

2024 Legislative Agenda

High Priorities of Statewide Significance

<p>1) Adopt best practices for watercraft users, uses and wake actions into Watercraft Operators education based on latest and best research to prevent safety issues, shoreline erosion, and sub-surface ecological damage</p> <p><u>AND</u> establish the need for regulation with enforcement.</p>	<p><u>Future:</u> Regulate watercraft uses and wake actions; <u>plus</u> increase state funding for County water patrols/enforcement.</p> <p>Minimum 600' from shore based on SAFL Phase 1 research, plus depth of water minimum from Phase 2.</p>
<p>2) Support environmental review requirements for water quality concerns from developments and construction on marginal lands, wetlands, non-riparian; EIS/EAW requirement</p>	
<p>3) Continue Support for MAISRC</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) Support next LCCMR funds request(s)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b) Program report on research and risk-based approach to resource allocations</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c) Seek stable long-term funding for MAISRC; keep and attract research talent</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d) Pursue increase 3-year watercraft license surcharge for AIS funding; \$10.60 to \$25.00 w/allotments \$10 to MAISRC research; \$10 to lake associations for AIS control; \$5 to DNR</p>	<p><u>Future:</u> AIS funding in 2024-2026 General Fund appropriations for \$1 M or more year</p>
<p>4) Increase boater AIS compliance with fines for AIS violations that are at parity with Minnesota game & fish fines including authority to impound</p>	
<p>5) Modify 2014 AIS Prevention Aid funding models, aid amount and allocation basis; support AIS grant funds</p>	<p><u>Future:</u> Increase AIS Prevention Aid funding from \$10M to \$20M per year</p>

High Priorities of Regional Significance

<p>6) Support DNR proposal for bonding to improve the public accesses</p>
<p>7) Protect MN sensitive watersheds by rerouting future new and replacement crude oil pipelines away from high-risk routes</p>
<p>8) Keep the BWCA and St. Louis River Watershed free from potential sulfuric acid releases from all copper/nickel mining</p>
<p>9) Keep the central MN watersheds free from potential harmful releases from all manganese and nickel mining</p>



2024 Legislative Agenda