

 **NEW—Northern Pike Regulations**

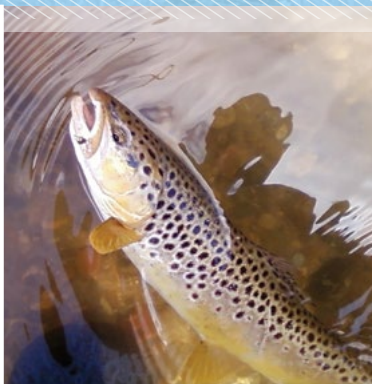
**Effective March**

**2018**

through February 28, 2019



# MINNESOTA FISHING REGULATIONS



**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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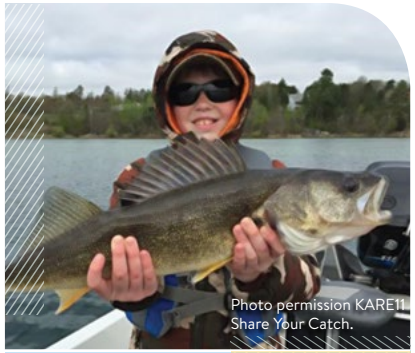


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Send spring information from your computer or mobile device. Select the **Reporting App** and follow the instructions at:

[mndnr.gov/MnSpringInventory](http://mndnr.gov/MnSpringInventory)

Or send information by email to [MnSpringInventory@state.mn.us](mailto:MnSpringInventory@state.mn.us)

### 2. Select Location

Please pinpoint the spring location: zoom in, click on the map, then drag the pointer to the exact location.

Search

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Find address or place



Locate Me

Latitude: 46.36386, Longitude: -94.26200





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ON THE COVER: Fly-fishing photo and trout stream photo by Patrick Schmalz. Brown trout photo by Steve Shroyer.

**A**nglers contribute to good fishing every time they purchase a rod, reel or most other manufactured fishing products.

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**L**ast year, the Minnesota DNR received \$13 million through this program.

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**S**pread the word, too, so more people know how manufacturers, anglers and natural resource agencies work together.

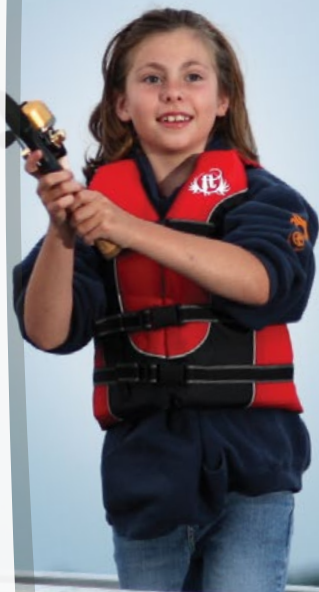


Photo courtesy of Take Me Fishing

# TRESPASS LAW

The trespass law applies to all outdoor recreation, including but not limited to: hunting, boating, fishing, trapping, hiking, and camping. When taking part in any outdoor recreation, you may not enter legally posted land or agricultural land without permission.

Landowners, lessees, or authorized managers need only post their land once a year. The signs must be placed at intervals of 1,000 feet (500 feet in wooded areas) or signs may be placed at primary corners and at access points to the property. Signs must state “No Trespassing,” or similar words, in 2-inch high letters and have the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager.

There can be civil or criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws with maximum fines up to \$3,000 and license revocation. All conservation officers and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

See page 62 for more information on road right-of-way.

## **Rules of thumb for water access and recreational use**

These are simple rules of thumb and are not intended to address all water access and recreational use situations. If you have doubts about whether you may be trespassing on private land, you should ask the landowner for permission.

### **What is lawful access?**

A stream or lake is lawfully accessible if there is a public access, or if public land or a public road right-of-way borders the surface of the water, or if you have permission to cross private land to reach the surface of the water. This includes walking in the water or on the ice in connection with such activities regardless of who owns the land beneath the surface of the water.

### **What waters are open to recreational use?**

A stream or lake is open to recreational use over its entire surface if it is capable of recreational use and if it is lawfully accessible. Any water that will float a canoe is capable of recreational use, but other waters may also qualify depending upon the circumstances.

### **Can I take my dog with me on an Aquatic Management Area?**

On an Easement Aquatic Management Area (AMA), a person must always get permission from the landowner to take a dog with them, unless otherwise posted. You may not enter a Restricted or General Use Aquatic Management Area with a dog except 1) under permit by the commissioner or 2) the dog is accompanied by or under control of the owner. Dogs must be on a leash from April 16 - July 14.

## **Fishing Ethics**

As fishing pressure continues to grow, the DNR offers these suggestions to make fishing safe and enjoyable for all anglers:

- Don't litter with fishing line, Styrofoam, plastic bags, six-pack holders, and other plastics (can kill fish and wildlife that eat or get tangled up in these products).
- Prepare your boat and trailer before you are on the ramp so that you can launch quickly.
- Ask for permission before entering private land.
- Keep only the amount of fish you can use.
- Release some medium-sized fish so they can grow and be caught in the future.

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are nonnative animals and plants that do not naturally occur in our waters and cause ecological or economic harm. See images below of some AIS that have been found in Minnesota.

You can help prevent the introduction and spread of AIS by following both the required and recommended actions listed on page 9 before moving your boat, bait or other equipment from one waterbody to another.

Report new infestations: If you suspect a new infestation of an AIS, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and call a DNR AIS Specialist: 888-MINNDNR.

Invasive carp captures must be immediately reported to the DNR, call 651-587-2781 or email [invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us). Please take a photo and make arrangements with the DNR to transport the carp to the nearest area fisheries office. You may keep invasive carp for personal use with a special permit, which is available on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/invasive-carp](http://mndnr.gov/invasive-carp).

## Red swamp crayfish

2 to 5" long. Raised bright red spots on claws.



## Starry stonewort

Grass-like algae with a small, star-shaped structure called a "bulbil" less than ¼-inch in diameter.



## Spiny waterflea

Long tail, white with black spots, looks like gelatinous globs on fishing line, small (up to 3/8").



## Zebra and quagga mussel

The only freshwater mollusks that attach to objects with byssal threads (up to 1½"); larvae float in water and are too small to see.



## Faucet snail

Up to ½" long, light brown to black, 4-5 whorls.



## Eurasian watermilfoil

12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.



## New Zealand mudsnail

Up to ½" long, light to dark brown, cone-shaped shell, 5-6 whorls.



## Bighead and silver carp

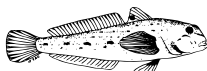
Eye located at lower part of head below the mouth; adults can weigh 60 pounds or more and be 30-45"; Silver can jump more than 10 feet high.



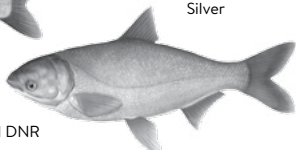
Bighead

## Round goby

Single scallop-shaped pelvic fin, fish is usually 3-6" long.

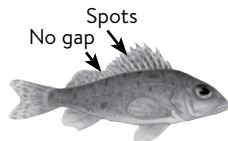


Silver



## Ruffe

Spots between rays of dorsal fin, no gap between fins.



Ruffe illustration ©C. Iverson, MN DNR



## Required Actions—It's the Law!

Most anglers and boaters follow Minnesota's Clean, Drain, Dispose laws to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

✓ Clean all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers and other water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

- It is illegal to transport prohibited invasive species—including zebra mussels—whether dead or alive.
- You can find a complete list of prohibited invasive species by visiting [dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html#prohibited](http://dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html#prohibited) or by calling the DNR information line.

✓ Drain water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving any water access or shoreland property.

- Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

✓ Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.

- It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another.
- It is illegal to release worms in the state; worms are not native to Minnesota.
- If you want to keep your live bait, you must drain all lake or river water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

## Recommended Actions— Protect Your Waters

To further decontaminate your watercraft and equipment, it's important to spray, rinse or dry everything before going to another waterbody, especially if your boat has been in the water or moored for more than 24 hours—or if you have recently been in zebra mussel or spiny waterflea infested waters. Do one or more of the following:

- Dry for at least five days.
- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water. To reduce the risk of spreading zebra mussels, use water that is 120° F at the point of contact and spray each area for at least two minutes, or use 140° F water for at least 10 seconds on each area.



## Watercraft Inspections

The Minnesota DNR has had a watercraft inspection program since 1992 to help prevent the spread of AIS. With the help of our partners, today nearly 1,000 authorized watercraft inspectors are working at lakes and rivers across Minnesota. The information below will help you prepare for a watercraft inspection. In 2016, 96 percent of boaters surveyed by inspectors arrived following Minnesota's Clean, Drain, Dispose laws.

### What should I expect from an inspection?

Inspectors are trained to:

- Introduce themselves as a watercraft inspector.
- Provide you tips on how to inspect your own equipment (see page 9).
- Physically inspect your boat, trailer and any other water-related equipment—meaning they may touch your boat or trailer to feel for tiny attached zebra mussels or other invasive species.
- Physically inspect compartments that may hold water, such as live wells or bilge areas.
- Deny launch if: 1) the inspector finds invasive species or any plants attached, and until the invasive species or plants are removed; or 2) you refuse an inspection.
  - › Although inspectors have the authority to deny launch, they will work with you to try to bring your watercraft into compliance.
  - › Inspectors will not deny launch based solely on where, or when, you last used your watercraft.
- Ask you questions to help improve the DNR's inspection program. You are not required to answer these questions.

### How should I prepare for an inspection?

When entering an access:

- Always follow all state laws regarding AIS and arrive in compliance with Clean, Drain and Dispose laws (see page 9).
- Open the lids of closed compartments that could hold water, like live wells, so the inspector can see they are drained. Your drain plugs should all be open while you transport your boat.
- Remember to install the drain plug after the inspection and before launching.

When exiting an access:

- Remove any plants, mud, and invasive animals.
- Pull all drain plugs.
- Open water-holding compartments to allow inspection.

### What about on-site watercraft decontamination?

An inspector may require your watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching or before leaving an access, if a unit is on-site. Most decontaminations can be done quickly. Trained inspectors use hot water to target areas to kill AIS. An inspector may also use high-pressure water.

### How do I find a decontamination station?

The DNR posts decontamination unit locations online at [mndnr.gov/decon](http://mndnr.gov/decon). At these sites, inspectors will perform a courtesy inspection and determine if any decontamination is required.

Tell us how we're doing at [wip.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:wip.dnr@state.mn.us).

## The DNR Lists Lakes and Rivers as “Infested” With Certain Aquatic Invasive Species

### What do I need to do when I visit a lake or river on the infested waters list?

You should follow the same aquatic invasive species regulations—Clean, Drain, Dispose—every time you visit any water body, including those listed as infested.

### 95% of Minnesota’s more than 11,000 lakes are not on the infested waters list

Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by taking the required and recommended actions on page 9.

If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or diverting or taking water, you need to follow special regulations in infested waters. See pages 31-33 for more information about bait harvest.

### How do I know which waters are listed as infested?

- For the most complete and current infested waters list, visit [mndnr.gov/AIS](http://mndnr.gov/AIS).
- You can use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested: [mndnr.gov/lakefind](http://mndnr.gov/lakefind).
- You can request a copy from [AISpublications@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:AISpublications@dnr.state.mn.us) or 651-259-5100.
- Infested waters are posted with orange Invasive Species Alert signs at the public access.

## Lead Tackle

The tackle industry, recognizing a growing awareness and concern about lead in the environment, has begun to create tungsten, glass, copper, steel, tin, bismuth, or plastic sinkers. Consider using non-lead tackle when you go fishing.

Here’s what you can do to help:

- Ask local sporting good stores to stock non-lead fishing tackle.
- Spread the word by telling other anglers about the problem.
- Dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs properly by locating a drop-off location.



# DEFINITIONS

**Culling (sorting)** – The act of replacing one fish with another fish (see possession information on pages 33-34). See border waters with North Dakota on page 60.

**Daily and possession limits (bag limits)** – For most species of fish, daily and possession limits are the same. One exception would be the inland limit on yellow perch, which is 20 per day and 40 in possession. The daily and possession limits include fish possessed by the person at all locations including such places as livewell, cold storage, at home, or at a resort. Daily limit is the number of fish an angler can take in one calendar day. Eating those fish or gifting them away on the same day does not allow an angler to possess additional fish taken in the same calendar day.

**Designated stream trout lakes** – These waters have been listed in Minnesota Rule and have been stocked with trout that are typically found in streams: rainbow, brown, or brook trout. Some also have splake, a cross between a lake trout and a brook trout.

**Harvest slot limit** – Allows the harvest of fish from a designated size range.

**Immediately released or returned to the water** – Fish must not be retained longer than is needed at the site of capture to unhook, identify, measure, and photograph. Placing the fish in any type of container or on a stringer is not immediately released. Any fish not immediately released is considered to be “reduced to possession.”

**Inland waters** – Lakes and rivers within Minnesota not bordering Canada or another state.

**Maximum size limit** – Prohibits the harvest of fish from some specified length and larger.

**Minimum size limit** – Prohibits harvest of fish less than a specified length.

**Minnows** – Members of the minnow family, except carp and goldfish; bullheads, cisco (tullibee), lake whitefish, goldeyes, and mooneyes (not over 7 inches long); suckers (not over 12 inches long); mud minnows, leeches, tadpole madtoms and stonecats. Border water regulations may vary.

**One-over the size limit** – Allows the harvest of one fish over a set size limit as part of the daily or possession limit.

**Protected slot limit** – Prohibits harvest of fish from a designated size range. Fish within this size range must be immediately released.

**Rough fish** – Carp, buffalo, sucker, sheepshead, bowfin, burbot, cisco (tullibee), gar, goldeye, and bullhead. Border waters regulations may vary.

**Under-utilized fish** – Carp, buffalo, sucker, sheepshead, bowfin, burbot, cisco, gar, goldeye, and redhorse.

# NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2018

## New License Fees in 2018

License fees have increased for both residents and nonresidents, see pages 14-17.

## New Statewide Regulations

- The statewide possession and size limit for northern pike on inland waters has been replaced. The state is now divided into three zones, and each zone has its own specific regulation for harvesting northern pike. For angling, see page 22; for dark house spearing, see page 68. This does not change possession limits on border waters or experimental/special regulation waters.
- Link to a list of infested waters, see page 11.
- New licensing requirements for fishing shelters, see page 69.
- Shelter license required for all shelters placed on the ice that are not defined as portable shelters.

## Modified Special Regulations

- The special size limits for bass on Balm, Big Bass, South Twin, and Deer lakes (Beltrami County), Ozawindib Lake (Clearwater County), Portage Lake (Cass County), Flour, Hungry Jack and Two Island lakes (Cook County) and Mary Lake (Hubbard County) have changed to a 14-20" protected slot limit. The possession limit of one over 20" remains unchanged.
- Northern pike regulations on Bass (Todd County) and Cedar (Morrison County) lakes have been changed to 26" maximum and a bag limit of three.
- Special regulations on sunfish for Lake Itasca and crappie for Lake Ozawindib have changed.

## New Special Regulations

New 18-26" protected slot limit with one over 26" and possession limit of four for walleye on Little Boy and Wabedo lakes (Cass County).

## Dropped Special Regulations

- Catch-and-release regulations for trout in on Kraut, Peanut, North Shady, Squash and Tomato lakes (Cook County) have been dropped.
- Special regulations for northern pike on Pelican Lake (St. Louis County), Sand Lake and connected waters (Itasca County), Sissabagamah and Long lakes (Aitkin County) have been dropped.
- The closed to fishing special regulation on Moody Lake (Crow Wing County) has been removed. Fishing is allowed but all species are catch-and-release only.


Regulations may change after this booklet goes to print. Check online at [mndnr.gov/fishmn](http://mndnr.gov/fishmn) for updated regulations, announcements and corrections.

## FISHING SEASON OPENER DATES

YEAR	WALLEYE	BASS	MUSKIE
2018	May 12	May 12	June 2
2019	May 11	May 11	June 1
2020	May 9	May 9	June 6



# FISHING LICENSES

 **NEW**—Many fishing license fees have increased effective March 1, 2018.

- Resident youth younger than 16 do not need a fishing license.
- Prices do not include additional issuing fees.
- Purchase online at [mndnr.gov/buyalicense](http://mndnr.gov/buyalicense).
- Duplicate licenses and stamps can be purchased from any ELS agent for \$2.50 each.
- License year begins March 1 and ends the last day of February unless otherwise noted.
- Fish house, dark house or shelter licenses valid March 1 to April 30 the following year (or 3-year period).
- A fishing license continues to be valid for the balance of the license period if the licensee's age, residency, or student qualification status changes.
- Super Sports licenses include: 50 cents for wolf management; 50 cents for emergency feeding and wild cervidae-deer health management; \$1 deer/bear management account; and \$2 for deer management.
- In the table below, the 3-digit code refers to the license identification code.

## RESIDENT ANGLING LICENSES

YOUTH ANGLING Resident Individual Age 16 & 17	138	Youth Annual (Age 16 & 17)	Youth Individual Angling (exempt from trout/salmon stamp and spearing license)	\$5
ADULT ANGLING Resident Individual Ages 18 through 89	111	Adult Annual	Individual Angling	\$25
	110	24-hour	Individual Angling (no Trout Stamp required) Consecutive 24-hour	\$12
	140	72-hour	Individual Angling (no Trout Stamp required) Consecutive 72-hour	\$14
	141	3-year	Individual Angling Consecutive 3-years	\$71
	105	½ Bag Limit Conservation	Individual Angling ½ bag limits	\$17
	216	Sports	Individual Angling and Small Game (\$34.50 plus \$6.50 surcharge "paid by hunters for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands")	\$41
	142	Super Sports	Individual Angling including Trout/Salmon Stamp, Small Game including pheasant and waterfowl stamps, a deer tag (archery, firearms or muzzleloader) (\$93.50 plus \$6.50 surcharge "paid by hunters for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands")	\$100

Continued...

## RESIDENT ANGLING LICENSES *CONTINUED*

ANGLING LICENSES Additional Options	134	Walleye Stamp	Voluntary Individual Validation	\$5
	135		Pictorial Stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	128	Trout and Salmon Stamp (required for anglers age 18-64; see page 18 for exemptions)	Individual Trout and Salmon Validation (required for designated trout lakes, Lake Superior and to harvest trout)	\$10
	129		Pictorial Stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	130	Sturgeon Tag	Required to harvest a sturgeon	\$5
	113	Spearing/ Annual	Individual dark house spearing (angling license required for ages 18 through 89)	\$6
	119	House or Shelter Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$15
	131	House or Shelter 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$42
	120	House or Shelter Rented Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$30
	132	House or Shelter Rented 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$87
	115	Netting	Whitefish and cisco Lakes open to sport gillnetting, the seasons and regulations are online at <a href="http://mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing">mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing</a> or by calling the DNR Information Center.	\$10
MARRIED ANGLING Resident Married Couple	112	Married Combination Annual	Married Couple Angling	\$40
	106	Married ½ bag limit Conservation Combination	Married ½ bag limit Conservation Combination	\$27
	217	Married Combination Sports	Two Angling and one Small Game (\$50.50 plus \$6.50 surcharge “paid by hunters for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands”)	\$57

Continued...

## RESIDENT ANGLING LICENSES *CONTINUED*

	143	Married Combination Super Sports	A combination angling license including two trout/salmon stamps, and for the primary licensee an individual small game including pheasant and state waterfowl stamps and a single individual deer tag (archery, firearm or muzzleloader) (\$119.50 plus \$6.50 surcharge “paid by hunters for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands”)	\$126
LIFETIME ANGLING Resident Individual	411	Lifetime Angling	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$344
			Age 4 to 15	\$469
			Age 16 to 50	\$574
			Age 51 and older	\$379
	407	Lifetime Angling and Spearing	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$432
			Age 4 to 15	\$579
			Age 16 to 50	\$678
			Age 51 and older	\$439
	413	Lifetime Sports	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$522
			Age 4 to 15	\$710
			Age 16 to 50	\$927
			Age 51 and older	\$603

## FREE FISHING WEEKENDS

### Take a Mom Fishing Weekend—May 12-13, 2018

Minnesota resident moms fish free.

### Take a Kid Fishing Weekend—June 8-10, 2018

Minnesota residents 16 and older fish free with children younger than 16.

### Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend—January 19-21, 2019

Minnesota residents 16 and older fish free with children younger than 16.

# NONRESIDENT ANGLING LICENSES

A \$5 surcharge on nonresident licenses is included with the applicable fee.

<b>YOUTH ANGLING Nonresident Individual age 16 and 17</b>	205	Youth age 16 and 17 Annual	Youth Individual Angling (exempt from trout/salmon stamp and spearing license)	\$5
<b>ADULT ANGLING Nonresident Individual age 18 and over</b>	121	Annual	Individual Angling	\$51
	139	24-hour	Individual Angling (no Trout Stamp Required) Consecutive 24-hour	\$14
	127	72-hour	Individual Angling (no Trout Stamp required) Consecutive 72-hour	\$36
	126	7-Day	Individual Angling, Consecutive 7-day	\$43
<b>ANGLING LICENSES Nonresident additional options</b>	134	Walleye Stamp	Voluntary Individual Validation	\$5
	135		Pictorial stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	128	Trout and Salmon Stamp (required for anglers age 18-64)	Individual Trout and Salmon Validation	\$10
	129		Pictorial stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	130	Sturgeon Tag	Required to harvest a sturgeon	\$5
	118	Spearing Annual Age 18 and over	Individual Dark house Spearing (angling license required)	\$17
	116	House or Shelter Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$37
	117	House or Shelter 7-Day	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$21
	133	House or Shelter 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 68 for details	\$111
<b>COUPLE ANGLING Nonresident Married Couple</b>	124	Combination Annual Family	One or both parents and dependent children under age 16	\$68
	125	Combination 14-Day	Married Couple Consecutive 14-Day Angling	\$54
<b>LIFETIME ANGLING Nonresident Individual</b>	415	Lifetime Angling	Renewal	Free
			Age 3 and under	\$821
			Age 4 to age 15	\$1,046
			Age 16 to age 50	\$1,191
			Age 51 and over	\$794

## Electronic Licensing Information

The Electronic Licensing System (ELS) issues licenses and stamp validations through 1,600 license agent locations statewide. Agents charge an issuing fee for each license and stamp sold.

### Instant Licenses

Customers may purchase instant licenses and stamp validations online or by telephone at 888-665-4236. An additional convenience fee is added for sales via the website or telephone (see website for details). Lake sturgeon harvest tags may not be purchased online.

### Lifetime Licenses

First-time purchase of lifetime licenses is only available at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. Application forms are available online or through the DNR Information Center 888-646-6367. A lifetime license holder who is required by law to have a game and fish license, must authorize their participation by obtaining an annual license each year the lifetime license is used. These annual licenses are issued at no fee.

### Conservation Licenses

- Conservation Licenses are available only to residents of Minnesota.
- Daily and possession limits are half of what can be taken with a standard angling license. Fractions are rounded down to next whole number (see chart on page 21 for list).
- People bowfishing, spearing, or using other approved harvest methods under a Conservation License are limited to one half of the daily and possession limit for that method.
- Sturgeon harvest tag may not be used with a Conservation License.

### Trout and Salmon Stamp

Trout and salmon stamp validations are printed on the ELS license. This is the only verification needed to prove purchase of the trout and salmon stamp. Purchasers may request the actual pictorial stamp for an additional 75 cents.

Except as noted, anglers need a Minnesota trout and salmon stamp validation and a fishing or sports license when fishing in designated trout streams, designated trout lakes, Lake Superior, or when possessing trout on waters that are not designated trout water. All trout and salmon in possession require a trout and salmon validation, unless received as a gift, see giving fish, page 34. Trout and salmon stamps are not required for children younger than 18 years old, adults who are 65 and older, people fishing with a 24-hour or 72-hour license or people who are exempt from fishing license requirements or who receive a fishing license at no charge.

### Walleye Stamp

- Purchase of a walleye stamp is voluntary; it is not needed for fishing.
- Revenues from the sale of walleye stamps are used for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector.
- Walleye stamp validations are printed on the ELS license. Purchasers may request the actual pictorial stamp for an additional 75 cents.



2018 Trout Stamp, Nicholas Markell



2018 Walleye Stamp, Dean Kegler



# LICENSE GUIDE

## Do I need a fishing license?

To legally fish in Minnesota, all residents of Minnesota, age 16 to 89, must have a current Minnesota fishing license unless an exemption applies (see below “Who doesn’t need a fishing license?”). You must carry your license when fishing or traveling from an area where you were fishing. All nonresidents need a license except those age 15 and younger do not need a license if a parent or guardian is licensed.

## Did you buy a 3-year license in 2015?

Three-year angling licenses bought in 2015 are due for renewal. Stop by any license agent, buy on your smartphone at [mndnr.gov/fishmn](http://mndnr.gov/fishmn), visit the [main DNR fishing license page](#) or call 888-665-4236 (888-MNLICENSE) to buy your new license today.

## What is a resident?

Minnesota residents are:

- People who maintain a legal residence in Minnesota for at least 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license and if older than 21 must present a current Minnesota Driver’s License or Identification Card to obtain a resident license.
- A person younger than 21 who is a child of a resident.

## What is a nonresident?

Nonresidents include anyone who does not meet the definition of a resident.

## Who doesn’t need a fishing license?

- Residents younger than 16.
- Residents 90 and older.
- Minnesota residents enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed outside the state, and home on leave (you must carry leave or furlough papers while fishing or transporting fish).
- A Minnesota resident who has served in federal active service outside the U.S. during the preceding 24 months and is now discharged from overseas duty (you must carry discharge papers while fishing or transporting fish).
- An inpatient of a U.S. Veterans Administration hospital (877-348-0498).
- A resident of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home (877-348-0498).

## Do I need a free fishing license?

Anglers who meet certain qualifications must obtain a free license from 888-646-6367. These licenses are required for:

- Foreign exchange students may receive a free annual angling license with proof of their foreign exchange student status. Available from any agent.
- A Minnesota resident older than 16 who is developmentally disabled or a veteran with a 100 percent service-connected disability. Available only from the DNR.
- A Minnesota resident who is legally blind, receiving SSI or SSDI, receiving worker’s compensation for total and permanent disability, a ward of the Commissioner of Human Services or a resident of a state institution that has an approved application. Available from any agent. SSI or SSDI benefit verification is available online at [socialsecurity.gov](http://socialsecurity.gov), by calling 800-772-1213 or at your local Social Security office. Must have current letter from Social Security stating disability or SSI benefits.
- Residents receiving disability benefits under the Federal Railroad Retirement Act or U.S. Postal Service.

## **Do I need a license to fish in Minnesota State Parks?**

Minnesota residents may fish without a license for any species except trout when:

- Shore fishing or wading on state-owned land within a state park.
- Fishing from a boat or on the ice on water bodies that are completely inside the boundaries of a state park.
- People who want to keep trout or fish in waters specifically managed for trout, must have a fishing license and trout stamp validation.

## **What if I'm helping a child fish?**

If an adult is showing a child younger than 16 how to bait, cast, and remove fish, no license is needed. The child must hold the rod, set the hook and reel in the fish.

## **What if I'm helping a disabled person fish?**

You do not need a license to assist a disabled person, who must have a valid license unless an exemption applies. You may only fish with the number of lines allowed for all licensed or exempt anglers fishing.

## **What if I don't have a paper license because it was purchased on a mobile device?**

Licenses purchased on a mobile device are issued in electronic format. Purchasers choose to receive an email, text message or both. The email and/or text message stored electronically on your mobile device serves as your license. You must carry your mobile device or a printed copy of the email or text message you received when fishing or traveling from an area where you were fishing.

## **Can I get a refund?**

Check your license for accuracy prior to leaving the license agent location. All sales are final. Refunds can only be issued if the:

- Licensee dies before the opening of the licensed season;
- Licensee is unable to participate in the licensed activity because the licensee is called to active military duty or military leave is canceled during the entire open season of the licensed activity; or
- Licensee purchased two licenses for the same license season in error.

## **What are license requirements for nonresident youth?**

Nonresident youth younger than 16 may fish without a license if a parent or guardian has a valid Minnesota nonresident fishing license. Youth may possess their own limit of fish if a parent or guardian has a Minnesota family license or the youth purchases a nonresident youth license. Otherwise, fish caught by a youth must be counted as part of their parent or guardian's limit allowed by their individual nonresident license.

## **What if I lose or can't find my license?**

You can go to any license agent and have them print a duplicate license. The cost is \$2.50, which includes a 50-cent fee charged by the vendor.

## **What if I'm not a state resident but am a full-time student at a Minnesota school, college or university?**

By showing a fee statement, or other proof of enrollment, you may purchase fishing licenses and stamps at the resident rate.

## **What if I'm not a state resident but serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and am stationed in Minnesota or the spouse of a Minnesota resident on active military duty?**

By showing proof, you may purchase fishing licenses and stamps at the resident rate.

## How can my license be revoked?

- Fishing privileges may be revoked for one year for two or more convictions of fishing violations in three years. Violations of fishing laws in other states may affect your ability to fish in Minnesota.
- Violating the gross over-limits penalty provisions can result in privileges being revoked for three or five years, depending on the number of fish involved in the violation.
- Failure to pay fines or to appear in court on a violation can result in revocation of all game and fish licenses until the fines are paid.

## How to Figure Your Bag Limit for a Conservation License

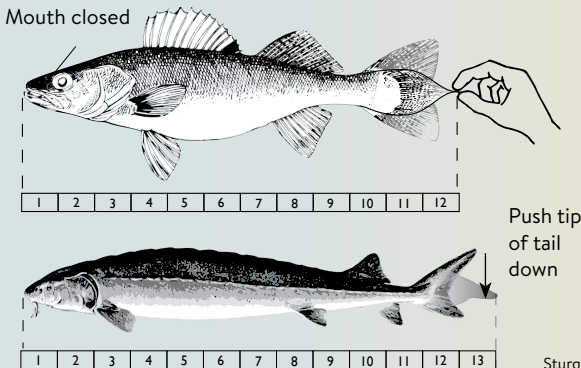
- Applies to bag limits established for inland lakes, experimental and special management waters, and border waters.
- Does not apply to size restrictions, but may only have up to the corresponding bag limit. For example: five fish with three over 10 inches for a Conservation License would be two fish with only two over 10 inches.
- Divide the regular limit in half. If necessary, round down to the nearest whole number. For example: nine fish regular limit would be a four fish conservation limit.

## CONSERVATION LICENSE BAG LIMITS

REGULAR DAILY OR POSSESSION BAG LIMIT	1 fish	2 fish	3 fish	4 fish	5 fish	6 fish	8 fish	10 fish	20 fish	25 fish	50 fish
CONSERVATION DAILY OR POSSESSION BAG LIMIT	Catch-and-release	1 fish	1 fish	2 fish	2 fish	3 fish	4 fish	5 fish	10 fish	12 fish	25 fish

### For Your Information: Total Length

To determine the legal length of a fish, lay it flat on its side, squeeze the tail from tip to tip, and measure from the nose or jaw, whichever is longer, to the farthest tip of the tail when fully extended.




Sturgeon image by Maynard Reece

# SEASONS AND LIMITS—INLAND AND LAKE SUPERIOR

- All calendar dates are for 2018 unless noted otherwise.
- Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.
- Most species have experimental or special regulations on some waters. See pages 38-54.
- For Canada, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota border water regulations see pages 55-65. For Lake Superior see pages 27-29.
- Different limits for Conservation License apply, see chart on page 21.
- Northern pike dark house spearing limits differ, see page 68.
- Cook County: Gull Lake, Sea Gull River and Cross River from County Road 12 to Gunflint Lake are closed to fishing April 1 - May 25.

## INLAND WATERS

### INLAND SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	ZONE AND ANGLING POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
 <b>NEW—Northern pike</b>	May 12, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	<p>Northeast Zone: 2 (Not more than 1 over 40" in possession. All from 30-40" must be immediately released.)</p> <p>North-central Zone: 10 (Not more than 2 over 26". All from 22-26" must be immediately released.)</p> <p>Southern Zone: 2 (Minimum size 24".)</p> <p>See Zone Map on page 24. Dark house spearing limits differ, see page 68.</p>

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye and sauger</b>	May 12, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	6 combined total (not more than 1 walleye over 20" in possession)
<b>Muskellunge/hybrid muskellunge</b>	June 2 - Dec. 2	1 combined total (minimum size 54")
<b>SIZE EXCEPTION:</b> on these lakes in the Twin Cities area: Eagle, Pierson and Wasserman, Carver County; Crystal and Orchard, Dakota County; Gervais, Island, Johanna, Phalen and Silver, Ramsey County; Bryant, Bush, Calhoun, Cedar, Crystal, Isles, Nokomis and Weaver, Hennepin County; Cedar, Scott County; Clear and Elmo, Washington County.		1 combined total (minimum size 40")

Continued...

## INLAND SEASONS AND LIMITS *CONTINUED*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Largemouth bass</b>	Statewide (except Northeast Zone) May 12 - 25.	Catch-and-release only
	May 26, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
	Northeast Zone (Pelican and Ash lakes in St. Louis County are part of the Northeast Zone for bass. See Zone Map on page 24.) May 12, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
<b>Smallmouth bass</b>	Statewide (except Northeast Zone) May 12 - 25	Catch-and-release only
	May 26 - Sept. 9	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
	Sept. 10, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	Catch-and-release only
	Northeast Zone May 12, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
<b>Crappie</b> (white or black and their hybrids)	Continuous	10 combined total
<b>Sunfish</b> (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	20 combined total
<b>Rock bass</b>	Continuous	30
<b>White bass</b>	Continuous	30
<b>Catfish</b> (channel and flathead)	Channel catfish: continuous Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	5 combined total. No more than 2 can be flathead (only 1 catfish over 24").
<b>Perch</b>	Continuous	20 daily, 40 in possession.
<b>Bullhead</b>	Continuous	100
<b>Whitefish</b> and under-utilized fish. Sport netting regulations effective each fall are available on the DNR website.	Continuous	No limit.  EXCEPTION: On Leech Lake Indian Reservation whitefish limit 25 and cisco (tullibee) limit 50.
<b>Smelt</b>	Continuous	No limit.

Continued...



## INLAND SEASONS AND LIMITS *CONTINUED*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Lake or shovelnose sturgeon</b> Includes Lake Superior and the St. Louis River. (See pages 55-65 for other sturgeon waters and regulations.)	March 1 - April 14	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
	April 15 - June 15	Closed
	June 16, 2018 - April 14, 2019	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
<b>Paddlefish</b>	No open season	
<b>Lake trout (SUMMER)</b>	Statewide, May 12 - Sept. 30	2
<b>Lake trout (WINTER)</b> Outside or partly outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).	Jan. 13, 2018 - April 1, 2018	2
	Jan 12, 2019 - Mar. 31, 2019	
Lakes entirely within the BWCAW.	Dec. 30, 2017 - April 1, 2018 Dec. 29, 2018 - Mar. 31, 2019	2

### **NEW—Northern Pike Possession Limits for Inland Waters**

The statewide possession and size limit for northern pike in inland waters has changed. The state is now divided into three zones for northern pike—Northeast, North-central, and Southern—each with a specific regulation for angling and for spearing. Waters with special regulations (pages 38-54), and border waters (pages 55-65), are not covered by the zone regulations. See [mndnr.gov/pike](http://mndnr.gov/pike) for details.



The Northeast Zone is defined as north and east of U.S. Highway 53 from Duluth to International Falls.

North-central/Southern Boundary: from the South Dakota Border—State Highway 7 at Ortonville—east past Hutchinson, south on State Highway 22 to Glencoe, east on U.S. Highway 212 to Chaska, south on State Highway 41 to the Minnesota River to the Mississippi River to the Wisconsin border.

The waters of the Minnesota or Mississippi rivers where those waters create the North-central/Southern Boundary are included in the Southern Zone.

### **What is the statewide possession limit for northern pike?**

The maximum number of northern pike that you may possess is 10 fish. The statewide possession limit may include fish from different zones but may not exceed the possession limit or size restrictions of the zone where the fish are taken, regardless of where those fish are possessed. For example, you cannot possess 10 pike taken from the North-central and also two pike taken from the Southern or Northeast zone.

### **How do possession limits apply to lakes with special regulations on northern pike?**

If the possession limit on a special regulation lake or stream is different than the zone limit, the special regulation limit applies. For example, if the special regulation limit is less than the statewide regulation, you may only have one daily limit from that lake included in your possession limit.

## **STREAM TROUT**

The following regulations apply only to stream trout (splake, brook, brown, and rainbow trout) in inland lakes and streams. They do not include lake trout which are listed under Inland Waters (page 24). Lake Superior tributaries (pages 27-29) and Experimental and Special Regulations (pages 38-54) are also not covered in this section.

Calendar dates refer to 2018 unless noted otherwise. Daily and possession limits are the same.

Trout fishing is a sport for everyone. You don't need a boat and motor, a depth locator, or any expensive tackle. All you need is a fishing pole, some basic tackle like small spinning lures or worms to go on hooks, and—optionally—a pair of hip boots.

Learn more about stream trout fishing on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/fishing/trout\\_streams](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/trout_streams).

### **Stream Trout Regulations**

- Fishing hours for stream trout on inland waters are from one hour before sunrise to 11 p.m.
- Only one line is allowed winter or summer when fishing on designated stream trout lakes and designated trout streams.
- Possessing live minnows or using them for bait on designated stream trout lakes is prohibited. Only dried, frozen, or pickled (brined) minnows are allowed. Live leeches and worms are legal to use.
- Taking of any species, including catch-and-release angling, in designated trout waters during the closed trout season is prohibited.
- Taking minnows or leeches from designated trout waters, except under special permit, is prohibited.
- All stream trout must have head, tail, fins, and skin intact when being transported.
- Rough fish may not be taken by spear, harpoon, archery, or dip net in designated trout lakes or streams.
- The list of Designated Trout Lakes can be found on the DNR website [mndnr.gov/fishing/trout\\_lakes/index.html](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/trout_lakes/index.html). A link to a list of designated trout streams is found on the same page.

## STREAM TROUT SEASONS AND LIMITS

WATERS	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Streams</b> Statewide except Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha and Goodhue counties.	April 14 - Sept. 30	5 combined total (not more than 1 over 16")
<b>Streams</b> EXCEPTIONS: Within Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha and Goodhue counties.	Jan. 1 - April 13	Catch-and-release only
	April 14 - Sept. 14	5 combined total (not more than 1 over 16")
	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15	Catch-and-release only
	Jan. 1, 2019 - April 12, 2019	Catch-and-release only
Within these state parks: Beaver Creek Valley (East Beaver Creek); Forestville (Forestville Creek, Canfield Creek, South Branch Root River) and Whitewater (Middle Branch Whitewater River, Trout Run Creek). Also within city boundaries of Chatfield, Lanesboro, Preston, and Spring Valley.	Sept. 15, 2017 - April 13, 2018	Catch-and-release only
	April 14 - Sept. 14	5 combined total (not more than 1 over 16"). See special regulations for East Beaver Creek, Canfield Creek, Forestville Creek, South Branch Root River, pages 50-53.
	Sept. 15, 2018 - April 12, 2019	Catch-and-release only
<b>Lakes (SUMMER)</b> Statewide	May 12 - Oct. 31	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
<b>Lakes (WINTER)</b> Outside or partly outside the BWCAW	Jan. 13, 2018 - April 1, 2018 Jan. 12, 2019 - March 31, 2019	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
Lakes entirely within the BWCAW	Dec. 30, 2017 - April 1, 2018 Dec. 29, 2018 - March 31, 2019	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
<b>Lakes (WINTER)</b> EXCEPTION: Little Andrus (Snowshoe), Cass County; Allen and Pleasant, Crow Wing County; Bad Medicine, Becker County.	Winter season closed for stream trout.	

# LAKE SUPERIOR AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The following regulations clarify the fishing seasons and limits for Lake Superior and the streams and rivers flowing into it. While fishing Minnesota waters, anglers must follow Minnesota regulations.

## Licensing

Anyone fishing on the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior must possess a Minnesota angling license and a Minnesota trout and salmon stamp validation except as listed on page 18. A person cannot fish on Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior with only a Minnesota angling license.

## Location

- Posted upstream boundaries for regulations on Lake Superior tributaries generally correspond to the areas accessible to anadromous trout and salmon. The upstream boundaries, as well as fish sanctuary areas, are marked with signs. Maps of boundary locations can be found on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/fishing/trout\\_streams](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/trout_streams) by clicking on “Northeastern Minnesota maps.”
- Some tributary streams have special regulations. Additionally, some streams have sanctuary areas closed to fishing, including the French, Knife, Lester, Devil Track and Kadunce rivers, and Gauthier Creek. (See Experimental and Special Regulations, pages 51-52.)
- Angling from boats is closed October 8 - November 30 on the portion of Lake Superior from the outermost portion of the north arm of the Duluth ship channel to the mouth of Chester Creek.

## Hours

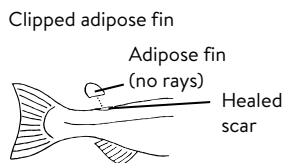
Angling hours on Lake Superior tributaries below the posted boundaries are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Exceptions are the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).

## Methods

- Anglers are restricted to a single hook or fly only—no treble hooks—on Lake Superior tributary streams and rivers below the posted boundaries. Exceptions are the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).
- Two lines may be used on Lake Superior and on the St. Louis estuary, except only one is allowed within 100 yards from where a tributary stream enters the lake. Also, only one line may be used in tributary streams.
- On Lake Superior tributaries below the posted boundaries, a fish that is hooked in any part of the body, except the mouth, must be immediately returned to the water.

## Possession and Transportation

- Unclipped steelhead (rainbow trout) must be immediately released on Lake Superior and its tributaries. A clipped adipose fin, used to identify stocked trout, must show a healed scar (see diagram right). Marking, tagging, or fin clipping fish and then releasing them without a DNR permit is unlawful.



Continued on page 29

## LAKE SUPERIOR AND TRIBUTARIES BELOW POSTED BOUNDARIES

Including St. Louis River below the Minnesota–Wisconsin boundary cable and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.

Calendar dates refer to 2018 unless noted otherwise. See page 24 for lake sturgeon regulations in Lake Superior. For other species not listed see inland waters.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
<b>Brook trout and splake</b>	April 14 - Sept. 3	1 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 20"
<b>Rainbow trout—clipped</b>	Continuous	3 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 16"
<b>Rainbow trout—unclipped</b>	Continuous	Catch-and-release only	
<b>Brown trout</b>	Continuous	5 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 10". Only 1 over 16".
<b>Lake trout</b>	Dec. 1, 2017 - Oct. 7, 2018 Dec. 1, 2018 - Oct. 6, 2019	3	
<b>Salmon</b> (Chinook, coho, pink, and Atlantic)	Continuous	5 combined total (only 1 can be Atlantic salmon)	Minimum size limit 10"
<b>Walleye</b>	May 12, 2018 - March 1, 2019	2	Minimum size limit 15"
<b>Northern pike</b>	May 12, 2018 - March 1, 2019	2	
<b>Smelt</b>	Continuous	no limit	

## LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBUTARIES ABOVE POSTED BOUNDARIES

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
<b>Brook and brown trout</b>	April 14 - Sept 30	5 combined total	Not more than 1 over 16"
<b>Rainbow trout</b>	April 14 - Sept 30	Catch-and-release only	



- While fishing or while on the water, brook, brown and rainbow trout, splake, salmon, muskellunge, and catfish must be transported with head and tails intact.
- While transporting fish on land, 1) rainbow, brown and brook trout, and splake must be transported with head and tail intact; and 2) salmon, lake trout, and walleye may be filleted but must retain a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales. See pages 34-35 for additional general information on transporting fish.
- Rough fish or other species not named in the Lake Superior section are subject to inland regulations.

## Taking of Smelt

- Smelt may be taken night or day. Artificial lights may not be used to lure or attract smelt. There is no limit on smelt, and smelt from Lake Superior may be bought or sold; however, live smelt may not be possessed or transported.
- Dip nets may be used for taking smelt. Minnow seines not more than 25 feet long or 4 feet deep may be used to take smelt in the St. Louis River and in Lake Superior when more than 100 feet from the mouth of any stream.
- Taking of smelt at any time is prohibited in the following Lake Superior Tributaries: French River, Sucker River, Little Sucker River (St. Louis County); Silver Creek, Encampment Creek, Crow Creek (Lake County).

## Taking of Smelt and Cisco, and Trout Eggs, for Bait

- Anglers may take cisco or smelt from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries to use as bait on Lake Superior.
- To use cisco or smelt taken from Lake Superior or its tributaries on other water bodies, the fish must be preserved under a DNR-issued bait preservation permit. Permit applications are available from the DNR, 500 Lafayette, St. Paul, MN 55155-4020. Freezing is not a preservation method.
- No other fish species from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries, or the St. Louis River downstream of the Fond du Lac dam, may be used as bait except trout eggs (see next bullet).
- Eggs of trout harvested from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries may be used as bait (spawn bags). Spawn bags from Lake Superior trout may only be used on Lake Superior and its tributaries below the posted boundaries, and no other locations in the state.
- Spawn bags can be bought or sold only if they are made from either 1) fish eggs from a licensed aquaculture facility; or 2) fish eggs taken from a source outside Minnesota that has been certified disease free and are preserved and labeled under a Minnesota bait preservation permit. These spawn bags may only be used in Lake Superior and tributaries below posted boundaries.

## Guide Licenses

A guide's license is required to operate a charter boat for the purpose of guiding or assisting anglers on the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River estuary.

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## TACKLE AND LINES

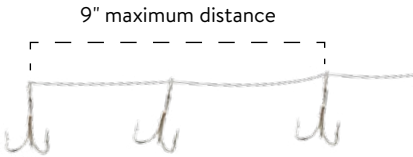
### How many lines can I fish with?

- You may use only one line during the open water season.
- You may use two lines through the ice except on designated trout lakes and streams.
- On designated trout lakes and streams, only one line is allowed at any time.
- Border waters (page 55) and Lake Superior (page 27) may allow more than one line.

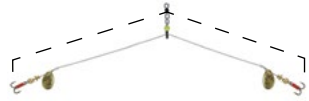
### How many hooks can I use on the end of line?

- You may use up to three single- or multiple-pronged hooks as a single tackle configuration on the end of one fishing line.
- If you use a single tackle configuration, the total length from the first hook to the last hook must be 9 inches or less.
- On a designated trout stream or lake, you can't use more than one hook on the end of your line. However, you may use an artificial lure or bait that has more than one hook.

### Single Tackle Configuration Examples



Total length of both sides cannot exceed 9"



### How many hooks can be used on an artificial lure or bait?

You may add one additional single or multiple hook on a line as part of a single artificial lure or bait. The hook must be within 3 inches of the artificial lure or bait. However, on designated trout streams and lakes, you can't add extra hooks to an artificial lure or bait.

### Artificial Lure/Baits Examples



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### How many artificial flies may I use?

You may have up to three artificial flies on one fishing line when you are fishing for trout, crappie, sunfish and rock bass.

## Can I use bait in Minnesota waters?

- You can fish with a variety of live or dead bait including worms, night crawlers, insects and larva. If you are fishing with minnows or leeches, a number of restrictions apply.
- If you choose to keep your bait when done fishing, you must exchange water in bait buckets with tap or bottled water prior to leaving any water body, except when you are fishing through the ice. The exception for ice fishing does not apply when fishing on Lake Superior.
- You can't dispose of unwanted minnows and leeches in Minnesota waters. Unused bait, including worms and night crawlers, should be disposed of in the garbage.
- You can't use whole or parts of game fish, goldfish or carp for bait.

## What are the rules for live minnows and leeches?

- You can't import live minnows or leeches into Minnesota from outside the state.
- You can't transport more than 12 dozen minnows or leeches without a commercial minnow license.

## Can I take my own minnows and leeches?

Yes, if you have a fishing license, you can take an unlimited number of minnows and leeches for personal use only. However, you can only transport up to 12 dozen at a time.

## Where can I take minnows and leeches?

With some exceptions, you can take them from all waters of the state where you can legally access the water. Exceptions include:

- Within the boundaries of state parks.
- Within designated trout waters, except under permit.
- Most aquatic invasive species infested waters. See [mndnr.gov/AIS](http://mndnr.gov/AIS) for a current list of infested waters.
- All streams and connected waters in Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Rock and Nobles counties south of U.S. Highway 14 and west of U.S. Highway 59 to the South Dakota border.
- A harvest permit is required to take madtoms and stonecats in Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties.

## When can I harvest bait from infested waters?

- Minnows and leeches may be taken for personal use from waters infested solely with Eurasian watermilfoil using a cylindrical trap not exceeding 16 inches in diameter and 32 inches long.
- Bullhead, sucker, mooneye, goldeye and sheepshead may be taken by hook and line from infested rivers or streams for personal use as bait for fishing on the same river or stream where the bait was taken. This bait may not be transported live from or off the river or stream. Where the river or stream is divided by barriers such as dams, fish for bait must be caught and used on the same section of the river or stream.
- The exclusion listed above allowing bait to be taken by hook and line from infested rivers and streams and used in that same river or stream does not apply to the St. Louis River in Carlton and St. Louis counties downstream of the Fond du Lac dam.
- The cast net permit program expired on December 1, 2017. Check the DNR website for any updates in 2018.

## **How can I take minnows and leeches?**

You can use dip nets, seines and traps. See restrictions below:

- Seines must be not more than 25 feet long or more than 37 inches deep constructed with either ¼-inch bar mesh or ⅜-inch bar mesh.
- Traps may not exceed a width of 30 inches and length of 30 inches, height may not exceed 15 inches, the diameter or width of the opening may not exceed 1½ inches, and mesh size may not exceed ½-inch bar measure. Traps must have a waterproof tag bearing the name and address of the owner.
- Certain rough fish may be taken from rivers using hook and line (see page 31). At these waters, harvested bait may only be used on the water where taken. The harvest and use of bait from other infested waters is prohibited.
- You can't use throw nets (cast nets).

## **Do I have to bring in fresh or bottled water to transport minnows from a water body?**

Yes. You can't transport water from a lake or stream at any time in Minnesota. See the transportation section on pages 34-35 of these regulations.

## **After I've kept minnows, leeches or bait, can I dispose of what I don't want back into the lake or stream?**

No. You can't dispose of unused or unwanted minnows or leeches in any Minnesota water. Dispose of unused bait, including worms, in the trash. For more information see the bait section on page 31 of these regulations.

## **When do I need to get a commercial license to take and sell minnows and leeches?**

- If you want to transport more than 12 dozen.
- If you want to sell minnows or leeches at retail or wholesale.

## **What are the rules for live suckers?**

Suckers 12 inches and shorter are considered minnows and regular bait rules for minnows apply. However, suckers longer than 12 inches may only be transported alive if they are in containers that are not livewells or other parts of a boat and only if bought from a licensed commercial vendor. You must have a valid sales receipt from the vendor on your person.

## **What are the rules for live bullheads?**

- Live bullheads, regardless of size, may not be transported north of Minnesota Highway 210.
- Bullheads must be transported in a container with a locking lid to prevent escape.
- Bullheads less than 7 inches in length are considered minnows and may be possessed in any quantity but may not be transported north of Minnesota Highway 210.
- You may take and possess bullheads, 7-10 inches in length, for use as live bait. They are counted as part of your daily and possession limit of 100.
- Legal methods of taking bullhead are dip net, angling or minnow seines.

## **What rules apply to dead bait from Minnesota?**

- Dead bait originating in Minnesota must be labeled if it is smelt, cisco or a VHS-susceptible species such as spottail or emerald shiners, or bluntnose minnows. You must keep the labeling on your person when angling with that bait.

- If you are using rainbow smelt, cisco, or a VHS-susceptible species as bait, it must have been harvested from a waterbody that was tested negative for VHS, or have been preserved and labeled under a commercial license.
- To legally preserve bait, you must have a bait preservation permit from the Minnesota DNR.
- You must keep labeling from preserved bait on your person when angling with that bait.
- Freezing is not a bait preservation method.

### **What rules apply to dead bait from a state other than Minnesota?**

All imported dead bait must be labeled, and you must keep the labeling on your person when angling with that bait. Bait includes fish such as cisco or smelt, aquatic worms, amphibians, invertebrates and insects that are lawful to use for bait.

### **You can only use imported dead bait if:**

- The bait is from water bodies with negative fish health certification or the bait has been preserved under a Minnesota DNR bait preservation permit.
- You keep labeling from imported bait on your person when angling with that bait.

### **Where can I get more information about bait?**

Check the Other Species section of the online regulations or contact the Minnesota DNR Information Center at 888-MINNDNR.

## **METHODS**

### **What if people are fishing together from a boat or on shore?**

- A party is two or more people fishing together from a single watercraft or on shore while maintaining unaided visual and vocal contact.
- The number of fish your party possesses can't be more than the combined limits of all party members. However, you can only transport your individual limit of fish.

### **What fishing methods are illegal?**

- Intentionally fishing for a species during its closed season.
- Using an artificial light to lure, attract or spot fish. However, you may use a lighted artificial lure. Batteries used in lighted fishing lures must not contain mercury.
- Leaving your fishing rod or any type of line with hooks attached unattended.
- Using explosives, firearms, chemicals (not including a scented bait), spring devices or electricity to take fish.
- Taking fish by hand (noodling) or by snagging.

## **POSSESSION**

### **How many fish can I keep?**

- Your daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.
- A fish is in your possession once you have caught and kept it. Your possession limit includes any fish you have kept that day plus any fish in storage from a previous day.
- Once you reach your daily or possession limit of fish, you can't release fish already caught and kept and replace them with other fish. See culling definition on page 12.
- While fishing on Mille Lacs Lake or North Dakota border waters, you may not release fish already caught and kept and replace them with other fish even before you reach your daily or possession limit. However, on Mille Lacs Lake you may cull bass.

### **What are length limits?**

Some waters have fish length restrictions, such as slot limits, that require fish to be immediately released if they are not within a certain size range. There also can be maximum size limits or minimum size limits.

You can't possess any fish outside the legal length limits of the waters on which you are traveling or fishing. However, you may possess fish outside the legal length limits if all of the following conditions are true:

- The fish was legally taken from a connected water body or packaged by a licensed fish packer;
- You are traveling back to your lodging or docking and taking the most direct route; and
- You are not fishing while you are in transit.

### **What if I've caught fish on waters with size restrictions different from statewide regulations?**

If you are on or fishing in waters with size restrictions that are different from the statewide size restrictions, all of the fish that have size restrictions must be kept so that they can be examined, measured and counted. The fish must have their heads, tails, fins and skin intact and be measurable.

### **When I'm on waters with size restrictions different from statewide regulations, can I eat fish that I caught and kept?**

You may do so if:

- You are on the ice, docked or moored to shore, and you are in the act of preparing and using the fish for a meal, you can fillet the fish but must retain the intact carcass, which must contain the head, dorsal fin and tail.
- You also may prepare a meal of fish using fillets packaged by a licensed fish packer.
- Any fish caught and eaten on the same day count toward your daily bag limit.

### **Can I give away fish that I've kept?**

If you have kept a fish and want to transfer it as a gift, it must be accompanied by a receipt that must remain with the gift. The person receiving the gift can't possess more than the statewide limit including your gift. The receipt must contain all of the following information:

- Name and address of the owner.
- Name and address of recipient.
- Date of transfer.
- Description of the gift (number and species).
- License number (DNR number or transaction number) under which the fish were taken.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Can I transport live fish other than bait?**

In most instances, the answer is no.

- You may not transport fish over land in enough water to keep them alive.
- You can't transfer or stock live fish or fish eggs from one body of water to another.
- You can never transport water taken from any lake or stream.

## What about fish for an aquarium?

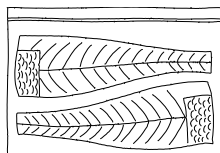
If you are older than 16, you can transport live fish for display in a home aquarium only if you purchase the fish from an authorized aquaculture licensee and have documents such as a sales receipt to prove it.

Youth age 16 and younger can legally transport certain live fish for display in a home aquarium if:

- They have legally caught the fish from among the following species: largemouth, smallmouth or rock bass; yellow perch; black or white crappie; bluegill, pumpkinseed, green or orange-spotted sunfish; black, yellow, and brown bullhead
- No more than four fish of each species are transported at any one time.
- All fish are 10 inches or less in length.
- Fish are not transported in water taken from any lake or stream. You must bring bottled or tap water for transport.

## How do I prepare fish I've caught for transport?

- You must package and transport fish in such a way that they can be readily unwrapped, separated, identified and counted.
- A fish may not be cut into more than two fillets.
- If you are transporting muskellunge, catfish, splake or brook, brown and rainbow trout, you must transport them with the head and tail intact so the fish can be measured.
- Bullhead, sunfish and crappie may be filleted without leaving a patch of skin.
- Fillets from all other species must have a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales intact from a portion of the body other than the belly.
- Sauger without head and tail intact will be counted as walleye unless they are packaged by a licensed fish packer.



One of the best ways to transport your fish so they can be counted and identified is in clear plastic freezer bags.

Fillets and dressed fish must show at least a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales so fish species can be identified.

## OTHER SPECIES

### Crayfish

#### Can I take my own crayfish?

Yes, people with a fishing license and children younger than 16 can take and possess up to 25 pounds of live crayfish for personal use. However, you cannot possess red swamp crayfish, as they are a prohibited invasive species (see page 8).

#### When can I take crayfish?

From April 1 to November 30. Traps may be left overnight but may only be tended from one hour before sunrise through one hour after sunset.

#### Where can I use crayfish as bait?

- You can use them in all waters of the state, with some exceptions, but you can only use them as bait in the water where they were captured.
- You can't use them as bait in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway north or upstream of the St. Croix Boom Site boat launch, or within Voyageurs National Park.

#### Do I need a DNR permit to sell or move crayfish?

You need a DNR permit to transport them in water, sell them or import them.



## Frogs

### Can I take my own frogs?

In most cases, yes:

- People with a fishing license and children younger than 16 can take, use, buy and sell an unlimited number of frogs up to 6 inches long for bait.
- A special frog license is required to take frogs for any purpose other than bait.
- You must have an endangered species permit to possess Blanchard's cricket frogs.

### When can I take frogs for bait?

From May 16 to March 31.

### Can I release frogs or tadpoles?

No. Unused frogs or tadpoles can't be released in any Minnesota water.

## Mussels (Clams)

### Can I take live mussels?

No. State law prohibits the harvest of live mussels. Twenty-four of Minnesota's 50 native mussel species are endangered or threatened.

### Can I take dead mussel shells?

People with a fishing license and children younger than 16 may hand-pick or possess up to 24 whole shells or 48 half shells from dead mussels of species that are not endangered or threatened.

- Shell collection is allowed from May 16 through the last day in February.
- You can't take mussel shells from the St. Croix River.
- You can't possess zebra mussels.
- Mussel shells can't be bought or sold.

## Turtles

### Can I take my own turtles?

Residents with a resident fishing license and resident children younger than 16 can take, possess and transport certain species of turtles for personal use.

### What kind of turtles can I take?

- Western painted, maximum size limit is 5½ inches in shell length, except those used in turtle races may be any length greater than 4 inches.
- Snapping, minimum size is 12 inches in shell length, possession limit is three. You can take snapping turtles from July 1 through April 30.
- Spiny softshell, minimum size is 12 inches in shell length. You can take spiny softshell turtles from July 16 through May 31.

### What about turtle races?

Residents younger than 18 may take, possess, rent or sell up to 25 turtles for use in a non-profit turtle race. Each turtle must be greater than 4" in length.

### How do you measure turtle shell length?

Measure the top shell length (the hard upper shell of the turtle) from above the neck to above the tail. The measuring device should measure a straight line above the curvature of the shell.

### How can I take turtles?

If you want to use traps, nets or other commercial equipment, you will need a recreational turtle license in addition to an angling license. You may not use explosives, drugs, poisons, lime or other harmful substances to take turtles.

### **Can I take turtle eggs?**

A DNR permit is required to take turtle eggs.

### **Can I release turtles in Minnesota?**

No. Unused or unwanted turtles can't be released in any Minnesota water.

### **Where do I get a recreational turtle license?**

Licenses and permit applications are available from the Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4020. Phone 888-646-6367.

## **ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES**

- You can't drag boat anchors or other weights through aquatic vegetation with a motor-propelled boat.
- You can't dispose of any rubbish (including parts of fish, fish guts or other animals), poisonous substances, fish line or chemicals harmful to aquatic life into public waters, onto ice, or onto lake and stream shores.
- You can't deposit fish parts or other material into public waters (chumming) to attract fish.
- You can't possess or transport white perch, ruffe, round goby, black carp, bighead carp, grass carp or silver carp, unless you are taking them to a DNR office. If you catch a black, bighead, grass or silver carp, you must report it to the DNR within 7 days and, if possible, provide a picture of it.
- You can't buy or sell game fish, whitefish, or cisco unless one of the following applies:
  - › You may buy or sell smelt taken from Lake Superior
  - › You may buy fish obtained from a commercial, private hatchery, or aquatic farm licensee.
- If you catch a fish and you don't intend to use it for anything, you must return it immediately back into the water alive. You can't purposely waste a fish by leaving it, or any usable portion of it, on the ice, on the bank, or by intentionally killing it and returning it back into the water.
- You must remove drain plugs from bilges, livewells, and bait buckets at the water access. Drain plugs must be out and all other water draining devices must remain open while trailering or transporting boats or other water-related equipment.

## **PERMITS**

### **What are some of the fishing- or water-related activities that require a permit?**

A Minnesota DNR permit is required to:

- Transplant aquatic plants, apply chemicals and perform certain types of cutting to control vegetation in any public water.
- Mark or tag fish and then release them.
- Harvest minnows from designated trout lakes or streams.
- Harvest minnows from most infested waters.
- Conduct some fishing contests. For more information and permit costs, review the information on the DNR website.

A permit from the county sheriff is required for most organized events on the water or ice, including fishing contests.

# SPECIAL REGULATIONS

## INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT LAKES

A number of lakes in Minnesota are managed under both treaties and DNR regulations. Angling harvest on these intensive management lakes may change throughout the year to maintain sustainable fish populations. If regulations change, information will be posted at public boat ramps, the DNR website, and in newspapers.

**Mille Lacs Lake** including tributaries to posted boundaries (Aitkin, Crow Wing and Mille Lacs counties).

Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, tullibee (cisco), and other fishing rules: these regulations and any future changes will be posted at public access sites and the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/millelacslake](http://mndnr.gov/millelacslake).

**Red Lake, Upper** including Shotley Brook and Tamarac River (Beltrami County).

Northern pike: all from 26-44 inches must be immediately released. Only one over 44 inches allowed in possession. Walleye: Restrictions or changes will be posted at public access sites and on the DNR website.

- A person's statewide bag limit may not include more than current daily bag limit of Red Lake walleye.
- Those portions of Red Lake located within the Red Lake Indian Reservation are closed to non-band members except by special authorization of the tribal council.
- The fish carcass retention requirements for these water bodies are still in effect—see page 34.

**National Wildlife Refuges may have differing regulations.** Please check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Voyageurs National Park

In response to the threat of nonnative/AIS species introductions, the park only allows artificial bait in the interior lakes and prohibits the use of privately owned watercraft and the landing of float planes in these lakes. These regulations do not apply to Rainy, Kabetogama, Namakan, Crane, and Sand Point lakes. Contact Voyageurs National Park for more information.

### Superior National Forest

Off-highway vehicle policy. See [fs.usda.gov/superior](http://fs.usda.gov/superior) for maps and details.

## WATERS WITH EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS

These regulations differ from statewide or border water regulations for those species identified and take precedence. Unless otherwise specifically mentioned, all general regulations, seasons, limits, border water regulations, possession, and transportation regulations apply to these waters. Please check regulation booklets from other states and other sections of this booklet.




Regulations are posted at access sites. Your compliance is needed to ensure that these regulations are successful. The regulations help improve fishing quality, protect unique fisheries, provide additional fishing opportunities, or protect threatened species. The DNR regularly evaluates regulations to determine their success.

## Lakes

### A


- ADA LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- AGNES LAKE (Douglas County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- AITKIN LAKE including area known as Aitkin Flowage (Aitkin County): see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).
- ALEXANDER LAKE (Morrison County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- ANN LAKE (Carver County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- ANNIE BATTLE LAKE including inlet to Molly Stark Lake and outlet to Blanche Lake (Otter Tail County) Use of gas and electric motors, underwater cameras, augers, and other electronic fish-finding devices is prohibited. Sunfish: possession limit five. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Black crappie: possession limit five.
- ASH LAKE (St. Louis County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

### B

-  **NEW**—BALM LAKE (Beltrami County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- BALSAM LAKE (Itasca County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BASS LAKE near Cohasset (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit five.
-  **NEW**—BASS LAKE near Burtrum (Todd County) north of Long Lake. Walleye: possession limit two. Largemouth bass: possession limit one. Northern pike: possession limit three, all larger than 26" must be immediately released.
- BASSWOOD LAKE (Lake County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Protected slot and possession limit applies to all Minnesota waters of Basswood Lake.
- BATTLE LAKE (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.
- BATTLE LAKE, West (Otter Tail County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR (Chester Woods) (Olmsted County) see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.
- BECKER LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).
- BELTRAMI LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
-  **NEW**—BIG BASS LAKE (Beltrami County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- BIG LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

- BIG CARNELIAN LAKE** (Washington County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BIG FISH LAKE** (Stearns County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BIG MANTRAP** (Hubbard County) crappie: possession limit five. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BIG SAND LAKE** (Hubbard County) walleye: all from 20-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession.
- BIG SANDY LAKE** and connected waters (Aitkin County): Aitkin Lake including area known as Aitkin Flowage, Davis Lake including bay known as Steamboat Lake, Flowage Lake, Sandy River Lake, Prairie River from confluence with Tamarack River downstream to confluence with Big Sandy Lake, Sandy River from State Highway 210 downstream to confluence with the Mississippi River, and West Savanna River from County Highway 14 downstream to confluence with the Prairie River. Sunfish: possession limit five. Walleye: all less than 14" or greater than 18" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.
- BIG SWAN LAKE** (Todd County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit six, only one over 36".
- BIRCH LAKE RESERVOIR** (includes the South Kawishiwi River upstream to the first rapids north of Minnesota Highway 1 bridge). Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BLACKDUCK LAKE** (Beltrami County) sunfish: possession limit five.
- BLACKWATER LAKE** (Cass County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- BLACK BASS LAKE** (Mille Lacs County) Use of gas or electric augers, underwater cameras, and other electronic fish-finding devices is prohibited. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: catch-and-release only. Sunfish: possession limit five.
- BLUEBERRY LAKE** (Wadena County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- BOLFING LAKE** (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

## C

- CARNELIAN LAKE** (Stearns County) sunfish: possession limit five.
- CASCADE LAKE** (Cascade Ponds) (Olmsted County) see Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.
-  **NEW—CEDAR LAKE** (Morrison County) walleye: possession limit two. Black crappie: possession limit five. Northern pike: possession limit three, all larger than 26" must be immediately released.
- CEDAR ISLAND LAKE** (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).
- CENTER LAKE**, North and South (Chisago County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- CHARLEY LAKE** (Ramsey County) closed to fishing.
- CHILD LAKE** (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- CHISAGO LAKE** (Chisago County) largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released.

CHRISTINA LAKE (Douglas County) Closed to fishing.

CLEAR LAKE (Waseca County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only.

CLEAR LAKE (Washington County) walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit three.

CLITHERALL LAKE (Otter Tail County) smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

COON LAKE (Anoka County) walleye: minimum size limit 17"

COON-SANDWICK LAKE (Itasca County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

CRANE LAKE including Vermilion Gorge and Echo River from mouth upstream to County Highway 424 bridge (St. Louis County) walleye: all from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession. Sauger/walleye: possession limit six combined, only four may be walleye.

CRAWFORD LAKE (Wright County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

Sunfish: possession limit five. Crappie: possession limit five. Walleye: possession limit two. Yellow perch: possession limit 10.

CROOKED LAKE (Anoka County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

CROOKED LAKE (Stearns County) largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

CROW WING LAKES, 5th and 6th (Hubbard County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".


CROW WING LAKES, 8th, 9th, and 10th (Hubbard County) northern pike: minimum size limit 40". Possession limit one.

CUT FOOT SIOUX and Little Cut Foot Sioux (Itasca County): walleye: see Winnibigoshish on page 50.

## D

DAVIS LAKE (Aitkin County) see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).

DEEP LAKE (Ramsey County) closed to fishing.

 **NEW**—DEER LAKE (Beltrami County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24" through 36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

DEER LAKE near Effie (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

DEMONTREVILLE LAKE (Washington County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

DIXON LAKE (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit five. Walleye: see Winnibigoshish on page 50.

DYERS LAKE (Cook County) crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

## E

EDEN LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

ELEPHANT LAKE (St. Louis County) northern pike: minimum size limit 40". Possession limit one.

ELK LAKE (Clearwater County) muskellunge: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: minimum size limit 40". Possession limit one.

EUNICE LAKE (Becker County) sunfish: possession limit five. Black crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

## F


FARM LAKE (Lake County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: (includes the North Branch Kawishiwi River from Farm Lake 4.8 miles east to the long portage) All from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

FARM ISLAND LAKE (Aitkin County) walleye: all from 16-19" must be immediately released.

FISH LAKE RESERVOIR (St. Louis County) walleye: all less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately released, except one over 26" allowed in possession. Possession limit three.

FISH TRAP LAKE (Morrison County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

FLADMARK LAKE (Otter Tail County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit five.

 **NEW**—FLOUR LAKE (Cook County) smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

FLOWAGE LAKE (Aitkin County) see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).

FOSTER AREND LAKE (Olmsted County) trout: continuous season. Possession limit three. One over 16" allowed in possession. Sunfish, black and white crappie, yellow perch, largemouth and smallmouth bass, see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

FOX LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

FRANKLIN LAKE (Otter Tail County) crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five.

## G

GAMEHAVEN (Boy Scout Lake or Willow Reservoir No. 4) (Olmsted County). See Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

GARDEN LAKE (Lake County) northern pike: all from 24"-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 17"-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" is allowed in possession.

GEORGE LAKE (Hubbard County) northern pike: all from 24"-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

GILBERT LAKE (Crow Wing County) crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

GIRL LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24"-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

GOODRICH LAKE (Crow Wing County) crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

GOOSE LAKE (Chisago County) crappie: possession limit five. Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

GRAVE LAKE (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit five.

GREAT NORTHERN LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

GREEN LAKE (Chisago County) walleye: minimum size limit 17".



GREEN PRAIRIE LAKE (Morrison County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

GRINDSTONE LAKE (Pine County) smelt: seines may not be used within 100' of any outlet or stream that empties into or out of the lake.

GULL LAKE (Beltrami County) sunfish: possession limit five.

GULL LAKE (Cook County) walleye: see Saganaga Lake (page 48).

## H


HENRY LAKE (Douglas County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

HORSESHOE LAKE (Cass County) near Backus. Sunfish: possession limit five.

HOVDE LAKE (Cass County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

HORSESHOE LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).


HUBERT LAKE (Crow Wing County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released.

 **NEW**—HUNGRY JACK LAKE (Cook County) smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

## I

INGUADONA LAKE and connected Rice Lake (Cass County) sunfish: possession limit 10.  
Crappie: possession limit five.

ISLAND LAKE near Northome (Itasca County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

 **NEW**—ITASCA LAKE (Clearwater County) crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

## J

JANE LAKE (Washington County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

## K

KABEKONA LAKE (Hubbard County) walleye: all from 20-26" must be immediately released.  
Possession limit four, only one over 26".

KABETOGAMA LAKE including Sullivan Bay and Ash River to Ash River Falls (St. Louis County) walleye: all from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession.  
Sauger/walleye: possession limit six combined, only four may be walleye.

KALMAR RESERVOIR (Olmsted County) see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

KNAUS LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

KNIFE LAKE (Kanabec County) walleye: all from 18-24" must be immediately released.  
One over 24" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

KRAYS LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

## L

LA SALLE LAKE (Hubbard County) walleye: possession limit two. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.  
Yellow perch: possession limit 10.

LAC QUI PARLE LAKE upstream to Marsh Lake Dam, including the Watson Sag upstream to the diversion dam (Lac qui Parle and Chippewa counties). walleye: possession limit four, only one walleye over 20".


LAKE OF THE WOODS including the Rainy River from the mouth upstream to the dam in International Falls, northern pike: all from 30-40" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 40". Walleye and sauger: see page 57.

LEECH LAKE (Cass County) walleye: all from 20-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit four, only one over 26". (See page 23 for whitefish.)

LESTER LAKE (Hubbard County) all species: catch-and-release only.

LIDA LAKE SOUTH and NORTH including connecting Mud Lake (Otter Tail County) crappie: minimum size limit is 11". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

LIND LAKE (Cass County) sunfish: possession limit five.

 **NEW**—LITTLE BOY LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit four, only one over 26".

LITTLE CASCADE LAKE (Cook County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

LITTLE CORMORANT LAKE (Becker County) sunfish: possession limit five. Black crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five. Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

LITTLE FLOYD LAKE (Becker County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

LITTLE MANTRAP LAKE (Hubbard County) largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

LITTLE MCDONALD LAKE including Kerbs Lake (Otter Tail County) walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

LITTLE SAUK LAKE (Todd County) walleye: possession limit two. Largemouth bass: possession limit one. Sunfish: possession limit five. Crappie: possession limit five. Yellow perch: possession limit 10.

LITTLE SPLITHAND LAKE (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit five.

LITTLE TOAD LAKE (Becker County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

LITTLE TROUT LAKE (St. Louis County) lake trout: catch-and-release only.

LITTLE VERMILION LAKE including Loon River to Loon River Falls portage (St. Louis County). Walleye: all from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession. Sauger/walleye: possession limit six combined, only four may be walleye.

LITTLE WEBB LAKE (Cass County) black crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

LITTLE WOMAN LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

LONG LAKE near Hawick (Kandiyohi County) largemouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

LONG LAKE (Stearns County near Clearwater) largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

LONG LAKE (Stearns County south of Richmond) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

LONG LAKE near Burtrum (Todd County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

LONG LAKE near Spaulding (Todd County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

LOON LAKE (Cook County) northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit one.


## M

MANDALL LAKE (Chisago County) crappie: possession limit five. Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

MANOR WOODS POND (Country Club Pond) (Olmsted County) see Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

MAPLE LAKE (Douglas County) crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five.

MAPLE LAKE (Todd County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

 **NEW**—MARY LAKE (Hubbard County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

MAUD LAKE (Becker County) sunfish: possession limit five. Black crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MEDICINE LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MELISSA LAKE (Becker County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MIDDLE LAKE (Otter Tail County) largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

MILLE LACS (see page 38).

MINK-SOMERS LAKE near Maple Lake (Wright County) sunfish: possession limit five. Crappie: possession limit five. Walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit three. Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Possession or use of live minnows is prohibited.

MINNEWASHTA LAKE (Carver County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

MINNIE BELLE LAKE (Meeker County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MISSION LAKE, Lower and Upper (Crow Wing County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MITCHELL LAKE (Crow Wing County) northern pike: minimum size limit 40". Possession limit one.

MOCCASIN LAKE (Cass County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only. Black crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

 **NEW**—MOODY LAKE (Crow Wing County) all species: catch-and-release only.

MOOSE LAKE near Deer River (Itasca County) walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

MOOSE LAKE (Todd County) largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released. Sunfish: possession limit 10.

MOVIL LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

MUD LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

MUKOODA LAKE (St. Louis County) lake trout: catch-and-release only.

MULE LAKE (Cass County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Walleye: possession limit three.

## N

NAMAKAN LAKE (St. Louis County) walleye: all from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession. Sauger/walleye: possession limit six combined, only four may be walleye.

NORTH BROWNS LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

NORTH STAR LAKE including Little North Star Lake (Itasca County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

NORTH TURTLE LAKE (Otter Tail County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: minimum size limit 10".

NORTH TWIN LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

NORWAY LAKE (Otter Tail County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.


## O

OLSON LAKE (Washington County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

OSAKIS and Little Osakis lakes (Douglas and Todd counties) walleye: minimum size limit 15".

OTTER TAIL LAKE (Otter Tail County) northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit one.

OX YOKE LAKE (Cass County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

 **NEW**—OZAWINDIB LAKE (Clearwater County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: possession limit five.

## P

PEARL LAKE (Stearns County) walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit three. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

PELICAN LAKE (St. Louis County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

PICKEREL LAKE (Itasca County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

PIERZ LAKE (Fish) (Morrison County) largemouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.


PIMUSHE LAKE (Beltrami County) sunfish: possession limit five.

PINE LAKE, Big and Little (Otter Tail County) walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

PIATTE LAKE (Crow Wing County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

PLEASANT LAKE (Ramsey County) Closed to fishing.

PLEASANT LAKE (Stearns County) sunfish: possession limit five.

 **NEW**—PORTAGE LAKE north of Ten Mile Lake (Cass County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

PRAIRIE LAKE (St. Louis County) northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit one.

## Q

QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER POND (Olmsted County) see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

## R

RABBIT LAKES, Big and East Big (Crow Wing County) northern pike: all from 24 to 36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

RABOUR LAKE (Chisago County) crappie: possession limit five. Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

RACHEL LAKE and Little Rachel Lake (Douglas County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

RAINY LAKE including the Rainy River above the dam at International Falls, all of Rainy Lake to the dam at Kettle Falls, Black Bay including Gold Portage below the rapids, all of the Rat Root River, and Rat Root Lake (Koochiching and St. Louis counties) walleye and sauger: possession limit eight (not more than four can be walleye). All walleye from 18-26" must be immediately released. One walleye over 26" allowed in possession.

RED LAKE (see page 38).

RED WING POTTERY POND (Goodhue County) trout: Continuous season. Possession limit three. One over 16" allowed in possession.

RICE LAKE and connected Inguadona Lake (Cass County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Crappie: possession limit five.

ROCHESTER–OLMSTED COUNTY AREA LAKES (Olmsted County) includes: Bear Creek Reservoir (Chester Woods), Cascade Lake (Cascade Ponds), Foster Arend Lake, Gamehaven Lake (Boy Scout Lake or Willow Reservoir No. 4), Kalmar Reservoir, Quarry Hill Nature Center Pond, Manor Woods Pond (Country Club Pond), Silver Lake, Silver Creek Reservoir, Willow Creek Reservoir. The daily and possession limits for the following species apply to the waters listed above as a whole, that is, only one daily and possession limit may be taken from the group of waters that comprise the Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes. Sunfish, crappie, yellow perch: combined possession limit 10, and only five may be crappie. Largemouth or smallmouth bass: possession limit of one. Northern pike: daily and possession limit one applies collectively to a subset of the Rochester–Olmsted County lakes: Cascade Lake, Game Haven Lake, Manor Woods, Silver Lake, Silver Creek Reservoir.


ROGERS LAKE (Crow Wing County) crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

ROUND LAKE (Crow Wing County) northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit one.

ROUND LAKE near Squaw Lake including the Popple River downstream to State Highway Bridge 46 (Itasca County) walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

RUSH LAKE, East and West (Chisago County) northern pike: all from 26-40" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 40".

## S

- SAGANAGA LAKE** including Gull Lake and the Sea Gull River (Cook County) walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit three, only one over 20".
- SALLIE LAKE** (Becker County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- SANBORN LAKE** (Cass County) sunfish: possession limit 10.
- SAND LAKE** including connecting Birds Eye Lake, Little Sand Lake, Portage Lake and Bowstring River upstream to County Road 35 bridge and downstream to the County Road 145 bridge (Itasca County). Walleye: all 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.
- SAND LAKE** (Lake County) sunfish: possession limit five.
- SAND POINT LAKE** (St. Louis County) walleye: all from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession. Sauger/walleye: possession limit six combined, only four may be walleye.
- SANDY RIVER LAKE** (Aitkin County) see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).
- SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES** (Stearns County) from Highway 23 downstream to the Cold Spring Dam include connecting lakes Becker, Bolfing, Cedar Island, Eden, Great Northern, Horseshoe, Knaus, Krays, Long, Mud (Vails), North Browns, Schneider and Zumwalde. Channel catfish and flathead catfish: combined possession limit 10 of which not more than two may be flathead catfish. Only one over 24" allowed in possession.
- SCHNEIDER LAKE** (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).
- SEA GULL LAKE** including ALPINE RIVER between ALPINE LAKE and SEA GULL LAKE (Cook County) walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit three, only one over 20".
- SEWELL LAKE** (Otter Tail County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- SHAMINEAU LAKE** (Morrison County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- SILVER CREEK RESERVOIR** (Olmsted County) see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.
- SILVER LAKE** (Olmsted County) see Rochester–Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.
- SOUTH FARM LAKE** (Lake County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.
- SOUTH LINDSTROM LAKE** (Chisago County) largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released.
-  **NEW—SOUTH TWIN LAKE** (Beltrami County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.
- SPIDER LAKE** (Hubbard County) crappie: minimum size limit 10".
- SPIDER LAKE** (Itasca County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".
- SPLITHAND LAKE** (Itasca County) including Moody's Creek upstream to County Road 432. Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession. Black crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.
- ST. OLAF LAKE** (Waseca County) northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit one.

STAR LAKE (Otter Tail County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

STEIGER LAKE (Carver County) northern pike and largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

STUART LAKE (Otter Tail County) black crappie: minimum size limit 10".

STURGEON LAKE (Pine County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

SUGAR LAKE (Wright County) crappie: possession limit five. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

SULLIVAN Lake (Morrison County) sunfish: possession limit 10.

SWAN LAKE (Itasca County) walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

SYLVAN LAKE (Cass County) near Pillager. Crappie: possession limit five. Sunfish: possession limit five.

SYLVIA LAKE, East and West (Wright County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

## T

TEN MILE LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

TEN MILE LAKE, North and South (Otter Tail County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

THIRTEEN LAKE (Cass County) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession. Sunfish: possession limit five.

THOMPSON LAKE (Cook County) trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.

THREE ISLAND LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

THRUSH LAKE (Cook County) trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.

TROUT LAKE Near Coleraine (Itasca County) walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

TURNIP LAKE (Cook County) trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.


TURTLE LAKE (Itasca County) smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.

TURTLE LAKE (Ramsey County) largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

TURTLE, BIG AND LITTLE LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

TURTLE RIVER LAKE (Beltrami County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

TWENTYONE LAKE (Otter Tail County) sunfish: possession limit 10. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit five.

 **NEW**—TWO ISLAND LAKE (Cook County) smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released. One over 20" allowed in possession.




## V

VENSTROM LAKE (Otter Tail County) crappie: minimum size limit 11". walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. One over 26" allowed in possession.

VERMILION LAKE (St. Louis County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 20-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit four, only one over 26".

## W

 **NEW**—WABEDO LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit four, only one over 26".

WACONIA LAKE (Carver County) walleye: minimum size 16".

WHITE IRON LAKE (St. Louis and Lake counties) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released. Only one over 26" allowed in possession.

WILKINSON LAKE (Anoka and Ramsey counties) closed to fishing.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR (Olmsted County) see Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes on page 47.

WINNIBIGOSHISH LAKE and connected waters (Beltrami, Cass, Itasca counties): Mississippi River to Knutson Dam, Third River Flowage to Little Dixon Lake, Pigeon River to Pigeon Lake Dam, First River, Egg Lake through Cut Foot Sioux Lake, Raven Flowage to Raven Lake, and Sugar Lake. Walleye: all from 18-23" must be immediately released. One over 23" allowed in possession.

WOMAN LAKE (Cass County) northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit three, only one over 36".

## Z

ZUMWALDE LAKE (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

## Streams and Rivers

### A

ASH RIVER see Kabetogama Lake page 43.

### B

BAUDETTE RIVER mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

BEAVER CREEK, EAST (Houston County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream (Beaver Creek Valley State Park). See page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Beaver Creek Valley State Park.

BELLE CREEK (Goodhue County) trout: catch-and-release on a 7.3 mile posted section from the confluence with the Cannon River upstream to Highway 19.

BOWSTRING RIVER see Sand Lake (page 48).

## C

CAMP CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: catch-and-release on a 2.7-mile posted section from 0.8 miles above the confluence with the Root River, South Branch upstream 2.7 miles. Artificial lures and flies only. On the third Saturday in May, statewide regulations apply to the posted section of the stream.

CANFIELD CREEK (South Branch Creek) (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only. See page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Canfield Creek in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

## D

DEVIL TRACK RIVER (Cook County) fish sanctuary: mile 1.1 to Mile 1.6 open to fishing from June 1 - August 31.

## E

EAGLE CREEK (Scott County) trout: catch-and-release only.

ECHO RIVER (St. Louis County) see Crane Lake page 41.

## F

FIRST RIVER see Winnibigoshish Lake (page 50).

FORESTVILLE CREEK (North Branch Creek) (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. See page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

FRENCH RIVER (St. Louis County) Fish sanctuary: all fishing closed from the river's mouth at Lake Superior to the State Highway 61 four-lane expressway, including that portion of old Highway 61 that crosses the French River.

## G

GARVIN BROOK (Winona County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released from the Highway 14 crossing to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

GAUTHIER CREEK (Cook County) fish sanctuary: entire stream open to fishing from June 1 - August 31 only.

GRIBBEN CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

## H

HAY CREEK (Goodhue County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 4-mile posted section from 325th Street downstream. Artificial lures and flies only.

HOOPER CREEK mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

## K

KADUNCE RIVER (Cook County) fish sanctuary: mile 0.2 (lower falls) to mile 0.4 open to fishing from June 1 - August 31 only.

KEDRON CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: catch-and-release only on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

KELLY CREEK mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

KNIFE RIVER (St. Louis and Lake counties) fish sanctuary: between the signs from the top of the second falls 100 feet downstream, and from State Highway 61 bridge downstream to the sign below the fish trap is permanently closed to fishing.

## L

LAWNDALE CREEK (Wilkin County) brook trout: catch-and-release only for brook trout on a 3.5-mile posted section within Atherton Wildlife Management Area. Artificial lures and flies only. All hooks must be barbless.

LESTER RIVER (St. Louis County): immediately downstream from the Superior Street bridge to the bottom of the first falls is closed to fishing.

LOGAN CREEK (Olmsted County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream from the confluence with the Whitewater River, North Branch, upstream to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

LOON RIVER see Little Vermilion Lake (page 44).

## M

MAHOODS CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream.

MILL CREEK (Fillmore and Olmsted Counties) trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Chatfield from the confluence with the North Branch Root River upstream to Sprau's tributary.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Dakota County) from the Hastings dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border (inland waters of Pool 3) walleye: minimum size 15".

MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY (Ramsey, Washington, Hennepin, and Dakota counties) walleye, sauger, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass: catch-and-release with a continuous season in the following stretches: a) Minnesota River downstream from the Mendota Bridge; b) Minnehaha Creek downstream from Minnehaha Falls; and c) Pool 2 of the Mississippi River between the Hastings Dam and the Ford Dam, including all backwater lakes and connecting waters except Crosby, Pickerel, Upper, Little Pigs Eye, and North Star Steel lakes.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER from Blandin Dam downstream to Coon Rapids Dam (Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, Wright, Anoka, and Hennepin counties) muskellunge: catch-and-release only.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties) smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released from the confluence of the Crow River upstream to the St. Cloud Dam, including tributaries to the posted boundaries. Possession limit is three, with one over 20".

MISSISSIPPI RIVER see Winnibigoshish Lake (page 50).

## O

OTTER TAIL RIVER (Otter Tail, Becker, and Wilkin counties) smallmouth bass: catch-and-release from Wilkin County Road 19 crossing upstream to the Friberg Dam including all impoundments, and from Otter Tail County Highway 51 upstream to the Hubbel Pond Dam including Mud, Rice, and Town lakes.

## P

PIGEON RIVER see Winnibigoshish Lake (page 50).

PRAIRIE RIVER (Aitkin County) see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).

PRAIRIE RIVER from Prairie Lake Dam downstream to Mississippi River (Itasca County) muskellunge: catch-and-release only.

## R

RAINY RIVER northern pike: see Lake of the Woods (page 44). Walleye and sauger: see Rainy Lake (page 47) and border waters (page 57).

RAPID RIVER mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

RAT ROOT RIVER see Rainy Lake (page 47).

RAVEN FLOWAGE see Winnibigoshish Lake (page 50).

RED LAKE TRIBUTARIES see Red Lake (page 38).

ROOT RIVER, MIDDLE BRANCH (Fillmore County) trout: catch-and-release on the entire stream.

ROOT RIVER, SOUTH BRANCH (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 4.8-mile posted section within Forestville State Park. See page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Preston from the River Place West bridge downstream to the U.S. Highway 52 bridge. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Lanesboro from the Lanesboro Dam downstream to the confluence with the Root River.

ROOT RIVER, SOUTH FORK (Fillmore County) trout: catch-and-release on a 7.7 mile section from County Road 12 upstream to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

## S

ST. CROIX RIVER (see pages 63-65).

ST. LOUIS RIVER (St. Louis County) fish sanctuary: no fishing allowed at any time from the Fond du Lac Dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary cable. No fishing allowed from the boundary cable downstream to the Highway 23 bridge from February 28 - May 18. Muskellunge: minimum size limit 50" on only the Minnesota-Wisconsin border waters.

SANDY RIVER (Aitkin County) see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).

SAUK RIVER (Stearns County) see Sauk River Chain of Lakes (page 48).

SEA GULL RIVER (Cook County) walleye: see Saganaga Lake (page 48).

SHOTLEY BROOK (from Highway 72 West to Upper Red Lake): see Red Lake (page 38).

SILVER CREEK mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

SPRING VALLEY CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 6.8-mile posted section from Deer Creek upstream to Fillmore Township Road 359. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Spring Valley from West Park Street downstream to Minnesota State Highway 16 bridge.

STONEY BROOK (Cass County) brook trout: all must be immediately released on the posted section beginning at the mouth at Upper Gull Lake upstream to the road crossing at County Road 29 (Minor's Corner).

## T

TAMARACK RIVER (from the Beltrami County line west to Upper Red lake) see Red Lake (page 38).

THIRD RIVER FLOWAGE see Winnibigoshish Lake (page 50).

TROUT RUN CREEK (Fillmore and Winona counties) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

TROUT RUN CREEK (in Whitewater State Park) see page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Whitewater State Park.

TROUT VALLEY CREEK (Winona County) brook trout: minimum size limit 12". Possession limit one. Artificial lures and flies only.

## V

VERMILION GORGE see Crane Lake (page 41).

VERMILLION RIVER within a 19.5-mile reach from the Highview Avenue bridge in Eureka Township in Farmington to the posted boundary 1.1 miles downstream from the U.S. Highway 52 bridge, including all tributaries to their source (Dakota County). Brown trout: catch-and-release only. Rainbow trout: Regular statewide regulations apply. From September 15 - October 15, angling for brown trout and rainbow trout is allowed but catch-and-release only (all trout must be immediately released).

## W

WABANICA RIVER mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

WARROAD RIVER mouth upstream to Warroad City beach (Roseau County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

WATSON SAG see Lac qui Parle (page 44).

WEST INDIAN CREEK (Wabasha County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released from the upstream Wabasha County Road 4 crossing to the source.

WEST SAVANNA RIVER (Aitkin County): see Big Sandy Lake (page 40).

WHITEWATER RIVER, MIDDLE BRANCH (Winona and Olmsted counties) trout: catch-and-release on a 9.2-mile posted section from the group camp in Whitewater State Park upstream to the source. Artificial lures and flies only. See page 26 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Whitewater State Park.

WHITEWATER RIVER, NORTH BRANCH (Wabasha, Olmsted and Winona counties) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 12.1 mile posted section from Township Road 29 upstream to County Road 4. Artificial lures and flies only.

WINTER ROAD RIVER mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge (Lake of the Woods County) northern pike: see Lake of the Woods, page 44.

WISEL CREEK (Fillmore County) trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream.

## Z

ZUMBRO RIVER, NORTH FORK (Goodhue and Wabasha counties) trout: catch-and-release on an 11.9 mile posted section from the Zumbro River, Main Branch upstream to Highway 10.

ZUMBRO RIVER (Wabasha County) smallmouth bass: catch-and-release along a 12-mile posted section from Highway 63 at Zumbro Falls upstream to the Zumbro Lake Dam.

# BORDER WATERS

This section covers Minnesota's border waters with Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, as well as the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. It does not include the waters of Lake Superior, which are not covered under border water rules. See pages 27-29 for Lake Superior. All calendar dates refer to 2018 unless noted otherwise.

## LICENSING

### What license do I need to fish border waters?

- Minnesota residents must have a Minnesota license.
- Residents of a bordering state must have their state's resident license.
- Other nonresidents may purchase a Minnesota or the bordering state's nonresident license.

### Can I fish anywhere on the border waters with a Minnesota license?

- In Canadian border waters, Minnesota residents or nonresidents fishing with a Minnesota nonresident license, may only fish the Minnesota portion of the Canadian border waters. To fish the Canadian portion, you must have a Canadian license.
- In other border waters, Minnesota residents or nonresidents fishing with a Minnesota nonresident license, may fish throughout the defined waters bordering the two states.

### What if I don't see a particular regulation listed in this section?

Unless otherwise noted, all general regulations relating to angling methods, licensing, season, limits, fish possession and transportation apply to border waters (see pages 30-37). Also, all fish must be within length limits regardless of where caught (see page 34). Please check the Experimental and Special Regulations section (pages 38-54) for different regulations that may apply.

### If fishing regulations differ between the border states, what regulations do I follow?

You must obey the regulations of the state in which you are fishing. More permissive regulations are limited to that state's waters. Using number of lines as an example: In Wisconsin waters anglers may use three lines, but in Minnesota waters anglers may only use two lines.

### Can I launch my boat or transport my catch back home from the adjacent state's boat launch?

Yes, you can both launch your boat and transport your catch by the most direct route back to the state that you are licensed.

### Do bowfishing regulations allowed for inland waters apply to border waters?

The bow fishing regulations covered on page 66 are only allowed on Minnesota's portion of the border waters. If the bordering state's bowfishing regulations are the same, bowfishers may take legal fish shore to shore under a Minnesota license.

## LAKE STURGEON TAGS

Lake sturgeon tags and mail-in registration cards are required for anyone who wishes to harvest and possess a lake sturgeon. However, a tag is not required to catch-and-release lake sturgeon.

The following requirements apply:

- An angler may take and possess only one lake sturgeon per calendar year.
- Lake sturgeon may not be possessed or transported without a tag.
- Validate and attach the tag immediately upon reducing the fish to possession.
- Tag must be attached to the narrow portion of the body in front of the tail fin.
- Tags must be attached so that they cannot be easily removed.
- Tags are not transferable and no duplicate tags will be issued.
- Registration cards must be completed and mailed within 48 hours after harvesting a fish. Send to: Regional Fisheries, 2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601.
- Lake sturgeon must be transported intact (gills and internal organs may be removed).
- Members of a fishing party may not take sturgeon for other anglers' limits; party fishing is not allowed for sturgeon.

## CANADA-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the Minnesota portions of the following waters. Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.

**Cook County:** Clove Lake, Devils Elbow Lake, North Fowl Lake, South Fowl Lake, Gneiss (Round) Lake, Granite Lake, Granite River, Gunflint Lake, Little Gunflint Lake, Lily Lake (Fan, Vaseux), Magnetic Lake, Marabaeuf Lake, Moose Lake, Mountain Lake, North Lake, Little North Lake, Pigeon River, Pine River, Rat Lake, Rose Lake, Rove Lake, Saganaga Lake, South Lake, and Watap Lake.

**Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties:** Rainy River.

**Koochiching and St. Louis counties:** Rainy Lake (including Black Bay).

**Lake County:** Basswood Lake (except Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back Bays, which are considered inland waters), Basswood River, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Cypress Lake, Knife Lake (except South Arm), Little Knife Lake, Knife River, Melon Lake, Seed Lake, Sucker Lake, and Swamp Lake.

**Lake and St. Louis counties:** Crooked Lake.

**Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties:** Lake of the Woods.

**St. Louis County:** Bottle Lake, Iron Lake, Lac La Croix, Loon Lake, Loon River to Loon River Falls, Namakan Lake, Sand Point Lake, and Little Vermilion Lake.

## Canada-Minnesota Regulations

- One line per angler is allowed, except two lines may be used when ice fishing.
- Saganaga Narrows is closed to fishing April 1 - May 25.
- Saganaga Falls (Granite River mouth) and the channel between Little Gunflint and Little North lakes are closed to fishing April 1 - May 31.
- Dark houses, fish houses and shelters, see pages 68-73.
- While in Minnesota, anglers may not possess more than a Minnesota limit of fish from Canada-Minnesota border waters. Fish from Canadian inland waters may be possessed in Minnesota in excess of the Minnesota limit only if the angler has proof—such as lodging receipts or verification through U.S. Customs—that the fish were taken from inland Canadian waters.
- A person cannot possess or use a gaff while fishing on the Rainy River.
- Dressed sauger count as walleye (see page 35).
- Bowfishing (Minnesota's portion of the waters only) see page 66.

## CANADA-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye and sauger</b>	May 13, 2017 - April 14, 2018	6 combined total (not more than 1 over 20" in possession).
	May 12, 2018 - April 14, 2019	
EXCEPTIONS: Lake of the Woods	May 12 - Nov. 30	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½" through 28" must be immediately released).
	Dec. 1, 2017 - April 14, 2018 Dec. 1, 2018 - April 14, 2019	8 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½" through 28" must be immediately released).
Four Mile Bay (Southeast bay of Lake of the Woods)	March 1 - April 14 each year	2 (walleye 19½" and larger must be immediately released).
	May 12 - Nov. 30	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½" through 28" must be immediately released).
	Dec. 1, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019	8 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½" through 28" must be immediately released).
Namakan, Sand Point and Little Vermilion	May 13, 2017 - April 14, 2018	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; walleye from 17" through 28" must be immediately released; only 1 walleye over 28").
	May 12, 2018 - April 14, 2019	
Rainy Lake	May 13, 2017 - April 14, 2018	8 (not more than 4 can be walleye; walleye from 18" to 26" must be immediately released; only 1 walleye over 26").
	May 12, 2018 - April 14, 2019	
Rainy River	March 1 - April 14 each year	2 (walleye 19½" and larger must be immediately released).
	May 12, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½" through 28" must be immediately released).
Saganaga Lake	May 12, 2018 - April 14, 2019	3 (17" minimum size limit. Only 1 walleye over 20").

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## CANADA-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS CONTINUED

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Northern pike</b>	Continuous	3 (only 1 over 30" in possession).
EXCEPTION: Lake of the Woods and Rainy River to the dam at International Falls	Continuous	3 (All from 30" through 40" must be immediately released. Only one over 40" allowed in possession.)
EXCEPTION: Basswood Lake (includes Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back bays)	May 12, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	3 (All northern pike from 24" through 36" must be immediately released. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.)
<b>Muskellunge</b>	June 17 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 50").
<b>Largemouth and smallmouth bass</b>	Continuous	6 combined total
<b>Lake sturgeon</b> Immediately validate and attach your sturgeon tag. Register your sturgeon within 48 hours. (See pages 55-56.)	Oct. 1, 2017- April 23, 2018	Catch-and-release only. No tag needed.
	April 24 - May 7	1 per calendar year (fish must be 45-50" inclusive, or over 75").
	May 8 - 15	Catch-and-release only. No tag needed.
	Closed: May 16 - June 30	Closed
	July 1 - Sept. 30	1 per calendar year (fish must be 45-50" inclusive, or over 75").
	Oct. 1, 2018 - April 23, 2019	Catch-and-release only. No tag needed.
<b>Crappie</b>	Continuous	10
<b>Lake trout (SUMMER)</b>	May 12 - Sept. 30	2
<b>Lake trout (WINTER)</b> Lakes outside or partly outside the BWCAW. Includes all of Clearwater, East Bearskin, Magnetic, Saganaga, Seagull and Snowbank.	Jan. 13, 2018 - April 1, 2018 Jan. 12, 2019 - April 1, 2019	2
Lakes entirely within the BWCAW.	Dec. 30, 2017 - April 1, 2018 Dec. 29, 2018 - March 31, 2019	2
<b>Stream trout</b>	April 28 - Sept. 30	5 (not more than 3 over 16").
<b>All other species</b>	Continuous	Inland limits apply.

## IOWA-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters:

- Jackson County: Little Spirit Lake.
- Jackson and Nobles counties: Iowa Lake.
- Martin County: Okamanpeedan (Tuttle), Iowa, and Swag lakes.

Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

### IOWA-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye</b>	Continuous	3
<b>Northern pike</b>	Continuous	3
<b>Largemouth and smallmouth bass</b>	Continuous	3 combined total
<b>Muskellunge</b>	May 21 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 40")
<b>Catfish</b> (channel and flathead)	Channel catfish: continuous  Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	8 combined total
<b>Sunfish</b> (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	25 combined total
<b>Perch</b>	Continuous	25
<b>White bass and yellow bass</b>	Continuous	No limit
<b>Bullhead</b>	Continuous	No limit
<b>Unprotected fish</b> (carp, sucker, redhorse, sheepshead, buffalo, burbot, bowfin, gar, and quillback)	Continuous	No limit

### Iowa-Minnesota Regulations

- Anglers may use up to two lines with two hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.
- Spearfishing may be used anytime to take carp, buffalo, sheepshead, dogfish, gar, or quillback.
- Spearfishing game fish is unlawful.
- Bowfishing regulations, see page 66.
- Dark house, fish house, and shelters, see pages 68-73.

## NORTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA

Seasons and regulations apply to the Bois de Sioux River and the Red River of the North. Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

### NORTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye and sauger</b>	Continuous	3 combined total
<b>Northern pike</b>	Continuous	3
<b>Sunfish</b> (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	30
<b>Perch</b>	Continuous	50
<b>Crappie</b>	Continuous	30
<b>Largemouth and smallmouth bass</b>	Continuous	3 combined total
<b>Lake sturgeon</b>	March 1 - April 14	Catch-and-release only
	April 15 - June 15	Closed
	June 16, 2018 - April 14, 2019	Catch-and-release only
<b>Muskellunge</b>	Continuous	1 (minimum size 50")
<b>Rock bass</b>	Continuous	20
<b>Bullhead</b>	Continuous	100
<b>Catfish</b>	Continuous	5 (only 1 over 24")
<b>Unprotected fish</b> (carp, sucker, redhorse, sheepshead, buffalo, burbot, bowfin, gar and white bass)	Continuous	No limit

### North Dakota-Minnesota Regulations

- Two lines are permitted, and two hooks are permitted on each line.
- Dark house spearing is legal; however, catfish may not be speared at any time. For other rules, see pages 68-73.
- It is unlawful to possess a spear or bow and arrow on or adjacent to any water body where the spearing and archery season is closed.
- Rough fish, except burbot (eelpout), may be taken by spearing or archery between sunrise and sunset from May 1 through December 31. The bowfishing regulations on page 66 are allowed only on Minnesota's portion of the border waters when they differ from those of the border state. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- Once you possess a fish caught by angling, you cannot replace it with another fish. However, at the end of your fishing day you may release live fish before leaving the water.
- Dark house, fish house, and shelters see pages 68-73.
- Check North Dakota regulations regarding fishing from North Dakota's shore.

## SOUTH DAKOTA–MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters:

- Big Stone County: Big Stone Lake.
- Lincoln County: Hendricks Lake.
- Traverse County: Lake Traverse, Mud Lake, Bois de Sioux River to North Dakota border, and Mustinka River from the mouth to the Minnesota State Highway 117 bridge.

Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

### SOUTH DAKOTA–MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye and sauger</b>	April 21, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019	4 combined total (only 1 walleye over 20")
<b>Northern pike</b>	April 21, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019	6, spearing limit 3
<b>Largemouth and smallmouth bass</b>	April 21, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019	6 combined total
<b>Crappie</b>	Continuous	10
<b>Sunfish</b> (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	10 combined total
<b>Rock bass</b>	Continuous	20
<b>Bullhead</b>	Continuous	100
<b>Perch</b>	Continuous	15 daily and 30 in possession
<b>Catfish</b> (channel and flathead)	Channel catfish: continuous Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	5 combined total. No more than 2 can be flathead (only 1 catfish over 24").
<b>Lake sturgeon</b>	March 1 - April 14	Catch-and-release only
	April 15 - June 15	Closed
	June 16, 2018 - April 14, 2019	Catch-and-release only
<b>Unprotected fish</b> (carp, sucker, redbone, sheepshead, buffalo, burbot, bowfin, gar, white bass)	Continuous	No Limit

### South Dakota–Minnesota Regulations

- Anglers may use two lines with up to three hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.

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- Unprotected fish, except white bass, may be taken by spearing from sunrise to sunset from May 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.
- The bowfishing regulations on page 66 are allowed only on Minnesota's portion of the border waters when they differ from those of South Dakota. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- It is unlawful to possess a spear, spring gaff, or bow and arrow on or adjacent to any body of water where the spearing and archery season is closed.
- Spearing game fish is unlawful except northern pike and catfish may be speared from a dark house.
- Northern pike limit for dark house spearing is three. See pages 68-73 for other rules.
- Catfish may not be taken by spearing anytime on the Bois De Sioux River from White Rock Dam to the North Dakota border.
- Dark house, fish house, and shelters (see pages 68-73).
- Once you possess a fish caught by angling, on the Bois de Sioux River from the White Rock Dam to the North Dakota border, you cannot replace it with another fish. However, at the end of your fishing day you may release live fish before leaving the water.

## Road Right-of-Way

Some road right-of-ways are not owned by a unit of government. In these instances the landowner has granted an easement for vehicle and foot travel. The landowner generally retains authority to restrict access for angling and may prohibit trespass by posting the land or by verbally directing anglers to leave the easement. It's always best to ask permission if in doubt about the ownership of a road ditch area. County or township offices also may be able to help determine the ownership status of a road ditch.

Helpful examples of road right-of-way ownership and public use include:

- Interstate highways are normally owned by the government, but angling or taking fish is not allowed.
- State highways are most often owned by the state, but there may be a mix of easements and state ownership.
- County roads may be owned by the county, or there may be easements. Roadways with easements tend to be gravel, while roads owned by the county tend to be paved. Road surface is a visual indicator of the ownership but is not an absolute condition.
- Township roads are generally easement and not owned by the township, but some township roads are owned by the township. As is the case with county roads, road surface can sometimes be a visual indicator of the ownership.
- The ownership or easement status can vary on any one stretch of road, and can vary from road to road.

Visually, the road right-of-way is improved and maintained, and you will normally notice a change in the property—including such things as ditches, fence lines, etc. The actual distance from the center of the road that is improved and maintained can vary under ownership or easement, and from one location to another.

## WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters:

Mississippi River (downstream of the Highway bridge in Prescott, Wisconsin and all waters between the Burlington Northern [Wisconsin] and Canadian Pacific [Minnesota] railroad tracks). Lake Pepin, St. Croix River, Lake St. Croix, St. Louis River, St. Louis Bay, and Superior Bay.

Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where a fish is taken.

### WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Walleye and sauger</b> St. Louis River	May 12, 2018 - March 1, 2019	2 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye)
St. Croix River	April 28, 2018 - March 1, 2019	6 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye)
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	6 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye)
<b>Largemouth and smallmouth bass</b> St. Louis River	May 26, 2018 - March 1, 2019	5 combined total (14" minimum size)
St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	May 26 - Sept. 9	5 (14" minimum size)
	Sept. 10, 2018 - March 1, 2019	Catch-and-release only
St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to U.S. Hwy. 10 Bridge	May 26, 2018 - March 1, 2019	5 (14" minimum size)
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	5 (14" minimum size)
<b>Northern pike</b> St. Louis River	May 12, 2018 - March 1, 2019	2
St. Croix River	April 28, 2018 - March 1, 2019	5
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	5
<b>Muskellunge</b>	May 26 - Nov. 30	1 (50" minimum size)
<b>Perch</b>	Continuous	25

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## WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS *CONTINUED*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Catfish</b> (channel and flathead)	Channel catfish: continuous  Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	10 combined total
<b>Bullhead</b>	Continuous	No limit
<b>Rough fish</b>	Continuous	No limit
<b>White bass and yellow bass</b>	Continuous	25 combined total
<b>Crappie</b>	Continuous	25
<b>Rock bass</b>	Continuous	25
<b>Sunfish</b> (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	25 combined total
<b>Paddlefish</b>	No open season	
<b>Lake sturgeon</b> St. Louis River and the Mississippi River below the Red Wing dam and Lake Pepin	March 1 - April 14	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
	June 16, 2018 - April 14, 2019	
	April 15 - June 15	Closed
Mississippi River above the Red Wing dam to the mouth of the St. Croix River	June 16, 2018 - March 1, 2019	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
St. Croix River above Taylors Falls	June 16, 2018 - March 1, 2019	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
St. Croix River from Taylors Falls to mouth including Lake St. Croix	June 16 - Sept. 1	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.
	Sept. 2 - 30	1 per calendar year (60" minimum size). A sturgeon tag is needed to harvest a lake sturgeon. See pages 55-56 for details.
	Oct. 1, 2018 - March 1, 2019	Catch-and-release only; no tag needed.

Continued...

## WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA SEASONS AND LIMITS *CONTINUED*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Shovelnose sturgeon</b> St. Croix River including Lake St. Croix and Mississippi River above Red Wing dam	March 2 - June 15	Closed
	June 16, 2018 - March 1, 2019	Catch-and-release only
Mississippi River below Red Wing dam	Continuous	10

### Wisconsin-Minnesota Regulations

- Two lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If fishing with one line, you may use two baits.
- Fish hooked in any part of the body, except the mouth, must be returned to the water immediately.
- Angler must be within 400 feet of their tip-ups.
- Rough fish may be taken by spearing and dip-netting between sunrise and sunset from April 28, 2018, through March 1, 2019. Dip net hoops cannot exceed 24 inches in diameter.
- Spearing game fish is prohibited. It is unlawful to have a spear on or adjacent to any body of water where the spearing season is closed.
- The bowfishing regulations on page 66 are allowed only on Minnesota's portion of the border waters when they differ from those of Wisconsin. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- No fishing allowed within 300 feet below Mississippi River Lock and Dam 3 (near Red Wing) and Lock and Dam 4 (Alma, Wisconsin) from March 1 - April 30.
- No fishing from Taylors Falls (St. Croix Falls on the St. Croix River) dam to 50 feet downstream from the pier in center of river.
- Dark house, fish house, and shelters (see pages 68-73).

### Licenses by phone. Purchase an e-license today!

Minnesota fishing licenses can be purchased via most mobile devices. No more waiting in line. No more stops on the way to your favorite fishing spot.

Purchasing an e-license on your smartphone or tablet means that you won't receive a paper copy of your license. Instead, you elect to receive a text message, email or both that displays your valid license.

Only fishing and hunting licenses that don't require a tag can be purchased as e-licenses. The text or email confirming your valid license must be presented to a conservation officer upon request.



[mndnr.gov/buyalicense](http://mndnr.gov/buyalicense)





# SPEARING, ARCHERY AND DIP NETS

## BOWFISHING

### SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	SEASONS (DAY AND NIGHT)	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>Bullhead</b>	Regular Statewide: April 28, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019 2018 Early Season: Feb. 26 - April 27, 2018 2019 Early Season: Feb. 25 - April 26, 2019	100
<b>Sucker and redhorse</b>	(2018 and 2019 Early Seasons are south of Hwy 210, only on lakes and on Minnesota, Mississippi, or St. Croix rivers, from boats only.)	50 each
<b>Other rough fish species</b>		No limit

#### Can I fish with a bow and arrow?

You can bowfish for rough fish over open water or through the ice in a fish house or shelter, day or night, with or without lights, during the open season.

- You need a fishing license if you're 16 or older unless you qualify for an angling license exclusion.
- Arrows must have a barb and be attached to the bow with a tethered line.
- To possess a bow, you need to follow local ordinances. You can use a bow while taking rough fish from a watercraft with or without a motor.
- From sunset to sunrise you cannot discharge a bow within 300 feet of a campsite or within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- You cannot make more than 65 decibels of noise on the "A" scale measured at a distance of 50 feet from the boat.
- If you shoot a fish you have to try to retrieve the fish and your arrow.
- You can't shoot a fish and throw it back in the water, leave it on any bank of any waterway or any access site or otherwise illegally dispose of the fish.
- You can't bowfish in designated trout lakes and streams.
- You can't bowfish in posted spawning areas.

#### Can I fish with a crossbow?

You cannot unless:

- You are age 60 or older; or
- You are disabled and have a valid crossbow permit. Permit applications are available from the DNR website.

#### What species may I take when bowfishing?

You may only bowfish for rough fish, which include carp, buffalo, sucker, redhorse, sheepshead, bowfin, burbot (eelpout), cisco (tullibee), gar, mooneye and bullhead.

#### If I take fish by bowfishing can I also take fish by spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining?

Yes, but you cannot exceed the daily limit for each species taken with any combination of archery, spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining equipment to reach the limit.

# SPEARING, HARPOONING AND DIP NETS

## SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	SEASONS (FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET)	SEASONS (FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET)	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>Sucker</b>	Spearing: April 28, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019	Harpooning, dip net and seine: May 1, 2018 - Feb. 17, 2019	50
<b>Bullhead</b>	Spearing: April 28, 2018 - Feb. 17, 2019		100
<b>Redhorse</b>	Spearing: April 28, 2018 - Feb. 17, 2019		50
<b>Other rough fish species</b>	Spearing: April 28, 2018 - Feb. 17, 2019		No limit

### Can I spear, harpoon or dip net for rough fish?

You can harpoon or dip net for fish from all inland waters, except where taking fish is not allowed, from sunrise to sunset provided:

- You have a fishing license if you're 16 or older unless you qualify for an angling license exclusion.
- Speared or dead rough fish are not returned to the water or left on the banks or ice of any water.

### What equipment can I use for rough fish?

- You can only use spears, underwater harpoons, dip nets, seines used for taking smelt, traps used for taking minnows for bait or angling equipment and nets associated with angling.
- You can use any spear.
- You can use an underwater harpoon or spear that is discharged by a rubber-powered gun, spring gun or air gun and attached with a tethered line not more than 20 feet long and discharged only when the equipment and the operator are entirely under water.
- Harpoons may not be carried in a cocked position while out of the water.
- The hoops on hand-held dip nets cannot exceed 24 inches in diameter.
- During a closed season, you cannot possess spears, traps, dip nets, seines or harpoons on or near any waters.

### Where can I spear, harpoon or dip net for fish?

- All inland waters except Baby Lake (Cass County) and where taking fish is prohibited.
- You cannot harpoon within 1,000 feet of swimming beach.
- You can't spear, harpoon or dip net in a designated trout stream.

### Can I sell or buy rough fish?

Yes. All rough fish except cisco (tullibee) can be bought or sold.

### Can I take a limit of fish for each method?

No. You cannot exceed the daily limit for each species taken with any combination of spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining equipment to reach the limit. Fish taken by archery (bowfishing) also are included in this limit.

# DARK HOUSE SPEARING, ICE ANGLING AND ICE SHELTERS

## NEW—DARK HOUSE SPEARING

### SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	SPEARING SEASON	ZONES AND POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>Northern pike</b> Angling limits differ, see page 22.	From sunrise to sunset Nov. 15, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019 except where prohibited.	See Zone Map on page 24.  Northeast Zone: 2 (not more than 1 northern pike over 26")  North-central Zone: 10 (only 1 northern pike between 22-26" and 1 over 26"; or, only 2 over 26")  Southern Zone: 2 (minimum size 24")
<b>Catfish</b>		5 (only 1 over 24") (not more than 2 flathead); flathead season closed Dec. 1, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019
<b>Whitefish</b> For other species see table on page 66.		No limit

#### What is a dark house?

Any structure that is darkened to view fish under the ice. Holes in the ice are cut inside these structures so fish can be speared.

#### Do I need a license to spear from a dark house?

You need a dark house spearing license and an angling license if you are age 18 to 89. If you are 16 or 17 years old, you need an angling license but do not need a dark house spearing license.

#### When can I spear fish from a dark house?

From sunrise to sunset, November 15 to the last Sunday in February, except where not allowed. Check border waters regulations for each state or province if on border waters.

#### What methods can I use while spearing in a dark house?

- You can use spears.
- You also may take fish by angling or with a tip-up if you use only one line. All fish you catch must be immediately released or placed on the ice and not dangled in the water.
- You cannot use artificial lights to see or attract fish when spearing.
- You can use lighted decoy fish but any battery in the lighted decoy must not contain mercury.

#### What species of fish can I spear from a dark house?

Northern pike, catfish, whitefish and rough fish.

## **If more than one person is spearing in a dark house, how many fish can you spear?**

Party fishing does not apply to spearing. Each person can only spear their own fish.

## **Where can I spear fish in a dark house?**

Most inland waters. Only Baby Lake (Cass County) is closed to dark house spearing.

## **ICE ANGLING**

### **How many lines can I use through the ice?**

Two, except on designated trout lakes and streams you can only use one line.

### **How far away can I go from my lines?**

You must remain within sight of your line. If you're using a tip-up (a device with spooled line and a flag that pops up to indicate when a fish bites) you need to be within 200 feet.

### **Does ice fishing have any other regulations that differ from open water fishing besides the number of lines I can use?**

No, but anglers must follow all general and special regulations.

## **ICE SHELTERS**

### **What is a shelter?**

A fish house, dark house, or other structure that is set on the ice to provide shelter.

### **NEW—What is a portable shelter?**

A portable shelter is one that collapses, folds, or is disassembled for transportation. Portable shelters do not include trailer/campers with or without slide-outs.

### **Do I need a license for my fish house or dark house?**

- All shelters, except portable shelters, placed on the ice in inland waters need a shelter license.
- However, portable shelters in inland waters need a license if a person 1) leaves the portable shelter unattended any time between midnight and one hour before sunrise, or 2) is not within 200 feet of the portable shelter.
- The fish house license tag must be readily visible from the exterior of the shelter.
- A shelter license is not required on the border waters between Minnesota and Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- A shelter license is valid from March 1 through April 30 of the following year.

### **Do I need any kind of identification on my shelter?**

All shelters need identification, except portable shelters that are occupied. Occupying a shelter means staying within 200 feet of it. Identification means one of the following:

- Owner's name and address; owner's driver's license number; or owner's Minnesota DNR identification number.
- Identification must be readily visible from the exterior of the shelter with characters at least 2 inches high.

### **Where can I place my shelter?**

- Anywhere on Minnesota waters. Shelters must be no closer than 10 feet apart.
- In the BWCAW you can use a shelter but must remove it from the ice each night and each time you leave the BWCAW.

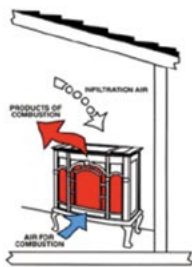
Continued on page 72

# HEAT YOUR FISH HOUSE - SAFELY!

The following types of heaters are recommended for heating fish houses:

## Vent Free Heater with Oxygen Depletion Sensor (ODS)

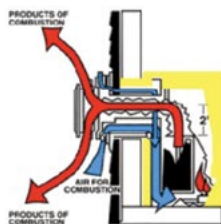
This heater usually uses infrared technology for the heating element. The ODS will shut off the heating unit if oxygen levels get low.



Vent-Free

## Direct Vent Heater - Direct Vent (DV)

This heater has a sealed combustion chamber and vent all combustion products through the sidewall and use combustion air from outside the fish house.



Direct Vent

## Conventional Vent Space Heater

This heater has a vent that goes up through the roof of a fish house and requires fresh air for combustion to be brought in from the outside.



Conventional Vent





Thousands of Minnesotans take to the ice for recreational fishing every year. However, annually sportsmen are needlessly injured or killed by improper use of heaters in fish houses. These injuries and deaths are often caused by carbon monoxide from unvented or poorly vented propane heaters. Used correctly, propane is a safe and effective fuel for home and recreational use.

## QUICK TIPS FOR FISHING HOUSE SAFETY



- **NEVER USE -sunflower type heaters are not recommended** for use in fish houses. Most are approved for outdoor use only and have no safety systems to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. **Use outdoors only!**
- **Only use heaters that are listed as or approved for indoor use in your fish house.**
- **Follow manufacturers' installation recommendations.**
- **Check all gas connections for leaks.**
- **Keep propane cylinders OUTSIDE.**



# HAPPY FISHING!

A message from the Minnesota Propane Association

[www.mnpropane.org](http://www.mnpropane.org)



Paid Advertisement

### Are there any regulations about shelter design?

- The door must open outward toward the outside.
- If you leave your shelter out overnight, you need at least 2 square inches of reflective material on each side.

### Are there different shelter regulations for border waters for adjacent states?

If you are on border waters between Minnesota and Wisconsin, Iowa or North and South Dakota, the regulations for the state that issues your fishing license apply for your shelter.

### Does the trailer I use to haul my fish house, fishing equipment or fish house on wheels need to be registered?

Yes. See your local Deputy Registrar for trailer registration.

### Can I use a fish shelter after the removal date?

Yes, but the fish shelter must be removed at the end of fishing. You can use it overnight, but it must be occupied between midnight and one hour before sunrise.

### What happens if I don't remove my shelter before the deadline?

The owners of the shelter will be prosecuted, and the structure and contents may be confiscated or destroyed by a conservation officer.

### Can I leave my shelter on a public access site after I take it off the ice?

No.

### What happens if I don't remove fish house blocking materials placed under a fish house to keep it from freezing to the ice surface or trash that was generated during ice fishing activities?

- Anglers are required to remove all litter or trash generated during ice fishing activities.
- Anglers can be issued a citation for littering or a civil citation for a solid waste violation or products left on the ice due to ice fishing activities.

## Shelter Removal Dates

All shelters must be off the ice no later than midnight for each of the dates given in the following categories below.

### Inland Waters

Dates of removal are determined by an east-west line formed by U.S. Highway 10, east along Highway 34 to Minnesota Highway 200, east along Highway 200 to U.S. Highway 2, and east along Highway 2 to the Minnesota–Wisconsin border.

### Border Waters

- Minnesota–Iowa, February 20
- Minnesota–Wisconsin, March 1
- Minnesota–North and South Dakota, March 5
- Minnesota–Canada, March 31





## A Message from DNR Conservation Officers

Each of us needs to take personal responsibility to prevent the spread of invasive species!

Minnesota law requires that all boaters and anglers:

- Clean plants and invasive species off all watercraft, trailers, and other water-related equipment.
- Drain water-related equipment, remove drain plugs and keep water-draining devices open while transporting.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- For the most complete and current infested waters list, visit [mndnr.gov/AIS](http://mndnr.gov/AIS).



## Aquatic Plant Permit Requirements

Water plants such as bulrushes are essential for lake ecosystems. They reduce wave erosion, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and purify water. Because lake plants can interfere with swimming and boating by lakeshore owners—but are also vital to lake health—the DNR allows removal under the following conditions.

**DNR permit is NOT required to cut or pull underwater plants as long as:**

- The area does not extend along more than 50 feet of your shoreline or one-half the length of your frontage, whichever is less;
- The total area is less than 2,500 square feet (except for boat channels); and
- The plants are immediately and permanently disposed of on high ground where they can't re-enter the water.

**DNR permit IS required to:**

- Remove emergent plants (such as bulrushes, cattails, and wild rice).
- Use herbicides or algicides in Minnesota lakes.
- Install or use an automated device such as the Cray WeedRoller®
- Remove water lilies (other than in a narrow channel extending to open water).
- Remove plants in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet.

A person who illegally destroys plants can be cited and made to pay for the restoration of those plants.

For more information, call your regional DNR office (page 87) or visit our website at [mndnr.gov/aboutdnr](http://mndnr.gov/aboutdnr).

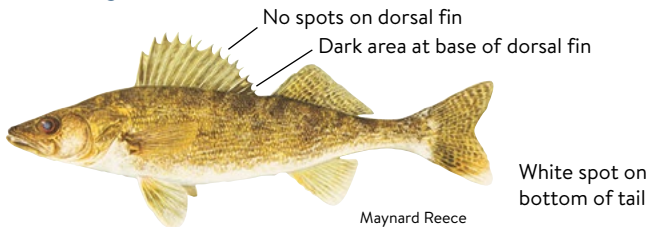


# ILLUSTRATED FISH OF MINNESOTA

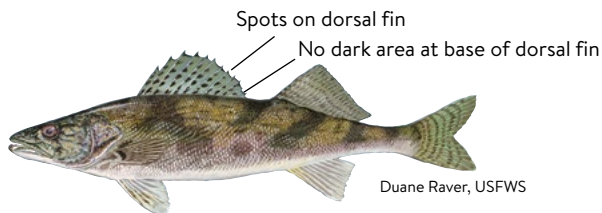
Knowing what fish species you are catching is not only fun, but in many cases it's required by law. It is particularly important to know how to distinguish walleye from sauger, to know the difference between northern pike and muskellunge, and to be able to tell what species of trout or salmon you catch.

## Walleye and Sauger

### Walleye



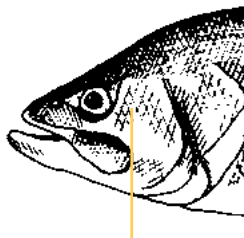
### Sauger



Walleye/sauger (saugeye) hybrid fillets are counted as part of a walleye possession limit during transportation.

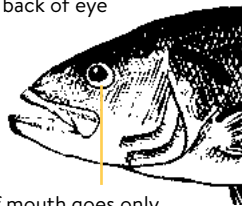
## Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

### Largemouth



Back of mouth goes way beyond back of eye

### Smallmouth



Back of mouth goes only to middle of eye

# Northern Pike and Muskellunge

## Muskellunge

### Clear



Paired fins having more pointed tips

Six or more pores on each side under jaw



### Spotted



Tail with pointed tips

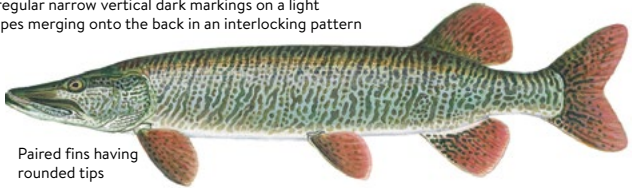
### Barred

Coloration with vertical dark markings on a light background (Juvenile pattern similar to that of adults)



## Tiger (hybrid) Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy* X *Esox lucius*)

Coloration having irregular narrow vertical dark markings on a light background with stripes merging onto the back in an interlocking pattern



Paired fins having rounded tips

Tail with rounded tips

## Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)

Coloration with pattern of horizontal rows of light round to oval spots on a dark background

Five or fewer pores on each side under jaw



Paired fins having more rounded tips



(Juvenile pattern has white, oblique bars which extend from the white belly)

Tail with more rounded tips

©1986 by Virg Beck

## Catfish

### Flathead Catfish



©MN DNR, C. Iverson

### Channel Catfish



©MN DNR, C. Iverson

# Trout and Salmon

## Rainbow Trout

Pinkish stripe on silvery body



Small black dots throughout the body that extend into tail

Duane Raver, USFWS

## Brown Trout

Large dark spots and red dots on brown body



Square tail

Duane Raver, USFWS

Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body

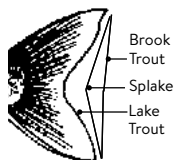
## Brook Trout

White leading edge on lower fins



Duane Raver, USFWS

To tell a brook from a splake from a lake trout, look at the tail:



## Lake Trout

White spots on grayish body



Forked tail

White leading edge on lower fins

©MN DNR, C. Iverson

## Steelhead (Rainbow Trout)

Inside mouth is white



Usually a pink stripe on silvery body

Small spots throughout tail

10 rays in anal fin

Joseph Tomelleri

## Chinook Salmon

Inside mouth is dark



Spots throughout tail

15-17 rays in anal fin

Joseph Tomelleri

## Coho Salmon

Inside mouth is gray



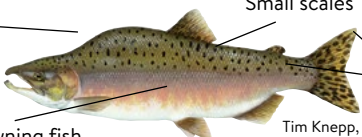
Spots in top half of tail only

13-15 rays in anal fin

Tim Knepp, USFWS

## Pink Salmon

Spawning male has hump on back.



Small scales

Some eye-sized spots in tail and on back

Green and white blotches on spawning fish

Tim Knepp, USFWS

## Rainbow Trout and Salmon Identification Guide

Rainbow trout:  
white mouth

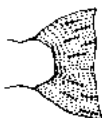
Coho salmon and  
Chinook salmon:  
grayish to black mouth



The shape of the anal fin is another way to identify these species. This can easily be seen by depressing the front edge of the anal fin to its base.



Rainbow trout: tail has  
many small spots in  
distinct rows.



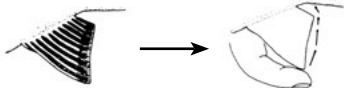
Coho salmon: tail has  
some large spots mostly  
on the upper half.



Chinook salmon: Tail has  
large spots throughout,  
especially in the silver  
area at the base of  
the tail.



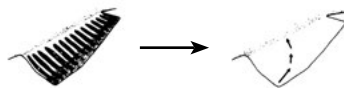
Rainbow trout: tip falls to or beyond end of base



Coho salmon: tip falls slightly past middle



Chinook salmon: tip falls short of middle



## Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler

Fish are sometimes injured when weighed. With this chart, you can quickly determine the approximate weight of your fish using a ruler or tape measure.

Crappie length (inches)	Crappie weight (lbs.)	Trout length (inches)	Trout weight (lbs.)	Bass length (inches)	Bass weight (lbs.)	Walleye length (inches)	Walleye weight (lbs.)	Northern length (inches)	Northern weight (lbs.)
8	0.3	8	0.2	12	1.0	14	1.0	24	3.2
9	0.4	9	0.3	13	1.3	15	1.2	25	3.6
10	0.6	10	0.4	14	1.7	16	1.5	26	4.0
11	0.8	11	0.6	15	2.1	17	1.8	27	4.6
12	1.1	12	0.8	16	2.5	18	2.2	28	5.2
13	1.4	13	0.9	17	3.0	19	2.5	29	5.8
14	1.8	14	1.1	18	3.6	20	3.0	30	6.4
15	2.2	15	1.4	19	4.2	21	3.5	31	7.1
16	2.7	16	1.6	20	5.0	22	4.1	32	7.8
17	3.3	17	1.8	21	5.7	23	4.7	33	8.6
		18	2.3	22	6.6	24	5.4	34	9.4
				23	7.6	27	7.8	35	10.3
						28	8.8	36	11.2
						29	9.8	37	12.2
								38	13.3
								39	14.4
								40	15.6
								41	16.8
								42	18.1

Sunfish length (inches)	Sunfish weight (lbs.)	Muskie length (inches)	Muskie weight (lbs.)
8	0.4	48	29
9	0.6	49	32
10	0.8	50	34
11	1.1	51	36
12	1.5	52	39
13	1.9	53	41
14	2.4	54	44
15	3.0	55	47
16	3.7	56	50

These figures are rough estimates only.  
Actual weights vary slightly by lake and stream.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov) for more information.

## Boat and Water Safety

Everyone on your boat needs to have an accessible, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vest of the proper size and type. In addition, if the boat is 16 feet or longer, there must also be an approved throwable device such as a boater's seat cushion or ring buoy.

Children under the age of ten must wear a life jacket on board any boat underway. Underway means not attached to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock. There are exceptions to the law for: children who are below the top deck, or in an enclosed cabin, or on a boat operated by a licensed captain, or on a boat that is anchored for the purpose of swimming or diving.

It's always a good idea to wear your life jacket. Most fatal boating mishaps occur when boats capsize or people fall overboard, especially on small boats. These types of accidents can happen even on calm waters, while traveling at slow speed or stopped.

For a complete summary of the boating regulations and safety information, contact the DNR Information Center for a copy of the Minnesota Boating Guide, or find it online. For rules pertaining to the use of motorboats within Wildlife Management Areas, refer to the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook or call the DNR.



**THAT'S  
a LIFE  
JACKET?**



**You  
BETCHA!**

**9 out of 10 boating deaths  
could be prevented  
by wearing a life jacket.**

## Aquatic Management Areas

The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife acquires land along lakes and streams to provide fishing opportunities and to protect critical fish habitat. These areas, known as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs), are posted with signs to indicate allowable uses. Each sign is marked with a letter to easily identify permitted activities. It is always unlawful to leave personal equipment, such as tree stands, unattended on AMA's.

## Catch-and-Release

Improved fishing technology and increasing fishing pressure have caused fishing quality to decline in many waters. Catch-and-release fishing offers anglers a way to enjoy their sport with less harm to the resource. Find more information online.

- Do not plan to release fish that have been on a stringer or in a livewell.
- Play and land the fish quickly.
- Don't angle for fish in very deep water, unless you plan to keep what you catch. Fizzing of fish, or the act of inserting a needle into a fish intended to deflate the gas bladder, caught from deep water can do more harm than good and is not legal.
- Handle the fish gently and keep it in the water as much as possible.
- Do not hold the fish by the eye sockets or gills, but rather by the lower lip or under the gill plate and also support the belly of the fish.
- Wet your hands before touching a fish to prevent removing its protective coating.
- If a hook is deeply embedded, cut the line so that at least 1 inch hangs out of the mouth. This helps the hook to lay flush when the fish takes in food.
- Circle hooks may help in reducing deeply hooked fish. They are made to hook fish in the mouth.
- A fish that can be legally kept should not be released if it is bleeding heavily, which indicates its chance of survival is poor.
- You cannot catch-and-release for a species during its closed season.

## Managing Minnesota's Fisheries

The DNR Fish and Wildlife Division is responsible for managing the state's diverse fisheries resources (5,400 fishable lakes and 15,000 miles of fishable streams). Each year, roughly 2 million people fish in Minnesota, and sport fishing generates approximately \$2.4 billion in direct expenditures, making angling one of the state's largest industries.

Much of Minnesota's fisheries program is reimbursed by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program (federal excise tax), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Master Angler Program

The Fishing Hall of Fame of Minnesota in partnership with DNR recognizes anglers who catch large fish of various species. Categories include adult, youth, and catch-and-release.

For more information on becoming a Master Angler, visit the DNR website or [fishinghalloffamemn.com](http://fishinghalloffamemn.com)

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Habitat Money Available. Funding for projects to restore, enhance, and protect Minnesota's fish, game, and wildlife habitat. See [mndnr.gov/cpl](http://mndnr.gov/cpl) for details.

# STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

## Catch-and-Release Length

### Why a record length program?

To track and record angler catches based on the measured total length of a fish rather than the certified weight, allowing anglers to preserve large fish by immediately releasing them.

### What fish are eligible?

Muskellunge, northern pike, lake sturgeon, and flathead catfish. These fish are large, typically targeted as trophies and commonly caught and released by anglers. Records are updated at the end of each calendar year. As of January 2018, the catch-and-release records are: muskellunge, 56  $\frac{7}{8}$ ", Pelican Lake (Otter Tail County); lake sturgeon, 70", Rainy River; flathead catfish, 53", St. Croix River (Washington County).

### How do I submit an application?

Complete rules and an application are available on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/recordfish](http://mndnr.gov/recordfish). Each application must include a photo of the fish being measured next to a ruler and be witnessed.

## You Can Help Protect and Improve Angling for Large Bluegill

In most of Minnesota's lakes, the average size of sunfish has decreased over the past 50 years. The two primary reasons are stunting and overharvest. Stunting happens when the number of sunfish is high, their food supply is low, and predators are few. Overharvest occurs when big sunfish are harvested faster than nature can replace them.

New sunfish regulations are being considered to protect and improve the size quality of the state's bluegill.

Anglers can take these steps now for better bluegill fishing in the future:

- Release (or keep fewer) large bluegills so they continue to grow and breed.
- Avoid fishing on sunfish nesting areas. Adult bluegills are especially vulnerable to anglers in spring because males build and protect nests in shallow and sandy areas.
- Protect bluegill habitat by maintaining native plants along the shoreline.





## Certified Weight

If you catch and keep a fish that you think could be a record weight, follow these steps:

- Take the fish to a DNR fisheries office for positive identification and a state record fish application.
- Weigh the fish on a state-certified scale (found at most bait shops and butcher shops), witnessed by two observers.
- Complete the application and send it along with a clear, full-length photo of your fish to the address listed on the form.
- DNR does not keep line class records.

The following is a complete list of Minnesota's state record certified weight fish and where they were caught. Weights given are in pounds and ounces (example: 55-5 is 55 pounds, 5 ounces). No additional species or hybrids are being considered for certified weight state record fish.

**Bass, Largemouth:** 8-15, Auburn Lake (Carver). **Bass, Rock:** 2-0, Osakis Lake (Todd); and 2-0, Lake Winnibigoshish (Cass). **Bass, Smallmouth:** 8-0, West Battle Lake (Otter Tail). **Bass, White:** 4-8, Vadnais Lake (Ramsey). **Bowfin:** 12-9, Mississippi River (Wabasha). **Buffalo, Bigmouth:** 41-11, Mississippi River (Goodhue). **Buffalo, Black:** 20-0, Minnesota River (Nicollet). **Buffalo, Smallmouth:** 20-0, Big Sandy (Aitkin). **Bullhead, Black:** 3-13, Reno Lake (Pope). **Bullhead, Brown:** 7-1, Shallow Lake (Itasca). **Bullhead, Yellow:** 3-10, Osakis Lake (Todd). **Burbot:** 19-10, Lake of the Woods (Lake of the Woods). **Carp, Common:** 55-5, Clearwater Lake (Wright). **Carp sucker, Quillback:** 7-4, Upper Red Lake (Beltrami). **Carp sucker, River:** 4-6, Minnesota River (Carver). **Catfish, Channel:** 38-0, Mississippi River (Hennepin). **Catfish, Flathead:** 70-0, St. Croix River (Washington). **Crappie, Black:** 5-0, Vermillion River (Dakota). **Crappie, White:** 3-15, Lake Constance (Wright). **Drum, Freshwater (Sheepshead):** 35-3, Mississippi River (Winona). **Eel, American:** 6-9, St. Croix River (Washington). **Gar, Longnose:** 16-12, St. Croix River (Washington). **Gar, Shortnose:** 5-4, Minnesota River (Renville). **Goldeye:** 2-13, Root River (Houston). **Hogsucker, Northern:** 1-15, Sunrise River (Chisago). **Mooneye:** 1-15, Minnesota River (Redwood). **Muskellunge:** 54-0, Lake Winnibigoshish (Itasca). **Muskellunge, Tiger:** 34-12, Lake Elmo (Washington). **Perch, Yellow:** 3-4, Lake Plantagenet (Hubbard). **Pike, Northern:** 45-12, Basswood Lake (Lake). **Redhorse, Golden:** 4-7, Root River (Fillmore). **Redhorse, Greater:** 12-11, Sauk River (Stearns). **Redhorse, River:** 12-10, Kettle River (Pine). **Redhorse, Shorthead:** 7-15, Rum River (Anoka). **Redhorse, Silver:** 9-15, Bigfork River (Koochiching). **Salmon, Atlantic:** 12-13, Baptism River (Lake). **Salmon, Chinook:** 33-4, Poplar River (Cook); and 33-4, Lake Superior (St. Louis). **Salmon, Coho:** 10-6, Lake Superior (Lake). **Salmon, Kokanee:** 2-15, Caribou Lake (Itasca). **Salmon, Pink:** 4-8, Cascade River (Cook). **Sauger:** 6-2, Mississippi River (Goodhue). **Sauger, Walleye-Sauger Hybrid:** 9-13, Mississippi River (Goodhue). **Sturgeon, Lake:** 94-4, Kettle River (Pine). **Sturgeon, Shovelnose:** 6-7, Mississippi River (Goodhue). **Sucker, Blue:** 14-3, Mississippi River (Wabasha). **Sucker, Longnose:** 3-10, Brule River (Cook). **Sucker, White:** 9-1, Big Fish Lake (Stearns). **Sunfish Bluegill:** 2-13, Alice Lake (Hubbard). **Sunfish, Green:** 1-4, North Arbor Lake (Hennepin). **Sunfish, Green Bluegill Hybrid:** 1-12, Zumbro River (Olmsted). **Sunfish, Pumpkinseed:** 1-5, Leech Lake (Cass). **Trout, Brook:** 6-5, Pigeon River (Cook). **Trout, Brown:** 16-12, Lake Superior (St. Louis). **Trout, Lake:** 43-8, Lake Superior (Cook). **Trout, Rainbow (Steelhead):** 16-6, Devil Track River (Cook). **Trout, Splake:** 13-5, Larson Lake (Itasca). **Trout, Tiger:** 2-9, Mill Creek (Olmsted). **Tullibee (Cisco):** 5-13, Sybil Lake (Otter Tail). **Walleye:** 17-8, Seagull River (Cook). **Warmouth:** 0-9, Bartlet Lake (Winona). **Whitefish, Lake:** 12-4, Leech Lake (Cass). **Whitefish, Menominee:** 2-7, Lake Superior (Cook).



# SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

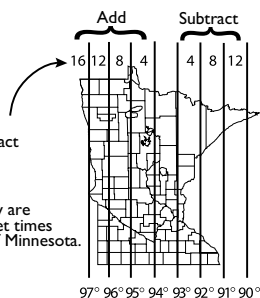
The following table is provided primarily for trout and salmon anglers who need to know the sunrise and sunset times on the waters they fish. Times shown are Central Daylight Saving Time beginning March 11, 2018 through November 3, 2018. Central Standard Time for all other dates.

## SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE—MARCH 2018 THOUGH AUGUST 2018

DATE	MAR. SUN-RISE	MAR. SUN-SET	APR. SUN-RISE	APR. SUN-SET	MAY. SUN-RISE	MAY. SUN-SET	JUNE SUN-RISE	JUNE SUN-SET	JULY SUN-RISE	JULY SUN-SET	AUG. SUN-RISE	AUG. SUN-SET
1	6:52	6:00	6:55	7:41	6:03	8:18	5:30	8:52	5:30	9:04	5:58	8:40
2	6:50	6:02	6:53	7:42	6:02	8:20	5:29	8:53	5:31	9:03	5:59	8:39
3	6:48	6:03	6:51	7:43	6:00	8:21	5:29	8:54	5:31	9:03	6:00	8:38
4	6:46	6:04	6:49	7:44	5:59	8:22	5:28	8:55	5:32	9:03	6:01	8:36
5	6:45	6:06	6:47	7:46	5:57	8:23	5:28	8:56	5:32	9:02	6:03	8:35
6	6:43	6:07	6:45	7:47	5:56	8:24	5:28	8:56	5:33	9:02	6:04	8:34
7	6:41	6:08	6:43	7:48	5:55	8:26	5:27	8:57	5:34	9:02	6:05	8:32
8	6:40	6:10	6:42	7:49	5:53	8:27	5:27	8:58	5:35	9:01	6:06	8:31
9	6:37	6:11	6:40	7:51	5:52	8:28	5:27	8:58	5:35	9:01	6:07	8:29
10	6:36	6:12	6:38	7:52	5:51	8:29	5:26	8:59	5:36	9:00	6:08	8:28
11	7:34	7:13	6:36	7:53	5:49	8:30	5:26	8:59	5:37	9:00	6:10	8:26
12	7:32	7:15	6:34	7:54	5:48	8:32	5:26	9:00	5:38	8:59	6:11	8:25
13	7:30	7:16	6:33	7:56	5:47	8:33	5:26	9:01	5:39	8:59	6:12	8:23
14	7:28	7:18	6:31	7:57	5:46	8:34	5:26	9:01	5:39	8:58	6:13	8:22
15	7:26	7:19	6:29	7:58	5:45	8:35	5:26	9:01	5:40	8:57	6:14	8:20
16	7:25	7:20	6:27	7:59	5:43	8:36	5:26	9:02	5:41	8:56	6:16	8:18
17	7:23	7:21	6:26	8:01	5:42	8:37	5:26	9:02	5:42	8:56	6:17	8:17
18	7:21	7:23	6:24	8:02	5:41	8:38	5:26	9:03	5:43	8:55	6:18	8:15
19	7:19	7:24	6:22	8:03	5:40	8:40	5:26	9:03	5:44	8:54	6:19	8:14
20	7:17	7:25	6:21	8:05	5:39	8:41	5:26	9:03	5:45	8:53	6:20	8:12
21	7:15	7:27	6:19	8:06	5:38	8:42	5:26	9:03	5:46	8:52	6:22	8:10
22	7:13	7:28	6:17	8:07	5:37	8:43	5:27	9:04	5:47	8:51	6:23	8:09
23	7:11	7:29	6:16	8:08	5:36	8:44	5:27	9:04	5:48	8:50	6:24	8:07
24	7:10	7:30	6:14	8:10	5:36	8:45	5:27	9:04	5:49	8:49	6:25	8:05
25	7:08	7:32	6:12	8:11	5:35	8:46	5:27	9:04	5:50	8:48	6:26	8:03
26	7:06	7:33	6:11	8:12	5:34	8:47	5:28	9:04	5:51	8:47	6:28	8:02
27	7:04	7:34	6:09	8:13	5:33	8:48	5:28	9:04	5:52	8:46	6:29	8:00
28	7:02	7:35	6:08	8:15	5:32	8:49	5:29	9:04	5:54	8:45	6:30	7:58
29	7:00	7:37	6:06	8:16	5:32	8:50	5:29	9:04	5:55	8:44	6:31	7:56
30	6:58	7:38	6:05	8:17	5:31	8:51	5:30	9:04	5:56	8:43	6:32	7:55
31	6:56	7:39			5:30	8:52			5:57	8:41	6:33	7:53

The times in the table below are for the longitudinal line running north and south through Minneapolis/St. Paul.

To find the sunrise or sunset hours on the water you fish, go to [mndnr.gov/sunrise-sunset/](http://mndnr.gov/sunrise-sunset/)



## SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE—SEPTEMBER 2018 THOUGH FEBRUARY 2019

DATE	SEPT. SUN-RISE	SEPT. SUN-SET	OCT. SUN-RISE	OCT. SUN-SET	NOV. SUN-RISE	NOV. SUN-SET	DEC. SUN-RISE	DEC. SUN-SET	JAN. SUN-RISE	JAN. SUN-SET	FEB. SUN-RISE	FEB. SUN-SET
1	6:35	7:51	7:11	6:54	7:51	6:02	7:31	4:33	7:52	4:42	7:33	5:21
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	7:51	6:01	7:32	4:33	7:52	4:43	7:32	5:22
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	7:54	5:59	7:33	4:33	7:52	4:44	7:31	5:24
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	6:55	4:58	7:34	4:32	7:52	4:45	7:30	5:25
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	6:57	4:57	7:35	4:32	7:51	4:46	7:29	5:27
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:55	7:36	4:32	7:51	4:47	7:27	5:28
7	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:43	6:59	4:54	7:37	4:32	7:51	4:48	7:26	5:29
8	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:41	7:01	4:53	7:38	4:32	7:51	4:49	7:25	5:31
9	6:44	7:36	7:21	6:40	7:02	4:51	7:39	4:32	7:51	4:50	7:23	5:32
10	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:04	4:50	7:40	4:32	7:50	4:52	7:22	5:34
11	6:47	7:32	7:23	6:36	7:05	4:49	7:41	4:32	7:50	4:53	7:20	5:35
12	6:48	7:30	7:25	6:34	7:06	4:48	7:42	4:32	7:50	4:54	7:19	5:37
13	6:49	7:28	7:26	6:32	7:08	4:47	7:43	4:32	7:49	4:55	7:18	5:38
14	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46	7:44	4:32	7:49	4:56	7:16	5:39
15	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45	7:44	4:32	7:48	4:58	7:15	5:41
16	6:53	7:23	7:30	6:27	7:12	4:44	7:45	4:32	7:48	4:59	7:13	5:42
17	6:54	7:21	7:31	6:25	7:13	4:43	7:46	4:33	7:47	5:00	7:12	5:44
18	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42	7:46	4:33	7:46	5:01	7:10	5:45
19	6:56	7:17	7:34	6:22	7:16	4:41	7:47	4:33	7:46	5:03	7:08	5:46
20	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:20	7:17	4:40	7:48	4:34	7:45	5:04	7:07	5:48
21	6:59	7:13	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39	7:48	4:34	7:44	5:05	7:05	5:49
22	7:00	7:11	7:38	6:17	7:20	4:39	7:49	4:35	7:43	5:07	7:04	5:51
23	7:01	7:09	7:39	6:16	7:21	4:38	7:49	4:35	7:42	5:08	7:02	5:52
24	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37	7:50	4:36	7:42	5:10	7:00	5:53
25	7:03	7:06	7:42	6:12	7:24	4:36	7:50	4:37	7:41	5:11	6:59	5:55
26	7:05	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:25	4:36	7:50	4:37	7:40	5:12	6:57	5:56
27	7:06	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35	7:51	4:38	7:39	5:14	6:55	5:58
28	7:07	7:00	7:46	6:08	7:27	4:35	7:51	4:39	7:38	5:15	6:53	5:59
29	7:08	6:58	7:46	6:07	7:28	4:34	7:51	4:39	7:37	5:17		
30	7:09	6:56	7:48	6:05	7:30	4:34	7:51	4:40	7:36	5:18		
31			7:50	6:03			7:51	4:41	7:35	5:19		

# HEALTH ADVISORY AND FISH EATING GUIDELINES

Most fish are healthful to eat and fish are a great way to get low-fat protein, but any fish (store-bought or sport-caught) could have contaminants such as mercury and PCBs that can harm human health—especially children and fetuses. The Minnesota Department of Health lets people know how often fish can be safely eaten.

The guidelines on the following page are based on mercury measured in fish from lakes across the state. Guidelines for waters where fish have been tested are on the DNR website. For more information, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4911, toll-free at 800-657-3908 or visit [health.state.mn.us/fish](http://health.state.mn.us/fish)

## Tips for safe fish eating

- Eat smaller fish. Bigger fish have more contaminants.
- Eat more panfish (sunfish, crappies) and less fish that eat other fish (walleyes, northern pike, lake trout).
- Trim skin and fat, especially belly fat. Also, eat fewer fatty fish such as carp, catfish, and lake trout.

## Consejos para el consumo saludable de pescado

- Coma pescados más pequeños. Pescados grandes pueden contener más contaminantes.
- Coma más peces como Pomosios y Pez Sol y menos pescados que comen otros peces como Lucioperca, Lucio Norteño y Trucha de Lago.
- Remueva la piel y la grasa, especialmente la grasa alrededor de la barriga. También coma menos pescados que tienen más grasa como Bagre, Carpa y Trucha de lago.

## Tej yam qhia noj ntse kom txhob muaj teeb meem

- Yuav tsum noj cov ntse me. Cov ntse loj muaj ntau yam tsis huv. Txheem rau lawm lub cev lawm.
- Noj cov ntse pluav xws lis (xafiv = sunfish, kabpib = crappies) thiab yog cov ntse uas tom lwm yam ntse no ces noj kom tsawg xws lis (vaulais = walleyes, novtaw phaij = northern pike, lej rhauj = lake trout).
- Yim cov tawv thiab roj, qhov tseem ceeb tshaj yog cov roj tawm npluag plab. Tsis tag lis xwb yuav tsum noj cov ntse rog kom tsawg lis tsawg tau xws lis pamnais, ntse tuajkub, thiab (lej rhauj = lake trout).

## Vài lời nên chú ý khi ăn cá để được an toàn

- Nên ăn cá nhỏ. Cá lớn chứa nhiều chất ô nhiễm.
- Nên ăn loại cá nhỏ cỡ có thể chiên trong chảo như cá sunfish, sống ở hồ (lake trout).
- Bỏ không nên ăn da và mỡ cá, nhất là phần mỡ ở bụng cá. Mặt khác, nên ăn ít những loại cá có nhiều mỡ như cá chép, cá trê hoặc cá bông lau, và cá hồi sống ở hồ.

# CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES FOR FISH CAUGHT IN MINNESOTA

## Children and Women of Child-bearing Age:



- Sunfish
- Crappie
- Perch
- Bullhead

One meal per week  
Una comida por semana  
Ib as thiv, ib pluag  
Một tuần ăn một lần



- Walleye
- Northern
- All sizes of other species

One meal per month  
Una comida por mes  
Ib hli, ib pluag  
Một tuần ăn một lần



- Muskellunge

Do not eat  
No comer  
Tsis txhob noj hlos lis  
Không nên ăn

## Other Adults:



- Sunfish
- Crappie
- Perch
- Bullhead

Unrestricted  
No tiene restricciones  
Tsis txwv hlos lis  
Không hạn chế



- All sizes of other species

One meal per week  
Una comida por semana  
Ib as thiv, ib pluag  
Một tuần ăn một lần

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Licenses

DNR License Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4026  
Watercraft registration: 800-285-2000  
Phone license sales: 888-665-4236  
Internet sales: [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

## Lake Maps

Minnesota Bookstore  
660 Olive Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-297-3000 or 800-657-3757  
[minnesotasbookstore.com](http://minnesotasbookstore.com)

## Information on and Reporting Harmful Invasive Species

651-259-5100 or 888-646-6367

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

612-713-5360

## Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Permits and reservations are not under DNR jurisdiction. This is a national forest wilderness area. For information, contact:  
Superior National Forest 8901  
Grand Avenue Place Duluth,  
MN 55808 Information  
218-626-4300 Reservations  
877-444-6777 [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)

## Voyageurs National Park

218-283-6600

## Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

218-847-2641

## Conservation Officer

888-MINNDNR (888-646-6367)

Call the DNR Information Center for easy access to DNR information and to connect with a Conservation Officer.



## Turn in Poachers (TIP)

800-652-9093

If you witness a violation in progress or need to contact a Conservation Officer immediately, call the Turn in Poachers 24-hour hotline.



## **DNR Fisheries Headquarters and Offices**

TDD 651-296-5484 or MN toll free TDD 800-657-3929

### **Northwest Region**

Bemidji Headquarters  
218-308-2623

Baudette Area  
218-634-2522

Bemidji Area  
218-308-2339

Detroit Lakes Area  
218-846-8290

Fergus Falls Area  
218-739-7576 ext. 238

Glenwood Area  
320-634-7321

Park Rapids Area  
218-732-4153

Walker Area  
218-547-1683

### **Northeast Region**

Grand Rapids Headquarters  
218-328-8831

Aitkin Area  
218-429-3033

Brainerd Area  
218-203-4302

Duluth and  
Lake Superior Area  
218-302-3267

Finland Area  
218-353-8840

Grand Marais Area  
218-387-6021

Grand Rapids Area Office  
218-328-8836

International Falls  
Area Office  
218-286-5220

Tower Area  
218-300-7802

### **Central Region**

Central Headquarters  
651-259-5831

Hinckley Area  
320-384-7721

Lake City Area  
651-345-3365

Lanesboro Area  
507-467-2442

Little Falls Area  
320-616-2450 ext. 225

Metro East Area  
651-259-5831

Metro West Area  
952-496-4141

Sauk Rapids Area  
320-223-7878

### **South Region**

South Headquarters  
507-359-6047

Hutchinson Area  
320-234-2550

Ortonville Area  
320-839-2656

Spicer Area  
320-796-2161

Waterville Area  
507-362-4223

Windom Area  
507-831-2900 ext. 232

# LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK



Minnesota has some of the best outdoor opportunities in the country. Mother Nature gave us a uniquely diverse canvas, but world-class outdoor recreation exists because the state's anglers and hunters are passionate about the outdoors and support it with their time, commitment and dollars.

## License dollars create outdoor recreation opportunities

Your license dollars pay for fish and wildlife management, public land infrastructure maintenance and habitat management that DNR fish and wildlife staff perform across Minnesota.

Their work creates some of the nation's most sought-after outdoor experiences. You'll find them fishing or boating on one of Minnesota's 5,500 fishing lakes, paddling or wading its 16,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams or a foot in field or forest at one of its 1,500+ Wildlife Management Areas.

Visit [mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork](http://mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork) to discover how the biologists who staff area fisheries and wildlife offices across Minnesota use their knowledge and expertise to manage fish, wildlife and habitat for the benefit of 1.5 million anglers, 580,000 hunters and 1.6 million bird and wildlife watchers.

## HOW DNR SPENDS A LICENSE DOLLAR



- Fisheries - 35 cents
- Wildlife - 35 cents
- Conservation officers - 23 cents
- Clean water - 4 cents
- Boat ramps and accesses - 2 cents
- Sustainable forests - 1 cent

## Lottery and legacy dollars off limits

Minnesota State Lottery and Legacy Amendment dollars are not available for basic year-to-year fish and wildlife management or conservation officer funding. Those dollars can only be used for specifically approved projects. Since state law prohibits lottery and legacy dollars from paying the regular costs of doing enforcement, fish, wildlife and habitat management and maintenance work across Minnesota, license fee dollars have to support the necessary and growing amount of work DNR staff must do to allow lottery and legacy funds to be put to use.

## Strict rules on spending; citizens oversee what's spent

Hunting and fishing license dollars are kept separate from other DNR funds in a dedicated state treasury account called the Game and Fish Fund. These dollars can only be used for fish, wildlife, law enforcement and certain other related activities.

State law requires that the Legislature allocate dollars from this special state fund to DNR for specific expenses detailed in a governor's budget request. DNR cannot access dollars from this fund without legislative authorization and gubernatorial approval.

As DNR spends these dollars, groups of citizens who serve on the fisheries, wildlife and budget oversight committees monitor why and how the DNR spends your license dollars on game, fish and habitat management and maintenance.

## License fees leverage more dollars for the outdoors

Maintaining an adequate flow of license dollars allows Minnesota to get more bang for its conservation buck. Federal excise taxes paid on certain types of outdoor gear and marine fuels are allocated to each state based on the number of people who buy hunting and fishing licenses and the geographic size of the state. Minnesota deposits its federal dollars into the Game and Fish Fund.

For every \$100 Minnesota spends on allowed game and fish expenses, the federal government reimburses \$75, effectively allowing DNR to spend three times more than it could if it only used money from license sales for fish, game and habitat management and maintenance.



## LEARN HOW YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS

- Improve fishing, hunting, wildlife and habitat.
- Maintain and create outdoor recreation opportunities.

[mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork](http://mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork)



# Eating Northern Pike? Y Not?

**Don't let fear of the Y-bones stop you from putting northern pike on your table!**

Pickled pike is a tasty northwoods treat! The Y-bones dissolve in acidic vinegar, so there's no need to remove them. Pickling is a great way to eat pike that are too small for filleting. Freeze pike for 48 hours before pickling to kill parasites.

To get the fish ready for the frying pan, you need a good, sharp fillet knife. Removing pike bones is not much different from filleting other fish species, but it takes an extra step or two to remove the Y-bones.

Search online for tutorials that demonstrate how to clean, fillet, and debone pike.

There are many tasty recipes for cooking pike. Try cooking outdoors over a fire, in the kitchen in a fry pan—wrap it, stuff it, or roll it in beaten eggs and cracker crumbs. The real secret is to eat smaller pike and cook the fish while it is fresh.



For an online video tutorial of how to remove the Y-bone and pike recipes visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website at: [gf.nd.gov/fishing/pike-info](http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/pike-info)





# WAIT 21 DAYS

You can protect Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species by leaving docks and lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before placing in another waterbody.

- ✓ **Clean** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, and other water-related equipment.
- ✓ **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving any water access or shoreland property.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.

[mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais)

**mn** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## CALL US New longer hours

M-F 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

888-MINNDNR



## TURN IN POACHERS

24-hour hotline, 800-652-9093



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St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157  
[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

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