

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul, MN 55155

July 7, 2020

Dear Fishing Tournament Permit Holder:

This letter is an update to correspondence I sent you on June 10, 2020. As promised, I am writing to provide you with updated information regarding fishing tournament requirements.

Governor Walz's [Executive Order 20-74](#) (EO 20-74) remains in effect through July 12, 2020. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Outdoor Recreation Guidelines were most recently updated on June 24, 2020, to align with new guidance for organized sports. The latest Outdoor Recreation Guidelines are available on DNR's website at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html>.

We have updated our directives related to fishing tournaments based on the recent revisions to the Outdoor Recreation Guidelines. To summarize, the following restrictions are now in effect for fishing tournaments:

- The tournament organizer must develop a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The Plan must be communicated to all participants and available to the DNR upon request.
- The tournament may not involve gatherings of more than 25 people in one outdoor location at the same time, such as at a boat landing or starting area for a tournament or competition. Any indoor gathering is limited to 10 people. Please note, per paragraph 6(c) of EO 20-74, the group size limitation is a maximum *with* social distancing. That is, all gatherings must include social distancing.
- Spectators are permitted, but must maintain social distancing. At no time may the total number of people present in a location, inclusive of participants, officials, and spectators, exceed the group gathering limits (25 people outside/10 people inside).
- Participants, officials, and spectators are also strongly encouraged to wear a manufactured or homemade cloth face covering, per MDH guidance.
- If necessary to observe gathering size limitations and maintain social distancing, the tournament must use either a staggered start or multiple points of departure and return so that the group size limit is not exceeded before, during, or after the event.
- In person weigh-ins are allowed, provided the format is adjusted to avoid outdoor gatherings of more than 25 individuals, inclusive of participants, officials, and spectators. Some examples of modified formats include holding the weigh-in on the water, where teams verify each other's weights, or breaking the field into groups by staggering or scheduling weigh-in times.
- Participants, officials and any spectators must maintain social distancing throughout the event.

We are still encouraging tournaments to modify their tournament activities to minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread. Suggestions include:

- Hold rules meetings and award ceremonies online.
- Avoid a weigh-in altogether: adopt a catch-measure-release format.
- Encourage or require participants to take extra precautions to protect themselves and others such as wearing masks or face coverings. Visit the MDH [website for prevention](#) for more information.

If you are unable to make adjustments and want to cancel your event for any reason, we will refund your permit fee. Note: restrictions identified above are subject to further change, but currently apply to all issued permits and supersede any parallel conditions included in your original permit. You will not receive an amended permit, but we will inform you of any future changes to the restrictions.

Thank you for your patience and understanding – know that these Outdoor Recreation Guidelines are meant to keep Minnesotans healthy and safe. If you have further questions related to DNR’s COVID-19 response as it relates to your tournament, feel free to contact me. If you would like to cancel or reschedule your event please contact the Regional Office that issued your permit:

Region 1 (Northwest): Wendy Selmo | wendy.selmo@state.mn.us | (218) 308-2623

Region 2 (Northeast): Ruth Zaleski | ruth.zaleski@state.mn.us | (218) 203-4342

Region 3 (Central): Rosa Garner | rosa.garner@state.mn.us | (651) 259-5831

Region 4 (South): Ellen Preisinger | ellen.preisinger@state.mn.us | (507) 233-1215

Finally, be sure to check for the most up to date information on Minnesota’s response to COVID-19 by visiting <https://mn.gov/covid19/> and <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html>.

Sincerely,



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