



COMMERCIAL FISHING SUMMARY
MINNESOTA WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

2024

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 1st through December 31st, 2024. Lake Herring (*Coregonus artedii*) are reported as Cisco, the term standardized by the American Fisheries Society for this species. Bloater (*Coregonus hoyi*) and Kiyi (*Coregonus kiyi*) are collectively reported as chubs. There are four morphotypes of Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) recognized in Lake Superior: 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. Humper and redbin morphotypes are generally not encountered in Minnesota waters. 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 2024: three in MN-1, eight in MN-2, and fourteen in MN-3 (Table 1). There was one apprentice in MN-1 and one in MN-3. Collectively, 39,600 feet of Cisco net was licensed amongst the 25 operators.
- Fifteen permits for the November Cisco roe season were issued: 2 in MN-1, 6 in MN-2, and 7 in MN-3 (Table 1).
- The gross market value for all Cisco harvested was estimated at \$210,232.80 (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 635,880 feet of net and harvested 201,040 pounds of Cisco, producing a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 316 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 206,800 feet of net, catching a total of 149,348 pounds (108,738 pounds in Minnesota waters and 40,610 pounds in Grand Portage waters) of Cisco and producing a CPUE of 722 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 7 and 8; Figure 2). Forty-three percent of the total Cisco harvest was taken in the November season (Figure 3). Six percent of the statistical district quota was harvested in MN-1, 31% in MN-2, and 54% in MN-3 (Table 8). Overall, 41% 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 9,750 feet of chub net was set, which caught 143 pounds of chubs for a CPUE of 14.7 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-6).

Lake Trout

- Sixteen commercial operators requested permits to fish the summer expanded commercial assessment (i.e. “commercial season”): two in MN-1, seven in MN-2, and seven in MN-3 (Table 1). A total of 184,100 feet of net was set (Table 3). Lake Trout harvest in MN-1, MN-2, and MN-3 was 3,598 pounds, 3,203 pounds, and 9,168 pounds, for a total harvest of 15,968 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 669 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 2024 there were three that participated (Table 1). They set 25,000 feet of net and caught 683 pounds of Lake Trout in MN-2 and 1,114 pounds in MN-3 for a total of 1,797 pounds and an overall CPUE of 71.9 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-5).
- The estimated gross market value of all harvested Lake Trout in the round was \$21,936.22 (Table 2).

Round Whitefish

- Eleven Round Whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*) permits were granted to commercial operators (Table 1).
- Operators set 21,000 feet of net and caught 1,299 pounds of Round Whitefish for a CPUE of 61.9 pounds per 1,000 feet of net (Tables 3-6; Figure 6).

Other species

- Relatively little biomass of other species was retained in commercial operations. There was 688 pounds of Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), 455 pounds of Siscowet, and 14 pounds of Burbot (*Lota lota*) harvested for the year (Table 2).

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Table 1. License summary of the commercial fishery by statistical district in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2024.

<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	1	2
Cisco net licensed (feet) ¹	3,300	13,200	23,100	39,600
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	0	4	7	11
November Cisco permits	2	6	7	15
Lake Trout assessment permits				
May	0	2	1	3
Commercial	2	7	7	16
Spawning	0	0	0	0

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, 2024. 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	5,426	49,588	295,374	350,388	\$0.60	\$210,232.80
Chubs	0	0	143	143	\$0.50	\$71.50
Smelt	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>Lake trout</u>						
Cisco net ¹	35	231	403	669	\$1.19	\$796.11
Chub net ²	0	0	0	0	\$1.19	\$0.00
Round Whitefish net ³	0	0	0	0	\$1.19	\$0.00
Assessment ⁴	0	683	1,114	1,797	\$1.19	\$2,138.43
Commercial ⁵	3,598	3,203	9,168	15,968	\$1.19	\$19,001.68
Total	3,633	4,117	10,685	18,434		\$21,936.22
<u>Siscowet</u>						
Cisco net ¹	0	0	0	0	\$1.19	\$0.00
Chub net ²	0	0	0	0	\$1.19	\$0.00
Assessment ⁴	0	58	21	79	\$1.19	\$94.01
Commercial ⁵	0	92	284	376	\$1.19	\$447.20
Total	0	150	305	455		\$541.21
Round whitefish	0	376	923	1,299	\$0.51	\$662.49
Suckers	0	0	0	0	N/A	\$0.00
Burbot	0	0	14	14	N/A	\$0.00
Lake Whitefish	479	115	94	688	\$1.22	\$838.79
					Total	\$234,283.01

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, 2024. Effort is not corrected for soak time.

District	2.25 - 2.75 inch stretch		3.0 inch stretch	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	48,550 ¹ 9,400 ²	0	0		35,300		
Sub-total	57,950						
MN-2	98,300 ¹ 52,500 ²	0	6,800	15,250	49,950		
Sub-total	150,800						
MN-3	489,030 ¹ 144,900 ²	9,750	14,200	9,750	98,850		
Sub-total	633,930						
<u>Shorewide</u>	635,880 ¹ 206,800 ²						
Total	842,680	9,750	21,000	25,000	184,100	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, 2024.

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	3,751 ¹							
		1,675 ²							
	Sub-total	5,426							
	Chub								
	Smelt								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish					479			
	Lake trout	35 ³				3,598			
	Siscowet	0 ³				0			
MN-2	Cisco	23,950 ¹		2 ⁴					
		25,638 ²							
	Sub-total	49,588							
	Chub								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish				0	115			
	Lake trout	231 ³			683	3,203			
	Siscowet	0 ³			58	92			
	Round Whitefish			376					
MN-3	Cisco	173,339 ¹		86 ⁴					
		122,035 ²							
	Sub-total	295,374							
	Chub		143						
	Burbot		14						
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish				0	94			
	Lake trout	403 ³			1,114	9,168			
	Siscowet	0 ³			21	284			
	Round Whitefish			923					
<u>Shorewide</u>									
	Cisco	201,040 ¹		88 ⁴					
		149,348 ²							
	Total	350,388							
	Chub		143						
	Burbot		14						
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish				0	688			
	Lake trout	669 ³			1,797	15,968			
	Siscowet	0 ³			79	376			
	Round Whitefish			1,299					

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, 2024.

District		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
		Cisco Net	Chub Net	Round Whitefish	May ⁵	Com. ⁶	Spawn ⁷		
MN-1	Cisco	77.3 ¹							
		178.2 ²							
	Sub-total	93.6							
	Chub								
	Smelt								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake Whitefish					13.6			
	Lake trout	0.6 ³				101.9			
	Siscowet	0.0 ³				0.0			
	Round Whitefish								
MN-2	Cisco	243.6 ¹		0.3 ⁴					
		488.3 ²							
	Sub-total	328.8							
	Chub								
	Burbot								
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish				0.0	2.3			
	Lake trout	1.5 ³			44.8	64.1			
	Siscowet	0.0 ³			3.8	1.8			
	Round Whitefish			55.3					
MN-3	Cisco	354.5 ¹		6.1 ⁴					
		842.2 ²							
	Sub-total	465.9							
	Chub		14.7						
	Burbot		1.4						
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish				0.0	0.9			
	Lake trout	0.6 ³			114.3	92.7			
	Siscowet	0.0 ³			2.2	2.9			
	Round Whitefish			65.0					
Shorewide	Cisco	316.2 ¹		4.2 ⁴					
		722.2 ²							
	Total	415.8							
	Chub		14.7						
	Burbot		1.4						
	Suckers								
	Lake whitefish				0.0	3.7			
	Lake trout	0.8 ³			71.9	86.7			
	Siscowet	0.0 ³			3.2	2.0			
	Round Whitefish			61.9					

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, 2024.

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	55														
February															
March															
April															
May	40														
June	233								803						155
July	552						21		325						97
August	1,458						7		611						104
September									1860						124
October	1,188						7								
November	1,675														
December	225														
Totals	5,426	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	3,598	0	0	0	0	0	479
MN-2 January															
February															
March															
April	20					328									
May						32		683		58					
June						16			1,410		39				8
July	332						17		269						8
August	2,051						3		669						98
September	2,534								855			52			0
October	17,020						109								
November	25,638						97								
December	1,993						5								
Totals	49,588	0	0	0	0	376	231	683	3,203	0	58	92	0	0	115
MN-3 January															
February	601						24								
March	221						24								
April	1,881					838									
May	3,634					3		1,114		21					
June	12,385								2,138			64			19
July	12,650	54			6				1,840			17			28
August	8,882	89			8				2,306			23			4
September	9,084								2,883			180			42
October	122,611														
November	122,035						50								
December	1,390					82	305								
Totals	295,374	143	0	0	14	923	403	1,114	9,168	0	21	284	0	0	94
Shorewide															
Total	350,388	143	0	0	14	1,299	669	1,797	15,968	0	79	376	0	0	688

Table 7. Effort, harvest, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Cisco by statistical district and permit holder during November 2024 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	5,375	865	19	161
	<u>18</u>	1303	4,025	810	23	201
	Subtotal		9,400	1,675	42	178
MN-2	<u>7</u>	1205	6,000	1,280	20	213
	<u>45</u>	1205	8,700	2,788	15	320
	<u>62</u>	1106	22,500	16,464	21	732
	<u>201</u>	1205	14,700	4,836	19	329
	<u>202</u>	1106	600	270	2	450
	Subtotal		52,500	25,638	77	488
MN-3	<u>9</u> ^G	715	1,800	1630	9	906
	<u>20</u>	714	23,300	21535	17	924
	<u>21</u>	714	9,600	5,015	8	522
	<u>22</u> ^G	715	9,600	9,670	10	1,007
	<u>301</u> ^G	716	23,400	27,680	26	1,183
	<u>302</u> ^G	715	1,800	1,630	9	906
	<u>303</u>	714	55,200	34,580	23	626
	<u>304</u>	811	8,500	8,840	17	1,040
	<u>305</u>	812	3,500	3,705	7	1,059
	<u>306</u>	811	4,000	4,550	10	1,138
	<u>309</u>	812	4,200	3,200	7	762
	Subtotal		144,900	122,035	143	842
Shorewide						
Total			206,800	149,348	262	722

^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, 2024. Data from state-licensed operators who fished Grand Portage Band of Chippewa waters is included.

Shorewide Biomass Estimate	November 2023 Harvest	December 2023 Harvest	Jan-Oct 2024 Harvest	Calculated November TAC	% Area of District	November District Quota
458,612	83,044	12,416	99,775	263,377	0.115	<u>MN-1</u> 30,288
					0.314	<u>MN-2</u> 82,700
					0.571	<u>MN-3</u> 150,388
					Total November TAC	263,377

<u>MN-1</u>		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	3,751	69%	48,550	84%	77	
Roe-Nov*	1,675	31%	9,400	16%	178	6%
Totals	5,426		57,950		94	

*MN-1 November TAC: 30,288

<u>MN-2</u>		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	23,950	48%	98,300	65%	244	
Roe-Nov*	25,638	52%	52,500	35%	488	31%
Totals	49,588		150,800		329	

*MN-2 November TAC: 82,700

<u>MN-3</u>		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	173,339	59%	489,030	77%	354	
Roe-Nov ¹	81,425	28%	108,300	17%	752	54%
Roe-Nov ^G	40,610	14%	36,600	6%	1,110	
Roe-Total	122,035	41%	144,900	23%	842	
Totals	295,374		633,930		466	

*MN-3 November TAC: 150,388

<u>Shorewide</u>		% of			CPUE	% of Nov
Season	Pounds Harvested	Annual Harvest	Feet of Net Fished	% of Net Fished	lbs./1000 feet	TAC Harvested
Fillet	201,040	57%	635,880	75%	316	
Roe-Nov ¹	108,738	31%	170,200	20%	639	41%
Roe-Nov ^G	40,610	12%	36,600	4%	1,110	
Roe-Total	149,348	43%	206,800	25%	722	
Totals	350,388		842,680		416	

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

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, 2024.

	Feet of Net Fished	Lake Trout				Siscowet				Lake Whitefish			
		Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft		Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft		Number	Number	lbs./1000 ft	
			/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE		/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE		/1000 ft	Pounds	CPUE
<u>Permittee 13 Grid 1303</u>													
June	3,500	82	23.4	388	110.8		0.0		0.0	38	10.9	123	35.1
July	4,000	36	9.0	165	41.2		0.0		0.0	20	5.0	66	16.6
August	4,000	73	18.3	364	91.0		0.0		0.0	18	4.5	62	15.5
Sept	5,500	141	25.6	784	142.5		0.0		0.0	16	2.9	61	11.1
	17,000	332	19.5	1,700	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	92	5.4	312	18.4
<u>Permittee 18 Grid 1303</u>													
June	4,500	76	16.9	415	92.2		0.0		0.0	10	2.2	32	7.1
July	3,500	30	8.6	160	45.6		0.0		0.0	8	2.3	30	8.6
August	4,000	48	12.0	247	61.8		0.0		0.0	12	3.0	43	10.6
Sept	6,300	193	30.6	1076	170.8		0.0		0.0	14	2.2	62	9.9
	18,300	347	19.0	1,898	103.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	44	2.4	167	9.1
<u>Total effort and harvest in MN1</u>													
June	8,000	158	19.8	803	100.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	48	6.0	155	19.3
July	7,500	66	8.8	325	43.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	3.7	97	12.9
August	8,000	121	15.1	611	76.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	3.8	104	13.0
Sept	11,800	334	28.3	1,860	157.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	2.5	124	10.5
Totals	35,300	679	19.2	3,598	101.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	136	3.9	479	13.6

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, 2024.

	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 1105</u>													
June	8,250	54	6.5	179	21.7	7	0.8	22	2.6		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			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
	8,250	54	6.5	179	21.7	7	0.8	22	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 62 Grid 1106</u>													
June	5,500	51	9.3	201	36.5	2	0.4	4	0.7		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	6,500	115	17.7	487	74.9	15	2.3	48	7.4		0.0		0.0
	12,000	166	13.8	688	57.3	17	1.4	53	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 79 Grid 1007</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 1205</u>													
June	2,250	26	11.6	83	37.0	2	0.9	6	2.5		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
	2,250	26	11.6	83	37.0	2	0.9	6	2.5	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, 2024.

	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	3,000	23	7.7	79	26.3	3	1.0	8	2.6		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	36	24.0	198	132.0	1	0.7	1	0.9		0.0		0.0
	4,500	59	13.1	277	61.5	4	0.9	9	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 203 Grids 908&909</u>													
June	9,300	194	20.9	868	93.3		0.0		0.0	1	0.1	8	0.9
July	4,500	55	12.2	269	59.8		0.0		0.0	2	0.4	8	1.8
August	8,250	124	15.0	669	81.0		0.0		0.0	15	1.8	98	11.9
Sept	900	26	28.9	170	189.1	1	1.1	3	2.9		0.0		0.0
	22,950	399	17.4	1,975	86.1	1	0.0	3	0.1	18	0.8	115	5.0
<u>Permittee 204 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
<u>Total effort and harvest in MN2</u>													
June	28,300	348	12.3	1,410	49.8	14	0.5	39	1.4	1	0.0	8	0.3
July	4,500	55	12.2	269	59.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4	8	1.8
August	8,250	124	15.0	669	81.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	1.8	98	11.9
Sept	8,900	177	19.9	855	96.1	17	1.9	52	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Totals	49,950	704	14.1	3,203	64.1	31	0.6	92	1.8	18	0.4	115	2.3

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, 2024.

	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 20 Grid 812</u>													
June	3,000	113	37.7	400	133.3	2	0.7	12	3.9		0.0		0.0
July	4,500	113	25.1	367	81.7	1	0.2	3	0.6	1	0.2	2	0.5
August	3,750	115	30.7	393	104.7	1	0.3	3	0.7		0.0		0.0
Sept	3,750	106	28.3	443	118.0	9	2.4	25	6.6	2	0.5	9	2.3
	15,000	447	29.8	1,603	106.8	13	0.9	42	2.8	3	0.2	11	0.7
<u>Permittee 21 Grid 714</u>													
June	3,600	47	13.1	163	45.4	9	2.5	27	7.6		0.0		0.0
July	2,400	19	7.9	66	27.4	2	0.8	7	3.1		0.0		0.0
August			0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	3,600	93	25.8	412	114.3	39	10.8	103	28.7		0.0		0.0
	9,600	159	16.6	641	66.7	50	5.2	138	14.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>Permittee 303 Grid 714</u>													
June	3,750	111	29.6	398	106.1	1	0.3	5	1.4	4	1.1	14	3.8
July	5,250	106	20.2	364	69.3	1	0.2	3	0.6	2	0.4	6	1.1
August	5,250	123	23.4	423	80.6		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	3,750	115	30.7	546	145.6		0.0		0.0	1	0.3	3	0.7
	18,000	455	25.3	1,731	96.2	2	0.1	9	0.5	7	0.4	22	1.2
<u>Permittee 304 Grid 811</u>													
June	3,000	115	38.3	392	130.7		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July	6,000	115	19.2	450	75.1		0.0		0.0	2	0.3	5	0.9
August	4,500	113	25.1	377	83.8	2	0.4	14	3.1		0.0		0.0
Sept	3,750	101	26.9	403	107.4	14	3.7	44	11.7	2	0.5	8	2.0
	17,250	444	25.7	1,622	94.0	16	0.9	58	3.3	4	0.2	13	0.7

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, 2024.

	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 305 Grid 814</u>													
June	4,500	110	24.4	390	86.8	5	1.1	19	4.2	2	0.4	5	1.2
July	3,000	44	14.7	166	55.3		0.0		0.0	3	1.0	13	4.4
August	7,500	184	24.5	744	99.1	2	0.3	7	0.9	1	0.1	4	0.5
Sept	5,250	115	21.9	537	102.4		0.0		0.0	2	0.4	20	3.7
	20,250	453	22.4	1,837	90.7	7	0.3	26	1.3	8	0.4	42	2.1
<u>Permittee 306 Grid 812</u>													
June	5,250	114	21.7	394	75.1		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
July	5,250	114	21.7	426	81.2	1	0.2	4	0.7	1	0.2	2	0.4
August	3,750	115	30.7	370	98.6		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Sept	4,500	112	24.9	543	120.6	3	0.7	8	1.9	1	0.2	4	0.9
	18,750	455	24.3	1,733	92.4	4	0.2	12	0.6	2	0.1	6	0.3
<u>Permittee 308 Grid 813</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>Total effort and harvest in MN3</u>													
June	23,100	610	26.4	2,138	92.6	17	0.7	64	2.8	6	0.3	19	0.8
July	26,400	511	19.4	1,840	69.7	5	0.2	17	0.6	9	0.3	28	1.1
August	24,750	650	26.3	2,306	93.2	5	0.2	23	0.9	1	0.0	4	0.2
Sept	24,600	642	26.1	2,883	117.2	65	2.6	180	7.3	8	0.3	42	1.7
Totals	98,850	2,413	24.4	9,168	92.7	92	0.9	284	2.9	24	0.2	94	0.9

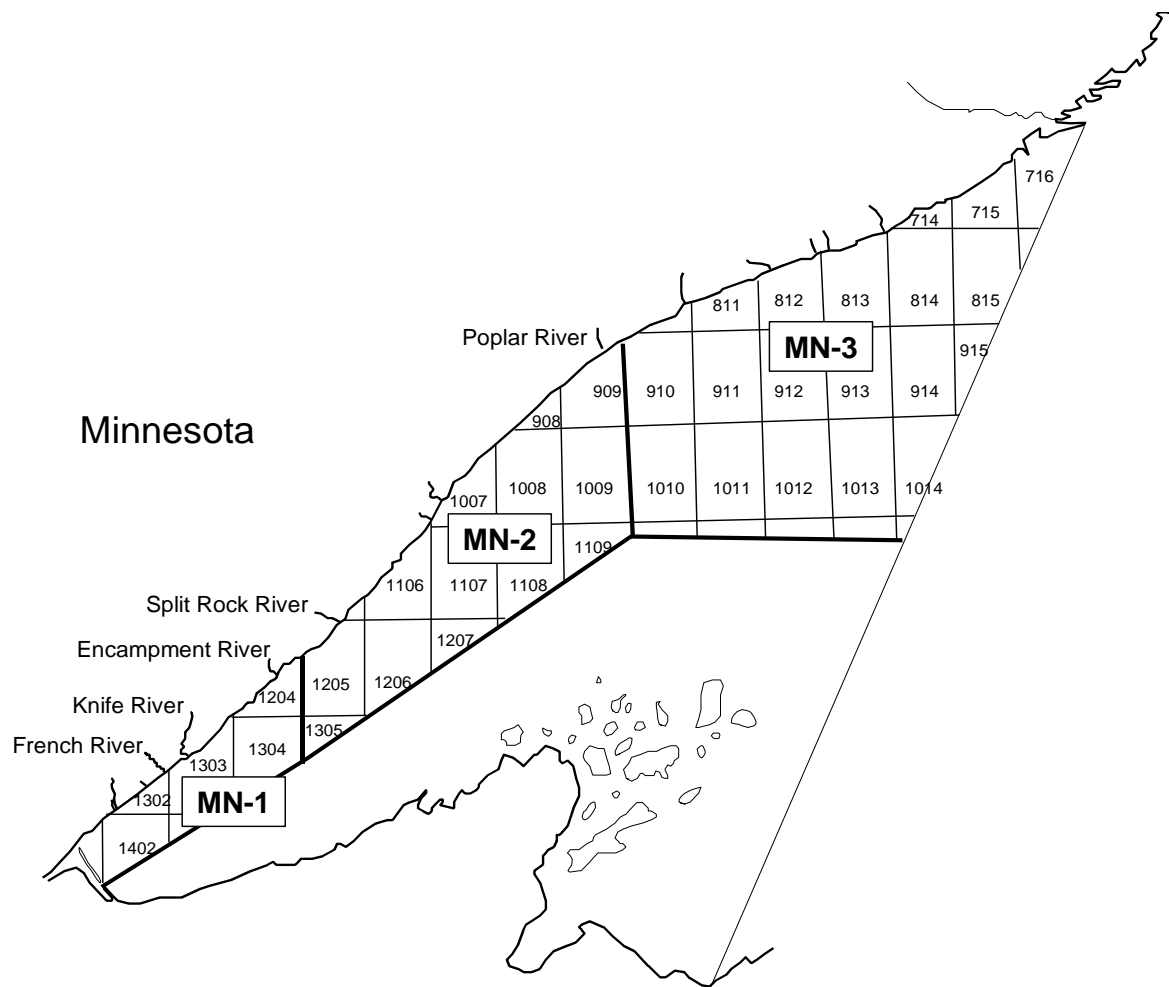


Figure 1. Statistical reporting districts and grids, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior.

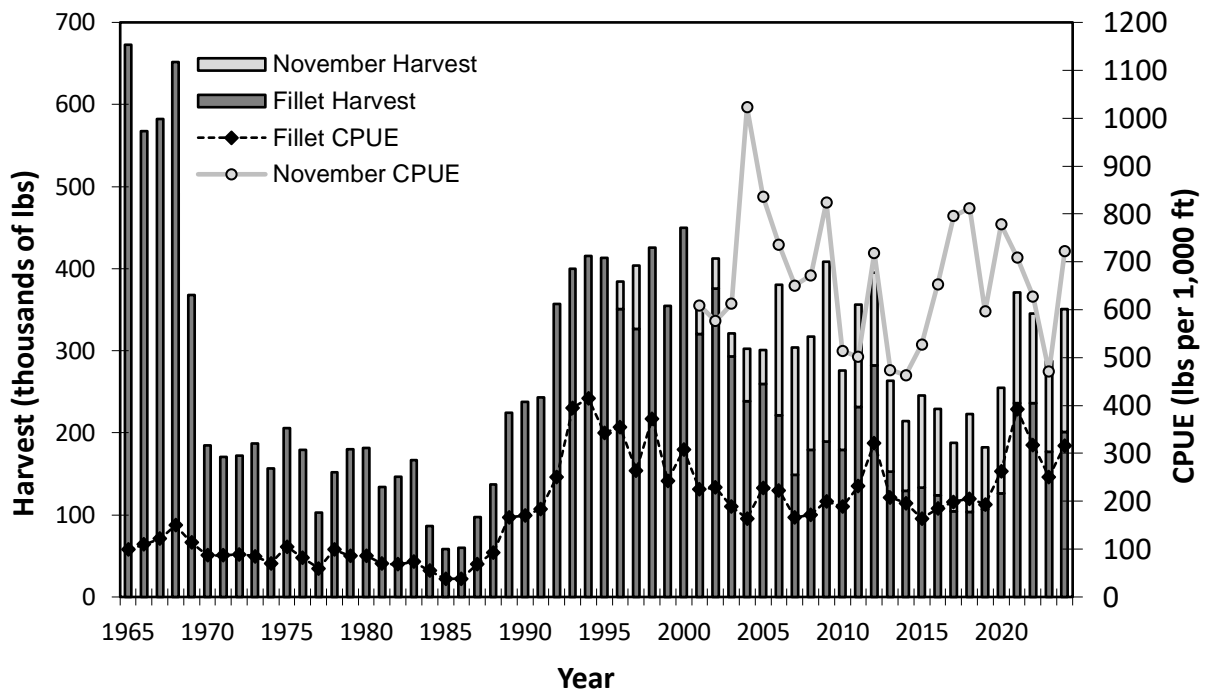


Figure 2. Cisco harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the commercial gill net fishery, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 1965-2024. Harvest has been restricted in November since 1973.

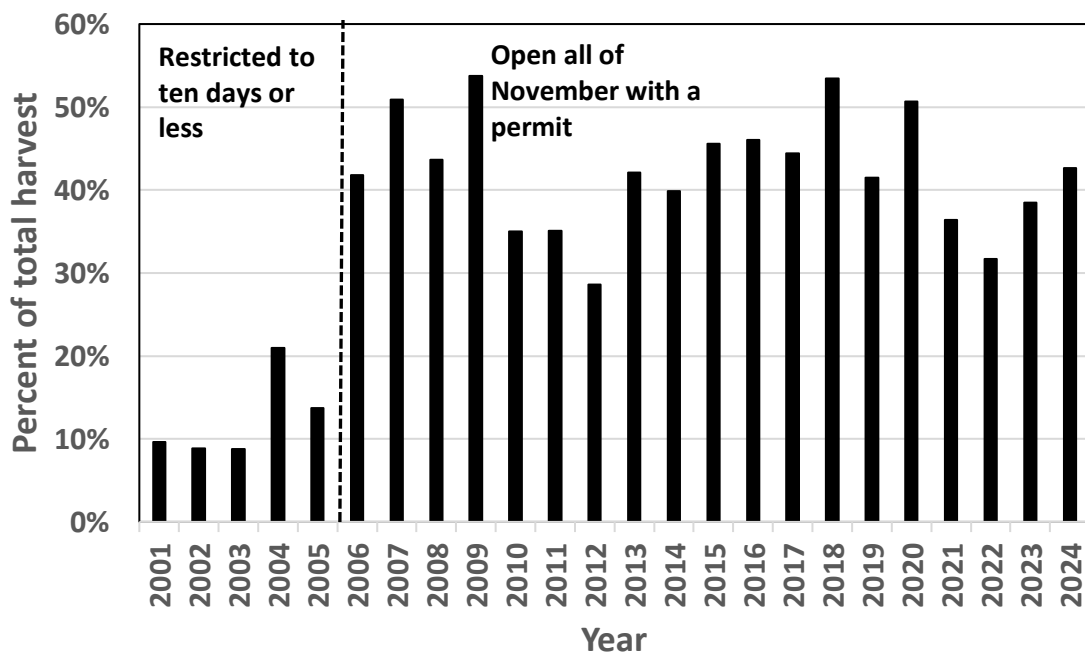


Figure 3. Percent of yearly Cisco harvest taken during November, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2001-2024.

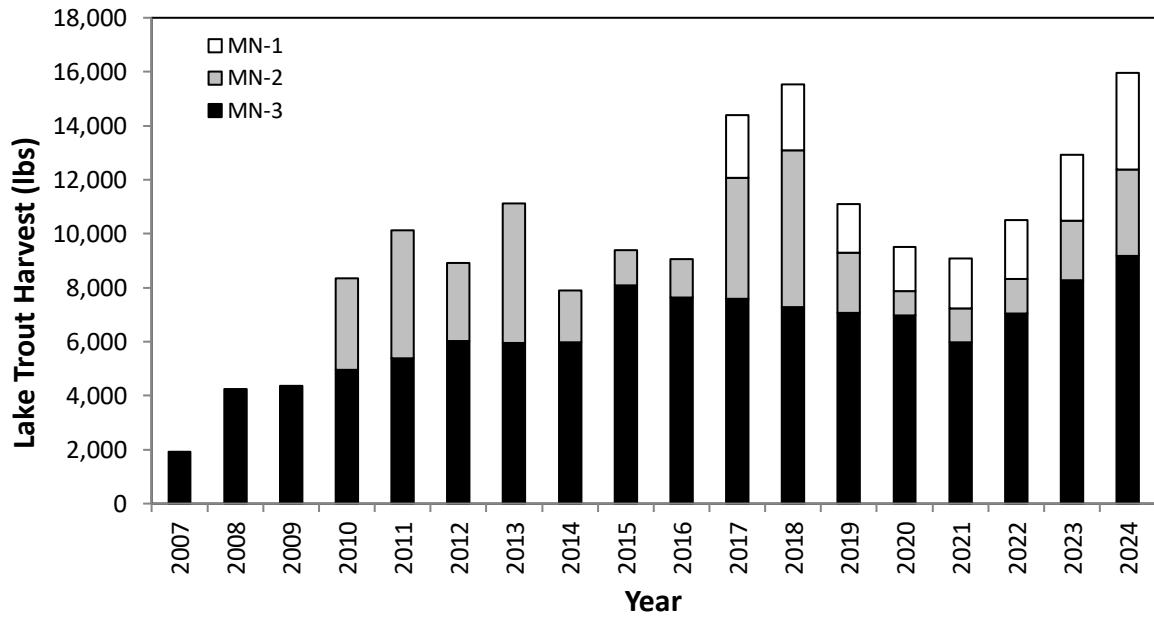


Figure 4. Lake Trout harvest by statistical district in the summer expanded commercial assessment, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2007-2024.

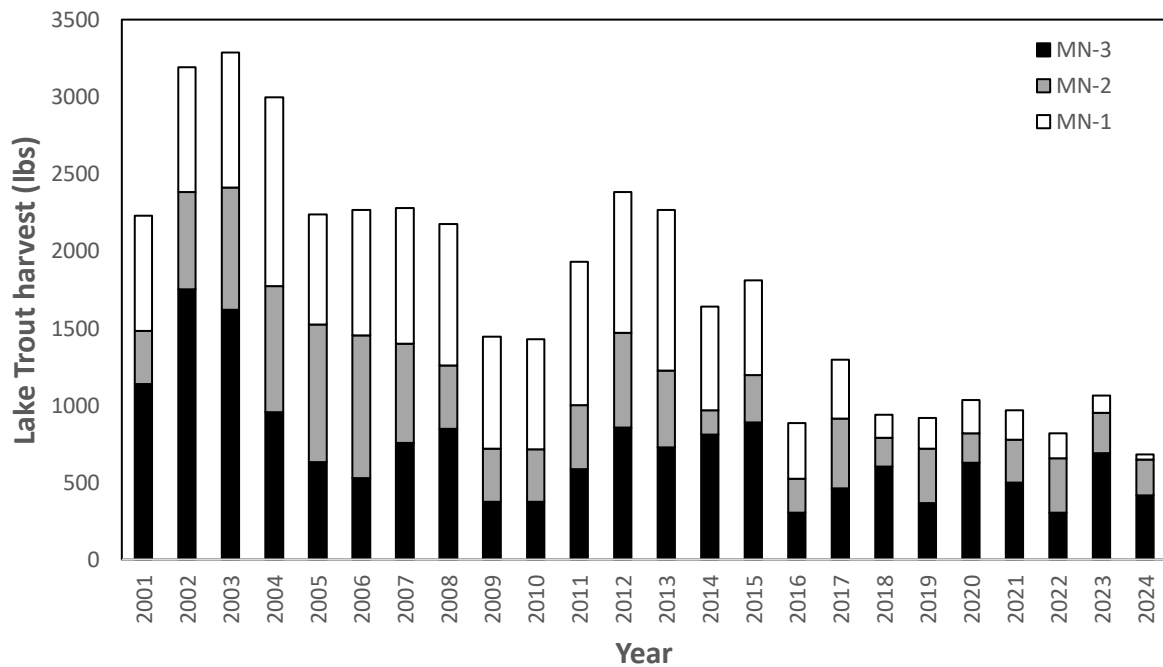


Figure 5. Incidental Lake Trout harvest in Cisco, chub, and Round Whitefish nets by statistical district, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2001-2024.

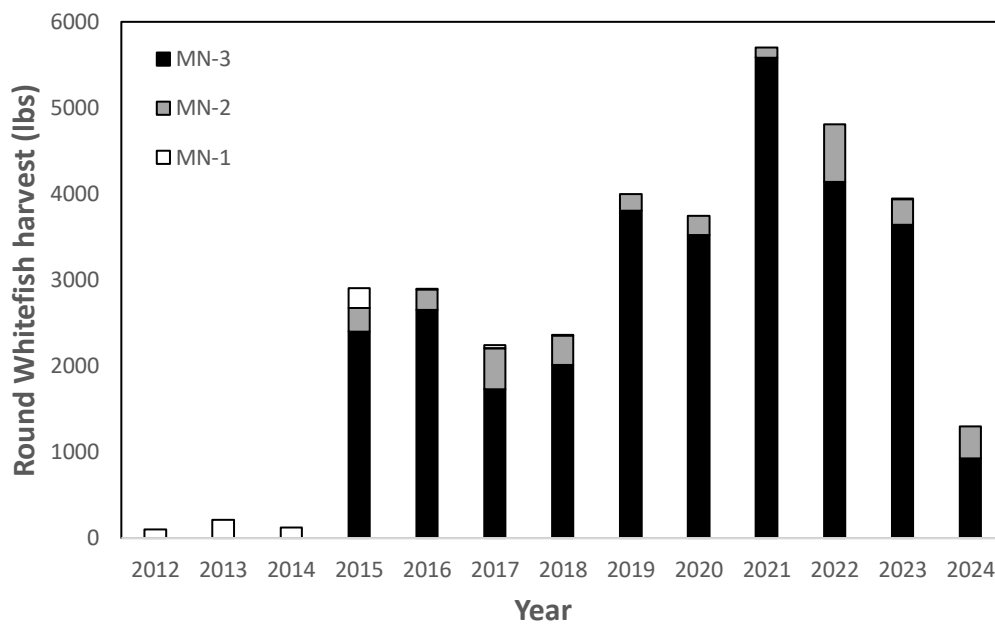


Figure 6. Round Whitefish harvest by statistical district, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2012-2024.

Appendix 1. Commercial operators, apprentices, gear allocation, and special assessments, Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, 2024.

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					Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-1
15	Yes	1,200						MN-1
18		600					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		600						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					Expanded Commercial	MN-2
201		2,000					Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
202		2,100		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
203		1,000		400			Expanded Commercial	MN-2
204		1,800					Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-2
301 ¹		2,000						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			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
306		2,000					Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
308	Yes	3,000		400				MN-3
309		1,500		400			Expanded Commercial November Cisco	MN-3
Total		39,600	3,000	4,400				

¹ commercial 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

2024

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Prepared by:
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David Weitzel 5/13/25