

Muskellunge Stocking – Fairmont Chain, Martin County

- Amber Lake, Hall Lake, Budd Lake, Sisseton Lake and George Lake make up a highly productive 1,179 acre chain of lakes located within the City of Fairmont. The Fairmont Chain of Lakes has a diverse fish community with primary fish management directed at walleye, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie and largemouth bass. The Fairmont Chain of Lakes has the physical and biological characteristics which make it a good candidate for muskellunge management.
 - Acceptable size (1,179 acres)
 - Diverse forage base consisting of sucker, buffalo, perch, yellow bass and freshwater drum (sheepshead)
 - Abundant shoreline habitats with depths suitable for angling
 - Low northern pike population
- The DNR is attempting to address the need for more muskellunge fishing opportunities in southern Minnesota as well as statewide; consistent with a plan developed by a broad group of stakeholders.
- Muskellunge fishing is one of the fastest growing segments of the Minnesota fishing community. According to a survey conducted by the University of Minnesota, muskellunge anglers comprise 16.5 percent of the fishing population (2008 data), up from 9 percent in 2003.
- Recent communications with the Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc (the local lake association around the Fairmont Chain) have been supportive of the proposal to date. Additionally other sport's groups we have spoken with in Martin County have been receptive to the proposal as well.
- The DNR is proposing to stock 314 muskellunge fingerlings every other year to develop a low density, high quality muskellunge fishery. Managed this way, muskellunge and other species, including walleye, should coexist well. If approved, muskellunge stocking could begin as early as the fall of 2016.