

Electrofishing Equipment Use and Safety Policy

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)
Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (FWCB)

Electrofishing boats and equipment at the University of Minnesota are a shared resource between MAISRC and FWCB. Research teams that are working on MAISRC or FWCB affiliated projects are able to receive access to electrofishing equipment by completing the [Electrofishing Boat Access Request](#) form. Please review the use policies and safety training requirements detailed below, prior to completing an access request.

Electrofishing Use Policies

- Everyone who will be operating or transporting electrofishing equipment, must complete the safety training requirements outlined below.
- Electrofishing equipment can be reserved for up to three consecutive days. To reserve electrofishing equipment, use the *(EQ) MAISRC-Electrofishing Boat 18ft* or *(EQ) FWCB-Electrofishing Boat 16ft* Google calendars. You will be granted access to this calendar after completing the access request form. To request reservations longer than three days in length, contact Cori Mattke at cmattke@umn.edu.
- Volunteers and undergraduate research technicians are able to assist in electrofishing activities but are prohibited from reserving, transporting, or unsupervised operation of electrofishing equipment.
- Volunteers participating in electrofishing activities must complete a [Volunteer Research Agreement](#) waiver. Anyone who is observing electrofishing activities but are not actively participating in research, must complete a [Release of Liability](#) waiver.
- Research teams must complete maintenance and safety checks before and after each use of electrofishing equipment. Checklists will be provided.
- Accidental or negligent damage to the electrofishing boat or equipment will be the responsibility of the principal investigator and/or faculty advisor. Routine maintenance and repairs to regular wear-and-tear will be the responsibility of FWCB and/or MAISRC.
- **7-10 days in advance of sampling, research teams must notify state/federal agencies of plans for collection.** General contact links are included below but please consult your permit documentation for detail on specific notification requirements. Your permit application does not constitute advance notification of your intent to sample.

Safety Training Requirements

In order to operate or transport electrofishing equipment, all primary users must complete the following safety training requirements. A “primary user” is defined as an employee (faculty, staff, graduate student) who is responsible for leading an electrofishing sampling effort OR whose job duties include regular participation in electrofishing activities.*

1. Review the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [handbook on electrofishing](#).

2. Complete the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's two hour [Electrofishing Safety](#) online training course. This training module is self-guided. Please complete each section, then take the final exam and upload confirmation of your completion of the training as a part of completing your access request form.
3. Primary users of electrofishing equipment are required to have current CPR/AED certification. All electrofishing activities require a minimum of two operators with current CPR/AED certification. A copy of current CPR/AED certification materials must be uploaded as a part of completing the access request form. CPR certification classes are offered through [Boynton Health Services](#).
4. Participate in hands-on training using MAISRC/FWCB electrofishing equipment. This training will include operating the boat and electrofishing equipment, as well as trailer training for transporting the boat. Training will be scheduled after the submission of your access request form.

For individuals who would like to learn more about the principles of electrofishing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers an extended [Principles and Techniques of Electrofishing](#) online training course. This course is not required to operate MAISRC/FWCB electrofishing equipment, but is recommended for those wanting to learn more.

*MAISRC and FWCB encourage all staff, especially those who work in the field, to take advantage of the current CFANS First Aid CPR/AED training. However, since the CFANS training does not provide official CPR/AED certification, it does not fulfill the requirement for electrofishing users.

Collection Permission

All research teams need to receive permission from the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#) (MN DNR) and possibly other agencies (e.g. [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [National Park Service](#)) to collect fishes from Minnesota waters. Seven to ten days in advance of sampling, research teams must notify the following organizations:

[MN DNR Fisheries Office](#) – Area Fisheries office contact information.

[MN DNR Conservation Officer](#) – MN DNR Conservation Officer Locator.

If collecting in a Minnesota state park – [Contact Park Manager](#).

Please consult your permit documentation for detail on specific notification requirements.

Questions

If you have any questions about the policies or procedures of using UMN electrofishing equipment, please contact Cori Mattke at cmattke@umn.edu.