



Lake Superior Summer Creel Fishing Report

The Lake Superior summer creel survey has been conducted annually since 1969. The summer creel survey provides estimates of angling pressure, harvest, and catch rates along the North Shore of Lake Superior. The survey focuses mainly on Lake Trout, Chinook Salmon, and Coho Salmon.

Two creel clerks conduct the summer creel survey from the Memorial Day weekend through the first full weekend in October. The Lower Shore clerk interviews anglers from Duluth to Two Harbors, while the Upper Shore clerk interviews anglers from Twin Points to Hovland. Clerks follow pre-determined schedules to ensure that their data accurately represents all anglers' effort and catch on Lake Superior.

Fishing reports are updated on Thursdays at the Minnesota DNR's web page for the Lake Superior fisheries office. The web address is at <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/lakesuperior/2016-su-creel.pdf> . You may also call our office at 218-302-3293 and selecting 1 for the updated fishing report.

Update 10/6/2016:

The Lake Superior Lake Trout Fishing season and the Summer creel survey have ended. The Lake Trout season will reopen on December 1. To protect spawning Lake Trout, fishing is not allowed during October 6 through November 30 from boats, in an area near Duluth between the mouth of Chester Creek and the Duluth lighthouse. Otherwise, anglers may fish for salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Walleye in Lake Superior and in tributaries below posted boundaries. Most salmon are caught while trolling near shore in the upper 80 feet of the water surface. All unclipped Rainbow Trout must be released immediately. Biweekly fishing reports will begin again next spring when the tributaries open up and the Spring Creel survey commences. The Summer creel survey will begin on May 27 and weekly Summer fishing reports will begin on June 1.

Update 9/29/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was light throughout the Lower Shore area, mostly due to strong Northeast winds. Anglers continued to catch fish when they were able to get out. A few fish were bigger, including a 35 inch Lake Trout that weighed 15 pounds near Knife River and a 27.5 inch off the Two Harbors breakwall. As the water cooled, anglers began to venture toward the shore, either fishing shallower or fishing from shore. Gold casting spoons seem to be a good choice now, whether while trolling with a dipsy-diver or casting from shore. Kamloops may be moving into shore, and anglers have caught a steelhead now and again, including from the Two Harbors breakwall.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure was low this past week, due to lower catches and higher winds. Water surface temperature were still variable with areas of cold water shifting from day to day. Surface temperatures were 48 to 60 degrees along the upper shore in recent days and the temperatures are dropping. Fishing was slow, especially from Silver Bay and Twin Points, where a few and widely scattered Lake Trout were caught on deep structure. Anglers near Taconite Harbor and Grand



Marais caught a few widely scattered Lake Trout closer to shore. The Lake Trout varied in size, including mostly smaller fish near Silver Bay and Twin Points and larger fish near Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais. The Pink Salmon spawning run is nearing its end and the fish are mostly worn out and falling apart. The streams are high and cloudy, making it tough to see fish, but the population appears to have been fairly large this year.

Lake Trout fishing ends after the weekend, and the summer creel survey and weekly fishing reports will also end. In Lake Superior and in tributaries below posted boundaries, the fishing season remains open for salmon, Rainbow Trout, or Brown Trout. Most anglers who fish during the late season do best when fishing shallower and closer to shore. All unclipped Rainbow Trout, or steelhead, must be released immediately. Be sure to review the Minnesota DNR's fishing regulation booklet for other restrictions.

Update 9/22/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was light around the Knife River and Two Harbors areas and moderate near Duluth. Strong westerly winds blew the warm water offshore early in the week. Water temperatures dropped from 62 to 59 degrees near Duluth with a thermocline in the 55-foot range. Water temperatures near Knife River and Two Harbors were closer to the mid 50s. Strong East to Northeast winds may change the thermocline depth over the next few days. Overall, the catch rates were a little less than a fish per person. With the cooler water, anglers caught some bigger Chinook Salmon and Lake Trout, around 30 inches long, and also the normal size of 18-22 inch Lake Trout. Anglers caught a few Coho Salmon near Duluth, and a few steelhead that were 24-28 inches long. Anglers also picked up a few more siscowet than usual. For lure color, blue and purple seemed to be good for spoons and for flasher/fly rigs. Meat rigs took a few fish as well. A few anglers are venturing to the shoreline to fish for Kamloops also. Traffic on the Estuary remains fairly low.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure has been dropping off and is nearing low levels, and poor weather conditions have enhanced the decline. Offshore water temperatures were relatively stable, in the upper 50s to the low 60s, whereas nearshore temperatures were cooler and varied much more, from the upper 40s to almost 60 degrees. Anglers caught about a fish per trip. Anglers from Grand Marais, Taconite Harbor and Silver Bay report fair fishing for Lake Trout in the 5-15 pound range. Lake Trout are widely scattered in deeper nearshore waters. Anglers have reported steelhead of various sizes from most areas. Anglers caught a few small 2 pound Chinook Salmon near Grand Marais and Silver Bay, plus even smaller Coho Salmon from a couple of areas. In North Shore streams such as the Cascade, Poplar and Temperance Rivers, the water is moderately high and turbid from the recent rains. Pink Salmon are showing signs of stress and the run is past its peak.



Update 9/15/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was moderate throughout the lower shore area. Westerly winds pulled in cooler weather and cooler water, dropping the surface temperature to about 65 degrees and even cooler near shore, into the mid 50s. Anglers caught almost a fish each, mostly Lake Trout running 18-22 inches long with a few larger fish including a 33 inch fish weighing nearly 16 pounds and a 36 inch fish. Fish were caught on a variety of spoon colors and meat rigs, with no consistent color pattern. Anglers caught very few salmon, but did catch a Brown Trout once in a while, including a 25 inch fish far offshore. The Pink Salmon run appears to have begun, and the fish are bigger than usual, averaging well over a pound each. Anglers have mostly abandoned the Rice's Point access for now.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Upper shore anglers experienced a tough week with poor weather restricting opportunities on the lake. Windy conditions have been the norm this week keeping angler pressure mostly light. Water temperatures dropped into the mid 50s on average, but temperatures varied widely from the low 60s down to the upper 40s in places. Anglers continue to report Lake Trout that are widely scattered in near shore waters. While some larger Lake Trout have been caught, most fish were in the 2-6 pound range. Although salmon were scarce again throughout the upper shore area, anglers from Grand Marais did catch a few small Chinook Salmon in the 2-3 pound class and Silver Bay anglers caught a few Coho Salmon in the 3-4 pound range, Pink Salmon are present in fair numbers in most of the larger tributaries with the Baptism, Temperance and Cascade rivers drawing most of the attention from anglers.

Update 9/8/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was fairly low due to switching winds and thunderstorms. Much of the boat traffic near Duluth was from pleasure boaters. Fishing pressure was more consistent towards Two Harbors. Fish are beginning to hit prepared baits (i.e. meat) near Duluth, mostly offshore and down to 80-90 feet. Most of the Lake Trout averaged around 21 inches long and the biggest fish were about 27 inches long. Gold and orange seemed to be good colors. The clerk measured only one Coho Salmon this past week, but it was a nice 24.5 inches long and weighed 5 pounds. Anglers caught Chinook Salmon and steelhead, but only rarely, although one of the Chinooks was reported to be close to 18 pounds, a most memorable fish. Anglers caught more siscowet than usual. Estuary pressure was low, which is perhaps affected by the local road construction. Fishing success in the Estuary was low also.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure was moderate to heavy from Grand Marais, Taconite Harbor, and Silver Bay and lighter from Horseshoe Bay and Twin Points. Anglers in marinas have begun to pull out some boats as is usual following Labor Day. Weather conditions have been variable and at times limiting for lake boaters. Water temperatures remained warm, near 61-63 degrees offshore and only slightly cooler near shore. Anglers along the upper shore targeted Lake Trout as the size range of the fish has increased steadily; however catches have declined to a less than a fish per angler. The clerk measured fish up to 16 pounds and anglers reported catching fish over 20 pounds from most areas. A good percentage of the lake trout recorded were 4 to 8 pounds. The larger fish were widely scattered,



sometimes caught in deeper water down to 200 feet as is normal; however most fish were suspended and sometimes fairly close to the surface. Smaller Lake Trout, which had been rather abundant in shallow, nearshore water, seem to have dispersed and were difficult to catch, which explains the past week's lower catch rates. Anglers caught very few salmon in recent days and weeks, mostly 10-14 inch Coho Salmon, a few nicer 20-24 inch Coho Salmon, and a few 16-19 inch Pink Salmon. Chinook Salmon continue to be a rare report. Anglers continue to catch an occasional steelhead from all areas, mostly fish in the 24-26 inch range and mostly caught near the surface. Following substantial rain fall in recent days, Pink Salmon have begun to show up in tributaries, including in both the Brule and Cascade rivers.

Update 9/1/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure declined somewhat this past week as August is fading. Fishing was still good as anglers averaged a fish per hour. Surface temperatures remained near 70 degrees and most fish were caught 50-70 feet down while trolling spoons. Watermelon was a favorite color. Some anglers found Lake Trout near the bottom in about 50 feet of water near shore, and also near the bottom in 110-120 feet of water near Two Harbors. A couple of bigger fish, a 32.5 inch Chinook Salmon and a 31-inch Lake Trout, were caught miles offshore from Knife River at similar depths. Near shore, the water temperatures dropped a little, which allowed one Lake Trout to be caught from shore at McQuade. A smattering of anglers fished in the Estuary with not much success.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure was moderate to heavy from Grand Marais and Silver Bay and lighter from other areas. Water temperatures remain warm, in the mid 60s, but water near shore has cooled into the mid to upper 50s. Anglers caught a little over a fish per trip. The Lake Trout have been running about average in size with an occasional larger fish. Anglers from Silver Bay caught a few Coho Salmon in the 20-24 inch range and an occasional fish weighing near five pounds. Anglers from Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais caught few Coho Salmon. Chinook Salmon have been nearly nonexistent. Anglers from all accesses have caught fair numbers of Pink Salmon in the 17-20 inch range; Pink Salmon may outnumber all other salmon combined. A few steelhead were caught, mostly in the 20-28 inch range and mostly caught within fifty feet of the surface.

Update 8/25/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was moderate across most of the Lower Shore area, except for lower fishing levels from Rice's Point and the Lakehead Marina. Boat traffic for the Tall Ships festival was heavy, as expected. Rain and wind hindered fishing at times this past week, but fishing was still fairly good. Surface temperatures remained at about 70 degrees near Duluth. Lake Trout hit trolled spoons and flasher/fly combinations near the thermocline at about 40-60 feet and also near the bottom in 80-120 feet of water. The clerk measured a 38 inch, 18 lb 4 oz Laker that was caught on a spoon at a depth of 50 feet near Knife River. Pink and green seem to be good colors. A few salmon were caught far off shore. Fishing in the estuary was low and non-productive.



Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure has been heavy from Grand Marais and moderate from other accesses on the upper shore. Surface temperatures were warm again, generally in the low to mid 60s. Water was cooler, in the mid to upper 50s, near Taconite Harbor. Anglers continued to have fair success for Lake Trout with a few large fish weighing close to 20 pounds reported from most accesses. Anglers from Grand Marais fished closer to shore while trolling lures close to the bottom in 70-120 feet of water and catching Lake Trout in the 2-8 pound range. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points have reported scattered Lake Trout off shore and suspended over deep water. Very few salmon were reported from anywhere on the upper shore. Coho Salmon in the 19-22 inch range have been the most commonly reported but also a few nicer sized Chinook Salmon which were in the mid teens pound class were reported from Silver Bay, Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais. Anglers reported catching a few Pink Salmon in the 10-15 inch class, but the clerk identified most of these fish as small Coho Salmon. Anglers from Taconite Harbor, Grand Marais and Hovland caught 25-30 inch steelhead occasionally.

Update 8/18/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was moderate to heavy across most of the Lower Shore area, with the exception of lower fishing pressure from Rice's Point and the Lakehead Marina. Rice's Point has been busy with recreational boaters lately, as usual. Surface water temperatures have reversed again, warming to over 70 degrees near Duluth and into the mid-60s near Two Harbors. The thermocline moved downward as well and most fish were caught below 80 feet in up to 200 feet of water. Anglers who could fish that deep were relatively successful, catching a fish per angler on average. Most fish are still hitting spoons, but also dodger/fly or spinner combinations. Orange, pink, and chartreuse were some of the better colors. The Lake Trout averaged 18-22 inches long with a few larger fish of 32-34 fish also. Salmon fishing was still slow, especially for Chinook Salmon. A few anglers caught Walleyes along with the Lake Trout they were seeking. Near shore temperatures are warm enough for Walleyes too. Angling pressure in the estuary was light and success was low due in part to a massive mayfly hatch. Muskellunge anglers were somewhat successful at times. Be aware that the Tall Ships festival is in Duluth this weekend and boat traffic in the Estuary and near the Duluth entry is high.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure was moderate from most accesses. The water has warmed into the 64-68 degree range at the surface across the area. Water patterns were more stable and anglers were generally more successful this week. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points report good catches of Lake Trout that were 20-30 inches long and weighed 4-10 pounds. Most of the larger Lake Trout were suspended over deep water and generally within 100 feet of the surface and often very near the surface. Some anglers have been catching fish far off shore. Anglers at most accesses caught larger Lake Trout that weighed up to 20 pounds. Anglers from Grand Marais and Taconite Harbor caught larger fish that were generally scattered over deep water and smaller fish in shallower water near shore. At times great numbers of small Lake Trout can be found in very shallow and near-shore waters. Unlike Lake Trout, anglers had little to no success with salmon across the entire area. Anglers continued to catch a Steelhead here and there near various accesses and the fish were as large as 30 inches long.

Update 8/11/2016:



Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was heavy from the Charter Docks and McQuade Safe Harbor and light to moderate elsewhere. West and southwest winds pushed the warm surface layer offshore this week which moved the thermocline to within 15-20 feet of the surface. The water movement brought clearer water to the north shore. Surface temps were near 70° off McQuade and down to the mid-40s from Knife River to Two Harbors. Fishing success declined as anglers adapted to the change in thermocline and fish location. The Lake Trout averaged 18-22 inches long with a few larger fish of 27-32 inches, all released, and even a 36 inch fish that was caught while jigging in 110-120 feet of water out of Two Harbors. Most of the Lake Trout hit trolled spoons either in the thermocline or 80-90 feet down near the bottom; pink, purple, and green were generally good colors. The clerk saw only a couple of Coho Salmon this week, no Chinook Salmon, and heard of only one steelhead being caught. Pressure in the estuary was light to moderate. Shore-anglers accounted for most of the catch, including a few small Walleye and a Lake Sturgeon that was released. Minnows fished off the bottom did well in the estuary.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure was heavy at Grand Marais and moderate at other stations. Anglers experienced some tough fishing with few patterns and widely scattered fish. Surface water temperatures varied, with consistent water temps in the low 60s early on and then varying between 50 and 62 degrees recently. Lake Trout remain scattered and difficult to locate. Smaller Lake Trout in the 15-20 inch range were caught near shore, although most fish were still caught from deeper near shore waters in the 100-170 foot range and close to bottom. Larger fish were caught further from shore, with some anglers from Grand Marais, Taconite Harbor and Silver bay travelling far from shore and targeting Lake Trout in the 5-20 pound range in the top 50 feet over deep water. Fish up to 25 pounds were reported from Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais. Light numbers of Coho Salmon in the 20-23 inch class were caught at most stations. The fish were caught generally close to shore and in the top 50 feet of the water column. Pink Salmon catches have increased near Grand Marais with larger than usual sizes of 18-21 inches long and weights of about 2 pounds. Chinook Salmon remained scarce. Steelhead catches were scattered across most stations, fish were caught within 50 feet of the surface, and the fish were generally 24 to 28 inches long.

Update 8/4/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was moderate from the Charter Docks, McQuade Safe Harbor, and Two Harbors, and light elsewhere. Fishing has improved, anglers caught more than a fish each on average in the past week. The most successful anglers trolled on the bottom in 90-100 feet of water. Anglers also did well by trolling in the thermocline which was 60-80 feet down. The most productive method was trolling with spoons and sometimes with preserved baits, or "meat". Pink seems to be a good color, with "Two-Face" and "Pink Lady" being productive color patterns. The hotspot now appears to be near the pumping station, which is south of McQuade Safe Harbor. Lake Trout were 2-5 pounds each on average, with some 6-8 pound fish and a big 19 pounder. Anglers caught a few Coho Salmon which were over 4 pounds on average. The clerk heard of one 29 inch Chinook Salmon that was caught on a flasher/red Howie fly combination and released, also somewhere near the pumping station. One Coho Salmon and one 29-inch steelhead were caught while trolling spoons north of Two Harbors, and jigging picked up a few Lake Trout out of Two Harbors. Anglers also caught a few Walleye near the Duluth harbor, including one fish that was up to 28 inches long and one boat that caught 5 fish along the south shore. A few Siscowet are showing up, a couple of Northern Pike were caught in a harbor area, and a herring was caught on a



spoon off the breakwall in Two Harbors. Fishing on the breakwall has been slow. A few anglers fished the estuary this week, but only small Walleye and a few Smallmouth Bass were reported (all released).

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure has been moderate to heavy again this week. Anglers reported consistent surface water temperatures in the low to mid sixty degree range. Temperature breaks have been hard to find, which maybe created difficult fishing conditions in recent days. Anglers from Hovland to Taconite Harbor report that Lake Trout have been moving in and out of shallow, near-shore water in a consistent pattern in recent days. The fish were mostly 16-20 inches long. Anglers in the south end of the upper shore area struggled to find Lake Trout and the fish have been widely scattered, both by depth and distance from shore. Scattered fish benefit the novice or visiting anglers who can pick up a fish or two, however the scattered fish are detrimental to anglers who depend on consistently catching fish in specific areas and depths. A few Coho Salmon were caught throughout the upper shore area, mostly averaging 20-23 inches long and about three pounds. Coho salmon have generally been reported from fairly near shore waters and in the top one hundred feet of the water column, mostly nearer to the surface, and most easily caught in the early morning. A few steelhead continue to be caught throughout the upper shore area. The fish were usually 2-3 pounds but were up to 30 inches long and weighed up to 10 pounds. Anglers caught at least one Pink Salmon and a few 12-16 inch Brook Trout near Grand Marais. Very few Chinook Salmon were caught in the upper shore area, although a few 8-10 pound Chinooks were reported from Silver Bay, Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais.

Update 7/28/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Angler pressure was high from the Charter Docks, moderate from Two Harbors and Knife River, and light elsewhere. Between the severe storm and windy days anglers did have some success, averaging close to a fish per angler. Most fish were caught on the edges of the sediment plume 50-80 feet down trolling brightly colored (chartreuse) spoons and flasher & fly combos. The plume shifted with the wind during the week, even reaching as far as Knife River. Most Lake Trout were in the 18-25 inch range, with a couple nice fish over 30 inches reported. The clerk measured one Chinook Salmon that was at least 14.5 pounds. The speculation is that larger fish moved in with the warmer water. A few Coho Salmon were caught out of the Two Harbors and Stoney Point areas. A larger Coho of over 23 inches was caught at Two Harbors. Pressure on the estuary was light, and the only fish reported (all released) were caught during a Wednesday night walleye league event. Trolled crankbaits did well, as did nightcrawlers.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Angler pressure has been moderate to heavy from most stations when weather conditions have allowed. Upper shore anglers experienced some near shore cold water conditions following storms and strong northwest winds early in the reporting period. While near shore waters have recovered some warmth, many areas were in the low to mid forty degree range, especially further up the shore from Taconite Harbor and to Hovland. Surface waters were generally warmer further from shore, warming to the low to mid sixty degree range the further one travels from shore, and sometimes having to go a few miles out before warmer temperatures can be detected. Anglers report good fishing for Lake Trout from most stations, averaging about a fish per angler in the Upper Shore stations.



Many Lake Trout were in the 15-20 inch range as well as a few larger fish in the ten pound class. Lake trout have been generally scattered both in deep water and also near the surface in near shore waters. Anglers have reported fair numbers of Coho Salmon from most stations. Coho Salmon were 20-23 inches long and 2-3 pounds. Reports of Chinook Salmon reports remain low, although a few larger fish, up to eight pounds, have been reported. Anglers from all stations continue to report hard fighting steelhead in the 25-28 inch range with most of these fish hooked near the surface.

Update 7/21/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Wind and thunderstorms made fishing difficult some days for most anglers, but the charter captains remained busy. A thermocline has set up around 50-60 feet down, and most fish were caught near the thermocline in 100-130 feet of water. The sediment plume has persisted, reaching past Stony Point some days and causing surface temperatures to rise to around 65 degrees. Fish are no longer being caught near the surface. A couple of Coho Salmon were caught near Two Harbors, however the Upper shore returns indicate that most Cohos have moved further north. Most fish were caught on trolled spoons, with pink and green being two generally good colors. A few Lake Trout are hitting meat now, as well. The Chinook and Coho Salmon were of similar size (2 to 3 pounds). The clerk measured a 9 pound Lake Trout and heard about one 15 pound female Laker. Lake Trout stomachs usually contain smelt, herring, or both. Fishing on the Estuary was fairly quiet this past week, a trend that will probably continue for a while.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Weather conditions were sometimes rough this past week with some stormy weather keeping anglers close to ports. Angler pressure was moderate from most stations and somewhat lighter from Horseshoe Bay. Upper shore surface temperatures continued to warm during this reporting period, varying from the low fifties to over sixty degrees during warm afternoon hours. On Wednesday evening, surface water temps from Grand Marais were in the upper sixty degree range. Anglers have had good success for Lake Trout in the 17-24 inch class from most stations. Anglers from Twin Points and Silver Bay had better success for Lake Trout in deeper water with some anglers fishing far from shore where larger Lake Trout are generally more common. Anglers from Taconite Harbor, Grand Marais and Hovland report that Lake Trout have been regularly found in shallow and near shore waters and at times in great numbers. Anglers from Grand Marais report Lake Trout have been found swimming in schools in shallow and nearshore water and have been very easy to catch at times. These fish are generally smaller, in the 16-20 inch class. Larger fish are widely scattered in the water column with some caught in deep water and some caught close to the surface over deeper water. Many Lake Trout in the five to ten pound range were reported. Coho Salmon were caught from all stations with better catches from Twin Points, Silver Bay and Taconite Harbor and fewer fish reported from Grand Marais and Hovland. The Coho Salmon were mostly in the 20-23 inch range weighing 2-3 pounds. A few larger Cohos have been reported and the winner in the Silver Bay fishing tournament exceeded five pounds. Most reports of Coho Salmon have been near to shore and in the top fifty feet of the water column. Anglers caught very few Chinook Salmon, in fact the clerk personally checked none in the past week. Anglers caught more steelhead than average at all stations and some of the fish were large. Most steelhead were caught close to the surface and over deeper water.

Update 7/14/2016:



Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

The weather made fishing difficult most days, with thunderstorms and/or strong NE or SW winds and large waves making conditions dangerous at times. The surface water was blown back and forth quite a bit, with surface temps of 55-56 degrees off McQuade and around 51 degrees at Two Harbors. The temperature break seemed to be somewhere near Two Harbors and did hold some Coho Salmon and Lake Trout in the top 20 feet that hit dodger/fly combinations. The Lake Trout were 1.5 to 4 pounds, but the Coho Salmon were reaching 22 inches and near 3.5 pounds. Fishing pressure was also light on the estuary, with one Rock Bass and one Northern Pike reported.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Weather conditions were varied with some unpleasant conditions, including fog, stiff winds and some stormy conditions also. When they could get out, anglers from all stations reported that fishing continues to pick up for Lake Trout and salmon. Water surface temps warmed in earnest and many anglers reported surface temps in the mid to upper fifty degree range. With warmer surface water in place, anglers are now reporting better action trolling lures both near to the surface as well as down deep for all species. This shallow bite generally occurs when lake surface temps reach fifty degrees and is much awaited by local anglers and small boaters as trolling lures in shallow and near to shore waters can offer fast action and easy limits of Lake Trout. Grand Marais and Hovland area anglers reported that Lake Trout in the 17-20 inch range were found in good numbers in near shore and shallow waters. Fair numbers of both Coho and Chinook Salmon have been reported from most stations with slightly better reports from Twin Points and Silver Bay. Coho Salmon have been reported in the 19-23 inch class and Chinook Salmon of up to nine pounds were reported. Anglers from all stations continue to report steelhead of varied sizes and especially from Grand Marais where reports of steelhead seem most common.

Update 7/7/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Lower winds and warm weather finally gave anglers a break this week, and coupled with a sediment plume from recent rains, allowed the surface to reach 67° off McQuade by the Fourth of July. Fishing pressure was high from the Charter docks and from Two Harbors, light from Rice's Point, and moderate elsewhere. A mudline set up just west of Stony Point and anglers took advantage by catching a few Lake Trout there. A thermocline seemed to be setting up around 50-60 feet down off of McQuade, with temperatures in the mid-40s at that depth. The major surface temperature break was somewhere between Stony Point and Two Harbors. Early in the past week a westerly wind pushed warm water away from shore and anglers caught some Lake Trout on stickbaits close to shore. After the warm water set up most Lake Trout were 50-70 feet down, although some were as deep as 100-120 feet on the bottom. Most of the Lake Trout in the Lower Shore were in the 1-5 pound range, but fish of 9-15 pounds were also caught. A few Coho Salmon were caught, mostly in the 20-22 inch range with a fish topping 3 pounds too. Chinook Salmon and Steelhead were also caught, but in low numbers. Anglers ran more flasher/fly combos as well as stickbaits and spoons. Pink/purple combination seemed to work well, although green and orange both caught a few fish. Anglers reported schools of Cohos feeding near the surface on small fish, and one Coho hit a small spoon behind a planer board. Fishing in the Estuary was pretty slow.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:



Upper shore anglers are beginning to experience better fishing as surface waters continue to warm. Fishing pressure was high at Grand Marais, Taconite Harbor and Silver Bay and lighter from Horseshoe Bay and Twin Points. Although surface temperatures were mostly below 45 degrees, after calm and warm days the surface waters increased into the 50s in places. Anglers caught most of their Lake Trout near the bottom in depths of 150 to 200 feet and the fish were generally 16 to 20 inches long. Anglers caught a few bigger fish that were suspended over deep water. Anglers also caught a few Coho Salmon, mostly in the 19 to 21 inch range and a few larger Cohos plus a few smaller Chinook Salmon of 2 to 4 pounds. One pink salmon was recorded from Taconite Harbor. Anglers continue to report a few steelhead from Taconite Harbor and more so from Grand Marais with most Steelhead caught fairly near to the surface.

Update 6/30/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

More strong winds and a thunderstorm over the weekend really put a damper on fishing pressure. Water temperatures near the Lester River increased to 52-55 degrees near the surface and 44-46 degrees at depths of 60-80 feet. Lake Trout were spread out, ranging from as deep as 70 feet in 120 feet of water to some that hit stickbaits near the surface. Salmon fishing was slow, with most fish hitting stickbaits near the surface. Lure color didn't seem to matter as much this past week. Anglers in the St. Louis Estuary caught a few Walleyes and a Musky or two here and there. A few boats fished in the Estuary rather than deal with the stronger winds on Lake Superior.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Fishing pressure remains mostly light throughout the upper shore, despite a noticeable uptick in fishing success. The water is still warming slowly, but this warming is only evident during calm and warm afternoons, which weren't common this week. Anglers caught a little over 1 Lake Trout per trip on average and anglers caught very few salmon. Anglers caught more fish in deep water, but also some fish that were suspended or even near the surface, particularly for larger Lake Trout. The fish ranged from 16 to 28 inches long and weighed up to eight pounds. Anglers from Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais have reported that fair numbers of steelhead have been caught in open water, along with a few larger fish up to 28 inches.

Update 6/23/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Gusty winds and a few thunderstorms kept smaller boats off the lake on some days. Water temperatures near McQuade increased to around 47°. Coho Salmon appear to be less abundant than last year and the numbers of Chinook Salmon are not high either. Fishing for Lake Trout has been fair, averaging about ¾ fish per angler. Most of the Lake Trout were in the 18-24 inch range, however a few anglers released some 13-18 pound Lake Trout that were over 40 inches long. These bigger fish were 150-170 feet down in as deep as 350 feet of water. Green and purple stickbaits were popular for Cohos and Lake Trout that hit in the top 20 feet, although anglers and charter captains are seeing insects in fish stomachs and some Cohos were caught on flasher/fly combos. Pink with black dots also caught a few Lake Trout. The Cohos are as large as 22 inches. Last week's heavy rains and then heavy west and northeast winds really moved the water around and the break wasn't very predictable this week.



Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Fishing pressure remains mostly light throughout the upper shore. The water is warming into the lower 40 degree range, but slowly, and fishing success has been slow to improve also. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points report the Lake Trout remain deep in the 170-220 foot range while anglers from Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais report that the Lake Trout have been caught from somewhat shallower water in the 90-150 foot range. The fish averaged 16-21 inches long and anglers report that some fish can generally be found close to bottom. Shore anglers have reported catching a few Lake Trout in the 2-4 pound range from river mouths of larger tributaries such as the Baptism and Brule rivers. Anglers have reported virtually no salmon yet being caught from any upper shore station.

Update 6/16/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Fishing pressure was moderate from the Duluth harbor area and light to the north. Gusty winds and a few thunderstorms kept smaller boats off the lake at times. The weather stirred up the water and shut down the salmon fishing. Near Duluth, anglers caught a decent number of Lake Trout, mostly in the 18-24 inch range. The color choices expanded a bit, to include not just Pink but also Watermelon and Wonderbread stickbaits. Most of the fishing occurred near the temperature break between the pumphouse and McQuade safe harbor. Anglers in St. Louis Harbor caught some fish too, a mix of Walleye, Northern Pike, and Muskellunge.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

Fishing pressure was light this past week again, due to winds, fog, and rain at times and also due to cold waters of 37-40 degrees. The only viable game in the area remains the deep water action for Lake Trout in depths of 150-200 feet, near the bottom or near submerged structure in deep water. The salmon have been sparse, mostly in 70-110 feet of water. A few 2-7 pound Chinook have been caught. Recent rains have raised the stream levels in the area and a few steelhead remained to spawn in smaller tributaries.

Update 6/9/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Fishing pressure was moderate from the Charter Docks and light elsewhere. North to Northwest winds blew the warm water toward Wisconsin over the weekend, although waters near Duluth remained in the high 40s. Angler success was spotty, especially near Duluth. Fishing from McQuade to Two Harbors was better, with anglers averaging nearly a fish per trip. Coho and Chinook Salmon are beginning to bite in the warmer waters near the surface. Lake Trout (Lakers) were caught in a wide range of depths, with some within 20 feet of the surface and some scattered down to 160 feet. The Lakers ranged to over 11 pounds, the Chinooks to 9.75 pounds, and the Cohos to 22 inches long. The best lure color was pink, sometimes with orange and purple. Most anglers are still trolling. The St. Louis Estuary produced a mix of Walleyes, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, and Black Crappies.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:



Fishing was light this past week, as the lake remains cold in this area and winds or thunderstorms created hazardous boating conditions at times. Surface temperatures were in the 37-40 degree range. Anglers caught Lakers while trolling or vertically jigging near the bottom and near structure such as drop-offs and humps in 140-200 feet of water. The fish were in the 17-20 inch range on average. Anglers also caught a few small Chinooks in the 19-21 inch class near Silver Bay.

Update 6/2/2016:

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors:

Lake Superior fishing began prior to Memorial Day weekend for a few Charter captains and sometimes a few dozen other boaters. Water temperatures had warmed above 50 degrees at times before Memorial Day. On the weekend the water warmed into the low 50s near Duluth and around 40 degrees from McQuade to Knife River. Beginning on Memorial Day weekend, fishing pressure was moderate near Duluth and light near Two Harbors. Anglers caught moderate numbers of Lake Trout, a few Coho Salmon, and a Chinook Salmon once in a while. Many fish were caught in the top 20 feet of water, often with blue, pink, or purple spoons or stickbaits. Most of the Cohos were 17 to 20 inches long, as were most of the Lake Trout with a couple as large as 27 inches long.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland:

The fishing season started slowly, as usual. Fog and sometimes wind interfered with boaters' travels. Water temperatures were in the mid to upper 30s. In the area from Silver Bay to Grand Marais, Lake Trout were holding near the bottom in deep water of 150-200 feet. The fish were generally 1 to 4 pounds. Shore anglers near Grand Marais caught a few Brook Trout in the 10-16 inch range. Enough rain fell in the area to raise the tributary water levels, which led to some steelhead in tributaries for the few anglers who still pursued them. Overall, fishing was slow and sparse along the upper shore.