

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

The North Shore spring creel survey has been conducted annually on 17 tributaries along the Minnesota shore of Lake Superior (since 1992), and McQuade Harbor (since 2010). The spring creel survey collects information on fishing pressure, catch and catch rates that aid in the management of the Rainbow Trout fishery in Minnesota waters of Lake Superior. The spring creel survey begins when rivers are free of ice and creel clerks observe anglers fishing in tributaries. Three creel census clerks conduct angler interviews from March through late-May. Your input and cooperation is greatly appreciated if a creel clerk approaches you for an interview. Fishing reports are posted on Mondays and Fridays on the [Lake Superior Area Fisheries website](#). You can also call the MNDNR North Shore Weekly Fishing Report Hotline at [218-302-3293](tel:218-302-3293). Spring creel surveys in all creel zones started on April 3, 2021. Lower and middle shore creel ended on May 9, and upper shore will end on May 14. The Knife River fish traps were opened on April 1. The French River adult fish trap was opened on April 5 and closed on May 3. Catch totals at the French River adult trap is expected to be lower than normal in 2021. Seining operations were suspended due to COVID, so catch totals from the French River are from the adult trap only.

### Weekly Fishing Report Update:

<b>May 6-12, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	48 (42-56)	48 (43-53)	45 (40-50)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Falling	Falling	Falling
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Low	Low	Low/Average
*Water Clarity (turbid / slightly turbid / clear):	Clear	Clear	Clear
Anglers Interviewed:	25	21	22
Total Reported Catch:	13	12	12
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	6	12	8
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	0	0	1
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	6	0	2
<i>Brown Trout:</i>	1	0	0
<i>Coho Salmon:</i>	0	0	1

(\*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.

*Lower Shore* : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers

*Middle Shore* : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers

*Upper Shore* : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers

**Smelt:** Smelt season is over. The [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website provides more information about smelt in Lake Superior.

### Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – May 12, 2021)

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 664 (excludes within year recaptures)  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 16  
 Brown Trout: 1  
 Brook Trout: 1

### French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – May 3, 2021)

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 44  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 45

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

<b>April 29-May 5, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	50 (42-61)	50 (46-55)	50 (44-57)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Falling / Stable	Falling	Falling
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Low / Average	Low / Average	Average
*Water Clarity (turbid / slightly turbid / clear):	Clear	Clear	Slightly turbid
Anglers Interviewed:	68	43	42
Total Reported Catch:	20	44	14
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	14	32	8
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	0	0	0
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	6	12	6

(\*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.

*Lower Shore* : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers

*Middle Shore* : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers

*Upper Shore* : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers

***Smelt:*** Smelt season is over. Refer to the [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website for more information.

### ***Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – May 5, 2021)***

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 644 (excludes within year recaptures)  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 16  
 Brown Trout: 1

### ***French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – May 3, 2021)***

*Catch totals are expected to be lower than normal in 2021 because seining operations were suspended due to COVID. Catch totals provided here are from the French River adult trap only. Trap shut down for season on May 3.*

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 44  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 45

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

<b>April 22-28, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	40 (35-47)	42 (35-46)	39 (34-43)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Falling	Falling	Falling
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Low / Average	Low / Average	Average
*Water Clarity (turbid / slightly turbid / clear):	Clear	Clear / Slightly turbid	Slightly turbid
Anglers Interviewed:	37	116	19
Total Reported Catch:	9	55	7
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	6	45	6
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	0	2	0
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	0	8	1
<i>Longnose sucker:</i>	2	0	0
<i>Northern Pike:</i>	1	0	0

(\*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.

*Lower Shore* : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers

*Middle Shore* : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers

*Upper Shore* : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers

**Smelt:** Smelt catches have diminished over the last week. Catch reports have been variable due to recent drop in water temperatures and changes in lake conditions. Possible that some smelt will return again as river temperatures warm in coming days. Refer to the [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website for more information.

### **Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – April 28, 2021)**

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 591 (excludes 47 within year recaptures)

Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 16

### **French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – April 28, 2021)**

*\*Catch totals are expected to be lower than normal in 2021 because seining operations were suspended due to COVID. Catch totals provided here are from the French River adult trap only.*

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 40

Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 45

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

<b>April 15-21, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	43 (41-51)	43 (38-47)	39 (37-43)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Stable	Stable	Stable
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Average	Average	Average
*Water Clarity (turbid / slightly turbid / clear):	Slightly Turbid	Slightly Turbid / Clear	Slightly Turbid / Clear
Anglers Interviewed:	112	133	41
Total Reported Catch:	36	64	10
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	26	51	6
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	8	6	0
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	1	7	4
<i>Coho Salmon:</i>	0	0	0
<i>Longnose sucker:</i>	1	0	0
(*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.			
<i>Lower Shore</i> : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers			
<i>Middle Shore</i> : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers			
<i>Upper Shore</i> : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers			

**Smelt:** Smelt are still at Park Point, but catches have diminished over the last week. Catch reports have been variable due to recent drop in water temperatures and changes in lake conditions. Refer to the [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website for more information.

### **Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – April 22, 2021)**

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 581 (excludes 36 within year recaptures)  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 16

### **French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – April 22, 2021)**

*\*Catch totals are expected to be lower than normal in 2021 because seining operations were suspended due to COVID. Catch totals provided here are from the French River adult trap only.*

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 39  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 42

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

<b>April 8-14, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	42 (39-45)	41 (38-45)	38 (35-42)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Stable / Falling	Stable / Rising	Stable / Rising
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Average / High	Average / High	Average / High
*Water Clarity (turbid / slightly turbid / clear):	Slightly Turbid	Slightly Turbid / Turbid	Slightly Turbid
Anglers Interviewed:	104	105	29
Total Reported Catch:	23	48	7
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	17	39	5
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	1	3	0
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	1	6	1
<i>Coho Salmon:</i>	1	0	1
<i>Longnose sucker:</i>	3	0	0
(*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.			
<i>Lower Shore</i> : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers			
<i>Middle Shore</i> : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers			
<i>Upper Shore</i> : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers			

***Smelt:*** Smelt are being caught at Park Point and Lester River. Catch reports have been variable due to changes in water temperatures and lake conditions. No smelt have been reported yet in the middle or upper shore. Refer to the [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website for more information.

### ***Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – April 15, 2021)***

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 560 (excludes 8 within year recaptures)  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 12

### ***French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – April 15, 2021)***

*\*Catch totals are expected to be lower than normal in 2021 because seining operations were suspended due to COVID. Catch totals provided here are from the French River adult trap only.*

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 35  
 Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: x

## 2021 North Shore Weekly Fishing Report

<b>April 3-7, 2021</b>	<b>Lower Shore</b>	<b>Middle Shore</b>	<b>Upper Shore</b>
*Water Temperatures (°F)[avg. & range]:	40 (32-46)	40 (32-45)	38 (33-44)
*River Stage (falling / stable / rising):	Stable / Rising	Stable / Rising	Stable / Rising
*Water Levels (low / average / high):	Average / High	Low / Average	Low / Average
*Water Clarity (clear / slightly turbid / turbid):	Slightly Turbid	Slightly Turbid	Clear / Slightly Turbid
Anglers Interviewed:	73	69	12
Total Reported Catch:	16	40	3
<i>Steelhead Rainbow Trout:</i>	16	29	3
<i>Kamloops Rainbow Trout:</i>	0	1	0
<i>Brook Trout:</i>	0	10	0
<i>Brown Trout:</i>	0	0	0
<i>Coho Salmon:</i>	0	0	0
Round Whitefish:	0	0	0
(*) Average conditions among rivers within each shore zone. Individual rivers may vary.			
<i>Lower Shore</i> : Lester, McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River, French, Sucker, and Knife rivers			
<i>Middle Shore</i> : Stewart, Silver, Gooseberry, Split Rock, Beaver, and Baptism rivers			
<i>Upper Shore</i> : Cross, Temperance, Poplar, Cascade, Devil Track, Kadunce, and Brule rivers			

***Smelt:*** There have been no reports of smelt activity in Minnesota waters of Lake Superior. However, expect some smelt activity by the weekend. Refer to the [Smelt on the North Shore fact sheet](#) on the Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office website for more information.

### ***Knife River Adult Trap Catch Totals (April 1 – April 8, 2021)***

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 436  
Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 10

### ***French River Adult Trap Totals (April 5 – April 8, 2021)***

*\*Catch totals are expected to be lower than normal in 2021 because seining operations were suspended due to COVID. Catch totals provided here are from the French River adult trap only.*

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead: 25  
Rainbow Trout - Kamloops: 15