Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:

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

- Clean off all aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, livewells, bowwells, bait buckets, motor and bullnet tanks
- Pull the plug and leave it out
- Get into the habit of taking these three simple steps, and it will soon become part of your routine. Pull away from the boat ramp area. Check for plants while strapping the boat down. Pull the plug when preparing to leave the motor.
- If you have other people (especially kids) with you, have them help. Adding a few minutes will help safeguard our waters.

Cleaning water-related equipment is just as important as cleaning your boat while you’re cleaning your boat, please remember also to:

- Clean anchors, ropes, fishing tackle, and other objects that were in the water. Many AIS have been transported in the mud or in fishing line and rope.
- Pump water from bilges or keelcocks, and other watercraft before leaving water.

These are YOUR waters and it is YOUR responsibility to inspect, check, and drain your boat!

AIS Ball Laws:

It is illegal to transport lake and river water. To save your ball (minnows or leeches), the DNR recommends bringing bottled or tap water from home and keeping it in your vehicle or cooler. Bringing ice can be 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. Unwanted waste must be disposed of in the trash.

Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft equipment are “clean in, clean out!” If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask!

Ways you can help the Watercraft Inspectors:

- Please clean your boat and pull your plug as soon as you are safely able to. That way when the inspector comes, the inspection process will move quickly.
- If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow all the instructions given by the inspectors, for your safety and theirs. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and watch them work from a safe distance.
- Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:
  - The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
  - If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can also help pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants.

When you see the Watercraft Inspectors, please be cooperative. The law requires compliance with inspection, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

Safe Boating

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs): On all boats except a sailboard regardless of length there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, on boats 16-feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, there 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 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 PFD and operating at idle no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, swimmers and shoreline activity.

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