Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

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

- Clean all AIS aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, grease tanks, fuel tanks, motor and ballast tanks
- Decontaminate all watercraft
- Dry all equipment and gear

Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will become part of your boat’s fleet management. Pull the plug when you’re done fishing. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help. Adding a five minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Watercraft-related equipment is just as important as the watercraft itself. If you’re cleaning your boat, please remember also to:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and any objects that went into the water. Many species can be transported in the mud or debris attached to watercrafts, equipment, and other watercraft before leaving.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to use them, and drain your boat!

AIS Ball Laws:

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your minnows (or fishes), the DNR recommends bringing only lake or river water from one place to another in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be a good idea on warm days to cool down the water.

DO NOT dump unwanted water into bodies or on the shoreline! Unwanted bait belongs in the trash or a designated compost bin. Unwanted waste must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters:

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and anglers are “clean, dry, and drain” their boats as they leave the water. Inspectors have questions about the Aires, or are curious about a program, please ask.

How can you help the Watercraft Inspectors?

- Clean your boat. Use your plug as soon as you are safely away. That way when the inspector sees you, he or she doesn’t have to wonder.
- Dry your boat. The inspector needs to take the time to ask questions and watch them work from a distance.

Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- Help you clean your boat when necessary.
- Help you carry out other non-watercraft related activities.
- Inspectors will end the trip at your site.
- Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and you will become part of your boat’s fleet management. Pull the plug when you’re done fishing. If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help. Adding a five minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Safe Boating:

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs): All boats (except a sailboard regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved PFD for each person on board. In addition, children under the age of 10 years, or 54 inches tall, or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device, such as a ring buoy or seat cushion.

Boating While Intoxicated (DWI): Boating while intoxicated is a crime. For penalties found under the law, refer to the influence and possible jail sentences. Penalties of a Personal Watercraft - Special laws apply including wearing a PFD and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, wildlife, and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DWI safety video is available free of charge.

Boating Safety:

Fishing in Minnesota:

Building good practices in boating and fishing communities can create a difference. Communities working together can:

- Improve safety
- Reduce costs
- Promote the environment.

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