

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Fish and Wildlife

DUAL NOTICE: Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules Without a Public Hearing Unless 25 or More Persons Request a Hearing, And Notice of Hearing If 25 or More Requests For Hearing Are Received

Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Aquatic Wildlife and Permits, *Minnesota Rules*, chapters 6212 and 6262

Proposed Repeal of Rules Governing Aquatic Wildlife, *Minnesota Rules*, parts 6212.1500 and 6212.1700

Introduction. The Department of Natural Resources intends to adopt rules without a public hearing following the procedures in the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, *Minnesota Rules*, parts 1400.2300 to 1400.2310, and the Administrative Procedure Act, *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.22 to 14.28. If, however, 25 or more persons submit a written request for a hearing on the rules by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2011, the Department will hold a public hearing starting at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2011, at the following locations:

In person: 6-South Conference Room, DNR Central Office, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4010; and

Video-conference: DNR Area Office, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

To find out whether the Department will adopt the rules without a hearing or if it will hold the hearing, you should contact the agency contact person or check online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input> on the Fisheries webpage under the Rulemaking topic after February 24, 2011, and before March 7, 2011.

Agency Contact Person. Submit any comments or questions on the rules or written requests for a public hearing to the agency contact person. The agency contact person is: Linda Erickson-Eastwood at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4020; telephone 651-259-5221; FAX 651-297-4916; Linda.Erickson-eastwood@state.mn.us. TTY users may call the Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-5484 or 800-657-3929.

Subject of Rules and Statutory Authority. The proposed rules cover a variety of areas pertaining to fish and aquatic wildlife including:

Licenses and Permits

- Changes to clarify conditions of scientific, exhibition, propagation and educational permits and reduce redundant language.

Fishing Regulations and Requirements

- Establish requirements for keeping fish carcasses when preparing a meal of fish while angling on the ice.
- Establish guidelines for what configurations and types of terminal fishing tackle are considered legal to use.
- Closing Lake Christina in Grant and Douglas Counties to taking and possession of fish to accommodate waterfowl management goals.

The proposed rules also repeal *Minnesota Rules*, parts 6212.1500 Scientific, exhibition,

propagation, and educational permits; and 6212.1700 Permits for Deer as Pets.

The statutory authority to adopt or repeal the rules is *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 84D.11; 84D.05; 84D.09; 84D.10; 84D.13; 86B.121; 97A.401; 97A.418; 97A.031; 97A.505; 97A.510; 97A.045, subd. 2; 97A.551; 97C.085; 97C.205; 97C.315; 97C.325 (d); 97C.001, subd. 3; 97C.005, subd 3; 97C.401, subd. 1; and 97C.345.

A copy of the proposed rules is published in the *State Register* and is attached to this notice as mailed. A free copy of the rules is available upon request from the agency contact person listed above.

Comments. You have until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2011, to submit written comment in support of or in opposition to the proposed rules or any part or subpart of the rules. Your comment must be in writing and received by the agency contact person by the due date. Comment is encouraged. Your comments should identify the portion of the proposed rules addressed, the reason for the comment, and any change proposed. You are encouraged to propose any change that you desire. You must also make any comments about the legality of the proposed rules during this comment period.

Request for a Hearing. In addition to submitting comments, you may also request that the Department hold a hearing on the rules. You must make your request for a public hearing in writing, which the agency contact person must receive by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2011. You must include your name and address in your written request. In addition, you must identify the portion of the proposed rules that you object to or state that you oppose the entire set of rules. Any request that does not comply with these requirements is not valid and the agency cannot count it when determining whether it must hold a public hearing. You are also encouraged to state the reason for the request and any changes you want made to the proposed rules.

Withdrawal of Requests. If 25 or more persons submit a valid written request for a hearing, the Department will hold a public hearing unless a sufficient number of persons withdraw their requests in writing. If enough requests for hearing are withdrawn to reduce the number below 25, the agency must give written notice of this to all persons who requested a hearing, explain the actions the agency took to effect the withdrawal, and ask for written comments on this action. If a public hearing is required, the agency will follow the procedures in *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.131 to 14.20.

Alternative Format/Accommodation. Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request or if you need an accommodation to make this hearing accessible, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Modifications. The Department may modify the proposed rules, either as a result of public comment or as a result of the rule hearing process. It must support modifications by data and views submitted to the agency or presented at the hearing. The adopted rules may not be substantially different than these proposed rules unless the Department follows the procedure under *Minnesota Rules*, part 1400.2110. If the proposed rules affect you in any way, the Department encourages you to participate in the rulemaking process.

Cancellation of Hearing. The Department will cancel the hearing scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2011, if the agency does not receive requests for a hearing from 25 or more persons. If you requested a public hearing, the agency will notify you before the scheduled hearing whether the hearing will be held. You may also call the agency contact person at 651-259-5221 after February 24, 2011, to find out whether the hearing will be held. On the scheduled day, you may check for whether the hearing will be held by calling 651-259-5221 or checking online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input> on the Fisheries webpage under the Rulemaking topic.

Notice of Hearing. If 25 or more persons submit valid written requests for a public hearing on the rules, the Department will hold a hearing following the procedures in *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.131 to 14.20. The Department will hold the hearing on the date and at the time and place listed above. The hearing will continue until all interested persons have been heard. Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger is assigned to conduct the hearing. Judge Heydinger can be reached at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64620, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, telephone 651-361-7838, and FAX 651-361-7936.

Hearing Procedure. If the Department holds a hearing, you and all interested or affected persons, including representatives of associations or other interested groups, will have an opportunity to participate. You may present your views either orally at the hearing or in writing at any time before the hearing record closes. All evidence presented should relate to the proposed rules. You may also submit written material to the Administrative Law Judge to be recorded in the hearing record for five working days after the public hearing ends. At the hearing the Administrative Law Judge may order that this five-day comment period is extended for a longer period but not more than 20 calendar days. Following the comment period, there is a five-working-day rebuttal period when the agency and any interested person may respond in writing to any new information submitted. No one may submit additional evidence during the five-day rebuttal period. The Office of Administrative Hearings must receive all comments and responses submitted to the Administrative Law Judge no later than 4:30 p.m. on the due date. All comments or responses received will be available for review at the Office of Administrative Hearings. This rule hearing procedure is governed by *Minnesota Rules*, parts 1400.2000 to 1400.2240, and *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.131 to 14.20. You may direct questions about the procedure to the Administrative Law Judge.

The agency requests that any person submitting written views or data to the Administrative Law Judge before the hearing or during the comment or rebuttal period also submit a copy of the written views or data to the agency contact person at the address stated above.

Statement of Need and Reasonableness. The statement of need and reasonableness summarizes the justification for the proposed rules, including a description of who will be affected by the proposed rules and an estimate of the probable cost of the proposed rules. It is now available from the agency contact person. You may review or obtain copies for the cost of reproduction by contacting the agency contact person. A copy of the statement of need and reasonableness is posted online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input> on the Fisheries page under the Rulemaking topic.

Lobbyist Registration. *Minnesota Statutes*, chapter 10A, requires each lobbyist to register with the State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. Ask any questions about

this requirement of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board at: Suite #190, Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, telephone 651-296-5148 or 800-657-3889.

Adoption Procedure if No Hearing. If no hearing is required, the agency may adopt the rules after the end of the comment period. The Department will submit the rules and supporting documents to the Office of Administrative Hearings for review for legality. You may ask to be notified of the date the rules are submitted to the office. If you want either to receive notice of this, to receive a copy of the adopted rules, or to register with the agency to receive notice of future rule proceedings, submit your request to the agency contact person listed above.

Adoption Procedure After a Hearing. If a hearing is held, after the close of the hearing record, the Administrative Law Judge will issue a report on the proposed rules. You may ask to be notified of the date that the Administrative Law Judge's report will become available, and can make this request at the hearing or in writing to the Administrative Law Judge. You may also ask to be notified of the date that the agency adopts the rules and the rules are filed with the Secretary of State by requesting this at the hearing or by writing to the agency contact person stated above.

Order. I order that the rulemaking hearing be held at the date, time, and location listed above.

January 10, 2011

/s/ Thomas Landwehr, Commissioner