



Protecting
Minnesota's lake
and river heritage
since 1994



MLR's Lakes Agenda - 2023 legislative Outcomes

Changes to AIS Laws

- Removes the requirement that an AIS inspector or conservation officer can only order decontamination if a decontamination unit is available on site.
 - Requires DNR to prepare, in coordination with local partners, a comprehensive statewide plan to manage AIS. Must be updated every 5 years.
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Boater Education and Certification

- Applies to boaters over the age of 12,
- Boats with 25 hp or less do not require a license,
- Youth boaters limited to 75 hp,
- Watercraft owner is responsible for operation of watercraft,
- Test can be administered electronically or on paper,
- Requirement is phased in:
 - (1) effective July 1, 2025, born on or after July 1, 2004;
 - (2) effective July 1, 2026, born on or after July 1, 2000;
 - (3) effective July 1, 2027, born on or after July 1, 1996; and
 - (4) effective July 1, 2028, born on or after July 1, 1987

Commissioner must create a working group to create course content and implementation.

The course must include content on best management practices for mitigating aquatic invasive species, reducing conflicts among user groups, and limiting the ecological impacts of watercraft.

Funding for MAISRC - HF 2310



\$1,000,000 the first year is for:

- implementation of a watershed-scale carp management plan and additional research focused on site-specific method refinement and evaluation;
- creation of a long-term monitoring program with state and local partners that evaluates the feasibility of whole-lake zebra mussel control projects and the development of criteria for selecting and managing lakes;
- refinement and implementation of large-scale surveillance and early detection methods for high-priority aquatic invasive species, including but not limited to zebra mussels, spiny water flea, and starry stonewort; and
- development and sharing, with relevant experts and stakeholders, contingency plans regarding the potential risks of aquatic invasive species. The contingency plans must provide a blueprint for preparedness and response planning documents, including authoritative risk communication, education, and outreach materials.

\$3,820,000 for grants to the MAISRC to prioritize, support, and develop research-based solutions that can reduce the effects of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota by preventing spread, controlling populations, and managing ecosystems and to advance knowledge to inspire action by others.

Wake & Prop Thrust Studies

The legislature appropriated \$415,500 for the final phases of the ecological impacts of wakes and prop thrust on lake ecology.



Other Items of Interest

- Ends Commercial Turtle Harvest,
- Keep It Clean - prevents anything from being stored or set outside an ice fishing house.
- Study to look at the Quantity and Quality of water in Minnesota fifty years from now - this is the first study looking that far ahead,
- Spends \$2 million the first year and \$2 million the second year for Lawns to Legumes which can be used to help owners install native shoreline buffers,
- Provides \$1 million for Get the Lead Out programs and lead tackle prohibition on designated swan and loon reproduction lakes in the metro area,
- Provides for biosecure bait importation into Minnesota to address minor shortages,
- Provides funding for study and management of native “rough” fishes, including the bigmouth buffalo fish, a native that can live over 100 years,
- Provides \$35 million to upgrade Minnesota’s watercraft accesses and include AIS prevention features,
- Study and mitigation of recent large scale fish kill events in Minnesota,
- Provides funding for AIS or water quality projects to Stearns COLA, Lake Alice, French Lake, and Round Lake,

Property Tax

Changes that should lower the property tax pressure on shoreline.

- \$80m increase in County Program Aid to offset property taxes each year (base increase)
- \$9.3m in payment in lieu of taxes for counties with high public land ownership increase
- Increase in the homestead market value credit
- Social Security state tax exclusion under 100k
- SWCD Aid \$15m/year