

Lake Superior Summer Creel Fishing Report

The Lake Superior summer creel survey has been conducted annually since 1969. The summer creel survey provides estimates of angling pressure, harvest, and catch rates along the North Shore of Lake Superior. The survey focuses mainly on Lake Trout, Chinook Salmon, and Coho Salmon. The information collected from anglers is vital for monitoring fish resources in Lake Superior and informing management and regulations. Two creel clerks conduct the summer creel survey from the Memorial Day weekend through the first full weekend in October. The Lower Shore clerk interviews anglers from Duluth to Two Harbors, while the Upper Shore clerk interviews anglers from Twin Points to Hovland. Clerks follow pre-determined randomized schedules to ensure that their data accurately represents all anglers' effort and catch on Lake Superior. Fishing reports are updated every Thursday on the Minnesota DNR's web page for the Lake Superior Fisheries Office. The web address is: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/lakesuperior/lake-superior-fishing-report.html>. You may also call our office at 218-302-3293 and selecting 1 for the updated fishing report. For up-to-date Lake Superior water temps, wind speed, and wave height visit UMD's website <https://www.d.umn.edu/buoys/>.



10/3/22

The Lake Superior Lake Trout Fishing Season and the 2022 Summer Creel Survey have ended. The Lake Trout season will reopen on December 1. To protect spawning Lake Trout, fishing is not allowed during October 3 through November 30 from boats, from the mainland to a line that runs from the mouth of Chester Creek to the outermost portion of the northwest arm of the Duluth Ship Canal. The dates of closure are always from the day after the first full weekend in October to November 30. When November 30 falls on a Saturday, the closure extends to the following Sunday. Anglers may still fish for Salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Walleye in Lake Superior and its tributaries below posted boundaries. Most Salmon are caught while trolling near shore in the upper 80 feet of the water surface. All unclipped Rainbow Trout must be released immediately. Walleye season will close after March 1 and re-open on May 13th. Biweekly fishing reports will begin again next spring when the tributaries open and the Spring Creel Survey commences. The Summer Creel Survey will begin on May 27th and weekly summer fishing reports will begin on June 1st. If you would like to see the previous 2022 reports, scroll down on this page.

9/29/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Westerly winds did not push all the warm water out this reporting period, but it did bring the thermocline and best fishing up to 100 feet down by the end of the week. There was plenty of decent fishable weather over the last week that allowed for moderate fishing pressure. Anglers trolling in the top 30 feet of the water column did not report catching anything this week. Surface temps ranged from 57 F° close to Duluth to 55 F° further north near McQuade. Anglers near Duluth did best with flasher/fly rigs and spoons with glow-in-the-dark and orange patterns, as well as Smelt. Further north, anglers found Lake Trout moving to spawning structure in anywhere from 115-160 feet of water. Overall, Lake Trout averaged 19-22 inches, but anglers caught and released some beautiful 29–32-inch fish as well. One 27 inch Chinook was caught trolling 70 feet down near Duluth this period but the Salmon fishing has slowed down considerably. From McQuade to Two Harbors jigging and trolling on structure by bouncing downriggers on the bottom worked the best. Fishing was slow and angling pressure low in the St. Louis River Estuary again this week. The weekend forecast is calling for east winds, so it might be rough out there for the last weekend of the Lake Trout season.

Upper Shore – Twin points to Hovland

Poor weather conditions were persistent during this reporting period with wind, rain and, fog keeping angler pressure low. Water surface temps remained warm during the past week averaging in the low to mid 50's, despite strong offshore winds. Twin Points, Taconite Harbor, and Grand Marais anglers reported that some large Lake Trout were caught with a few weighing up to 25 pounds. Anglers have been targeting them trolling downriggers and jigging over deep structure, utilizing high tech electronics to locate both the deep structure and fish. Although some Lake Trout have moved closer to shore, the majority remain in deep water and shore anglers looking for fish within casting distance have experienced slow fishing. Luckily, it should not be much longer until the water cools and the Lakers begin to stray into the shallows. While bigger streams and rivers have held moderate flows recently, water levels have dropped, and the smaller ones are quite low. The Brule, Devil Track, Cascade, Temperance, and Cross Rivers all currently have decent flows and some Pink Salmon in them. Angler pressure has been light, and no anglers have reported catching many Pinks yet. No Steelhead, Brook Trout, Coho, or Chinook Salmon have been caught in tributaries by interviewed anglers yet.

9/22/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Strong east and northeast winds greatly reduced fishing pressure this week and pushed even more warm water toward Duluth, although the winds did cool the surface temps a bit to 59-61F°. This concentrated fish deep near Duluth for those able to fish in 150-200 feet down near the bottom. North of McQuade anglers did best trolling or jigging in 170-210 feet of water just off spawning structure. Lake Trout averaged 19-22 inches, with a few as large as 38 inches reported. No salmon were measured during the few interviews conducted this reporting period, but the recent rains may have drawn them toward their staging grounds near river mouths. Color selections were very similar to last week, glow-in-the dark spoons with some orange and flasher/fly rigs with meat produced fish. Jigging in 120-200 feet of water also did well for Lake Trout North of McQuade. Anglers caught a few small 20-25 inch Northern Pike from shore north of McQuade. Fishing in the St. Louis River Estuary continues to be almost non-existent.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Lake surface temps remained warm during this reporting period, averaging in the mid to upper 50's. Anglers reported that the warm water is sustained down 50-70 feet. Lake Trout have been holding in deep water from 90-200 feet and generally near bottom structure. Anglers have been trolling spoons on downriggers or jigging directly over structure, especially when high tech electronics showed fish in these areas. Some nice Lake Trout were caught and the average size has increased as more adult Lakers drift closer to their spawning areas. Lake Trout size varied widely with several fish over 10 pounds caught. Coho Salmon have all but disappeared from the Upper Shore, but a few nice Chinook Salmon were reported by anglers. With lake surface temps remaining warm fish have remained deeper and shore anglers have reported little success aside from a few Brook Trout in the 10-14 inch range. Pink salmon were present in modest numbers in the larger tributaries that experienced a solid influx of rainwater that raised levels nicely. The smaller streams experienced increased flows as well, but they are quickly dropping back down to low levels. Angler pressure was light during this reporting period as stiff winds are becoming the norm, as is usual at this time of the year. Marina boaters are beginning to take their boats out for the season.

9/15/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

A few days of nice weather early in the week allowed for some fishing pressure, but strong northeast winds reduced fishing pressure later in the sampling week and held the warmer (low-60's) water in place. Fishing near Duluth was best in the thermocline 70-90 feet down in 100-180 feet of water. Further north the fish were generally down 60-90 feet, with the Lake Trout beginning to hang out around spawning structure later in the week. Average Lake Trout size was 19-23 inches with a few as large as 28 inches. The Chinook Salmon caught ranged from 23-28 inches long. Some Coho Salmon were caught although none of the anglers interviewed reported any. Glow-in-the dark spoons with some orange on them and flasher/fly rigs with meat produced the most fish. Jigging in 120-200 feet of water also did well for Lake Trout around McQuade and further north. Unstable weather and heavy rain over the next few days will likely change things. Estuary fishing pressure was low and success for Walleye continues to be very low.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Surface water temps stabilized over the last week and were in the upper 50's to lower 60's. Over the last week, anglers had more success catching large Lake Trout, especially close to structure in deep near shore waters. While some anglers trolled near these deep structures and found some success, others used jigs and did quite well. Quality electronics are very helpful in locating these bigger, deep dwelling, Lakers. Anglers fishing in the shallow water or far offshore, searching for suspended Lake Trout, experienced slower fishing overall. While a fair number of nice Chinook Salmon in the 5-8 pound range were caught recently from Grand Marais, this was a short-lived bite and they continue to be scarce. Low numbers of Coho Salmon have been caught from most stations this season and they continue to be a rare catch. Cohos will typically start to migrate into the rivers to spawn around this time of year and catch rates will begin to decline soon. Currently, the rivers are very low, clear, and warm but this is likely to change with several days of rain in the forecast. The cooler water, increased flows, and added turbidity associated with fall rains will likely trigger the Coho and Pink Salmon run in the coming days.

9/8/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northeast wind over the holiday weekend reduced overall fishing pressure, but also kept the warmer water and thermocline in place near Duluth. This allowed anglers to target fish in the thermocline that was 70-90 feet down close to Duluth and 30-50 feet down near McQuade and further north, where the thermocline was not as predictable. The most consistent fishing north of McQuade was trolling or jigging in 120-170 feet of water but the larger fish haven't shown up yet on the reefs. Trolling spoons and flasher/fly rigs worked best this week, with glow-in-the dark presentations working best deep, and green and orange being good colors in general. Average Lake Trout size continues to be 19-23 inches with a few as large as 28 inches. No Chinook or Coho Salmon were reported by anglers this week, but charters are still catching a few 21-27 inch Chinooks. Also, some 15-16 inch Walleye were caught near Duluth. With warmer water temps the Siscowet have moved in toward Duluth. Some shore anglers fishing near Duluth have started to catch a couple of Herring.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Surface water temps were variable last week as warmer water moved back into near shore areas. Water temps averaged in the upper 50's near Twin points and ranged from 40°F to the mid 50's further north. Surface water temps have been more stable further offshore. Anglers from Taconite Harbor and Grand Marais reported catching some bigger Lake Trout far offshore, but they are not seeing good numbers. The Lake Trout caught were typically in the top 80 feet of the water column with some were very near the surface. While Lake Trout remain scattered, anglers have had the best luck using shallow techniques such as planer boards, divers, and flatlines. Some Coho and Chinook Salmon were reported from all stations, but they were few and far between. The Salmon reported were scattered, with Cohos averaging 20-23 inches and Chinooks were 20-25 inches. However, a few larger Chinooks, weighing up to 10 pounds, were reported from Silver Bay. Very few Steelhead have been reported from any station. With slow fishing persisting, angler pressure remains low. This is unusual for this time of year as the best fishing action of the season usually presents during these weeks.

9/1/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

The northeast winds subsided early in the week, allowing anglers to target fish in the thermocline that was 60-80 feet down close to Duluth and 30-50 feet down at McQuade and further north. Westerly winds later in the week pushed the warm water away from shore somewhat, bringing fish up as high as 30 feet from the surface near Duluth in the 46-48°F water. Fishing near Duluth was best in 80-120 feet of water, with spoons and flasher/fly rigs with meat working well. Pink and purple spoons worked well further up the shore. Green, orange, and glow spoons and flasher/fly rigs were good colors at all stations. No Coho Salmon were measured this week, but a few Chinook were caught near Duluth measuring 21-27 inches long. The Lake Trout measured this week were 20-25 inches long and Siscowet showed up near Duluth with the warmer water. A few anglers and charter captains have reported catching some decent Walleye both in and outside the St. Louis River Estuary. A substantial mayfly hatch took place from the 28-30th in the Estuary which may make fishing difficult for a bit.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Water surface temps were in the low 60's at all stations, but strong northwest winds moved the warm water off shore and upwellings cooled near shore surface water temps down to 40°F. Anglers from Silver Bay and Taconite Harbor have reported fair catches of Lake Trout with some nice fish weighing over 10 pounds with many of them being long and lean. Lake Trout were scattered throughout the water column and anglers continue to target them in both deep water close to the bottom and near the surface. Spoons and flasher/fly rigs have been effective but with slow fishing being the norm, many anglers have been trying out different techniques with mixed results. Grand Marais anglers continue to experience slow action for Lake Trout with low numbers of scattered fish. Anglers from all stations continue to report catching very few Coho Salmon but they were all nice 20-22 inch fish averaging around 3 pounds. Chinook Salmon have been scarce with most of them being around 20 inches. However, there have been a few big Chinooks, weighing up to 18 pounds, caught this year proving there is always a chance to catch a trophy fish on Lake Superior. Angler pressure continues to be light to moderate along the Upper Shore so get out there and enjoy the beautiful weather.

8/25/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northeast winds pushed the warmer water to the west end of Lake Superior over the past week. The warmer waters kept the bite a bit deeper down at 70-80 feet close to Duluth and 40-60 feet down near McQuade. Fishing near Duluth was best in 90-200 feet of water, using either flasher/fly rigs with meat or spoons. White, green, orange, and glow spoons worked well at all stations but pink and purple spoons seemed to do the best north of McQuade. Most Lake Trout caught were 20-28 inches, Chinook Salmon were 18-28 inches, and Coho Salmon were 17-18.5 inches long. A few Walleye were caught out on the big lake as well, in both Minnesota and Wisconsin waters, with most measuring 15-17 inches. The Mercury Marine Minnesota Division Championship fishing tournament was held in Duluth on August 19th and 20th and the winning team of 2 caught 57.24 pounds of Walleye in 2 days!

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Water surface temps continue to increase and all stations experienced temps in the upper 50's to lower 60's with the warmer water typically found further offshore. However, Hovland surface water temps have been slightly cooler than the other stations. Anglers from Twin Points and Silver Bay reported a few Salmon are being caught but not many. Lake Trout numbers have been fair from Silver Bay and Taconite Harbor with fish scattered throughout the water column. Some anglers reported Lakers near the surface, but most reports are of fish holding in the deeper water. Anglers from Grand Marais reported slow Salmon fishing but are catching decent numbers of 4 to 8 pound Lake Trout in deep water far from shore. Near shore anglers from all stations reported slow fishing with few Lake Trout and Salmon showing up in the shallow waters. A few nice Brook Trout were caught in the Grand Marais Harbor area, including a large 19 incher that was accidentally kept by an angler who did not know the regulations. Please remember the Brook Trout minimum size for harvest on Lake Superior is 20 inches and only 1 fish daily. Angler pressure remains light to moderate from all stations.

8/18/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northeast winds pushed enough warmer water to the west side of Lake Superior to set up a thermocline and pushed the bite down to 70-80 feet near Duluth and 40-55 feet by McQuade. Fishing near Duluth was best in 110-180 feet of water. Lake Trout and Salmon were reported in the top 30 feet of the water column up near Two Harbors earlier in the week, but it seemed like they were moving north as the warmer water was pushed up and surface temps climbed above 55°F further north. Fish average sizes were roughly the same as previous weeks with a few larger Lake Trout from 21-28 inches caught closer to Duluth. Green glow and watermelon spoons were good colors and caught most of the fish. Charter captains and anglers reported catching a few nice Walleye on Superior while trolling as well. Estuary fishing pressure was light as usual for this time of year, with a couple small Walleye caught and released, and a few Northern Pike caught by anglers targeting Muskie.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

According to Upper Shore anglers, water temps held in the low to mid 50's for the first time this summer over the last week. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points report improved fishing during this reporting period. Fair numbers of 18-24 inch Lake Trout were caught from all stations and a few larger Lake Trout have been reported from Silver Bay. One lucky angler out of Silver Bay caught a 21 inch Splake this week. Anglers reported that Lakers were scattered throughout the water column with some caught near the surface. A few 18-21 inch Coho Salmon were reported this period though numbers were low and typically only single fish were caught. Anglers from Hovland, Grand Marais, and Taconite Harbor continue to catch very few Salmon. Grand Marais anglers are having a slow season and many anglers have reported getting skunked several times. Some anglers from the Grand Marais Marina opted to travel far offshore and found a few scattered large Lake Trout, up to 15 pounds, in the upper 100 feet of the water column. These anglers have also reported catching a few nice Steelhead. However, the offshore fishing has been slow at times with no real patterns developing and a lot of space to search. Many anglers are beginning to fish nearer to the surface, utilizing planer boards and other techniques that are presenting lures within 80 feet of the surface, including divers, flatlines, and shallow set downriggers.

8/11/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northeast winds pushed the warmer 58-61°F surface water toward Duluth on the 7th, setting up a thermocline 50-60 feet down north of McQuade by the 10th. Walleye, Lake Trout, Chinook Salmon, and a couple Coho Salmon were caught at that depth over 120-180 feet of water from near Duluth all the way up to the French River. The Lake Trout caught were 20-24 inches, Chinook Salmon were 21-24.5 inches long, Walleye were 15-16 inches with one 30 inch fish reported, and Coho Salmon were all around 16 inches long. Green glow and watermelon spoons were good colors and caught most of the fish. If you aren't having success fishing the thermocline for Lake Trout try targeting fish on the bottom in 120-180 feet of water using jigs. There was very low fishing pressure in the St. Louis River Estuary for both Muskie and Walleye over the last week and most of the boating traffic was pleasure boating. East and northeast winds over the next few days should set up a good thermocline and good fishing this coming week.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Middle and Upper Shore anglers reported that water surface temps have warmed to 47-52°F at all stations. This warmer water has improved fishing from Twin Points and Silver Bay where anglers are catching fair numbers of Lake Trout scattered throughout the water column. Lake Trout size varied widely with some larger fish being caught. Anglers from Twin Points to Taconite Harbor reported improved angling for Coho Salmon and although numbers remain light, Coho Salmon are now being found in near shore waters. Coho salmon averaged 18-20 inches long and 2 pounds. The Chinook Salmon reported were all 3-5 pounds. Most of the Salmon being caught have been within 70 feet of the surface and were largely caught on spoons and flasher fly combos. Anglers from Silver Bay also reported a few Steelhead have begun to show up in near shore waters. Anglers from Grand Marais continue to experience slow fishing and although Lake Trout catches have improved slightly, Salmon fishing and fishing in general has remained tough. Grand Marais area anglers reported catching a few nice Chinook Salmon in the 4-8 pound class with one 16 pounder caught. Hovland area anglers report slow fishing overall with water temps slightly cooler than other stations. The new access in Grand Marais remains closed as work crews continue to push out the completion date.

8/4/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northwest and northeast winds made finding fish difficult this week, as a consistent surface temp break did not set up and concentrate fish. North of McQuade Anglers found fish in 120-180 feet of water anywhere from 30-50 feet down in the thermocline beneath 50-55°F surface water. The best presentations continue to be spoons, stickbaits, and flasher/fly rigs. There was colder water in the low to mid 40's closer to shore this week which should keep some fish closer to shore for a while. One notable fish reported was a 39.5 inch Lake Trout caught and released north of McQuade. Apart from that large fish, most Lake Trout caught were 20-23 inches, Chinook Salmon were 18-28 inches, and Coho Salmon were 17-18 inches long. Anglers have begun to report a few Siscowet are beginning to show up, but not in great numbers. Charter captains have reported they are picking up some nice Walleye while trolling for Lakers and Salmon. Estuary fishing pressure was very low, and much of the boating traffic there was pleasure-boating this past week.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Middle and Upper Shore surface water temps have been warming slowly and ranged from 40-50°F this past week. Taconite Harbor anglers report improving catches for Lake Trout, with best success still coming in deep water near bottom structure. Silver Bay and Twin Points anglers have also reported decent fishing for Lake Trout as anglers have been traveling far from shore to find more consistent water temps. The Lake Trout caught have averaged in the 1-4 pound range. While a few Chinook Salmon have been reported from Silver Bay and Twin Points, numbers remain inconsistent and low. Spoons and flasher/fly combos have been the most productive presentations at all stations. Upper Shore anglers have also reported some success targeting fish suspended in the water column and nearer to the surface, but this bite remains inconsistent. Lake Trout fishing has been slow near Grand Marais and anglers continue to be restricted to the boat landing on the east side of the harbor as they wait for the new boat launch to be opened on the west side of the harbor. Parking for anglers with boat trailers has been difficult or unavailable at the east access as the completion date for the new landing continues to be extended.

7/28/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Westerly winds pushed the warmer water offshore again, leading to scattered fish and reduced fishing pressure overall. Lower Shore surface temps varied highly from 42-60°F over the past week. Lake Trout caught were 20-23 inches long and the Chinook Salmon caught ranged from 18-28 inches long. Coho Salmon are still being caught but none were reported by the anglers interviewed. Salmon and Lake Trout were caught on spoons or flasher/fly rigs 30-60 feet down in the warm layer of the thermocline. Lake Trout are also being caught near the bottom in 160 feet of water. A few Cisco were also caught and were 18-20 inches long. Charters continue to do well for Lake Trout and are catching some Chinook as well. The Walleye bite in the St. Louis River Estuary appears to be over and fishing pressure has been low.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Water temps remain cold along the middle and Upper Shore with surface temps around 41°F with very few reports of warmer water anywhere. Weather conditions were less than ideal with stiff winds, fog, and thunderstorms over the past week. Despite the mid-summer season, angler pressure remains very light along the Upper Shore. Anglers have been forced to fish deeper than usual for this time of year, in the 150-200 foot range, targeting small bottom dwelling Lake Trout, in the 16-20 inch range. Anglers that fished in shallower waters or near the surface have had very little luck. Virtually no salmon are being caught from any station, likely due to the colder than usual water temps. Shore anglers continue to struggle also, as few fish are wandering into the cold, shallow, near shore waters. Silver Bay anglers fishing from larger boats continue to travel far from shore hoping to find better fishing in the slightly warmer water. Some nicer Lake Trout and fair numbers of Steelhead are being caught in these offshore waters where water surface temps approach 50°F.

7/21/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

A few days of pleasant weather increased the fishing pressure this week and warmed the surface water, although there was enough wind to make the surface bite elusive for many anglers. Anglers found temperature breaks anywhere from McQuade to Two Harbors, depending on the day, and some days it shifted offshore into 300+ feet of water. The bite has been relatively slow near Duluth as the thermocline is not as deep as normal, causing fish to be scattered anywhere from 40 to 110 feet down in up to 180 feet of water. Further north fish are being caught in the top 20 feet of water, with some anglers finding a sharp thermocline 20-30 feet down. Spoons and stickbaits are still the mainstays, along with flasher/fly rigs with and without meat. Orange and pink with dots have been generally good colors, though it changes day to day. Dodgers with peanut flies have also produced some fish. The Lake Trout being caught have primarily been 19-22 inches with a couple fish in the 26-29 inch range. Coho Salmon averaging 17-18 inches and Chinook Salmon 19-28 inches long are being caught. Estuary Walleye pressure has been light, and much of the boating traffic was pleasure boaters taking advantage of calm days and hot weather.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Water temps from 39-50°F have been reported from all stations with averages in the mid 40's. Fishing has been tough during this past week and weather has not been cooperating with a few storms, frequent fog, and windy conditions. Grand Marais anglers reported the warmest water temps on the 16th when the water surface temp hit 50°F on a calm and sunny afternoon. Lake Trout catches have improved from most stations and fish are being found at more moderate depths of 100-170 feet down. Near Grand Marais a few Chinook Salmon were caught in the 28 inch class. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points have been waiting for better numbers of Salmon and while they have been catching a few Cohos and Chinooks numbers have been light. The fishing contest reports were of good Lake Trout catches, both near and far from shore with the winning Lake Trout ranging from 17 to 20+ pounds. Chinook Salmon were from 5.1 to 7.2 pounds and the Coho category ranging from 2 to 2.2 pounds. Reports were that total catches of Salmon during the derby were 7 Chinooks and 10 Coho caught.

7/14/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Northeast winds set up the temperature break near Knife River at the beginning of the week, but unstable weather and wind directions pushed it around some and reduced fishing pressure later in the week. Water near Duluth has warmed sufficiently to push fish down 30-50 feet on most days. Anglers are still using primarily spoons and stickbaits up higher in the water column and doing well. When anglers found bug slicks in the temperature break, they caught good numbers of Lake Trout and Coho Salmon near the surface on stickbaits. Lake Trout are still primarily on the bottom in the Two Harbors area and further north, with surface temps varying from 40-45°F. Surface temps near Duluth have regularly been in the mid to high-50's. The Lake Trout reported ranged from 18-22 inches, with the largest being 29 inches and Coho Salmon are averaging 17-17.5 inches. The Chinook Salmon have ranged from 18 to 29 inches. The occasional Walleye was caught in the lake, but the fish have dispersed from the harbor to the south shore and thus the bite in the St. Louis River Estuary has slowed considerably.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Water surface temps of 38-39°F continue to be the norm but some pockets of water reaching into the mid 40's have been reported, especially on warm afternoons. These warmer waters have led to anglers finding more fishing success. Many anglers continue to concentrate on Lake Trout holding in deep water but report some Lake Trout are beginning to rise further from deep structure. Fishing has improved higher in the water column using dippy divers, lead line, and planer boards to present bright spoons and flasher-fly combos. Anglers from Silver Bay and Twin Points have been travelling many miles from shore and report a warm water line approaching from the south shore. They are finding some big Lake Trout nearing twenty pounds, Steelhead, and a few Coho Salmon amidst this approaching warm water front. Anglers from Grand Marais have reported improved fishing for Lake Trout primarily in 150-200 feet of water near bottom structure such as humps and drop-offs. The Lake Trout caught were in the 1-4 pound range with a few larger fish reported from Silver Bay.

7/7/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

The bite was tough this week as winds were inconsistent and unpredictable. Fish near Duluth are transitioning to a thermocline bite, with northeast winds pushing warmer water closer to Duluth. The Lake Trout measured were 18-22 inches, with a couple 35-38 inchers released North of McQuade jigging deep. Coho Salmon are not being caught much further north than McQuade and more fish measuring over 17 inches are being caught. Chinook Salmon were 18-19 inches with a few fish in the 25-28 inch range being reported. Fish near Duluth are moving deeper, with stickbaits and spoons working from the surface down to 50 feet depending on the surface temp. North of McQuade anglers are primarily catching Lake Trout on the bottom, but that will likely be changing to more of a surface bite using stickbaits in the coming days. A few anglers reported catching fish on flasher/fly rigs near Duluth. The Walleye bite in the St. Louis River Estuary continues to be good on stickbaits, and the pressure reported from Rice's Point seems to be largely targeting Walleye. Surface temperatures are around 50°F at the nearshore buoy off McQuade, although temps are still in the high 30's to low 40's off Knife River as of July 4th.

Upper Shore Twin Points – Hovland

Middle and Upper Shore anglers continue to find cold water in the middle to upper 30's. A few anglers reported warmer lake waters in close proximity to rivers such as the Beaver and Baptism near Silver Bay where warm river water mixes with cold lake water. Anglers from Silver Bay and Grand Marais report slow action for Lake Trout that continue to hold near the bottom in deep water. Anglers from Twin Points and Taconite Harbor report better numbers of Lake Trout in these deep haunts but fishing remains difficult for most. Locating these deep Lake Trout is not easy and requires good electronics and careful use of trolling gear close to bottom near rocky structure. These deep Lake Trout are generally smaller fish in the 16-20 inch range. Salmon continue to be absent from angler reports at all stations. Weather conditions have been mixed this past week with fog and wind being the main concerns for boaters. Angler pressure has been light from all Middle and Upper Shore stations.

6/30/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Strong winds in variable directions prevented a nice temperature break from setting up on the lake, leading to scattered Lake Trout and Coho salmon by the 22nd. The majority of fish are still being caught between Duluth and McQuade trolling stickbaits near the surface. The Lake Trout caught by anglers averaged 20-23 inches and Coho Salmon were 15.5-17.5 inches long. A few Chinook Salmon were also caught and measured 20-30 inches long. Surface water temps have begun to warm up and ranged from 42°F in the clear water to 55°F near the entrance to the St. Louis River Estuary in the stained water. Walleye fishing continues to be productive in the St. Louis River Estuary with anglers and charters catching good numbers of nice sized fish. Fishing pressure north of McQuade was low again this past week. The Lake Trout in this area will likely be on the bottom for a while yet until water temps get warmer.

Upper Shore Twin Points – Hovland

Mid and Upper Shore anglers continue to experience cold water conditions with average surface water temps in the 35-38°F range with no reports of warmer water from any station. Anglers from Twin Points and Silver Bay report fair numbers of Lake Trout in the 1-3 pound range in 170-220 feet of water close to bottom. Trolling brightly colored spoons, close to bottom is the most popular method for targeting these deep fish. Some anglers are targeting larger Lake Trout in the shallower waters with some success. However, these larger Lake Trout are typically scattered and hard to find. With no Salmon showing up on the mid and Upper Shore yet and smaller Lake Trout staying deep and close to the bottom, trolling lures in shallower water or suspended far from bottom has been slow. Cold water along with poor weather, including fog, rain, and brisk winds have kept angler pressure low at all stations. River waters continue to warm with average temps in most rivers now holding above 70°F. No reports of Lake Trout being caught in the river mouths have been received yet. Shore anglers fishing in the lake reported it continues to be very slow likely due to persistent cold near shore waters.

6/23/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Strong southwest winds pushed out the temperature break late this week scattering Lake Trout and Coho Salmon. Fish are being caught between Duluth and McQuade on stickbaits near the surface and trolling spoons and flasher/ fly combos near the thermocline. The Lake Trout caught averaged 20-23 inches long and the Coho Salmon were 15.5-17.5 inches long. Anglers and charters are also starting to catch a few Chinook Salmon. Surface temps ranged from 38°F in the clear water to 55°F in the stained water near the entry to the St. Louis River Estuary. The Walleye fishing has continued to be quite good in the estuary. Fishing pressure north of McQuade has been low, with most interviewed anglers launching at McQuade and driving toward Duluth to find the temperature break. The Lake Trout further up the shore will likely be on the bottom for a while yet as water temperatures remain low.

Upper Shore Twin Points – Hovland

The only consistent pattern continues to be Lake Trout holding close to the bottom in 150-200 feet of water near structure. Boat anglers reported that trolling bright spoons and glow in the dark lures has been effective to catch these deep Lakers. The majority of these fish are on the smaller side from 16-19 inches long and weighing from 1.5-3 pounds. Middle and Upper Shore anglers continue to wait for water temps to warm up and report average surface water temps of 35-38°F. Shore anglers have struggled to catch fish in the cold water near shore. However, they are having some success in the warmer water flowing out of the rivers into the lake. River water temps have risen dramatically this past week with the Brule River reaching the mid 70's. As a result, stream anglers have not had much success as steelhead move back into the lake. A few anglers have reported that some Brook Trout are showing up in the harbors and marinas. Angler pressure continues to be light at all creel stations on the Upper Shore.

6/16/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Fishing has been good over the past week near Duluth despite strong northeast winds and thunderstorms that kept angler pressure low and moved the warmer water back towards Duluth. Lake Trout and Coho Salmon are being caught in 40-80 feet of water primarily trolling stickbaits near the surface. Lake Trout averaged 21-25 inches long and Coho Salmon were 15.5-17.5 inches long. A few Chinook Salmon are being caught by anglers with one measured at 26 inches long. Walleye fishing was good in the estuary this week with most fish in the 14-16 inch range. Surface water temps were 38°F in the clear water to 52°F in the stained water near the entry to the St. Louis River Estuary. Fishing pressure from McQuade to Two Harbors was very low this week, with most interviewed anglers launching at McQuade and driving toward Duluth to find the temperature break. Anglers targeting Lake Trout in this area should fish deep structure and keep an eye on their electronics to locate more fish.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Weather conditions were poor during this reporting period with fog, rain, thunderstorms, and stiff winds that kept boating opportunities and angler pressure to a minimum. However, angling near Grand Marais is starting to pick up. Anglers from all stations reported that Lake Trout are primarily deep and close to bottom structure in depths of 140-200 feet. Anglers are finding success trolling spoons, flasher-fly combos, and jigging. A few anglers reported that some larger Lake Trout are beginning to move up in the water column and into shallower waters. Lake trout caught ranged from 17-24 inches long. No Salmon have been reported by anglers at any station yet, likely due to the persistent cold water temps. Average surface water temps are in the mid 30's at all stations. UMD's buoy south of Grand Marais has been deployed and is updated regularly. Upper Shore rivers continue to hold strong flows. Spawning steelhead are still present in the larger tributaries. With few anglers fishing in the rivers right now it is a good time to watch for steelhead actively spawning in shallow water. Water temps in the rivers have exceeded 60°F now so fight and release fish as quickly as possible.

6/9/2022

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Lake anglers and charter captains near Duluth reported that fishing is starting to pick up. Lake Trout and Coho Salmon are being caught in 40-80 feet of water, primarily trolling stickbaits near the surface. Lake Trout averaged 21-25 inches long, with a few in the 26-27 inch range. The Coho Salmon caught were 15-16 inches long. The walleye bight in the St. Louis River Estuary is starting to cool off a bit but anglers are still catching some nice fish. After several days of nice weather, surface temps are around 38°F in the clean water and 55°F in the stained water coming out of the St. Louis River. Fishing pressure from McQuade to Two Harbors was fairly low this week and the water temps are still fairly cold in the mid 30's and the temperature break is still very close to Duluth. Anglers in this area caught some Lake Trout fishing near the bottom in 110-200 feet of water primarily trolling spoons and jigging. UMD's nearshore and offshore buoys at McQuade have both been deployed and are updated regularly. The Western Lake Superior Trollers Association held their annual JAWS derby this weekend out of Barkers Island in Wisconsin. Derby anglers found success catching Salmon, Lake Trout, and Walleye.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Anglers reported excessive aspen fuzz creating a thick white layer floating on the lake surface especially near the shore over the past week. Lake anglers were having trouble with the fuzz clogging line guides and fishing reels. This has been so problematic that some charters reduced the number of lines they ran, and other anglers were not able to fish effectively. However, Lake Trout are still being caught near Grand Marais in 170-220 feet of water near bottom structure. Anglers found success trolling spoons and flasher-fly combos as well as jigging. The Lake Trout were 17-22 inches long and ranged from 1-3 pounds. No anglers have reported catching any salmon yet and the charters said this is unusually late. Lake anglers on the Upper Shore continue to face cold surface water temps in the mid 30's at all creel stations except Silver Bay where surface water temps have been in the upper 30's. UMD's buoy south of Grand Marais has not been deployed yet but likely will be soon. Silver Bay boaters reported making a few trips offshore in an attempt to find warmer water creeping northward and possibly Coho Salmon with no success. The Brule River has been fishing well for Steelhead still and anglers are reporting large numbers of suckers in the rivers. Most of the Steelhead being caught are pretty beat up and few fresh and silver fish. River temps are averaging in the low 50's during the morning hours and warming into the mid 50's by afternoon. Angler pressure has been surprisingly low on Upper Shore rivers despite looking very fishable right now.

6/2/22

Lower Shore – Duluth to Two Harbors

Thunderstorms and fog from Duluth to Two Harbors all but eliminated fishing pressure over the holiday weekend. However, as the weather cleared up, angling pressure and success increased near Duluth. Anglers reported catching Lake Trout, Coho Salmon, and Brown Trout in 40-70 feet of water primarily trolling stickbaits near the surface. The Lake Trout caught ranged from 21-25 inches long and Coho Salmon were 15-16 inches long. The Walleye bite in the St. Louis River Estuary has been good using stickbaits. Unfortunately, most of the Walleye caught were just under the 15 inch slot limit. Near Duluth, the surface water temps were 38°F in the clear water and 45°F in the stained water coming out of the St. Louis River. UMD's nearshore and offshore buoys at McQuade have not been deployed yet but likely will be soon. Water temps are still relatively cold in the mid to upper 30's from McQuade to Two Harbors. Jigging deep structure is likely your best bet, but fish can be anywhere in the water column at this time of the year so keep an eye on your electronics to locate more fish. As a result of the temperature break being a few weeks behind this year most of the best action is still close to Duluth. With good weather projected for the next week surface water temps are likely to increase improving fishing further up the shore.

Upper Shore – Twin Points to Hovland

Lake conditions were poor for fishing this past week with heavy fog, storms and wind. Upper Shore surface water temps continue to be cold ranging from 33-35°F. Cold overnight air temps in the 20's froze some surface water on local lakes. Commercial and charter anglers reported having to go slow and break surface ice on the open lake two mornings. Anglers have been fishing for steelhead in the Upper Shore tributaries and finding good fishing conditions as the rivers continue to settle after recent flooding. As a result, anglers have reported catching some nice Steelhead recently. Upper Shore rivers are running with moderate flows and average in the mid to upper 40's. Shore anglers in the Grand Marais Harbor report slow action and few fish caught over the last week. Anglers boat fishing report that lake trout have been in deep water along the Upper Shore which is typical for this time of year when the water temps are still low. UMD's buoy south of Grand Marais has not been deployed yet but likely will be soon.