

2026 Application to use a Cast Net to Harvest Gizzard Shad from Infested Waters

Application Instructions:

- Applicants are required to complete online Invasive Species Training for Minnow Dealers prior to permit issuance. This is the same training required for minnow dealers and their employees.
 - Training: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/commercial/mdeinvasivetraining.html>.
- Invasive Species Training certificate or completion number must be included with application form.
- Read “Important Details” listed below.
- Provide Applicant Information requested below.
- Email application and training certificate to: mandy.erickson@state.mn.us, or mail to address listed below.
- Permits will be emailed, or mailed if no email address is provided, within 2 weeks of receipt of application in most situations.
- Net tagging contact information and instructions will be provided with permit.

Important Details:

- A maximum of two cast nets may be authorized by permit.
- Cast nets must be tagged by DNR Fisheries Staff prior to use and before a permit is valid. Tag numbers will be recorded on the permit. Once tagged, nets may be reused the following years, with a renewed permit. If net or tag is destroyed or lost, the permit must be amended. New tags are not required each year.
- Cast nets must be monofilament, not exceeding 5 feet in radius. Mesh size must be from 3/8 to 5/8-inch bar measure.
- Tagged cast nets authorized by permit may only be used to target gizzard shad. Any other species captured must immediately be returned to the water.
- Gizzard shad harvested may only be used as bait while angling, on the same body of water where caught, and while still on that waterbody. Gizzard shad may not be transported from the waterbody they were harvested from or saved for use later.
- All aquatic plants and invasive species must be removed from cast nets before leaving the harvest site.
- Cast nets may not be transported to or used in any waters other than those listed below, and on the permit.

Season Dates and Open Waters:

- Cast nets may be used (with a valid permit) from July 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026. A Minnesota fishing license is required in addition to the cast net permit.
- Bodies of water open for cast net use (see map below) are **limited to the Minnesota portions** of:
 - St. Croix River: downstream of the dam at Taylor’s Falls.
 - Mississippi River: downstream of St. Anthony Falls to the confluence with the St. Croix River.
 - Mississippi River: downstream of the confluence with the St. Croix River to the Minnesota/Iowa border (all sloughs, backwaters, bays, and newly extended water areas lying between the Canadian Pacific, St. Paul, and the Pacific Railroad tracks to the Minnesota/Wisconsin border).
 - Minnesota River downstream of Granite Falls.

2026 Cast Net Permit Applicant Information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address (City, State, Zip): _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address (permit will be emailed): _____

Have you had a cast net permit in the past (Yes or No)? _____

Do you need to have nets tagged this year (Yes or No)? _____ (Yes, if you have not had a permit in the past or if previously tagged nets have been destroyed or lost)

Attach Aquatic Invasive Species training certificate, or record certificate number: _____

I verify by my signature that I have read, understand, and agree to the important details listed on the permit application, and will receive a permit through email or mail if an email address is not available.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Send Application to:

Email (preferred): Mandy.erickson@state.mn.us

or

Mandy Erickson
Fisheries Operations Consultant
DNR Fisheries
1732 N Tower Road
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Call if you have questions: 651-259-5011

Map of locations open for use of cast nets. In border waters, cast net permit is valid for Minnesota portions only.

