

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### Commissioner's Order #1 ML 2025

#### Amend Lake Mille Lacs Yellow Perch Fishing Regulations

**Date:** March 10, 2025

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

Modifies the daily and possession restrictions for yellow perch on Lake Mille Lacs from the statewide regulations in Minn. R. 6262.0200, subp. 1.N. under authority in Minn. R. 6264.0400, subp. 4.D.

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### BACKGROUND

Each year a harvestable surplus is set for yellow perch in Lake Mille Lacs by a joint management process between the state and the eight Ojibwe Bands that are signatories to the Treaty of 1837. The harvestable surplus is the pounds of fish that can be taken safely from Lake Mille Lacs while ensuring enough remain in the lake to sustain a healthy population. The state's share of the harvestable surplus of yellow perch for the 2025 season was set at 36,500 pounds. The state has a daily and possession limit of 20 yellow perch for state-licensed anglers on Lake Mille Lacs under Minn. R. 6262.0200, subp. 1.N.

Harvest of yellow perch by state-licensed anglers has not exceeded 7,000 pounds per year since 2013 under the statewide limit of 20 yellow perch. However, the 2021 and 2022 year classes for yellow perch were strong and those fish have now grown to sizes that anglers seek to harvest. With quality perch fishing on Lake Mille Lacs in the winter of 2024-25, more anglers are traveling to the lake to fish for yellow perch. The results of the creel survey period that

ended on February 23, 2025, revealed that the season-to-date harvest of yellow perch by state-licensed anglers was over 43,000 pounds, exceeding the state's agreed upon share of the yellow perch harvest.

The state is modifying the yellow perch angling regulation pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 97C.005, subd. 3. Beginning at 12:00 a.m. on March 11, 2025, the yellow perch daily and possession limit on Lake Mille Lacs will be five. This regulation will remain effective until 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2025.

For all other species, the Expedited Emergency Rule adopted on May 6, 2024, remains the same.

## ORDER

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including *Minnesota Statutes*, section 97C.005, subdivision 3, that, beginning at 12:00 a.m. on March 11, 2025, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2025, while a person is on or fishing in Lake Mille Lacs or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the daily and possession limit for yellow perch is five.

Fishing regulations for all other species on Lake Mille Lacs, including walleye, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, cisco, and panfish, are unaffected by this order.



March 4, 2025

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Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY CONTACT.** For additional information or to receive this document in an alternative format please contact: Bethany Bethke, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155, Phone: 651-259-5266, Email: [bethany.bethke@state.mn.us](mailto:bethany.bethke@state.mn.us).