



COMMERCIAL FISHING SUMMARY
MINNESOTA WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

2023

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes data from monthly fishing reports, special permits, and incidental harvest by Lake Superior commercial operators fishing in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior from January through December. Lake Herring (*Coregonus artedii*) will be reported as Cisco, the term standardized by the American Fisheries Society for this species. There are four morphotypes of Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) recognized in Lake Superior: the lean, humper, redbin, and siscowet. For the purposes of this report, “Lake Trout” refers to lean Lake Trout and “Siscowet” refers to the deepwater morphotype. Cisco harvest includes the non-tribal commercial harvest within the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation. All effort is uncorrected for soak time. Data are summarized by statistical reporting districts (MN-1, MN-2, and MN-3) (Figure 1).

Cisco

- Twenty-five commercial operators were licensed in 2023: three in MN-1, eight in MN-2, and fourteen in MN-3 (Table 1). There was one apprentice in MN-1 and two in MN-3. Collectively, 38,000 feet of Cisco net was licensed amongst the 25 operators.
- Fourteen permits for the November Cisco roe season were issued: 2 in MN-1, 5 in MN-2, and 7 in MN-3 (Table 1).
- The gross market value for all Cisco harvested was estimated at \$189,969.12 (Table 2). Gross market value is determined as the dockside value of fish in round weight before processing or handling adds value.
- During the traditional Cisco harvest season (all months excluding November) commercial operators set 705,475 feet of net and harvested 177,115 pounds of Cisco, producing a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 251 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-6; Figure 2).
- For the November Cisco season, quotas were implemented for each statistical district and applied to commercial operators who participated. Beginning in 2016, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa opted to set their own November Cisco quota, but continue to allow some state-licensed operators to fish in their waters. During November, state-licensed operators set 235,370 feet of net, catching a total of 110,717 pounds (83,044 pounds in Minnesota waters and 27,673 pounds in Grand Portage waters) of Cisco and producing a CPUE of 470 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 7 and 8; Figure 2). Thirty-eight percent of the total Cisco harvest was taken in the November season (Figure 3). Ten percent of the statistical district quota was harvested in MN-1, 19% in MN-2, and 40% in MN-3 (Table 8). Overall, 30% of the November quota was harvested.

Chubs (*Coregonus hoyi* and *C. kiyi*)

- Two operators elected to be licensed for chub fishing. The amount of chub net licensed was 3,000 feet (Table 1).
- A total of 6,500 feet of chub net was set, which caught 64 pounds of chubs for a CPUE of 9.8 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-6).

Lake Trout

- Thirteen commercial operators requested permits to fish the summer expanded commercial assessment (i.e. “commercial season”): two in MN-1, five in MN-2, and six in MN-3 (Table 1). A total of 148,900 feet of net was set (Table 3). Lake Trout harvest in MN-1, MN-2, and MN-3 was 2,438 pounds, 2,187 pounds, and 8,287 pounds, for a total harvest of 12,912 pounds (Tables 9-11; Figure 4). The overall CPUE was 86.7 pounds per 1,000 feet (Table 5).
- Lake Trout possession has always been allowed as by-catch in the Cisco, chub, and Round Whitefish fisheries and totaled 963 pounds (Tables 4 and 6; Figure 5).
- Several commercial operators in MN-2 and MN-3 assist annually in the May Lake Trout assessment survey under MNDNR permit; in 2023 there were three that participated (Table 1). They set 19,750 feet of net and caught 270 pounds of Lake Trout in MN-2 and 1,026 pounds in MN-3 for a total of 1,296 pounds and an overall CPUE of 65.6 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-5).
- Two commercial operators participated in the spawning Lake Trout assessment under MNDNR permit (Table 1). They set 5,250 feet of net and caught 873 pounds of Lake Trout in MN-2 and 756 pounds in MN-3 for a total of 1,629 pounds and an overall CPUE of 310 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-5).
- The estimated gross market value of all harvested Lake Trout in the round was \$20,832 (Table 2).

Round Whitefish

- Thirteen Round Whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*) permits were granted to commercial operators (Table 1).
- Operators set 58,800 feet of net and caught 3,944 pounds of Round Whitefish for a CPUE of 67 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-6; Figure 6).
- The season typically runs from April 1 – June 30, and November 15 – December 31, but an exception was granted to the permit holders in MN-1 so that they could fish July and August.

Other species

- Relatively little biomass of other species was retained in commercial operations. There was 606 pounds of Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) and 266 pounds of Siscowet harvested for the year (Table 1).

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Table 1. License summary of the commercial fishery by statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

<u>Item</u>	<u>MN-1</u>	<u>MN-2</u>	<u>MN-3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of operators	3	8	14	25
Number of apprentices	1	0	2	3
Cisco net licensed (feet) ¹	3,300	12,900	21,800	38,000
Chub net licensed (feet) ²	0	2,000	1,000	3,000
Pound nets (number)	0	0	0	0
Trap nets (number)	0	0	0	0
Round Whitefish permits	2	4	7	13
November Cisco permits	2	5	7	14
Lake Trout assessment permits				
May	0	2	1	3
Commercial	2	5	6	13
Spawning	0	1	1	2

¹ 2.25-2.75 inch stretch measurement gill nets weighted to fish suspended off the bottom.

² 2.25-2.75 inch stretch measurement gill nets weighted to fish on the bottom.

Table 2. Total catch of all species in pounds (all gear combined), by statistical district and dockside gross harvest value in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023. Prices are in the round, before handling and processing adds value.

Species	MN-1	MN-2	MN-3	Total	Average Price/lb	Approximate Value
Cisco	8,718	32,163	246,951	287,832	\$0.66	\$189,969.12
Chubs	0	0	64	64	\$0.50	\$32.00
Smelt	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>Lake trout</u>						
Cisco net ¹	113	260	455	828	\$1.24	\$1,026.72
Chub net ²	0	0	0	0	\$1.24	\$0.00
Round Whitefish net ³	0	0	135	135	\$1.24	\$167.40
Assessment ⁴	0	1,143	1,782	2,925	\$1.24	\$3,627.00
Commercial ⁵	2,438	2,187	8,287	12,912	\$1.24	\$16,010.88
Total	2,551	3,590	10,659	16,800		\$20,832.00
<u>Siscowet</u>						
Cisco net ¹	0	0	0	0	\$1.24	\$0.00
Chub net ²	0	0	0	0	\$1.24	\$0.00
Assessment ⁴	0	13	29	42	\$1.24	\$52.08
Commercial ⁵	0	48	176	224	\$1.24	\$277.76
Total	0	61	205	266		\$329.84
Round whitefish	8	295	3,641	3,944	\$0.55	\$2,169.20
Suckers	0	0	0	0	N/A	\$0.00
Burbot	0	0	0	0	N/A	\$0.00
Lake Whitefish	294	111	201	606	\$1.44	\$872.64
					Total	\$214,204.80

¹ Bycatch in Cisco nets

² Bycatch in chub nets

³ Bycatch in Round Whitefish nets

⁴ Taken under permit during Lake Trout assessment netting operations

⁵ Expanded commercial assessment

Table 3. Reported fishing effort (feet of net) by gear type and statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023. Effort is not corrected for soak time.

District	2.25 - 2.75 inch stretch		3.0 inch stretch Round Whitefish Net	Lake Trout			Pound Net Lifts	Trap Net Lifts
	Cisco Net	Chub Net		4.5 inch stretch May ³	5.5 inch stretch Com. ⁴	Spawn ⁵		
MN-1	63,675 ¹ 9,650 ²	0	800		32,600		0	0
Sub-total	73,325							
MN-2	99,320 ¹ 79,700 ²	0	10,000	7,000	26,800	2,250	0	0
Sub-total	179,020							
MN-3	542,480 ¹ 146,020 ²	6,500	48,000	12,750	89,500	3,000	0	0
Sub-total	688,500							
<u>Shorewide</u>	705,475 ¹ 235,370 ²							
Total	940,845	6,500	58,800	19,750	148,900	5,250	0	0

¹ Traditional Cisco season, excludes November

² November Cisco season

³ May Lake Trout assessment permit

⁴ Expanded commercial Lake Trout assessment

⁵ Lake Trout spawning assessment permit

Table 4. Harvest (pounds) of major species by gear type and statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

District		2.25 - 2.75 inch stretch		3.0 inch stretch	Lake Trout		Pound Net	Trap Net
		Cisco Net	Chub Net		4.5 inch stretch	5.5 inch stretch		
				Round Whitefish	May ⁵	Com. ⁶	Spawn ⁷	
MN-1	Cisco	5,618 ¹						
		3,100 ²						
	Sub-total	8,718						
	Chub							
	Smelt							
	Burbot							
	Suckers							
	Lake Whitefish					294		
	Lake trout	113 ³				2,438		
	Siscowet							
MN-2	Round Whitefish			8				
	Cisco	15,414 ¹		38 ⁴				
		16,749 ²						
	Sub-total	32,163						
	Chub							
	Burbot							
	Suckers							
	Lake Whitefish					111		
	Lake trout	260 ³			270	2,187	873	
	Siscowet				13	48		
MN-3	Round Whitefish			295				
	Cisco	156,083 ¹		210 ⁴				
		90,868 ²						
	Sub-total	246,951						
	Chub		64					
	Burbot							
	Suckers							
	Lake Whitefish				59	138	4	
	Lake trout	455 ³		135 ⁴	1,026	8,287	756	
	Siscowet				29	176		
Shorewide	Round Whitefish			3,641				
	Cisco	177,115 ¹		248 ⁴				
		110,717 ²						
	Total	287,832						
	Chub		64					
	Burbot							
	Suckers							
	Lake Whitefish				59	543	4	
	Lake trout	828 ³		135 ⁴	1,296	12,912	1,629	
	Siscowet				42	224		
	Round Whitefish			3,944				

¹ Traditional Cisco season, excludes November

² November Cisco season

³ Bycatch of Lake Trout and Siscowet in Cisco nets

⁴ Bycatch in Round Whitefish nets

⁵ May Lake Trout assessment permit

⁶ Expanded commercial Lake Trout assessment

⁷ Lake Trout spawning assessment permit

Table 5. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) in pounds of major species by gear type and statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

		Pounds/1,000 feet of net						Pounds/lift	
		2.25 - 2.75 inch stretch		3.0 inch stretch	4.5 inch stretch		5.5 inch stretch	Pound Net	Trap Net
District		Cisco Net	Chub Net	Round Whitefish	May ⁵	Com. ⁶	Spawn ⁷		
MN-1	Cisco	88.2 ¹							
		321.2 ²							
	Sub-total	118.9							
	Chub								
	Smelt								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish					9.0			
	Lake trout	1.5 ³				74.8			
	Siscowet								
	Round Whitefish								
MN-2	Cisco	155.2 ¹		3.8 ⁴					
		210.2 ²							
	Sub-total	179.7							
	Chub								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish					4.1			
	Lake trout	1.5 ³			38.6	81.6	388.0		
	Siscowet				1.9	1.8			
		Round Whitefish			29.5				
MN-3	Cisco	287.7 ¹		4.4 ⁴					
		622.3 ²							
	Sub-total	358.7							
	Chub		9.8						
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish				4.6	1.5	1.3		
	Lake trout	0.7 ³		2.8 ⁴	80.5	92.6	252.0		
	Siscowet				2.3	2.0			
		Round Whitefish			75.9				
<u>Shorewide</u>									
	Cisco	251.1 ¹		4.2 ⁴					
		470.4 ²							
	Total	305.9							
	Chub		9.8						
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish				3.0	3.6	0.8		
	Lake trout	0.9 ³		2.3 ⁴	65.6	86.7	310.3		
	Siscowet	0.0 ³			2.1	1.5			
	Round Whitefish			67.1					

¹ Traditional Cisco season, excludes November

² November Cisco assessment

³ Bycatch of Lake Trout and Siscowet in Cisco nets

⁴ Bycatch in Round Whitefish nets

⁵ May Lake Trout assessment permit

⁶ Expanded commercial Lake Trout assessment

⁷ Lake Trout spawning assessment permit

Table 6. Total catch of major commercial species in pounds, by species, month, and statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

Month	Cisco	Chub	Smelt	Sucker	Burbot	Round Whitefish	Lake Trout			Siscowet			Lake Whitefish		
							Bycatch	Permit	Com.	Bycatch	Permit	Com.	Bycatch	Permit	Com.
MN-1 January															
February															
March															
April															
May	28														
June	359								474			0			35
July	631					8	25		570			0			20
August	905						6		866			0			52
September	560						5		528			0			187
October	500						12								
November	3,100						55								
December	2,635						10								
Totals	8,718	0	0	0	0	8	113	0	2,438	0	0	0	0	0	294
MN-2 January															
February															
March															
April						78									
May						133		270		13					
June						79			424			45			0
July	257						5		767			0			67
August	1,185						4		890			0			44
September	1,021						11		106			3			0
October	8,945						113	182							
November	16,749						106	691							
December	4,006					5	21								
Totals	32,163	0	0	0	0	295	260	1,143	2,187	0	13	48	0	0	111
MN-3 January															
February															
March															
April	2,902					866	38								
May	886	14				756	94	1,026		29				59	
June	11,333					1,636	113		1,716			68			11
July	15,658	24					31		1,909			24			23
August	12,812	26							1,499			8			0
September	12,634						84		3,163			76			104
October	94,083						108	438						4	
November	90,868					3	122	318							
December	5,775					380									
Totals	246,951	64	0	0	0	3,641	590	1,782	8,287	0	29	176	0	63	138
Shorewide															
Total	287,832	64	0	0	0	3,944	963	2,925	12,912	0	42	224	0	63	543

Table 7. Effort, harvest, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Cisco by statistical district and permit holder during November 2023 in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior. Data from state-licensed operators who fished Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa waters is included.

District	License Number	Grid	Feet of Net Fished	Pounds Caught	Number Days	CPUE Lbs./1000 feet
MN-1	<u>13</u>	1303	3,650	1,300	17	356
	<u>18</u>	1303	6,000	1,800	20	300
	Subtotal		9,650	3,100	37	321
MN-2	<u>7</u>	1205	10,500	1035	24	99
	<u>45</u>	1205	12,900	1,392	10	108
	<u>62</u>	1106	32,700	9144	27	280
	<u>201</u>	1205	22,100	4428	16	200
	<u>202</u>	1106	1,500	750	5	500
	Subtotal		79,700	16,749	82	210
MN-3	<u>9</u> ^G	715	1,360	1920	8	1,412
	<u>20</u>	811	14,000	9555	14	683
	<u>21</u>	714	2,700	1960	3	726
	<u>22</u> ^G	715	7,300	8290	8	1,136
	<u>301</u> ^G	716	16,800	15538	28	925
	<u>302</u> ^G	715	1,360	1925	8	1,415
	<u>303</u>	714	65,000	26385	26	406
	<u>304</u>	811	6,500	8515	13	1,310
	<u>305</u>	812	6,000	4030	12	672
	<u>306</u>	811	3,000	2600	6	867
	<u>308</u>	714	22,000	10150	11	461
	Subtotal		146,020	90,868	137	622
Shorewide						
Total			235,370	110,717	256	470

^G operators whose harvest was from Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa waters under their quota

Table 8. Harvest compared to total allowable catch (TAC), fishing effort, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Cisco, by season and statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023. Data from state-licensed operators who fished Grand Portage Band of Chippewa waters is included.

Shorewide Biomass Estimate	November 2022 Harvest	December 2022 Harvest	Jan-Oct 2023 Harvest	Calculated November TAC	% Area of District	November District Quota
489,571	88,414	2,820	122,374	275,963	0.115	MN-1 31,736
					0.314	MN-2 86,652
					0.571	MN-3 157,575
					Total November TAC	275,963

MN-1		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	5,618	64%	63,675	87%	88	
Roe-Nov*	3,100	36%	9,650	13%	321	10%
Totals	8,718		73,325		119	

*MN-1 November TAC: 31,736

MN-2		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	15,414	48%	99,320	55%	155	
Roe-Nov*	16,749	52%	79,700	45%	210	19%
Totals	32,163		179,020		180	

*MN-2 November TAC: 86,652

MN-3		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	156,083	63%	542,480	79%	288	
Roe-Nov ¹	63,195	26%	119,200	17%	530	40%
Roe-Nov ^G	27,673	11%	26,820	4%	1,032	
Roe-Total	90,868	37%	146,020	21%	622	
Totals	246,951		688,500		359	

*MN-3 November TAC: 157,575

Shorewide		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	177,115	62%	705,475	75%	251	
Roe-Nov ¹	83,044	29%	208,550	22%	398	30%
Roe-Nov ^G	27,673	10%	26,820	3%	1,032	
Roe-Total	110,717	38%	235,370	25%	470	
Totals	287,832		940,845		306	

¹ commercial operators fishing under State of Minnesota November permits and quotas

^G commercial operators fishing in Grand Portage waters under Grand Portage Band of Chippewa quota

*November TAC is determined by reducing the shorewide biomass estimate by subtracting the actual cisco harvest during January through September and the previous year's October through December harvest

Table 9. Effort, harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for commercial Lake Trout, Siscowet and Lake Whitefish by permit in Statistical District MN-1, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft	CPUE	Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft	CPUE	Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft	CPUE
			/1000 ft	Pounds			/1000 ft	Pounds			/1000 ft	Pounds	
<u>Permittee 13 Grid 1303</u>													
June	4,000	50	12.5	220	55.0		0.0		0.0	8	2.0	31	7.8
July	4,000	59	14.8	231	57.8		0.0		0.0	4	1.0	14	3.5
August	4,000	98	24.5	419	104.8		0.0		0.0	9	2.3	39	9.8
Sept	3,000	68	22.7	344	114.7		0.0		0.0	33	11.0	127	42.3
	15,000	275	18.3	1,214	80.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	54	3.6	211	14.1
<u>Permittee 18 Grid 1303</u>													
June	5,100	63	12.4	254	49.8		0.0		0.0	1	0.2	4	0.8
July	6,500	84	12.9	339	52.2		0.0		0.0	2	0.3	6	0.9
August	3,500	103	29.4	447	127.7		0.0		0.0	3	0.9	13	3.7
Sept	2,500	41	16.4	184	73.6		0.0		0.0	13	5.2	60	24.0
	17,600	291	16.5	1,224	69.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	1.1	83	4.7
<u>Total effort and harvest in MN1</u>													
June	9,100	113	12.4	474	52.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	1.0	35	3.8
July	10,500	143	13.6	570	54.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.6	20	1.9
August	7,500	201	26.8	866	115.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	1.6	52	6.9
Sept	5,500	109	19.8	528	96.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	46	8.4	187	34.0
Totals	32,600	566	17.4	2,438	74.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	73	2.2	294	9.0

Table 10. Effort, harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for commercial Lake Trout, Siscowet and Lake Whitefish by permit in Statistical District MN-2, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE
<u>Permittee 45 Grid 1205</u>													
June			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 62 Grid 1106</u>													
June	3,500	38	10.9	130	37.1	10	2.9	30	8.6		0.0		0.0
July			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	1,500	9	6.0	34	22.7	1	0.7	3	2.0		0.0		0.0
	5,000	47	9.4	164	32.8	11	2.2	33	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 7 Grid 1205</u>													
June			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 201 Grid 1105</u>													
June			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 10 continued. Effort, harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for commercial Lake Trout, Siscowet and Lake Whitefish by permit in Statistical District MN-2, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number /1000 ft	Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE
<u>Permittee 202 Grid 1106</u>													
June	3,500	48	13.7	174	49.7	5	1.4	15	4.3		0.0		0.0
July			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	3,500	48	13.7	174	49.7	5	1.4	15	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 203 Grid 909</u>													
June	1,500	32	21.3	120	80.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July	7,200	175	24.3	767	106.5		0.0		0.0	12	1.7	67	9.3
August	9,000	177	19.7	890	98.9		0.0		0.0	8	0.9	44	4.9
Sept	600	16	26.7	72	120.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	18,300	400	21.9	1,849	101.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	1.1	111	6.1
<u>Total effort and harvest in MN2</u>													
June	8,500	118	13.9	424	49.9	15	1.8	45	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
July	7,200	175	24.3	767	106.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	1.7	67	9.3
August	9,000	177	19.7	890	98.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.9	44	4.9
Sept	2,100	25	11.9	106	50.5	1	0.5	3	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Totals	26,800	495	18.5	2,187	81.6	16	0.6	48	1.8	20	0.7	111	4.1

Table 11. Effort, harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for commercial Lake Trout, Siscowet and Lake Whitefish by permit in Statistical District MN-3, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE	Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft Pounds	lbs./1000 ft CPUE
			/1000 ft				/1000 ft				/1000 ft		
<u>Permittee 20 Grid 812</u>													
June	6,000	128	21.3	509	84.8	1	0.2	3	0.5		0.0		0.0
July	4,500	126	28.0	501	111.3	5	1.1	15	3.3	3	0.7	9	2.0
August	2,250	73	32.4	289	128.4		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	5,250	183	34.9	787	149.9	8	1.5	23	4.4	4	0.8	16	3.0
	18,000	510	28.3	2,086	115.9	14	0.8	41	2.3	7	0.4	25	1.4
<u>Permittee 21 Grid 714</u>													
June	1,200	11	9.2	44	36.7	1	0.8	3	2.5		0.0		0.0
July	3,600	19	5.3	62	17.2	3	0.8	6	1.7		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	1,200	10	8.3	38	31.7	8	6.7	22	18.3		0.0		0.0
	6,000	40	6.7	144	24.0	12	2.0	31	5.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 303 Grid 714</u>													
June	3,750	102	27.2	330	88.0	6	1.6	19	5.1		0.0		0.0
July	6,000	130	21.7	480	80.0		0.0		0.0	1	0.2	8	1.3
August	5,250	117	22.3	455	86.7	3	0.6	8	1.5		0.0		0.0
Sept	6,000	163	27.2	842	140.3	4	0.7	13	2.2	2	0.3	10	1.7
	21,000	512	24.4	2,107	100.3	13	0.6	40	1.9	3	0.1	18	0.9

Table 11 continued. Effort, harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) for commercial Lake Trout, Siscowet and Lake Whitefish by permit in Statistical District MN-3, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number		lbs./1000 ft		Number		lbs./1000 ft		Number		lbs./1000 ft	
		Number	/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE	Number	/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE	Number	/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE
<u>Permittee 304 Grid 811</u>													
June	6,000	129	21.5	424	70.7	1	0.2	10	1.7		0.0		0.0
July	6,000	130	21.7	443	73.8		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
August	4,500	130	28.9	455	101.1		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	4,000	130	32.5	687	171.8	5	1.3	14	3.5	4	1.0	22	5.5
	20,500	519	25.3	2,009	98.0	6	0.3	24	1.2	4	0.2	22	1.1
<u>Permittee 308 Grid 814</u>													
June	8,250	123	14.9	409	49.6	10	1.2	33	4.0	2	0.2	11	1.3
July	6,000	128	21.3	423	70.5	1	0.2	3	0.5	2	0.3	6	1.0
August	3,750	83	22.1	300	80.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	6,000	176	29.3	809	134.8	2	0.3	4	0.7	11	1.8	56	9.3
	24,000	510	21.3	1,941	80.9	13	0.5	40	1.7	15	0.6	73	3.0
<u>Total effort and harvest in MN3</u>													
June	25,200	493	19.6	1,716	68.1	19	0.8	68	2.7	2	0.1	11	0.4
July	26,100	533	20.4	1,909	73.1	9	0.3	24	0.9	6	0.2	23	0.9
August	15,750	403	25.6	1,499	95.2	3	0.2	8	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sept	22,450	662	29.5	3,163	140.9	27	1.2	76	3.4	21	0.9	104	4.6
Totals	89,500	2,091	23.4	8,287	92.6	58	0.6	176	2.0	29	0.3	138	1.5

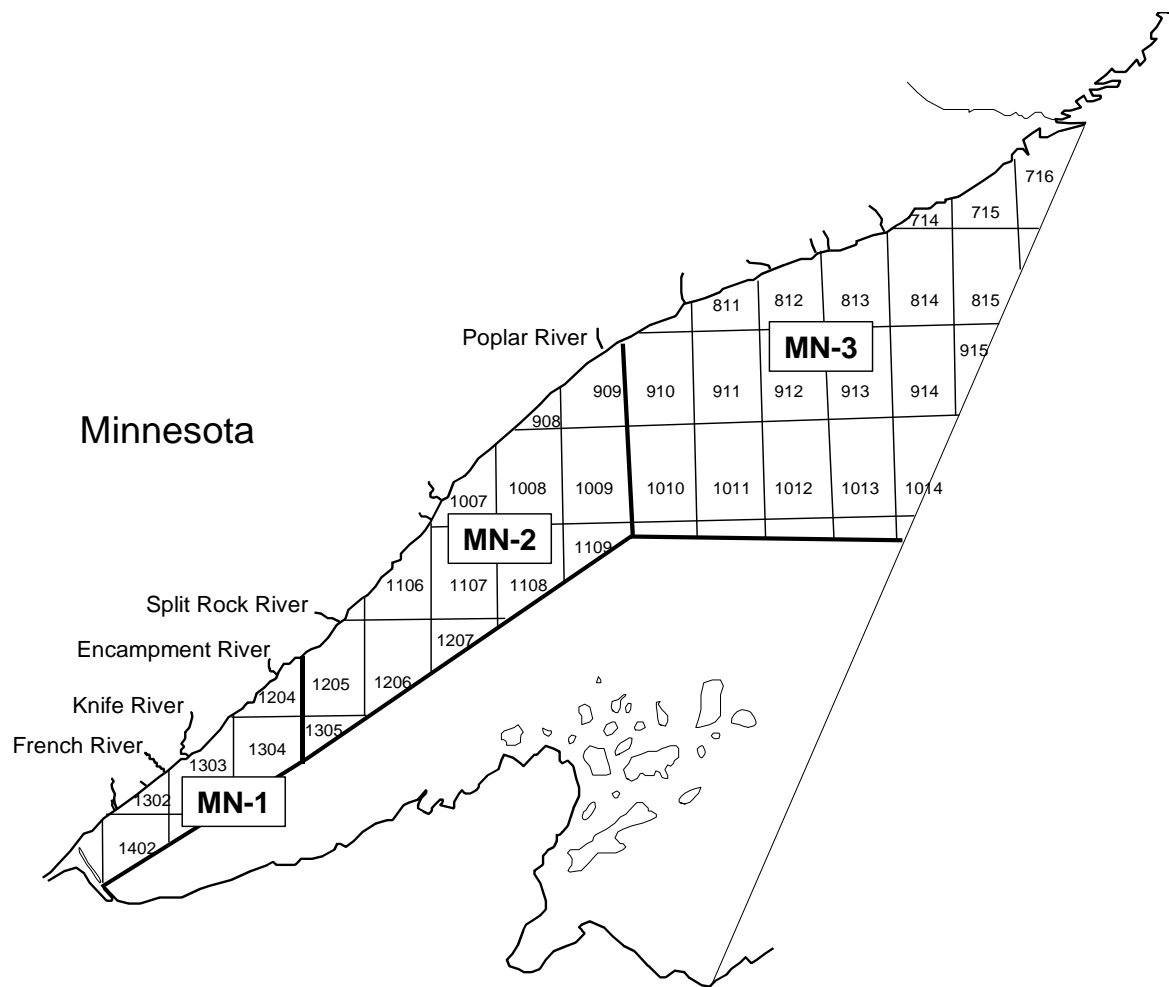


Figure 1. Statistical reporting districts and grids, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior.

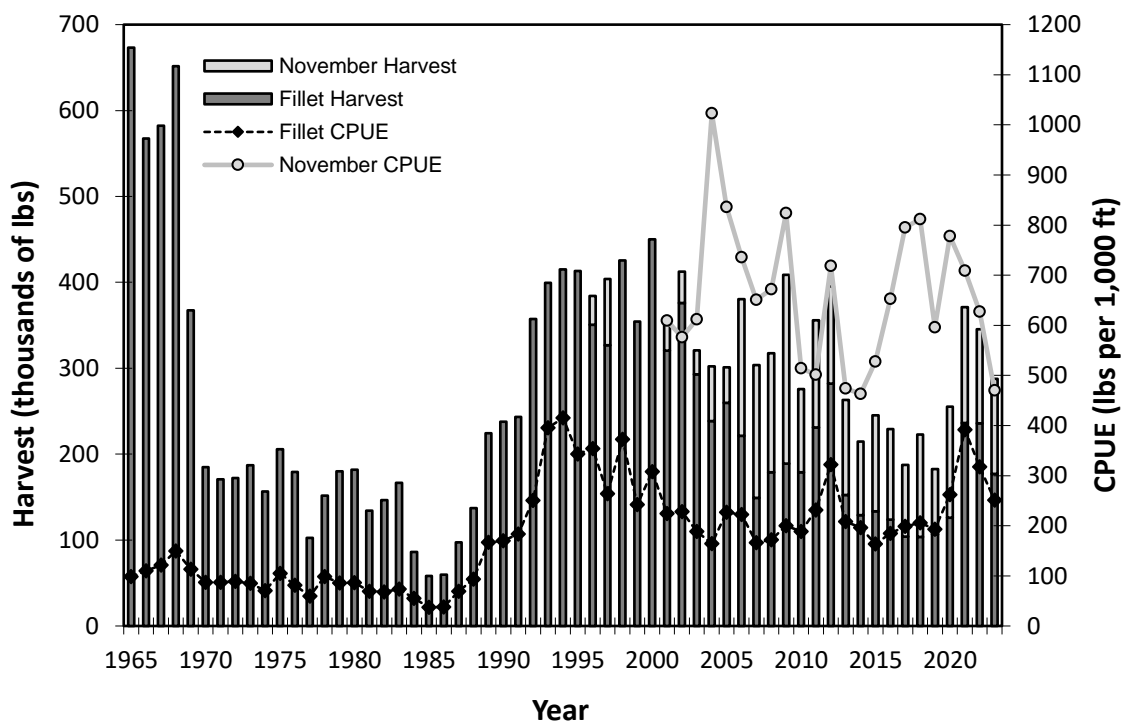


Figure 2. Cisco harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the commercial gill net fishery, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 1965-2023. Harvest has been restricted in November since 1973.

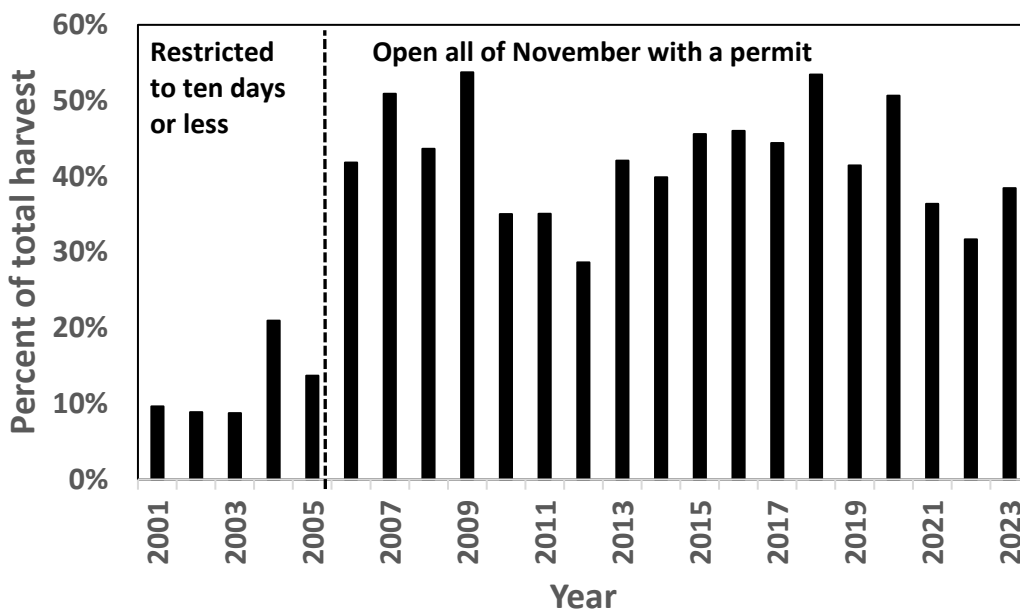


Figure 3. Percent of yearly Cisco harvest taken during November, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2001-2023.

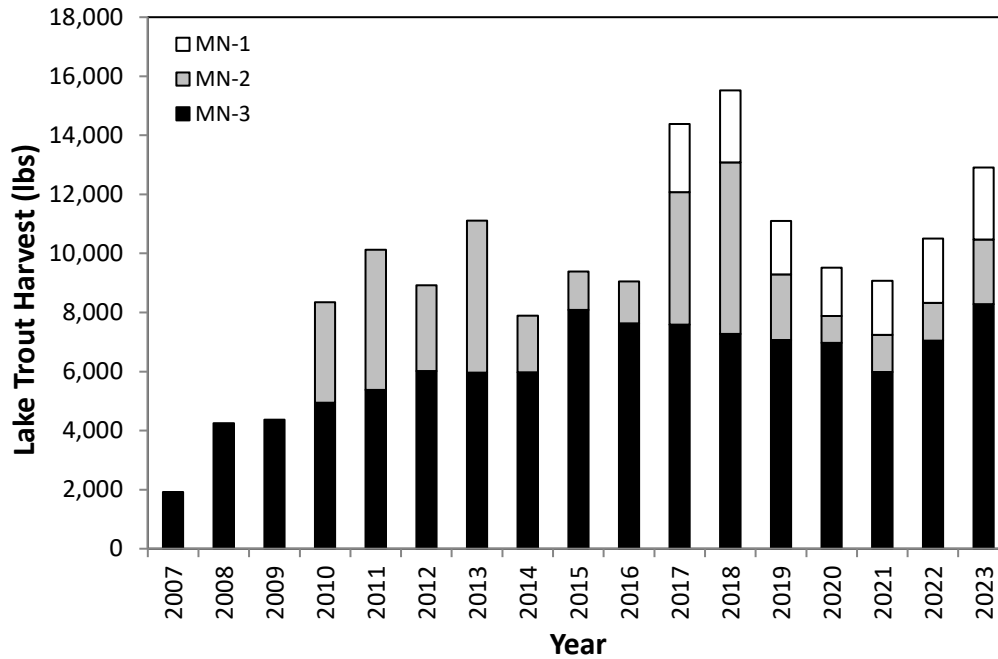


Figure 4. Lake Trout harvest by statistical district in the summer expanded commercial assessment, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2007-2023.

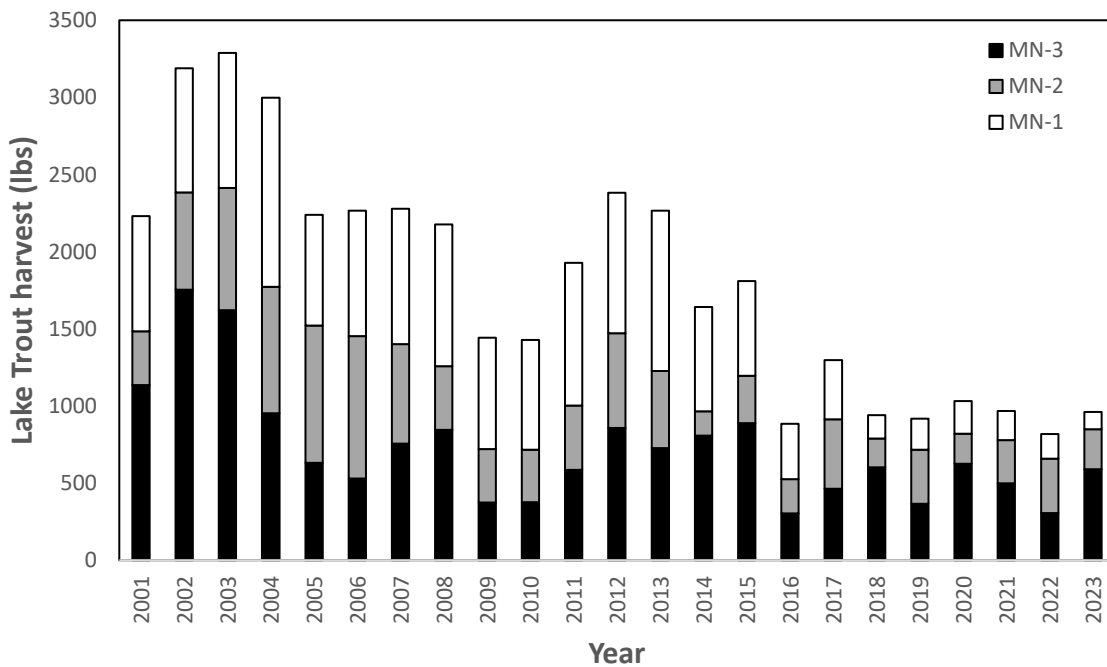


Figure 5. Incidental Lake Trout harvest in Cisco, chub, and Round Whitefish nets by statistical district, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2001-2023.

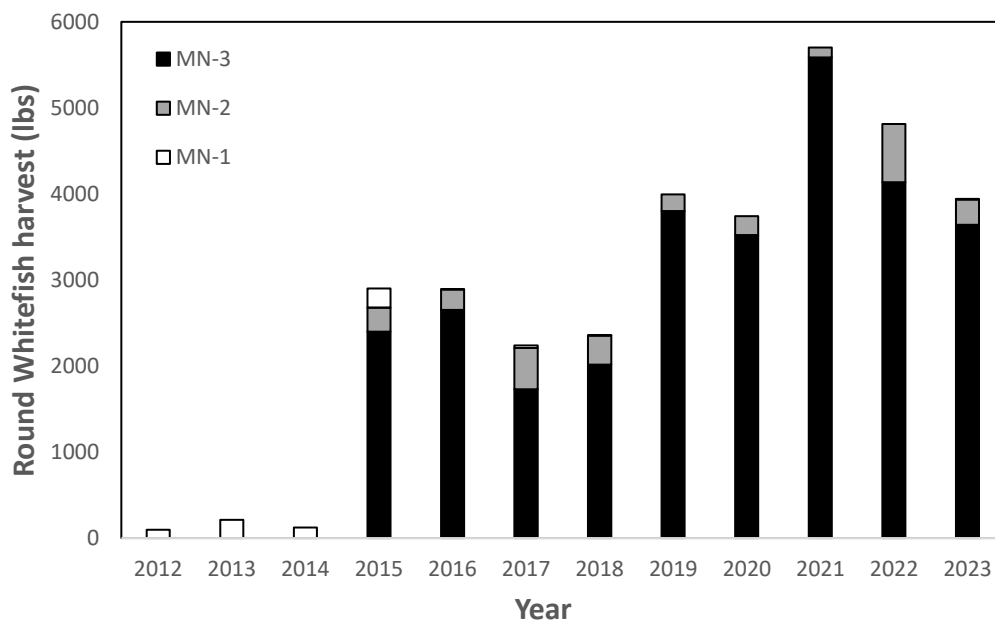


Figure 6. Round Whitefish harvest by statistical district, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2012-2023.

Appendix 1. Commercial operators, apprentices, gear allocation, and special assessments, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2023.

Master License No.	Apprentice License	Feet of Cisco Net	Feet of Chub Net	Feet of Round Whitefish Net	Pound Nets	Trap Nets	Special Assessments	Statistical District
7		800					November Cisco	MN-2
9 ¹		500						MN-3
13		1,500		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-1
15	Yes	1,200						MN-1
18		600		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-1
20		2,000	1,000	400			May Lake Trout Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
21		1,500		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
22 ¹		1,000						MN-3
29		1,200						MN-3
45		1,800		400			May Lake Trout Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
46 ¹		1,000						MN-3
62		2,700	2,000	400			May Lake Trout Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
79		1,000						MN-2
201		2,000					Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
202		2,400		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
203		700		400			Expanded Commercial	MN-2
204		1,500						MN-2
301 ¹		1,000						MN-3
302 ¹		500						MN-3
303		3,500		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
304		2,000		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
305		2,000		400			November Cisco	MN-3
306		2,000					November Cisco	MN-3
307	Yes	600		400			Expanded Commercial	MN-3
308	Yes	3,000		400			Expanded Commercial	MN-3
Total		38,000	3,000	5,200	0	0		

¹ operators who only fished in Reservation waters with permission from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

COMMERCIAL FISHING SUMMARY
MINNESOTA WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

2023

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Prepared by:
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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Lake Superior Area Fisheries Office

Approved by: _____
Area Supervisor

Approved by: _____
Regional Fisheries