

North Shore Stream Fishing Report

Three creel clerks conduct the spring creel for rainbow trout on the Minnesota Shore of Lake Superior between early-April and late-May.

- Lower Shore clerk interviews anglers at the Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife
- Middle Shore clerk interviews anglers at the Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism
- Upper Shore clerk interviews anglers at the Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule.

**Fishing reports are updated on the web on Mondays and Fridays at
<http://mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries/lakesuperior/report.html> or
by calling our office at 218-525-0853 and selecting 1 for the updated fishing report**

Update 5/23/11:

From 5/20 through 5/22, water temperatures ranged from 54 to 58 on the Lower and Middle Shore, and were 53 to 55 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 1 Steelhead, 1 Brown Trout, and 1 Brook Trout on the Lower Shore, 2 Steelhead and 1 White Sucker on the Middle Shore, and 13 Steelhead, 2 Kamloops, and 8 Brook Trout on the Upper Shore. Fishing pressure was light on the Lower and Middle Shore. Steelhead will remain in Grand Marais area streams until flows decrease to summer base flows in early June. The Spring Creel is now over shorewide. The Knife Trap totals are 525 Steelhead and 29 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 841 Kamloops and 97 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are decreasing, but running with above average flows due to the rain on Sunday. Smelt spawning activity is over for the year.

Update 5/20/11:

From 5/16 through 5/19, water temperatures ranged from 50 to 62 on the Lower and Middle Shore, and were 48 to 55 on the Upper Shore. Fishing pressure was very light shorewide and no fish were reported caught by the few anglers interviewed. The Spring Creel will conclude on 5/23 shorewide. The Knife Trap totals are 442 Steelhead and 29 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 818 Kamloops and 95 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are decreasing and running with average, clear flows. If predicted rainfall happens this weekend, a small run of fish will likely occur in most streams shorewide. Smelt spawning activity is over for the year.

Update 5/16/11:

From 5/13 through 5/15, water temperatures ranged from 46 to 56 on the Lower and Middle Shore, and were 45 to 51 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 4 Steelhead, 3 Kamloops, and 1 Brown Trout on the Lower Shore, 13 Steelhead and 1 Kamloops on the Middle Shore, and 17 Steelhead, 2 Kamloops, and 4 Brook Trout on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 405 Steelhead and 29 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 815 Kamloops and 94 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are decreasing and running with average to above average, clear flows. Smelt spawning activity is over for the year.

Update 5/13/11:

From 5/9 through 5/12, water temperatures ranged from 52 to 58 on the Lower Shore, 48-52 on the Middle Shore, and were 45 to 57 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 5 Steelhead, 5 Kamloops, and 17 Suckers on the Lower Shore, 5 Steelhead, 5 Brook Trout, 1 Kamloops and 1 Sucker on the Middle Shore, and 6 Steelhead on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 396 Steelhead and 27 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 813 Kamloops and 93 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are still decreasing, but still running with above average clear flows. Smelt spawning activity is over for the year.

Update 5/9/11:

From 5/6 through 5/8, water temperatures ranged from 51 to 55 on the Lower Shore, 48-52 on the Middle Shore, and were 41 to 51 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 14 Steelhead, 17 Kamloops, 2 Brook Trout, and 26 Suckers on the Lower Shore, 17 Steelhead on the Middle Shore, and 4 Steelhead on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 378 Steelhead and 26 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 798 Kamloops and 91 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are decreasing, but still running with above average clear flows. Smelt spawning activity basically is over for the year.

Update 5/6/11:

From 5/2 through 5/5, water temperatures ranged from 35 to 45 in the morning and 46 to 47 in the afternoon on the Lower and Middle Shore, while they were 43 to 45 in the afternoon on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 11 Steelhead, 30 Kamloops, and 25 Suckers on the Lower Shore, 12 Steelhead, 2 Kamloops, and 1 Brook Trout on the Middle Shore, and 9 Steelhead, 1 Kamloops, and 4 Brook Trout on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 363 Steelhead and 21 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 704 Kamloops and 79 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide are decreasing, but running with above average clear flows. Smelt activity is winding down and will likely be done this week.

Update 5/2/11:

From 4/29 through 5/1, water temperatures ranged from 38 to 45 in the morning and 45 to 50 in the afternoon on the Lower and Middle Shore, while they were 38 to 39 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 16 Steelhead, 22 Kamloops, 1 Brook Trout, and 1 Coho on the Lower Shore, 34 Steelhead, 8 Kamloops, and 3 Brook Trout on the Middle Shore, and 13 Steelhead and 3 Kamloops on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 345 Steelhead and 20 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 640 Kamloops and 69 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide rose again on 4/30 with over an inch of rain and are still running high. Smelters success was limited this past weekend due to high flows and cold air and water temperatures. We expect smelt spawning activity to continue for the next week or so as long as water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight.

Update 4/29/11:

From 4/25 through 4/28, water temperatures ranged from 38 to 42 in the morning and 39 to 45 in the afternoon on the Lower and Middle Shore, while they were 38 to 39 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 13 Steelhead and 24 Kamloops on the Lower Shore, 13 Steelhead, 4 Kamloops, and 4 Brook Trout on the Middle Shore, and 5 Steelhead on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 299 Steelhead and 16 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 579 Kamloops and 58 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide rose again on 4/27 and have stayed high. Smelters had success on Monday night on the Lower Shore streams and along Park Point, but air and water temperatures have since cooled down. We expect smelt spawning activity to continue for the next week or so as long as water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight.

Update 4/25/11:

From 4/22 through 4/24, water temperatures ranged from 37 to 41 in the morning and 39 to 45 in the afternoon on the Lower and Middle Shore, while they were 35 to 40 on the Upper Shore. Interviewed anglers caught 34 Steelhead and 31 Kamloops on the Lower Shore, 19 Steelhead and 3 Kamloops on the Middle Shore, and 5 Steelhead and 3 Kamloops on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 247 Steelhead and 9 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 424 Kamloops and 38 Steelhead. Stream flows shorewide rose on 4/23 and are now decreasing but running high and clear. Smelters started having success this past weekend on the Lower Shore streams and along Park Point. We expect smelt spawning activity to continue for the next week or so as long as water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight.

Update 4/21/11

From 4/18 through 4/21, water temperatures ranged from 34 to 40 on the Lower and Middle Shore, while they were 33 to 35 on the Upper Shore. From 4/18 through 4/21, interviewed anglers caught 37 Steelhead and 14 Kamloops on the Lower Shore, 58 Steelhead and 18 Kamloops on the Middle Shore, and 2 Steelhead on the Upper Shore. The Knife Trap totals are 134 Steelhead and 7 Kamloops, while French River Trap totals are 257 Kamloops and 20 Steelhead. Stream flows on the Lower and Middle Shore are decreasing and becoming clear, while flows on the Upper Shore are running high but clear. We do not expect the smelt run to begin until water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight for several days in a row, which will most likely not occur for a week or so.

Update 4/17/11:

From 4/15 through 4/17, water temperatures ranged from 33 to 35 in the morning and 40 to 42 in the afternoon on the Lower and Middle Shore. Water temperatures were 33 to 35 on Upper Shore tributaries. From 4/15 through 4/17, interviewed anglers caught 51 Steelhead and 33 Kamloops on the Lower Shore, 19 Steelhead and 9 Kamloops on the Middle Shore, and 3 Steelhead and 1 Kamloops on the Upper Shore. The Knife and French River Traps were opened in the morning on 4/18. Stream flows on the Lower and Middle Shore are decreasing and becoming clear, while flows on the Upper Shore are still running high but becoming clearer. We do not expect the smelt run to begin until water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight for several days in a row, which will most likely not occur for several weeks.

Update 4/14/11:

From 4/11 through 4/14, water temperatures ranged from 42-44 Tuesday and Wednesday and from 36-40 the rest of the days on the Lower Shore. Water temperatures on 4/14 on the Middle shore ranged from 36 to 40. From 4/11 through 4/14, interviewed anglers caught 20 Kamloops, 20 Steelhead, 3 Brook trout and 1 Coho and on the Lower Shore. Eight Kamloops were reported being caught on the Middle Shore on 4/14. The spring creel will begin on the Upper Shore on 4/16. The Knife and French River Traps will be opened on 4/18. Stream flows on the Lower Shore are decreasing and becoming clear, while flows on the Middle and Upper Shore are still running high with debris and ice chunks. The brief warm up on 4/12 and 4/13 resulted in a run of fish on Lower Shore streams, but nighttime air temperatures the rest of the week were below freezing and have slowed things down. Two to six inches of snow is predicted for this weekend, with night time air temperatures below freezing. We do not expect the smelt run to begin until water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight for several days in a row, which will most likely not occur for several weeks.

Update 4/11/11:

From 4/8 through 4/10, water temperatures ranged from 34-35 in the morning and 35-37 in the afternoon on the Lower Shore. From 4/8 through 4/10, interviewed anglers caught 16 Kamloops, 2 Steelhead, and 1 coho and on the Lower Shore. The spring creel will begin on the Middle Shore on 4/14 and on the Upper Shore on 4/16. The Knife and French River Traps will be opened to catch fish sometime in the next week depending on water temperatures and flows. Streams shorewide have high flows with a lot of debris and ice chunks, after the warm air temperatures on Saturday and rain on Sunday. We do not expect the smelt run to begin until water temperatures remain in the mid-40's overnight for several days in a row, which will most likely not occur for several weeks.

Update 4/7/11:

The spring creel on the lower shore will begin on Friday, April 8. The spring creel on the middle and upper shore will begin when conditions become appropriate. On Wednesday, April 6 we drove from the Lester River north to the Temperance River to assess stream conditions. Water temperatures from the Lester to the French were 35-36 degrees; from the Sucker to the Beaver were 34 degrees; and from the Baptism to the Temperance were 33 degrees. The stream channels downstream of the upstream barriers were 75% ice free from the Lester to the French; 50% ice free from the Sucker to the Beaver; and 25% ice free from the Baptism to the Temperance. Anglers stated they had caught either Kamloops or Steelhead along the lake shore adjacent to river mouths on five streams. The Lester River was the only stream anglers stated they had caught fish in the stream.

Update 3/25/11:

The spring creel will begin in early to mid-April, depending on in-stream water flows and temperatures. Typically when daytime water temperatures approach the 40 degree mark, fish start to move into tributaries. Peak movement typically occurs when nighttime temperatures remain over 40 degrees, allowing the water to also. Currently anglers are fishing from shore around the mouth of the French River with some success for Kamloops, on calm days. All tributaries remain frozen, although some on the Lower Shore have water flowing on top of the ice.