

Commissioner's Order #2 ML 2024: Amend Mille Lacs Lake Walleye Fishing Regulations

Effective Date: December 1, 2024

Statutory authority: *Minnesota Statutes*, section 97C.005, subdivision 3

Supersedes: Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2024: Amend Walleye Regulations for Open Water Angling on Lake Mille Lacs as published in the August 12, 2024, State Register (49 SR 157)

BACKGROUND

Each year a harvestable surplus is set for walleye in Lake Mille Lacs by a joint management process between the state of Minnesota and the eight Ojibwe Bands signatory to the Treaty of 1837. The harvestable surplus is the pounds of fish that can be taken safely from Lake Mille Lacs while ensuring sufficient walleye remain in the lake for a healthy population. The harvestable surplus is then divided between the state of Minnesota and the eight Ojibwe Bands. The harvestable surplus for 2025 will not be determined until January 2025. However, based on 2024 fall fisheries surveys, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources anticipates that the 2025 harvestable surplus will allow for limited walleye harvest by state-licensed anglers during the winter 2024-2025 fishing season while not exceeding the state's share of the harvestable surplus. The winter 2024-2025 fishing season will commence December 1, 2024, and extend through February 23, 2025. This order establishes the walleye harvest restrictions that will be in effect for the winter 2024-2025 fishing season.

For all other species, the Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rule as published in the May 6, 2024, State Register (48 SR 1014) will remain in effect.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including *Minnesota Statutes*, section 97C.005, subdivision 3, that:

1. The winter angling season for walleye begins at 12:01 a.m. on December 1, 2024, and continues to 11:59 p.m. on February 23, 2025. While a person is on or angling in Lake Mille Lacs or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the daily and possession limit for walleye is two, provided:

- a. one of which may be over 28 inches in length; and
- b. all walleye less than 18 inches in length or greater than 20 inches but less than 28 inches in length must be returned immediately to the water.

2. Fishing for all other species and the existing regulations for all other species, continue unaffected by this order.

/s/ SARAH STROMMEN

Date: 11/07/2024

Sarah Strommen, Commissioner