



2016 Gull Chain Muskellunge Stocking Proposal: Biological, Social and Economic considerations

- ***At this point, creating a muskie fishery on the Gull Chain is a PROPOSAL for which we will accept full public input.***

- It will fill a void: there is a need for more muskie water near Brainerd
 - The fastest growing segment of fishing interest
 - It is consistent with Department Mission Statement and the Section's Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike
 - MN DNR has only stocked 3 of the 8 promised lakes by 2020
 - The 8 lakes was the agreed upon number with input from varied interest groups/stakeholders

- Gull Lake has the potential to be a premier destination for muskie fishing.
 - It is the best choice in the Brainerd Area for many reasons
 - Physical/Biological Criteria—Gull matches criteria for muskie management very well
 - Large acreage lake 9,947
 - Forage base—cisco, white sucker, perch
 - Low pike density
 - Variety of diverse angling locations and habitat types

- The emerging fishery will benefit businesses and the local economy
 - Resorts: approximately 20 immediately on the Chain.
 - Restaurants, Bars
 - Gas stations
 - Tackle and Bait shops
 - Retailers: Gander Mtn, Fleet Farm, etc.

- An unbiased 2013 angler survey shows general support for a Gull Chain muskellunge fishery
 - 41% support, 29% undecided or indifferent, 30% opposed.
 - 1469 anglers surveyed- a large sample size.
 - Anglers younger than 45 years of age were the most supportive of Gull Chain muskie stocking: the initiative would help address the growing angler recruitment and retention problem

- Muskies and other species coexist well at the relatively low densities managed for by MN DNR

- Gull Lake already accommodates a wide array of users, and can handle the additional use
 - New Nisswa Public Water Access planned for 2018