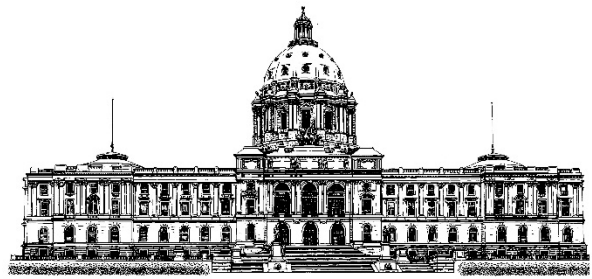




MNDNR

2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Northern Pike Regulations Bill

It is needed because

Managing northern pike across Minnesota is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. This initiative proposes regulations that are tailored to conditions of three zones of the state (northeast, north-central, south), and, most importantly, provides a strategy to improve the size structure of northern pike populations in the north-central zone, an area known for small or “hammer handle” pike. We anticipate these changes to the northern pike size structure will have benefits to other fish species as well. Extensive outreach and public input indicate support for these changes.

Major program elements

Sec. 1. Limits. This provision would remove the northern pike size limit prohibiting a person from having more than one northern pike greater than 30 inches. Under the proposed new regulations, each zone will have size limits customized to meet specific management objectives for that zone.

Sec. 2. Rulemaking; northern pike. This provision would allow the commissioner to use the good cause exempt rulemaking procedure to adopt changes to northern pike regulations described in this section. The new regulations are designed to improve the size structure of pike populations in each zone. The provision also requires DNR to report to the legislature within ten years the effects of the new regulations and recommendations for keeping or changing the regulations.

Key measures and outcomes

DNR provides high-quality fishing by ensuring healthy fish populations and habitat, public access to outdoor recreation opportunities, and safety and compliance with game and fish laws, which also support fishing-related businesses around the state. We anticipate this proposal would lead to:

- Improved size structure and density of northern pike populations;
- Benefits to fish communities; and
- Increased angler and spearer satisfaction.

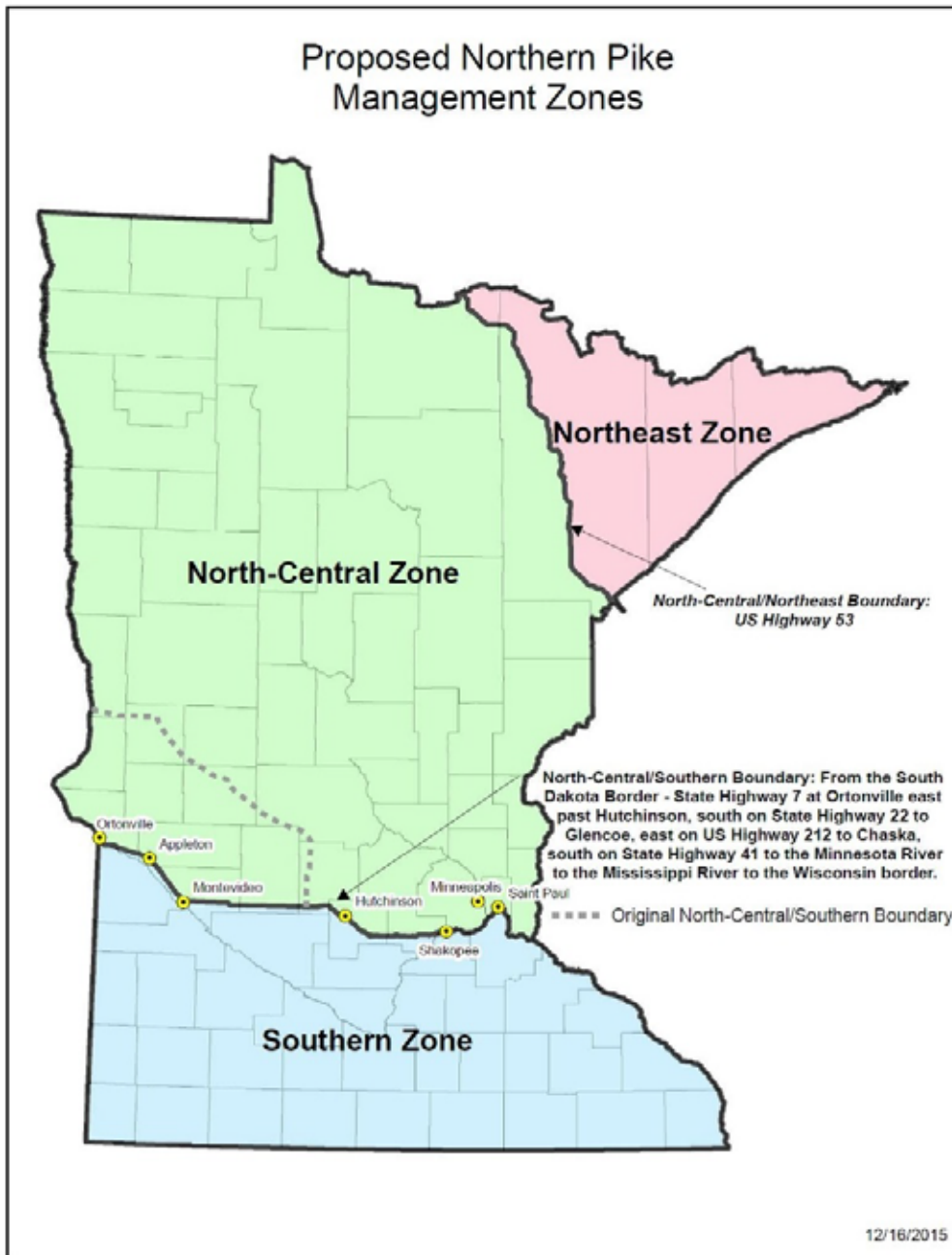
Fiscal impacts

No fiscal impacts are anticipated with this initiative. The research and reporting elements are currently part of fisheries management in the DNR.

For further information contact

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Zone	Angling Regulation	Spearing Regulation
Northeast	2 fish bag limit 30-40" protected slot limit 1 fish allowed over 40"	2 fish bag limit 1 fish allowed over 26"
North-Central	10 fish bag limit 22-26" protected slot limit 2 fish allowed over 26"	10 fish bag limit 1 fish between 22-26" and 1 over 26"; OR 2 fish over 26"
Southern	2 fish bag limit Minimum length limit 24"	2 fish bag limit Minimum length limit 24"

This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us calling 651-259-5016.