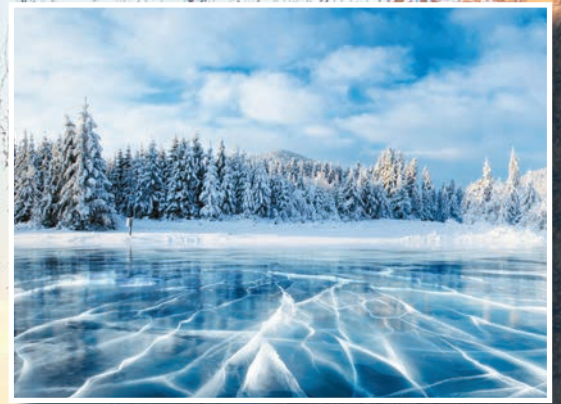


- 2024 -

Central Minnesota

LAKE LIFE

AUTUMN EDITION
Issue. No. 4



Ice Safety Tips • Page 3



Winterizing Your Dock • Page 6

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PAYNESVILLE PRESS & EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS VOICE

AUGUST 7, 2024

Winter Boat Maintenance

Over 15 Useful Tips On Storing Your Boat For The Winter

Avoid unnecessary wear and tear on your boat this winter by following these helpful steps to support and maintain all your marine vehicles.

After a long summer of boating fun, it's time to store away your vessel for the colder months ahead. Unlike your car, a boat has many more exposed parts that can corrode over time, which in turn affects performance and costs hundreds of dollars to repair. The harsh winter weather can further worsen these effects. Thus, it is essential to take care of your boat once you have finished using it in the summer so that you are not treated to the rude surprise of expensive repairs in the spring. Follow this winter boat storage checklist to make sure your boat is properly winterized for storage.

Storing your boat outside or inside.

Winter boat storage can be tedious and expensive if you don't have indoor storage, so keeping it on the water or outdoors is tempting. Unfortunately, it can also be problematic. If you store outside in your yard, a boat cover is a must to prevent damage from winter conditions (see all tips below). You'll want to take extra care if this is the option you choose, a less controlled environment can often bring more challenges.

Leaving your boat in the water is not recommended. The boat is exposed to winter conditions, has a greater possibility of sinking if you aren't monitoring often, and is vulnerable to theft.

Other options for storing your boat in winter are boat storage units, dry stack storage, and indoor storage. These range in price, availability, and convenience.



But, whatever you choose, you'll want to do a few things before you store your boat for winter inside or outside.

How to Store a Boat for Winter

1. Run your boat once more. Pay attention to any issues that may need repair or replacement over the winter, especially with regards to the engine. Look for cracks in the hull, which will worsen if left unrepaired.

2. Drain your boat. Remove the boat from the water and drain the bilge, water tanks, head, pipes and seacocks. Raise the bow to accelerate drainage if possible. If there is an electronic water heater, isolate it by removing the in and out lines and connecting the latter two together. Spray the bilge with a moisture-displacing lubricant. Add antifreeze into the bilge and water tanks to prevent freezing. (Do not drain the engine water intake until you winterize the engine.)

3. Clean your boat. Thoroughly scrub the entirety of the boat with soap and water, from the hull to the interior.

Remove any plant life and barnacles that have attached to the hull. Open any lockers, drawers, refrigerators and freezers and clean as well. Once the boat is scrubbed, leave enough time so that the boat is completely dry. Repair any blistering if you have a fiberglass boat. Afterwards, apply a coat of wax onto both the hull and the superstructure and polish evenly.

4. Winterize the engine. Flush the engine (including the coolant system) with freshwater to remove salt, dirt and corrosion. Refill the coolant system with antifreeze. After briefly warming up the engine to loosen impurities, replace the oil and all filters while looking for any milky aspect to the old oil, since this indicates water intrusion. Apply fogging oil into the carburetor and spark plug holes. Remove and store away drive belts to avoid snapping due to tension. Finally, top off your engine with a full tank of gas mixed with stabilizer. Run the engine for about 15 minutes to make sure the additives reach fuel lines. (Be especially careful if your engine uses

E-10 fuel, since it absorbs moisture 10 times more than typical gasoline.)

5. Lubricate moving parts. Grease the steering system and control mechanisms. Lightly apply moisture-displacing lubricant on all moving metal parts such as hinges, latches and linkages. Detach the propeller, inspect for fishing line and seal damage, lubricate, and return to its position.

6. Remove and charge the battery. Take out the battery and completely charge it. Clean the battery terminals and lightly coat them with grease. Do the same for the battery cable ends. Store the battery in a warm, dry place, noting that you will not place it back into the boat until the spring.

7. Remove sensitive materials. Anything and everything that does not form part of the vessel should be removed and stored away, including life jackets, fire extinguishers and flares. If the interior of the boat is fitted with organic materials such as fabric and leather, remove these as well to prevent mildew deposits. Also remove all electronics, since these are easily damaged with extreme cold, and wrap exposed cable ends with electric tape.

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Winter Boat Maintenance

Over 15 Useful Tips On Storing Your Boat For The Winter

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Store electronics in a warm, dry place as with the battery.

8. Seal exhaust ports. If your boat employs exhaust ports, seal them with duct tape to prevent pests from entering and clogging these components.

9. Cover and store your boat. Protect your boat with a cover that can withstand even the most brutal weather episodes. For harsher environments, consider shrink-wrapping your boat to provide additional protection. Remove snow buildup on a regular basis. If possible, store your boat under a canopy or in a garage. Use a dehumidifier if you will store the boat indoors. Mount your boat on supports with the bow tilted slightly upwards to encourage drainage. Avoid placing the boat on a trailer, since its tires and bearings can wear down over time.

10. Check every few weeks. Repair any problem areas or components over the winter. Uncover and inspect your boat for new problems that might arise during storage. Check the battery to see if it is still charged. Remove any water that might have pooled in lower areas of the boat.

11. Change the boat oil: Water that has gotten into the oil can corrode the engine. By changing the boat oil before storing you can avoid any long-term damage while stored.

12. Freshen up to the Coolant System: Like the oil, draining and refreshing the coolant system with anti-freeze can prevent freezing and corrosion of the engine.

13. Protect with Fogging Oil: This pro tip will go further to protect your engine during the winter months. Turn over your engine without starting it and spray the fogging oil where your manual instructs.

14. Loosen or remove driving belts: This is a simple step that can save

you stress and money. Remove or loosen drive belts before winter boat storage to prevent them from cracking under the stress.

15. Grease the steering: Another preventative measure to get your boat ready for when you take it back out. Grease the steering and control mechanisms well so everything runs smoothly when it's time to steer again.

16. Maintain the battery: Prevention is the name of the game. Disconnecting the battery and charging it every once in a while throughout the winter can prevent the battery from draining and dying over the winter.

17. Fill that tank: This may seem counter-intuitive, but condensation can build up in an empty tank causing corrosion and even worse damage if it freezes. Add some gas and fuel stabilizer to make sure your tank is good to go during winter boat storage.

18. Pay attention to the interior: Organic materials like canvas, leather, or other fabrics should be removed to avoid mold and mildew. And any electronics that could freeze should be removed to avoid damage.

19. Wax on, Wax off: This step is especially important for storing your boat outside during the winter. Cleaning your boat inside and out and finishing with wax will help prevent rust on your boat's body.

20. Always use a cover: Finally, covering your boat will protect from elements like dirt, dust, and moisture.

As always, be sure to read the owner's manual to learn about any particular needs your boat might have. If you are unsure about implementing these tips, don't hesitate to call a professional that specializes in winterizing boats. With these precautions, you will be able to protect your boat for the long winter and prepare it for the gorgeous weather that awaits you and your boat afterward.



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Safety, Health & Wellness on the Lake

Important Ice Safety Tips That Everyone Should Know

Lake-goers should never underestimate the hazards that come with thin ice. Read about steps you can take to better protect yourself.

Once ice on local ponds and lakes is thick enough you can do everything from ice skating to ice fishing. But how do you know when the ice is thick enough? That's one of the most common questions every winter, because ice is extremely dangerous if it's too thin or weak. We've laid out how to test ice thickness and additional safety tips below.

What to Know About Checking the Ice

The most important thing to remember in regard to ice safety is that ice thickness is not uniform across a body of water. You should always check the thickness of the ice in more than one area if you plan on crossing a body of water or staying on it for a long period of time.

While it's always a good idea to ask a local bait shop or guide about the ice thickness first, you will also want to measure it yourself. To check the ice, there are specific tools you can use to easily dig a hole.

Ice Chisel - Basically, an ice chisel is a long metal rod with a sharp blade at one end. You drive this chisel into the ice in order to dig a small hole. Once you've reached water, you can measure the

depth with a tape measure.

Ice Auger - There are three types of ice augers: hand, electric, and gas. A hand auger is the cheapest, but you'll have to dig through using your own strength. Once you've dug a hole with an auger, use a tape measure to check the ice.

Cordless Drill - You can also use a cordless drill if you have the right auger bit. Attach a 5/8 inch wood auger bit to your drill; the bit should have a spiral around the shaft. The spiral will pull out ice chips, and once the hole is large enough, you can measure the depth.

How to Determine When the Ice is Safe to Travel On

Once you've measured the ice, you will also want to know if it is safe enough to be on. The strongest ice is clear/blue in color and found over non-running waters. Since white/gray ice is much weaker, you should only consider traveling on clear/blue ice.

Ice Thickness Guide:

Here is the suggested amount of weight per x number inches of clear/blue ice.

- **2 inches or less** - Stay off; the ice is unsafe to walk on
- **3-4 inches** - The ice is usually thick enough for ice fishing or other activities on foot
- **5 inches** - You can travel on the ice with a snowmobile or ATV; or, you can travel on foot as a group in a single file



line

• **7.5-12 inches** - This is the recommended amount of ice thickness for a car or small truck

• **10-15 inches** - The ice can typically handle the weight of a medium-sized truck; wait until the ice is at least a foot if you're unsure

Other Types of Ice:

- When ice is white/opaque, it is only about half as strong as clear/blue ice. As such, if you plan on traveling over white/opaque ice, it should be twice as thick. Use extreme caution over white ice.
- When ice is gray or white/mottled gray, you should avoid it. These types of ice

are the weakest and unsafe for any kind of travel or activities.

• River ice is about 15% weaker than ice over non-running waters.

• In addition, if you see bubblers (devices used to protect docks), don't walk on ice near them. Bubblers can make ice weak in the surrounding area.

Quick Tips to Stay Safe on the Ice

On Foot

- Use crampons while walking on ice to increase traction
- Do not travel on ice at night, especially by vehicle

Continued on Page 4...

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Safety, Health & Wellness on the Lake

Important Ice Safety Tips That Everyone Should Know

Continued from Page 3...

- Be wary of ice covered in snow; snow may be hiding open water or cracked ice
- Carry a portable flotation device in case you or someone else falls through the ice
- Bring ice picks and keep them close; they can be used to pull yourself out of the water if you fall through
- If you can, use the buddy system and bring a friend

In a Vehicle

- If the ice is thick enough for parking, move your vehicle every two hours to prevent sinking
- Make a hole near your vehicle; if water begins to overflow, move your vehicle immediately
- Park vehicles at least 50 feet apart
- Avoid areas where other vehicles have parked previously

How to Handle an Accident on the Ice

If you, someone else, or a pet falls through the ice, there are a few different steps you should follow.

Getting Out of the Water

If you fall through the ice, you will have about 2-5 minutes before the cold water

begins to really affect you. During that period, you should kick your legs, grasp for nearby ice, and get yourself horizontal on it. If you have ice picks, you can use them to pull yourself onto the ice. Once you get yourself out of the water, roll toward thicker ice. As soon as you are off the ice, the next step is to work fast to prevent hypothermia.

Helping Someone Out of the Water

If someone else falls through the ice, and you can't reach them from shore, the first step should be to throw them a rope, tree branch, jumper cable, or other object. If nothing is available, you should go for help and call 911. Once the person is out of the water, you'll want to work fast to prevent hypothermia.

Rescuing Your Pet

If your pet falls through the ice, your first instinct may be to help them. However, if the ice isn't thick enough for your pet, it won't be for you. What you should do is get help and call 911.

Sources:

- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/ice-strength-and-safety-tips.html>
- <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/IceFishingSafety.aspx>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html>
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7733.html>
- <https://www.adirondack.net/winter/hiking/ice-safety-tips/>

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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Climate change threatens winter traditions

From shorter winter ice seasons to shifting fish populations, climate change is transforming Minnesota lakes as we know them.

Article By: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

These changes are becoming more and more noticeable, particularly for Minnesotans that enjoy winter sports like ice fishing or pond skating. Over the last 50 years, lakes across the state have lost an average of 10-14 days of ice coverage. The stories below highlight the impact of climate change on our lakes – and our way of life as Minnesotans.

Medicine Lake

Medicine Lake in Plymouth is a popular destination for Twin Cities ice anglers and outdoor enthusiasts looking to enjoy sports like kick-sledding and snowshoeing on lake ice. Over the last 50 years, Medicine Lake has lost roughly 12 days of winter ice coverage.

For Nick Sacco, a recreation program specialist with the Three Rivers Park District, the shifting winter conditions require flexibility in case there is not enough ice or snow coverage for winter activities on Medicine Lake and others in



the district. “We are absolutely adjusting our programming to meet the un-predictableness of our winters,” said Sacco. “Twenty or thirty years ago, I don’t think outdoor educators and recreation guides always had to make back-up plans. We just had winter. That has changed greatly, especially over the past 10 years.”

Lake Washington

For locals of the Mankato region, Lake Washington is the perfect place to catch crappies, bass, northern pike, and walleye. It’s also a popular residential lake, with about 450 homes, 80 percent of which are occupied by full-time residents. Over the last 50 years, Lake Washington has lost nearly 14 days of winter ice coverage.

Homeowner Jim Folden has lived on Lake Washington for nearly 15 years and has long-standing family ties to the lake. “My mother-in-law had a place on the lake too, just across the bay from us. We’ve been coming out here for a long time. When we would go visit her at Christmas, we almost always could shovel out a skating rink in front of her place,” said Folden. “The last 10 years or so, we’re fortunate to have ice at Christmas that’s trustworthy. I’ve got grandkids now, and we try to do the same thing, but you can’t count on the ice like you used to be able to.”

Siseebakwet (Sugar) Lake

Siseebakwet Lake, just southwest of Grand Rapids, has seen its ice cover season shorten by nearly two weeks over

the last 50 years, but the lake’s depth, a robust walleye stocking program, and exceptional water quality have made it more resilient to climate change than other area lakes. According to DNR Fisheries Supervisor Dave Weitzel, our changing climate has made Siseebakwet Lake more uniquely resilient than shallower area lakes that are suffering more drastic impacts of climate change. Shallower lakes warm faster, which can accelerate weed and algae growth, decrease water quality and oxygen, and put more stress on aquatic food chains. This combination makes it harder for cold water fish species to survive.

Shorter ice seasons also increase the intensity of ice fishing, which Weitzel says, “has put pressures on fish populations that we could never have anticipated even 10 years ago.”

For more news articles like this one as well as to learn more about how pollution effects our lakes and you - visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency online at:

www.pca.state.mn.us



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Winter Dock Maintenance

Recognizing the Importance of Winterizing Your Dock

As the summer season draws to a close, it's time for dock owners to turn their attention to winterizing. Using proper dock removal and storage practices are essential in protecting your dock from the harsh winter conditions. Let's take an in-depth look at all the important aspects of winterizing your dock, the potential dangers of leaving it installed through the winter and early spring months, as well as the benefits of safe removal, storage, and what dock storage options are available to you.

Taking the time to prepare your dock is essential in order to avoid potential damage caused by freezing temperatures, snow, and ice. Water expands when frozen and this will cause major strain on a dock's overall structure - be they a temporary dock or a permanent fixture.

Temporary docks - floating docks especially - can be susceptible to damage or even total loss if care is not adequately planned for. Late winter and early spring still have freezing temperatures, but ice breakup and spring flooding can damage a dock or even completely remove it from an owner's shoreline. These free-floating obstacles aren't just a lost investment, but can cause very serious dangers for boats and other marine vehicles trying to navigate the early frigid waters.

By taking a proactive approach to safely remove and store your dock during the winter months, you can prevent having costly repairs as well as extend your dock's life expectancy.

Following 3 Simple Steps

To ensure a smooth over-wintering process, follow these steps for the removal and storage of your dock.

1. Inspect the dock: Examine your dock for any indication of wear and tear. It's at this time that you would ideally address any necessary repairs that should be made before moving to storage.

2. Disconnect all utilities: Disconnect power and water lines to prevent freezing and damage.

3. Properly dismantle: Disassemble the sections carefully and label them for easy reassembly in the spring.

Choosing the Right Storage Option

When it comes to your dock's long-term storage, there are two main options to choose from: onshore storage and dry stack storage.

1. Onshore storage: The biggest benefit to onshore storage is easy accessibility. In the spring and early summer months, an individual can quickly reinstall a dock. However, since your dock is stored outside in the elements, it is essential to make sure that it is stored in such a way that prevents water from pooling or getting trapped inside any components.

2. Dry stack storage: Dry stack storage, in simplest terms, is storing your dock in a protected area away from the elements. This storage practice provides what many would consider to be superior protection from the elements. While there are products available on the market that assist with the protection and longevity of your dock should you need to store outdoors, covered or the use of indoor space is by far the best when it comes to protection against less than ideal winter conditions.

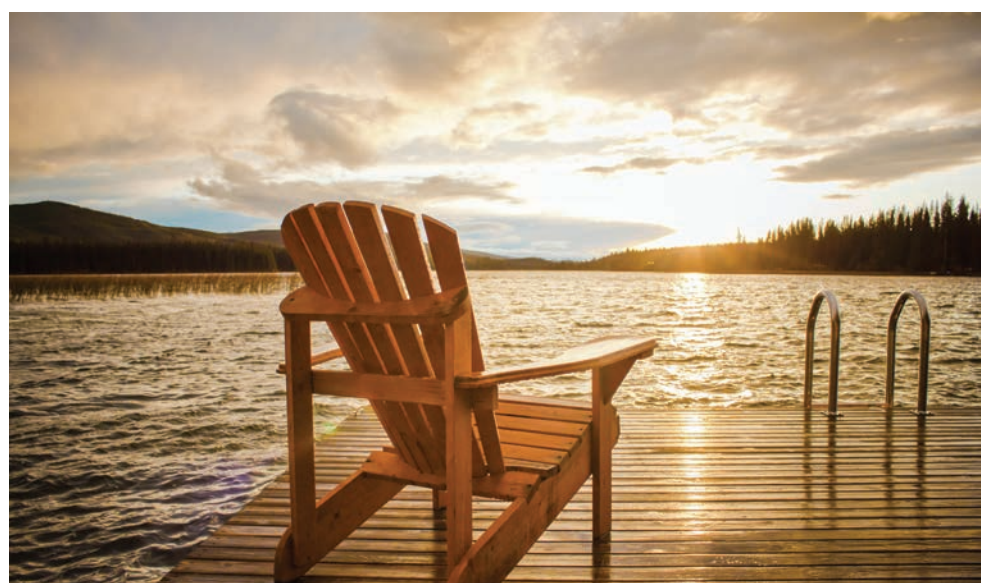
A dock owner should consider the three following factors when it comes to making the decision between onshore and dry stack storage:

1. Dock size and type: The size, shape and type of dock will no doubt influence the best storage method. If you're truly unsure of which method would be the right fit for you, then you should consider asking a local dock dealer for specific recommendations.

2. Accessibility: Before committing to a storage method, you should ask yourself "Will I need to access my dock during the winter months?", "How soon will I be able to access my dock in the spring/summer?"

3. Budget: Take time and evaluate the cost that's associated with each storage option. Then consider if it fits within your budget.

When a dock owner takes the time to winterize their dock and safely store it during the winter months; they provide a crucial element for maintaining its condition. Proper care done during the chilly season will no doubt provide endless entertainment and enjoyment in the upcoming summer season.



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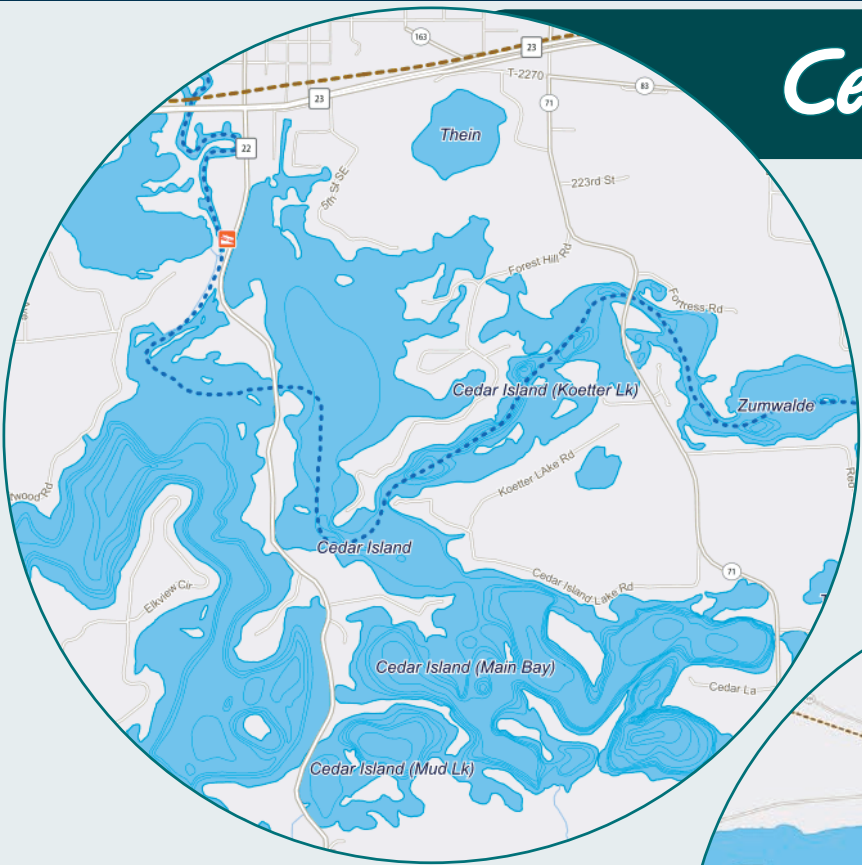
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Cedar Island

Cedar Island is located in Stearns County, Minnesota. This lake is 1,003 acres in size. It is approximately 75 feet deep at its deepest point. When fishing, anglers can expect to catch a variety of fish including Black Bullhead, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed.



Becker Lake

Becker is located in Stearns County, Minnesota. This lake is 221 acres in size. It is approximately 20 feet deep at its deepest point. When fishing, anglers can expect to catch a variety of fish including Black Bullhead, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed.

HORSESHOE CHAIN OF LAKES

The Horseshoe Chain of Lakes in Central Minnesota has been a well-loved vacation destination for many years. The chain of over a dozen lakes along the Sauk River has long been known as a great fishing, boating and resort location a bit west of St. Cloud. In recent years the chain has been renamed the Sauk River Chain of Lakes in official publications, but it's still the Horseshoe Chain to the residents and long-time visitors who know and love it.

Different numbers of lakes are quoted as being a part of the chain. Some count as few as 10 lakes while other reports speak of 17 lakes. In some instances, small adjoining lakes or bays are counted separately, while in others they are included in the main water body. Everyone pretty much agrees on the larger lakes, however, and all are connected as navigable by fishing boats.

The Sauk River enters Horseshoe Lake from the west and leaves the lakes 9.5 miles downstream at Knaus Lake near Cold Spring where it becomes a river again. Not all of the lakes are a part of the direct flow of the Sauk River; many are peripheral lakes connected by channels, mostly natural. The entire chain of lakes contains about 2,500 acres of surface and holds around 31,000 acre-feet of water at normal levels. The major lakes are Horseshoe Lake with 550 acres; Becker Lake with 176 acres; Bolging Lake with 104 acres; Cedar Island Lake with Mud Lake, East Lake, Little Cedar Island Lake, and Koetler Lake included in the acreage with 998 acres; Great Northern Lake with 356 acres; Knaus Lake and including Park Lake with 205 acres; Krays Lake with 85 acres; Long Lake with 460 acres; Schneider's Lake with 54 acres; Zumwalde Lake with 106 acres; and Tschumperlin Lake, for which no figures are available. Some lists also count North Brown Lake but don't identify its location, so it is likely part of another lake.

Let's Go Fishing!

EXPLORE THE LAKES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA



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DNR RESOURCES

- Fishing licenses and regulations: Brochure and online information on fishing regulations, including seasons and limits and special regulations for border waters and other specific waters.
- Boating: Guide to laws and rules related to boating.
- Outdoor recreation: Information on state parks, trails and forests.
- Maps: Public boat ramps/accesses, trout streams, canoe routes and fishing piers. On the DNR website, use the LakeFinder feature to download lake-depth maps and get fish surveys, stocking reports, and water level and clarity information. Lake and fishing maps can also be purchased from Minnesota's Bookstore: minnesotasbookstore.com

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Residents and nonresidents 16 and older must have a fishing license.

You must buy a trout stamp to fish any trout stream, trout lake or Lake

Superior. Licenses are available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and from sporting goods stores and some convenience stores. You can also buy your license with a credit card by phone at 888-665-4236, or online at mndnr.gov.

LICENSES AND FEES

This information applies to Feb. 29, 2023. Check with the DNR for later dates.

Resident

Youth age 16 and 17.....	\$5
Individual (age 18 and older).....	\$25
Individual 24-Hour.....	\$12
Combination (married couple).....	\$40
Trout-salmon stamp (not required with 24-Hour license).....	\$10
Voluntary walleye stamp.....	\$5

Nonresident

Youth age 16 and 17.....	\$5
Individual 72-Hour.....	\$36
Individual seven-day.....	\$43
Combination (married couple) 14-day.....	\$54
Family (husband, wife, children under 16)....	\$68

BOATING INFO

Boat, canoe and kayak licenses required: All boats, canoes and kayaks (unless non-motorized and 9 feet or less) used in Minnesota must be licensed in Minnesota or the owner's home state. Most states will register any boat upon request.

Contact the Minnesota DNR at:

800-285-2000 or info.dnr@state.mn.us for information about licensing your boat.

Boat access: More than 1,900 public accesses have been built on Minnesota's lakes and streams. Many of these are equipped with concrete boat ramps. The locations of most are shown on county water access maps, available from the Minnesota DNR Information Center. 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS

Minnesota waters are threatened by many invasive species of plants and animals. It is illegal to transport any aquatic plants, zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail or other prohibited invasive species on public roads, or to launch a boat or trailer with these species attached.

Required Actions:

- Remove visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, trailer and other water-related equipment before leaving the water access.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash – it is not legal to release bait into state waters.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bait containers before leaving the water access. Drain plugs, bailers, valves or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft (marine sanitary systems are excluded from this requirement).

Recommended Actions:

- Spray, rinse or dry boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a water body.
- Before transporting to another water body: spray/rinse with high pressure and/or hot tap water, especially if moored for more than a day; or dry boat for at least five days.

For more information: contact the DNR Invasive Species Program, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, at 651-259-5100 or 888-646-6367 or visit mndnr.gov/invasives.



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