

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

**Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2014,
Superseding Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:**

6264

LIFTING THE NIGHT FISHING BAN ON MILLE LACS LAKE

**PUBLISHED 07-21-2014
EFFECTIVE 07-21-2014
EXPIRES 02-21-2015**

Please see enclosure for text of this commissioner's order relating to night fishing on Mille Lacs Lake. This commissioner's order supersedes the night fishing ban language for Mille Lacs Lake in expedited emergency game and fish rules package that was published and effective on 04-21-2014. This commissioner's order is effective starting at 10:00 p.m. on 07-21-2014 through midnight on 02-22-2015.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2014: Lifting the Night Fishing Ban on Mille Lacs Lake

Date: July 21, 2014

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

Supersedes Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

Mille Lacs Lake Fishing as published in the April 21, 2014 *State Register*.

Chapter 6264.0400, subp. 4, item C for only that portion dealing with the taking of fish and possession of equipment whereby fish may be taken between 10 pm and 6 am.

BACKGROUND

- Mille Lacs Lake is governed under the terms of the Federal District Court which directed the State and the Indian bands to maintain exploitation rates of walleye at or below 24% and northern pike at or below threshold levels agreed upon based on best available data by the 1837 Fisheries Committee in the treaty area.
- Estimates of total kill are based on an angler creel survey that has high statistical precision. The sound biological data generated by the creel survey for current estimates of total kill indicate that Mille Lacs should stay below the State's allocation levels even with the night closure lifted if current harvest pressure stays at current levels. Consequently, there is no need to continue the restrictive regulations that close the taking of fish at night as published in the April 21, 2014 *State Register*.

Commissioner's Orders

- MS 97C.005, Subd 3 allows the possession of fish to be modified through a Commissioner's Order published in the *State Register*.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including but not limited to *Minnesota Statutes*, section 97C.005, subdivision 3, that

Equipment used to take fish may be possessed and fish may be taken and possessed on Mille Lacs Lake between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am starting at 10 pm on July 21, 2014 through midnight on Feb 22, 2015.

Dated: 14 July 2014

Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

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