most fishing and boating access points do not have trash cans.

Learn more about AIS prevention best practices and fishing regulations here:



mndnr.gov/AIS



mndnr.gov/fishingregs

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

AIS are non-native plants, animals and diseases that harm local fish populations, water quality and water recreation.



Zebra mussel



Eurasian watermilfoil



A fish infected with Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus.
Photo Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources