



# *Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet*



## **2008 POLICY FACT SHEET Wild Rice Harvesting Changes**

### **It is needed because**

These proposed changes are needed to reduce confusion and increase consistency with the natural wild rice laws. This will also allow updating and clarification of wild rice harvest rules.

### **Major elements**

This initiative makes minor changes to natural wild rice harvesting laws and recodifies portions of the laws to improve organization and clarity of these laws. Changes are proposed that would update the terminology used to identify wild rice as the state grain, distinguish between natural and cultivated wild rice plants, clarify the authority of the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and reorganize the harvest regulation language for improved clarification.

### **Background**

The Department of Natural Resources has studied in depth the existing statute and rule language pertaining to wild rice. A wild rice work group consisting of staff from the Division of Enforcement and Division of Fish and Wildlife reviewed statute and rule language in 2004 and met with Indian representatives to consider options for protecting natural wild rice in Minnesota. In addition the Department convened a Technical Team and Partnership Team to collaborate on a Wild Rice Study report submitted to the legislature on February 15, 2008. One of the recommendations of that report was this initiative.

### **Key measures and outcomes**

This initiative will update the wild rice harvest regulations and help make the statutes more understandable. The changes will also allow revision of existing rules to support the statutes.

### **For further information contact:**

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