

MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC WATER ACCESSES (PWAs)

All Minnesotans deserve quality access to our lakes

Funding Request:

Get Out More – Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requesting \$50 million for PWAs across the state (\$35 million General Fund, \$15 million bonding).

HF2578 (Reyer) / SF1421 (Hauschild) appropriates \$50 million for PWAs across the state.

The boating and recreational industry is an important part of Minnesota's economy. The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) found that in Minnesota alone there is a \$3 billion economic benefit to the state.

Minnesota is ranked #1 in the U.S. for most boats per capita according to the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Census Bureau. Minnesota also ranks #2 in the country for the number of boat owners according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA, 2018).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesotans enjoyed our state's recreational opportunities in record numbers. As a result, it is critically important that the state improves crumbling public water accesses across the state.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains 1,691 state public water access sites. Otherwise known as PWAs, the typical lifecycle is around 15-25 years, according to the DNR. In addition, most of the PWAs constructed around the state were done so before the passage of federal ADA legislation and prior to the state's focus on stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Minnesota has over 1,600 PWAs across the state.



Why do we need to fix Minnesota's Public Water Accesses (PWAs)?

- Help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS)
- Comply with ADA standards
- Increase access for Minnesotans to enjoy recreational opportunities

Our PWAs are in massive need of repair and upkeep!

Supported By:



MN-FISH MISSION

- Provide a strong voice for Minnesota anglers and fishing related businesses before the State Legislature and DNR regarding all things fishing.
- Advocate, protect and restore aquatic fish & spawning habitat in lakes, rivers and streams.
- Support scientific and common-sense fish management for all gamefish species.
- Advocate and promote youth fishing recruitment and fishing programs in school curriculums to sustain the next generation of anglers.
- Become a grassroots sport fishing, marine and angler advocacy network to give anglers a voice in all fishing related issues.
- Advocate and seek funding for new investment in fish hatcheries, public accesses, fishing piers and shore fishing facilities.