

Changes made to the 2006 Lake Superior Management Plan From the December 2005 Draft Plan

A summary of specific changes/additions made to the final plan based on public input and discussions within the Department of Natural Resources of the draft plan that was distributed for review and comment in December 2005.

Added to beginning of Plan:

- Executive Summary
- Preface
- List of Lake Superior Advisory Group Members and MNDNR North Shore Management Group Members

Chapter 1 – Introduction

- Updated Citizen Participation section.

Chapter 2 - Community Interactions

- Added Invasive Species, and Global Climate Change sections, which briefly discuss relationships to Lake Superior fish community.

Chapter 3 - Habitat

- Modified goal/objective to reflect habitat rehabilitation and enhancement work.
- Listed numerous habitat projects that we are presently involved with and will continue to be involved with.
- Expanded the discussion of contaminants in Lake Superior and specifically described concerns with lead in tributary streams.
- Added discussion on MPCA impaired waters initiative in Lake Superior watershed.
- Added recommendations that addressed specific techniques to enhance watersheds and water quality, potential for lead contamination from fishing tackle in selected areas, use of the MPCA impaired waters list to assist with stream prioritization in Lake Superior watershed, and work with other agencies to provide specific aquatic habitat sections in forest stewardship plans.

Chapter 4 – Prey

- Added that when the current operator discontinues fishing for rainbow smelt, re-evaluate if re-licensing should occur.
- Added the need to conduct a fall acoustic survey to determine if fish surveyed during the summer in Minnesota waters represented the fish that spawn along the Minnesota shoreline in the fall.

Chapter 5 - Lake trout

- Change angling regulation– Removed the proposed regulation to allow 3 lake trout, with only 1 over 25 inches and kept current regulation. Added criteria to implement

sport harvest restrictions if total mortality increases to unsafe levels. Added discussion about voluntary release of lake trout greater than 25 inches by sport anglers.

- Removed the proposal to implement an experimental assessment fishery in MN3, allowing harvest of 3,000 lake trout to determine if a limited commercial fishery would be feasible.
- Removed discussion about potential expansion of assessment fishery in MN-2 if fishery in MN-3 was found to be feasible.
 - The department recognizes the century-old traditions of commercial fishing on Lake Superior and that the population of lake trout in MN-3 could biologically sustain the proposed increase in harvest. However, based on the recently proposed budget cuts in sea lamprey control, the highly productive sport fishery, and the statewide philosophy of curtailing commercial netting for game fish, the department has decided at this time not to implement the proposed expansion of lake trout assessment netting in Minnesota's portion of Lake Superior.

Chapter 8 - Pink Salmon

Added chapter to describe status and role in Lake Superior fish community.

Chapter 9 - Rainbow Trout

- Multiple additions, changes and updates:
 - Added redistribute some Kamloops stocking from French and Lester Rivers to McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River area.
 - Added plans to meet with Rainbow trout focus group in winter of 2007 to determine future of Knife River smolt stocking program.
 - Included results from a recent study conducted by University of Minnesota researchers on the genetic impacts of hatchery-reared smolts.
 - Added the need to investigate interactions between stocked steelhead and resident brook trout; and displacement of wild steelhead by hatchery-reared steelhead.
 - Numerous minor word changes and clarifications from the *2003 Rainbow Trout Management Plan for the Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior*.
- Set a target of 1,000 spawning fish by 2010 to objectives, may modify rehabilitation methods based on new information and discussions with Rainbow Trout Advisory Group.
- Discussed minor changes in sanctuary dates to simplify regulations and establishment of new sanctuary in small portion of Lester River.
- Modified objective dealing with cormorants on Knife Island to state: Monitor populations of cormorants on Knife Island and if deemed necessary, reduce their potential impact on emigrating steelhead.

Chapter 10 - Brook trout

- Added an objective to work with Grand Portage Band of Chippewa to monitor results of the various brook trout stocking strategies being implemented by the Band.

Along with the changes described above, many minor modifications and word changes were also made based on public comment.