

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

6264

MILLE LACS LAKE FISHING

PUBLISHED 04-23-2018

EFFECTIVE 04-23-2018

EXPIRES 10-23-2019 (18 months)

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to fishing on Mille Lacs Lake and its associated tributaries. Note that this rules package supersedes the Commissioner's Orders and Emergency Rules that were published and adopted in 2017.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Mille Lacs Lake Fishing**1.3 **6264.0400 DESIGNATED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT WATERS.**1.4 *[For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]*1.5 Subp. 4. **Mille Lacs Lake and associated tributaries special management**
1.6 **regulations.**1.7 A. The angling season for northern pike begins at 12:01 a.m. May 12, 2018, and
1.8 continues to 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2019. While a person is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake
1.9 or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the possession limit for northern pike
1.10 is five.1.11 (1) Until December 1, 2018:1.12 (a) only one northern pike in possession may be greater than 40 inches
1.13 in length;1.14 (b) all northern pike in possession must be less than 24 30 inches in
1.15 length or greater than 36 40 inches in length; and1.16 (c) all northern pike that are 24 30 to 36 40 inches in length, inclusive,
1.17 must be immediately returned to the water. A person's possession limit may not include
1.18 more than one northern pike over 36 inches in length.1.19 (2) Beginning December 1, 2018:1.20 (a) subitem (1) does not apply;1.21 (b) at least two northern pike 30 inches in length or less taken the same
1.22 day from Mille Lacs Lake must be in immediate possession before possessing a northern
1.23 pike greater than 30 inches in length; and

2.1 (c) only one northern pike in possession may be greater than 30 inches
2.2 in length.

2.3 B. ~~The possession limit for smallmouth bass is one.~~ Unless otherwise authorized
2.4 by special permits for fishing tournaments, the angling season for largemouth and smallmouth
2.5 bass begins at 12:01 a.m. on the Saturday two weeks before the Saturday of Memorial Day
2.6 weekend and continues to 11:59 p.m. on the last Sunday in February. All largemouth and
2.7 smallmouth bass caught from the beginning of the open season through the Friday before
2.8 Memorial Day weekend must be immediately returned to the water. The catch and release
2.9 season for smallmouth bass under part 6262.0200, subpart 1, item A, subitem (2), that begins
2.10 the second Monday in September and ends the last Sunday in February does not apply to
2.11 Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries. While a person is on
2.12 or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries;

2.13 (1) the possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in aggregate is
2.14 three. Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass in possession may be greater than 21 inches
2.15 in length. All largemouth and smallmouth bass in possession must be ~~21~~ less than 17 inches
2.16 or greater than 21 inches in length. All largemouth and smallmouth bass ~~less than~~ that are
2.17 17 to 21 inches in length, inclusive, must be immediately returned to the water; and

2.18 (2) a waiver of the size and possession restrictions for largemouth and
2.19 smallmouth bass under subitem (1) is permitted for a limited number of bass-fishing
2.20 tournaments each year as determined by the commissioner. When determining whether to
2.21 grant a waiver, the commissioner must consider:

2.22 (a) tournament size;

2.23 (b) expected participation; and

2.24 (c) potential to generate public interest and local economic activity.

3.1 C. Mille Lacs Lake is closed to ~~the taking of fish between the hours of 10 p.m.~~
3.2 ~~and 6 a.m. daily during the period commencing (night closure) beginning at 10 p.m. on the~~
3.3 ~~Monday following the Saturday two weeks prior to the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend~~
3.4 ~~May 14, 2018, and ending at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, four weeks after the date of~~
3.5 ~~commencement. During the closure, no person shall be on the waters of Mille Laes Lake~~
3.6 ~~while having in possession any equipment whereby fish may be taken. Spearing is prohibited~~
3.7 ~~from December 1 through April 30. A person may not have a spear in possession while on~~
3.8 ~~or fishing in Mille Laes Lake during this period. December 1, 2018, except as provided in~~
3.9 subitems (1) and (2).

3.10 (1) Beginning June 2 at 10:00 p.m. and subject to the bait restrictions under
3.11 item H, subitem (3), fishing for muskellunge and northern pike is allowed between 10:00
3.12 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Angling for, harvesting, and possessing species other than muskellunge
3.13 and northern pike during these hours are prohibited.

3.14 (2) Beginning June 2 at 10:00 p.m., bow fishing for rough fish is allowed
3.15 between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. No person shall have in possession any angling equipment
3.16 while bow fishing under this subitem. Angling for, harvesting, and possessing species other
3.17 than rough fish while bow fishing during these hours are prohibited.

3.18 *[For text of item D, see M.R.]*

3.19 E. The angling season for Northern cisco (tullibee) is year round. While a person
3.20 is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the
3.21 possession and daily limit for Northern cisco (tullibee) is ten fish.

3.22 F. The angling season for walleye begins at 12:01 a.m. May 12, 2018, and
3.23 continues to 11:59 p.m. February 24, 2019. Angling for walleye is limited to catch and
3.24 release only. Any walleye caught must be immediately returned to the water.

4.1 F. G. Fish that are taken by angling and not immediately released into the water
 4.2 after capture are considered to be in possession and part of the bag limit. Once a fish has
 4.3 been reduced to possession, culling or live-well sorting (the act of exchanging one fish for
 4.4 another) is not allowed-, except that culling or live-well sorting before meeting a bag limit
 4.5 of fish reduced to possession is allowed for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

4.6 H. The bait restrictions under this item apply while a person is on or fishing Mille
 4.7 Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries.

4.8 (1) There are no bait restrictions for angling before 9:59 p.m. May 14, 2018,
 4.9 and after November 30, 2018.

4.10 (2) There are no bait restrictions during the day-angling periods after May
 4.11 14, 2018, through November 30, 2018. The day-angling period extends from 6:00 a.m. to
 4.12 9:59 p.m. during any 24-hour period after May 14, 2018, through November 30, 2018.

4.13 (3) While a person is targeting muskellunge and northern pike during the
 4.14 night-angling period under item C, subitem (1), only artificial muskellunge and northern
 4.15 pike lures greater than eight inches in length, measured from the front of the eye of the lure
 4.16 to the end of the trailing hook, or sucker minnows greater than eight inches in length may
 4.17 be used or in possession. During the night-angling period, no person while angling may
 4.18 have in possession tackle or bait other than that specifically used for muskellunge or northern
 4.19 pike. The night-angling period extends from 10:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. during any 24-hour
 4.20 period beginning June 2, 2018, through November 30, 2018.

4.21 G. I. This subpart applies to the following waters.

	Name	Location	County
4.23 4.24	(1) Mille Lacs	T.42-45, R.25-28, S.Various	Aitkin, Mille Lacs
4.25	(2) Borden Creek	T.44, R.25, S.5	Aitkin

5.1	(3)	Seastade Creek	T.45, R.26, S.22	Aitkin
5.2	(4)	Marmon (Twenty)	T.45, R.25, S.32	Aitkin
5.3		Creek		
5.4	(5)	Grave Creek	T.45, R.25, S.8	Aitkin
5.5	(6)	Peterson Creek	T.43, R.25, S.5	Mille Lacs
5.6	(7)	Thains River	T.42, R.25, S.2	Mille Lacs
5.7		(Malone Creek)		
5.8	(8)	West Sucker Creek	T.42, R.25, S.18	Mille Lacs
5.9	(9)	South Sucker Creek	T.42, R.25, S.18	Mille Lacs
5.10	(10)	Garrison (Borden)	T.44, R.28, S.12	Crow Wing
5.11		Creek		
5.12	(11)	Seguchie Creek	T.44, R.28, S.36	Crow Wing
5.13	(12)	Reddy Creek	T.45, R.26, S.23	Aitkin
5.14	(13)	Whitefish Creek	T.43, R.27, S.7	Mille Lacs
5.15	(14)	Seventeen Creek	T.44, R.25, S.17,18,29	Aitkin
5.16	(15)	Cedar Creek	T.43, R.25, S.15	Mille Lacs
5.17	(16)	McCleans Creek	T.45, R.27, S.34	Aitkin
5.18	(17)	unnamed	T.43, R.25, S.8	Mille Lacs
5.19	(18)	unnamed	T.42, R.26, S.11	Mille Lacs
5.20	(19)	unnamed	T.42, R.26, S.22	Mille Lacs
5.21	(20)	unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.8	Mille Lacs
5.22	(21)	unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.6	Mille Lacs
5.23	(22)	unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.21	Mille Lacs
5.24	(23)	unnamed	T.44, R.27, S.31	Crow Wing
5.25	(24)	unnamed	T.44, R.28, S.36	Crow Wing
5.26	(25)	unnamed	T.44, R.27, S.4	Aitkin
5.27	(26)	unnamed	T.45, R.27, S.25	Aitkin
5.28	(27)	unnamed	T.44, R.25, S.29	Aitkin

- 6.1 (28) unnamed T.44, R.25, S.31,32 Aitkin
- 6.2 (29) unnamed T.44, R.28, S.24 Crow Wing
- 6.3 (30) unnamed T.44, R.28, S.13 Crow Wing
- 6.4 (31) Rum River Outlet T.43, R.27, S.33 Mille Lacs

6.5 [For text of subps 5 to 58, see M.R.]

6.6 [For text of subp 59, see 41 SR 1290]

6.7 [For text of subps 60 to 145, see M.R.]

6.8 **EFFECT OF RULE.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part
6.9 6264.0400, subpart 4, supersede the Commissioner's Order issued by the commissioner of
6.10 natural resources on December 1, 2017.

6.11 **REPEALER.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400,
6.12 subpart 4, published in the State Register, volume 41, page 1287, May 8, 2017, are repealed.