



Minnesota DNR Fisheries

Brainerd Lakes Review

Edited by Carl Mills



Letter From the Editor

Due to an increasing workload and shortage of time, I plan on shortening these newsletters a bit. I will give you more information that is specific to the Brainerd area and less general topics. This will hopefully give you more information on lakes you are curious about. If I have time, I will definitely add stuff in future newsletters. Enjoy your winter!

Carl Mills
Brainerd Lakes Review Editor



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Lake Reclamation Update 2

Allen lake, the designated trout lake that we reclaimed in the fall of 2007, is now detoxified and ready to be stocked. It was stocked with brook trout and rainbow trout in late October. Due to our increased workload and other complicating factors, the Snowshoe Lake reclamation will be postponed until October 2009.



Muskies in Gull

It was decided that Gull Lake will not be turned into a muskellunge fishery. A proposal went forward to stock muskies into Gull Lake, however, strong public opposition and Gull's connection to other waters finally caused the proposal to be dropped.



Eurasian Watermilfoil Strikes Again

Eurasian watermilfoil was found in more lakes in Crow Wing County this year. Now Kimball and the Missions (Upper and Lower) are added to the list. Bodies of water that were already on the list included: Bay, Ossawinnamakee, Ruth, and Ripple River between Bay and Tame Fish Lakes. We need to help prevent any further spread of this and other invasive species. Steps you can take are:

- Remove visible plants and animals from your watercraft **before** leaving the access.

- Drain water from your boat, livewell, etc. **before** leaving the access.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash (never release).
- Spray, rinse, or dry boats before transporting to another water body. Spray/rinse with high-pressure and/or hot tap water (above 120°F) or dry for at least five days.

Another invasive species in our area is the zebra mussel, which has already invaded Lake Ossawinnamakee, Pine River (from the mouth of Pelican Brook to the Mississippi River), Pelican Brook, and the Mississippi River down to Little Falls (including Rice Reservoir in Brainerd and wetlands in the flood plain). Other lakes attached to the river and defined as infested are Black Bear, Boom, Little Rabbit, Half-Moon, Miller, and Pickerel. 🐟

adults to this popular winter outdoor activity. It is estimated that 30 percent of the annual fish harvest occurs in the winter.

While this should be a fun weekend, people need to remember to take safety precautions while enjoying this sport. Dress warm and make sure you have good boots. You're not trying to win a fashion contest, you are fishing. No one cares how goofy your hat looks. Don't forget things like a cell phone, sunscreen (yes, the sun is still out in the winter), snacks, drinking water, ice cleats, rescue claws, and a flotation device. Remember to bring all of your fishing gear and make sure you have fun! 🐟

More information on ice fishing is available at:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/ice_fishing/index.html

Ask Lori



Lori is our Fisheries and Wildlife Office and Administrative Specialist. This section will address some common questions she answers on a regular basis.

Q: For years the DNR has had Take a Kid Fishing Weekend in early June. Do they ever plan on having an Ice Fishing Weekend?

A: Interesting you should ask that. This winter Minnesota is having Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend from February 14 – 16 in 2009. During this weekend, anglers 18 and older do not need a license to fish if they are accompanied by a child younger than 16 and are actively participating in Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend. The idea behind this weekend is to introduce children and

Important Reminders

- Your 2008 fishing license is valid through April 30, 2009.
- Daily limit is the number of fish an angler can take in one day. Eating those fish or giving them away does not allow an angler to catch and possess additional fish in the same day.
- Dark houses, fish houses, and portable shelters do not need a license unless left unattended overnight.
- The Department of Public Safety now requires trailers used to haul fish houses or dark houses and enclosed trailers or recreational trailers used for fishing to be registered.