

Commissioner's Order #2 ML 2017

Amend walleye limits to make adjustments to manage fisheries in the 1837 Ceded Territory (Mille Lacs)

Date: August 25, 2017

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

Supersedes: Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2017

BACKGROUND

Each year a harvestable surplus is set for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake by a joint management process between the state and the eight Chippewa Bands. The harvestable surplus is the pounds of fish that can safely be taken from Mille Lacs Lake while ensuring sufficient walleye remaining in the lake for a healthy population. The harvestable surplus is then divided between the state and the bands. The total safe harvest level for the 2017 fishing season (December 1, 2016, through November 30, 2017) was set at 64,000 pounds. The state's allocation was 44,800 pounds, with the bands receiving the balance. The State's conservation cap is 55,800 pounds.

To stay within its share of the harvestable surplus the state, by expedited emergency rule, commissioner's order and public notice closed the Mille Lacs walleye fishery to state angling for 33 days from July 7 through August 10, 2017. The Mille Lacs walleye fishery reopened to state angling at 12:01 AM on August 11, 2017, and will close again on September 5, 2017, at 12:01 AM. The state's creel report prepared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which estimates walleye harvests, releases, and mortality, showed higher than expected walleye kill in the state's fishery through the July 1-15, 2017, creel period. The state's creel showed that the state may reach the conservation cap prior to November 30, 2017. As a result, the state is legally required to adjust the 2017 Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rule for Mille Lacs Lake to comply with its agreement with the eight Chippewa Bands.

ORDER

Now, Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2017, signed on July 19, 2017, and published in the July 24, 2017, State Register (40 SR 1485), expires at 12:01 AM on September 5, 2017, after which the Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rule part 6264.0400, subp.4, again take effect subject to the following modifications:

1. During the day angling periods commencing on September 5, 2017, through November 30, 2017, artificial baits, lures, or live bait may be possessed and used by persons angling for species other than walleye from the shoreline or from a pier or dock connected to the shoreline.

Fishing for walleye is closed effective September 5, 2017, fishing for all other species, including muskellunge, northern pike, bass, perch, and panfish, and the existing regulations for all other species continue unaffected by this order.

August 25, 2017

/s/ TOM LANDWEHR
Tom Landwehr
Commissioner