International Falls Area Fisheries Highlights

International Falls area fisheries staff perform management, habitat, and oversight work for 151 fishing lakes and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Koochiching and northern St. Louis counties.



Popular area waters are Rainy, Kabetogama, Pelican (near Orr) and the Rainy River. The Iakes of Voyageurs National Park, many lakes within the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Water Wilderness Canoe Area also lie within the International Falls fisheries management area.

- Manage the fisheries of 151 lakes covering 147,000 acres, including Rainy, Kabetogama, Namakan, Sand Point, and Pelican lakes.
- Manage 220 rivers and streams, including 14 designated trout streams and several large rivers (Rainy, Littlefork, Bigfork, Vermilion, and Sturgeon).
- Manage eight lakes for lake trout or splake – four stocked every other year.
- Manage 32 lakes for walleye, six with special regulations (size and bag limits).
- Stock eight lakes regularly with walleye fingerlings; approximately 32,000 fish per year.
- Stock two streams annually with trout (Lost and Ash Rivers).
- Manage Pelican Lake for a quality bass fishery with a protected slot.
- Participate and inform Fisheries Input Groups to provide input to lake management decisions for Rainy and Kabetogama lakes.
- Complete approximately 12 lake surveys a year, two or three stream surveys, creel surveys, and large lake monitoring each year.
- Develop approximately 12 lake management plans each year with public input.
- Review permit applications for projects and ensure that resources are protected.
- Participate in local planning efforts (i.e., 1W1P, Long-term forest planning, forestry coordination, and work cooperatively with local Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts and County Boards including providing fisheries expertise on watershed management plans.)
- Cooperate with Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club to develop projects with resource, community, and angler benefits.
- Permit approximately 7 fishing tournaments each year.
- Permit and monitor one commercial fisherman.
- Monitor waters for new aquatic invasive species and prevent the spread of those that are already here.
- Conduct research and monitoring to assess impacts of invasive species to area resources.
- Work with local partners to develop good habitat improvement project proposals.
- Collaborate with state, federal, and provincial agencies to manage shared resources.
- Provide samples in developing safe consumption guidelines.
- Monitor lake sturgeon harvest and population.
- Provide educational materials/displays at sports shows, county fairs, fishing openers, and youth events.
- Teach area school children about fish and fish habitat.
- Conduct special research projects to improve knowledge for water-level management.
- Conduct research projects with statewide relevance and to improve management of area fishery populations.
- Perform annual VHS monitoring on area waters.


International Falls
St. Louis
Koochiching