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Effective March

2026

through February 28, 2027

Updated 6.4.26



MINNESOTA FISHING REGULATIONS



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

This booklet contains summaries of fishing laws in Minnesota.
It's not a full list of all fishing laws and isn't a legal document.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Electronic Licensing System

Modernization of the Electronic Licensing System (ELS)

Updates to the electronic licensing system will improve processes for license purchasing, registration, and validation/tagging.

The information in this book is accurate as of the time of publication. However, the new ELS may go live after publication. Once live, the new ELS will modernize processes for purchasing licenses, validation, and registering harvests.

How do I know if the new ELS is live?

For the most up-to-date information, refer to the online resources and contact information listed below.

Learn more on our website

To learn more about these changes visit mndnr.gov/elsinfo or scan the QR code below.



mndnr.gov/elsinfo

Additional questions?

If you have questions, please call the DNR Information Center at 888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157.

FISHMINNESOTA



Photo by Tyler Winter

Your first stop for Minnesota fishing information

- View regulations on your mobile device
- LakeFinder—lake data and maps
- Trout fishing and stream information
- Helpful fishing tips
- Minnesota DNR contacts

mndnr.gov/fishing

mn DEPARTMENT OF
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FAW_0024_22



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program manages 70 small fishing lakes in the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan area. FiN aims to provide shore fishing opportunities close to where people live.



Provides fishing piers and other shore fishing structures for Local Units of Government



Holds 25 angling events per year, reaching 3,000 participants



Stocks more than 10,000 fish annually for put and take fishing opportunities

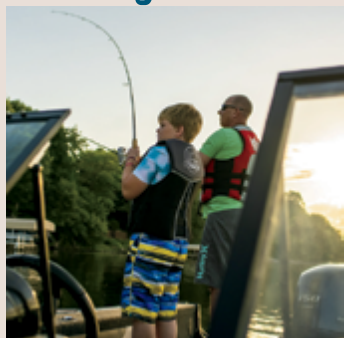


Purchases fishing equipment for schools and nonprofits to host their own events

mndnr.gov/fishing/fin

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Graphic courtesy of Anoka Soil and
Water Conservation District (SWCD)

EWI_0021.22



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HELP YOUR FISH SURVIVE AND THRIVE!



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CATCH-AND-RELEASE

1 Fish shallow water

2 Set the hook and play the fish quickly

3 Wet hands before handling fish

4 Keep the fish in the water

5 Use a rubber mesh or soft knotless nylon net

6 Hold the fish firmly, but gently

7 Use needle-nosed pliers to remove hooks

8 Cut the line if the fish is hooked deeply

9 Gently slide the fish back into the water

10 Revive a tired fish by gently moving it forward in the water

11 Release your fish quickly

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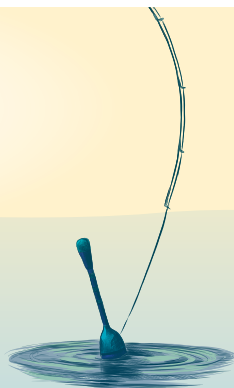
NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

- Conserved 52 stream miles in Minnesota.
- Completed 48 on-the-ground habitat conservation projects.
- Leveraged \$2 million federal investment.
- Secured over \$7.5 million in matching funds.
- Improved habitat in streams, lakes, and rivers.
- Enhanced fishing opportunities since 2006.

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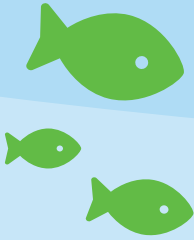
LEARN TO FISH

Tips, techniques and locations for catching a variety of species
mndnr.gov/gofishing



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Free access to real time and pre-recorded presentations on fishing and other outdoor pursuits
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SPANISH:

Regulaciones de pesca de Minnesota • Información de pesca en español

KAREN:

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mndnr.gov/fishing

SOMALI:

Sharciyada kalluumeysiga ee Minnesota

HMONG:

Cov cai nuv ntses hauv lav Minnesota

ENGLISH:

Minnesota fishing regulations



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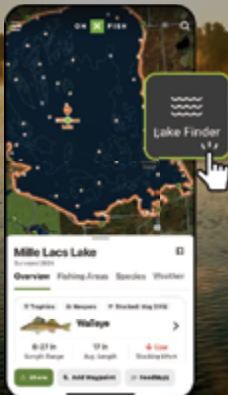
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ON THE COVER: Main photo: Eric Scrivner with a lake sturgeon he caught kayak fishing on the Rainy River. Photo of the Red River by Minnesota DNR. Photo of lake sturgeon spawning in the Otter Tail River by Colin Illes.

TRESPASS LAW

The trespass law applies to all outdoor recreation, including but not limited to: hunting, boating, fishing, trapping, hiking, and camping. When taking part in any outdoor recreation, you may not enter legally posted land or agricultural land without permission.

Landowners, lessees, or authorized managers need only post their land once a year. The signs must be placed at intervals of 1,000 feet (500 feet in wooded areas) or signs may be placed at primary corners and at access points to the property. Signs must state “No Trespassing,” or similar words, in 2-inch high letters and have either the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager.

There can be civil or criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws with maximum fines up to \$3,000 and license revocation. All conservation officers and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

Guidelines for water access and recreational use

These are simple guidelines and are not intended to address all water access and recreational use situations. If you have doubts about whether you may be trespassing on private land, you should ask the landowner for permission.

What is lawful access?

A stream or lake is lawfully accessible if there is a public access, or if public land or a public road right-of-way borders the surface of the water, or if you have permission to cross private land to reach the surface of the water. This includes walking in the water or on the ice regardless of who owns the land beneath the surface of the water.

What waters are open to recreational use?

A stream or lake is open to recreational use over its entire surface if it is capable of recreational use and if it is lawfully accessible. Any water that will float a canoe is capable of recreational use, but other waters may also qualify depending upon the circumstances.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2026

New Statewide Regulations

- A new catch-and-release season for largemouth and smallmouth bass now extends to all portions of the calendar year. See pages 29-30 for details.
- The season opener for stream trout harvest is now the second Saturday in April every year. See page 33 for details.
- A new rule allows up to three hooks within 18 inches on a single tackle configuration. Updated language clarifies only one bait is allowed per line and stinger hooks are only allowed on artificial baits. See page 37 for details.
- Ice anglers may use nonmotorized hook setting devices. See page 82 for details.
- Updated information on harvesting crayfish in infested waters and labeling traps can be found on page 42.
- There is no closed season for taking dead freshwater mussel shells. More information can be found on page 44.
- Inland portions of Mississippi River Pool 3 now conform with adjacent Wisconsin-Minnesota border waters regulations listed as “Mississippi River Pools 3-8 including Lake Pepin.” See page 75 for details.

New and Modified Experimental and Special Regulations

The following water bodies have new or updated regulations. See pages 45-64 for details.

- Clear Lake (Jackson County): A new special regulation changes the daily limit for yellow bass to 100 with no possession limit and no closed season.
- Fairmont Chain of Lakes (Martin County): A new special regulation changes the daily limit for yellow bass to 100 with no possession limit and no closed season.
- Green Prairie Fish Lake (Morrison County): A new special regulation changes the daily limit for sunfish to 5.
- Imogene Lake (Martin County): A new special regulation changes the daily limit for yellow bass to 100 with no possession limit and no closed season.
- Long Lake near Spaulding (Todd County): A new special regulation changes the daily limit for sunfish to 5.

Continued on next page

Fishing Season Opener Dates

Season openers may reflect a harvest season or a catch-and-release season. Details on pages 29-33.

YEAR	WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE	MUSKIE	STREAM TROUT (STREAMS ONLY)
2026	May 9	June 6	April 11
2027	May 15	June 5	April 10
2028	May 13	June 3	April 8

- Maple Lake (Todd County): The special regulation for sunfish has been repealed.
- Platte Lake (Crow Wing County) and Sullivan Lake (Morrison): A new special regulation establishes a daily limit for sunfish of 10 combined total for both lakes as one water body.
- Rabideau Lake (Beltrami County): A new special regulation reduces the daily limit for sunfish to 5.
- Sand Lake and connecting waters (Itasca County): a new special regulation requires all walleye 20-24" be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession.

A Message About Invasive Species From DNR Conservation Officers

Each of us needs to take personal responsibility to prevent the spread of invasive species!

Minnesota law requires that all boaters and anglers:

- Clean plants and invasive species off all watercraft, trailers, and other water-related equipment.
- Drain water-related equipment, remove drain plugs and keep water-draining devices open while transporting.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- For the most complete and current infested waters list, visit mndnr.gov/AIS.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are nonnative animals and plants that do not naturally occur in our waters and may cause ecological or economic harm. See images below of some AIS that have been found in Minnesota.

You can help prevent the introduction and spread of AIS by following both the required and recommended actions listed on page 16 before moving your boat, bait or other equipment from one water body to another.

Report new infestations: If you suspect a new infestation of an AIS, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and call 888-MINNDNR.

Invasive carp captures must be immediately reported to the DNR, call 651-587-2781 or email invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. Please take a photo, keep carcass cool but do not freeze, and make arrangements with the DNR to transport the carp to the nearest area fisheries office. You may keep invasive carp for personal use with a special permit, which is available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/invasive-carp.

Red swamp crayfish

2 to 5" long. Raised bright red spots on claws.



Faucet snail

Up to ½" long, light brown to black, 4-5 whorls.



Starry stonewort

Grass-like algae with a small, star-shaped structure called a "bulbil" less than ¼-inch in diameter.



Spiny waterflea

Long tail, white with black spots, looks like gelatinous globs on fishing line, small (up to ¾").



New Zealand mudsnail

Up to ½" long, light to dark brown, cone-shaped shell, 5-6 whorls.



Zebra and quagga mussel

The only freshwater mollusks that attach to objects with byssal threads (up to 1½"); larvae float in water and are too small to see.



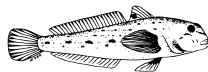
Eurasian watermilfoil

12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.



Round goby

Single scallop-shaped pelvic fin, fish is usually 3-6" long.



Bighead and silver carp

Eye located at lower part of head below the mouth; Silver can jump more than 10 feet high.

Bighead



Silver



Ruffe

Spots between rays of dorsal fin, no gap between fins.

Spots
No gap



Ruffe illustration
©C. Iverson, MN DNR

Carp illustrations ©C. Iverson, MN DNR

Required Actions — It's the Law!

Most anglers and boaters follow Minnesota's Clean, Drain, Dispose laws to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS):



✓ **Clean** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers and other water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

- It is illegal to transport prohibited invasive species — including zebra mussels — whether dead or alive.
- You can find a complete list of prohibited invasive species by visiting dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html#prohibited.

✓ **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, all types of portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving any water access or shoreland property.

- Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.

- It is illegal to release bait into a water body or release aquatic animals from one water body to another.
- It is illegal to release worms in the state; worms are not native to Minnesota.
- If you want to keep your live bait, on shore before leaving, you must always drain all water from your bait container and refill it with bottled or dechlorinated tap water.

Recommended Actions — Protect Your Waters

The following steps reduce the risk of spreading AIS. This is especially important if your boat has been in the water or moored for more than 24 hours or if you have recently been in water bodies that have zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas.

- Decontaminate watercraft and equipment — find free stations on the courtesy decontamination page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/decon).
- Spray watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water or rinse with water if high-pressure water is not available.
- Dry watercraft and equipment for at least 5 days before using another water body.

Lakes and Rivers Listed as Infested

What do I need to do when I visit a lake or river on the infested waters list?

You should follow the same aquatic invasive species regulations: Clean, Drain, Dispose — every time you visit any lake or river, infested or not.

- If you are harvesting bait, commercial fishing, or diverting or taking water, you need to follow special regulations in infested waters. See regulations for bait on pages 38-39.

How do I know which waters are listed as infested?

- For the most complete and current infested waters list, visit mndnr.gov/AIS or request a copy from AISpublishings@dnr.state.mn.us or call 651-259-5100.
- You can use LakeFinder to find out if a particular lake is listed as infested: mndnr.gov/lakefind.
- Infested waters are posted with orange Invasive Species Alert signs at the public access.



Pledge to do your part. Protect Minnesota waters from invasive species.



mndnr.gov/AISPledge



Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.



Never release bait. Releasing bait is illegal because it threatens Minnesota's fisheries. Bait and bait water can spread fish diseases and invasive species. All earthworms are nonnative to Minnesota and damage forests if released.



To Keep leftover live baitfish: (1) bring extra bottled or dechlorinated tap water with you and (2) on shore before leaving, you must always drain your bait container and refill it with the extra water.

mndnr.gov/AISanglers

mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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Watercraft Inspections

The Minnesota DNR has had a watercraft inspection program since 1992 to help prevent the spread of AIS. With the help of our partners, today nearly 1,000 authorized watercraft inspectors are working at lakes and rivers across Minnesota. The information below will help you prepare for a watercraft inspection. In 2024, 95 percent of boaters surveyed by inspectors arrived while following Minnesota's Clean, Drain, Dispose laws.

What should I expect from an inspection?

Inspectors are trained to:

- Introduce themselves as a watercraft inspector.
- Provide tips on how to inspect your own equipment (page 16).
- Physically inspect your boat, trailer and any other water-related equipment – meaning they may touch your boat or trailer to feel for tiny attached zebra mussels or other invasive species.
- Physically inspect compartments that may hold water, such as live wells or bilge areas.
- Deny launch if: 1) the inspector finds invasive species or any plants attached, and until the invasive species or plants are removed; or 2) you refuse an inspection.
 - › Although inspectors have the authority to deny launch, they will work with you to try to bring your watercraft into compliance.
 - › Inspectors will not deny launch based solely on where, or when, you last used your watercraft.
- Ask questions to help improve the DNR's inspection program. You are not required to answer these questions.

How should I prepare for an inspection?

When entering an access:

- Always follow all state laws regarding AIS and arrive in compliance with Clean, Drain and Dispose laws (page 16).
- Open the lids of closed compartments that could hold water, like live wells, so the inspector can see they are drained. Your drain plugs should all be open while you transport your boat.
- Remember to install the drain plug after the inspection and before launching.

When exiting an access:

- Remove any plants, mud, and invasive animals.
- Pull all drain plugs.
- Open water-holding compartments to allow inspection.

What about watercraft decontamination?

DNR trained inspectors follow specific decontamination protocols using hot water (120 degrees for at least 2 minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds) to kill AIS and, if necessary, using high-pressure water to remove attached AIS. An inspector may require your watercraft be decontaminated prior to launching or before leaving an access. Decontaminations are free and most can be done quickly.

How do I find a decontamination station?

The DNR posts decontamination unit locations online at mndnr.gov/decon. At these sites, inspectors will perform a courtesy inspection and determine if any decontamination is required.

Tell us how we're doing at: wip.dnr@state.mn.us



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DEFINITIONS

Culling (sorting)

The act of replacing 1 fish with another fish (see possession information on pages 40-41). See border waters with North Dakota on page 71.

Daily versus possession limits (collectively called bag limits)

A possession limit is the number of a particular species allowed in an angler's possession, including any and all locations such as a livewell or freezer at home. A daily limit is the number of a particular species an angler is allowed to keep in a calendar day, including those that are gifted or consumed. Daily and possession limits are most often the same with the exception of statewide perch limits (see page 30) and special regulations for sunfish and crappie which reduce a daily limit but retain the statewide possession limit (see pages 45-64). While on or angling in a water with a daily limit that is lower than the possession limit, a person may not have more than the daily limit of that species in their immediate physical possession.

Designated stream trout lakes

These waters have been listed in Minnesota Rule and have been stocked with trout that are typically found in streams: rainbow, brown, or brook trout. Some also have splake, a cross between a lake trout and a brook trout.

Game fish

Includes the following and their hybrids: American eel, bass (includes largemouth, smallmouth, rock, white, and yellow), burbot (eelpout), catfish, cisco (tullibee), crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, salmon, sauger, sturgeon, sunfish, trout, walleye, whitefish, and yellow perch.

Immediately released or returned to the water

Immediately released fish are only retained long enough to unhook, measure and photograph. Fish not immediately released are counted as part of an angler's daily and possession limit.

Inland waters

Lakes and rivers within Minnesota not bordering Canada or another state.

Minimum size limit

Prohibits harvest of fish less than a specified length.

Minnows

All sizes of true minnows (excluding carp and goldfish), leeches, mudminnows, tadpole madtoms, stonecats; the following if 12" or less: suckers, redhorses, buffalo, carpsuckers; the following if 7" or less: bullhead, cisco (tullibee), lake whitefish, goldeye, and mooneye. Border water regulations may vary.

Native rough fish

Bowfin (dogfish), buffalo, sucker, quillback, carpsucker, redhorse, goldeye, mooneye, bullhead, gar, and freshwater drum (sheepshead). Border waters regulations may vary.

1-over the size limit

Allows the harvest of 1 fish over a set size limit as part of the daily or possession limit.

Protected slot limit

Prohibits harvest of fish from a designated size range. Fish must be immediately released.

FISHING LICENSES



The new licensing system may go live prior to 2026 fishing seasons. Once live, it will affect activities in this section. See page 3 for details.

- Any combination (married couple) type license requires each spouse to have a complete customer record on file.
- Resident youth younger than 16 do not need a fishing license.
- Licenses, including free licenses, are subject to a \$1 issuing fee for original licenses or a 50-cent fee for duplicates. Codes 128 and 129 are subject to a 50-cent duplicate fee. No issuing fees apply to codes 130, 134, 135, 407, 411, 413, or 415.
- Purchase online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense.
- License year begins March 1 and ends the last day of February unless otherwise noted.
- Fish house, dark house or shelter licenses are valid March 1 to April 30 the following year (or 3-year period).
- A fishing license continues to be valid for the balance of the license period if the licensee's age, residency, or student qualification status changes.
- Super Sports licenses include: 50 cents for wolf management; 50 cents for emergency feeding and wild cervidae-deer health management; \$1 deer/bear management account; and \$2 for deer management.
- In the table below, the 3-digit code refers to the license identification code.

Resident Angling Licenses

Resident licenses	Code	License	Description	Fee
YOUTH ANGLING Resident Individual Age 16 and 17	138	Youth Annual (Age 16 and 17)	Youth Individual Angling (exempt from trout/salmon stamp and spearing license)	\$5
ADULT ANGLING Resident Individual Ages 18 through 89	111	Adult Annual	Individual Angling	\$25
	110	24-hour	Individual Angling (no trout/ salmon stamp required) Consecutive 24-hour	\$12
	140	72-hour	Individual Angling (no trout/ salmon stamp required) Consecutive 72-hour	\$14
	141	3-year	Individual Angling Consecutive 3-years	\$71
	105	½ Bag Limit Conservation	Individual Angling ½ bag limits	\$17

Continued on next page

Resident Angling Licenses *continued*

Resident licenses	Code	License	Description	Fee
ANGLING LICENSES Additional Options	216	Sports	Individual Angling and Small Game	\$41
	142	Super Sports	Individual Angling including trout/salmon stamp, Small Game including pheasant and state waterfowl stamps, a deer license (archery, firearms or muzzleloader)	\$100
	134	Walleye Stamp Validation	Voluntary Donation	\$5
	135		Pictorial Stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	128	Trout/Salmon Stamp (required for anglers age 18-64; see page 25 for exemptions)	Individual Trout and Salmon Validation (required for designated trout streams and lakes, Lake Superior and to harvest trout)	\$10
	129		Pictorial Stamp mailed	+ 75 cents
	150	Recreational Turtle	Required to harvest turtles	\$25
	130	Sturgeon tag/endorsement	Required to harvest a sturgeon	\$5
	113	Spearing Annual	Individual Dark House spearing (required for ages 18 through 89)	\$6
	119	House or Shelter Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$15
	131	House or Shelter 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$42
	120	House or Shelter Rented Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$30
	132	House or Shelter Rented 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$87
	115	Netting	Whitefish and cisco (tullibee) Lakes open to sport gillnetting, the seasons and regulations are online at mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing or by calling the DNR Information Center.	\$10

Continued on next page

Resident Angling Licenses *continued*

Resident licenses	Code	License	Description	Fee
MARRIED ANGLING Resident	112	Married Combination Annual	Married Couple Angling, each person may have their own possession limit.	\$40
	106	Married ½ Bag Limit Conservation Combination	Married ½ bag limit Conservation Combination, each person may keep half their regular limit.	\$27
	217	Married Combination Sports	2 Angling and 1 Small Game	\$57
	143	Married Combination Super Sports	A combination angling license including 2 trout/salmon stamps, and for the primary licensee an individual small game including pheasant and state waterfowl stamps and a single individual deer license (archery, firearm or muzzleloader).	\$126
LIFETIME ANGLING Resident Individual Application available at mndnr.gov/licenses/lifetime	411	Lifetime Angling	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$344
			Age 4 to 15	\$469
			Age 16 to 50	\$574
			Age 51 and older	\$379
	407	Lifetime Angling and Spearing	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$432
			Age 4 to 15	\$579
			Age 16 to 50	\$678
			Age 51 and older	\$439
	413	Lifetime Sports (spearing option available but not included)	Renewal	FREE
			Age 3 and younger	\$522
			Age 4 to 15	\$710
			Age 16 to 50	\$927
			Age 51 and older	\$603

Nonresident Angling Licenses

A \$5 surcharge on nonresident licenses is included with the applicable fee.

Nonresident youth under age 16, check page 27.

Nonresident angling license	Code	License	Description	Fee
YOUTH ANGLING Nonresident Individual age 16 and 17	205	Youth Annual age 16 and 17	Youth Individual Angling (exempt from trout/salmon stamp and spearing license). Youth under age 16 may purchase to possess own limit.	\$5
ADULT ANGLING Nonresident Individual age 18 and over	121	Annual	Individual Angling	\$51
	139	24-hour	Individual Angling (no trout/salmon stamp required) Consecutive 24-hour	\$14
	127	72-hour	Individual Angling (no trout/salmon stamp required) Consecutive 72-hour	\$36
	126	7-Day	Individual Angling, Consecutive 7-day	\$43
ANGLING LICENSES Nonresident additional options	134	Walleye Stamp Validation	Voluntary Donation	\$5
	135		Pictorial stamp mailed	+75 cents
	128	Trout/Salmon Stamp (required for anglers age 18-64)	Individual Trout and Salmon Validation	\$10
	129		Pictorial stamp mailed	+75 cents
	130	Sturgeon tag/endorsement	Required to harvest a sturgeon	\$5
	118	Spearing Annual Age 18 and over	Individual Dark House Spearing (angling license required)	\$17
	116	House or Shelter Annual	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$37
	117	House or Shelter 7-Day	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$21
	133	House or Shelter 3-year	Fish House, Dark House, or Shelter, see page 81 for details	\$111
FAMILY ANGLING Nonresident Married Couple	124	Combination Annual Family	1 or both parents and dependent children under age 16. Enables each person to keep a limit.	\$68
	125	Combination 14-Day	Married Couple Consecutive 14-Day Angling	\$54
LIFETIME ANGLING Nonresident Individual	415	Lifetime Angling	Renewal	Free
Application available at mndnr.gov/licenses/lifetime			Age 3 and under	\$821
			Age 4 to age 15	\$1,046
			Age 16 to age 50	\$1,191
			Age 51 and over	\$794

Electronic Licensing Information

The Electronic Licensing System (ELS) issues licenses and stamp validations through 1,400 license agent locations statewide.

Instant Licenses

Customers may purchase instant licenses and stamp validations online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense. An additional convenience fee is added for sales via the website. Purchasing an e-license on your smartphone or tablet means you won't receive a paper copy of your license. Instead, you elect to receive an email and/or print your valid license.

Lifetime Licenses

First-time purchase of lifetime licenses is only available at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. Application forms are available online or through the DNR Information Center 888-646-6367. A lifetime license holder who is required by law to have a game and fish license, must authorize their participation by obtaining an annual license renewal each year the lifetime license is used. These annual licenses are issued at no fee. Visit mndnr.gov/licenses/lifetime for more information.

Conservation Licenses

- Conservation Licenses are available only to residents of Minnesota.
- Daily and possession limits are half of what can be taken with a standard angling license. Fractions are rounded down to next whole number (see page 28 for list).
- People bowfishing, spearing, or using other approved harvest methods under a Conservation License are limited to one half of the daily and possession limit for that method.
- Sturgeon harvest tag/endorsement may not be used with a Conservation License.

Trout/Salmon Stamp

Trout/salmon stamp validations are printed on the ELS license. This is the only verification needed to prove purchase of the trout/salmon stamp. Purchasers may request the actual pictorial stamp for an additional 75 cents.

Except as noted, anglers need a Minnesota trout/salmon stamp validation and a fishing or sports license when fishing in designated trout streams, designated trout lakes, Lake Superior, or when possessing trout on waters that are not designated trout water. All trout and salmon in possession require a trout/salmon validation, unless received as a gift, (see giving fish on page 41). Trout/salmon stamps are not required for children younger than 18 years old, adults who are 65 and older, people fishing with a 24-hour or 72-hour license or people who are exempt from fishing license requirements or who receive a fishing license at no charge.



2026 Trout Stamp, Scott Wenner

Walleye Stamp

- Purchase of a walleye stamp is voluntary; it is not needed for fishing.
- Revenues from the sale of walleye stamps are used for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector.
- Walleye stamp validations are printed on the ELS license. Purchasers may request the actual pictorial stamp for an additional 75 cents.



2026 Walleye Stamp, Mark Thone

LICENSE GUIDE



The new licensing system may go live prior to 2026 fishing seasons. Once live, it will affect activities in this section. See page 3 for details.

Do I need a fishing license?

To legally fish in Minnesota, all residents of Minnesota, age 16 through 89, must have a current Minnesota fishing license unless an exemption applies (see below “Who doesn’t need a fishing license?”). A self-printed or electronic license is sufficient proof of licensing. All nonresidents need a license except those younger than 16 do not need a license if a parent or guardian is licensed. More details can be found on page 27.

Did you buy a 3-year license in 2023?

Three-year angling licenses bought in 2023 are due for renewal.

Who is a resident?

- To qualify as a resident, a person must maintain a legal residence in Minnesota for at least 60 consecutive days before purchasing a license.
- Residents 21 years of age or older must provide a current Minnesota driver’s license or Minnesota public safety ID card or have a receipt for an application for a Minnesota driver’s license or Minnesota public safety ID that is at least 60 days old.
- A nonresident under age 21 whose parent is a Minnesota resident.
- Tribal members with an unexpired Tribal ID, with a Minnesota address, who do not hold a driver’s license or state ID in any state, and who have not accepted resident hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses in any other state in the previous 60 days.

Who is a nonresident?

Nonresidents include anyone who does not meet the definition of a resident.

Who doesn’t need a fishing license?

- Residents younger than 16, or residents 90 and older.
- Minnesota residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed outside the state, and home on leave (you must carry leave or furlough papers while fishing or transporting fish).
- Minnesota residents who have served in federal active service outside the U.S. during the preceding 24 months who are now discharged from overseas duty (must carry discharge papers while fishing or transporting fish).
- Anyone not requiring a license is allowed to keep a possession limit of fish.

FREE FISHING WEEKENDS

Take a Mom Fishing Weekend — May 9-10, 2026 Minnesota resident moms may fish without a license.

Take a Kid Fishing Weekend — June 5-7, 2026 Minnesota residents 16 and older may fish without a license if they’re with children younger than 16.

Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend — January 16-18, 2027 Minnesota residents 16 and older may fish without a license if they’re with children younger than 16.

Am I eligible for a free fishing license?

Anglers who meet certain qualifications can obtain a free license (mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing/exemptions) if they are:

- Foreign exchange students with proof of foreign exchange student status. Available from any agent.
- Residents 16 and older who have a developmental disability or veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability. Available only from the DNR by calling 877-348-0498.
- Residents who are legally blind, receiving SSI or SSDI, or receiving worker's compensation for total and permanent disability. Must present current letter from Social Security stating disability or SSI benefits to any license agent to receive free license. SSI/SSDI benefit verification is available online at socialsecurity.gov, by calling 800-772-1213 or at your local Social Security office.
- Residents receiving disability benefits under the Federal Railroad Retirement Act or U.S. Postal Service. Must present proof of disability benefits. Available at any agent.
- Residents of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home, wards of the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services, residents of state institutions, or inpatients of a U.S. Veterans Administration hospital. Must use application available from the DNR (888-646-6367).

Do I need a license to fish in Minnesota State Parks?

Minnesota residents may fish without a license for any species except trout when:

- Shore fishing or wading on state-owned land within a state park.
- Fishing from a boat or on the ice on water bodies that are completely inside the boundaries of a state park.
- To fish on a designated trout stream or lake or to harvest trout in a state park you must have a fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp validation.

What if I'm helping a child fish?

If an adult is showing a child younger than 16 how to bait, cast, and remove fish, no license is needed. The child must hold the rod, set the hook and reel in the fish.

What if I'm helping someone fish who has a disability?

You do not need a license to assist a disabled person, who must have a valid license unless an exemption applies. You may only fish with the number of lines allowed for all licensed or exempt anglers fishing.

Can I get a refund?

Check your license for accuracy prior to leaving the license agent location. All sales are final. Refunds can only be issued if the:

- Licensee dies before the opening of the licensed season;
- Licensee is unable to participate in the licensed activity because the licensee is called to active military duty or military leave is canceled during the entire open season of the licensed activity; or
- Licensee purchased 2 licenses for the same license season in error.

What are license requirements for nonresident youth?

Nonresidents under 16 may either fish under a parent or guardian's license (including a family license) or must purchase a nonresident youth license. If fishing under a family license or their own youth license, youth may possess their own limit; if fishing under a parent or guardian's individual license any fish kept are counted towards the parent's possession limit.

What if I lose or can't find my license?

You can go to any license agent and have them print a duplicate license. The cost is \$2.50, which includes a 50-cent fee charged by the vendor.

What if I'm not a state resident but am a full-time student at a Minnesota school, college or university?

You may purchase fishing licenses at the resident rate if you reside in Minnesota and show the license agent a fee statement showing full-time enrollment.

What if I'm not a state resident but serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and am stationed in Minnesota or the spouse of a Minnesota resident on active military duty?

By showing proof, you may purchase fishing licenses and stamps at the resident rate.

How can my license be revoked?

- Fishing privileges may be revoked for 1 year for 2 or more convictions of fishing violations in 3 years. Violations of fishing laws in other states may affect your ability to fish in Minnesota.
- Violating the gross over-limits penalty provisions can result in privileges being revoked for 3, 5 or 10 years, depending on the number of fish involved in the violation.
- Failure to pay fines or to appear in court on a violation can result in revocation of all game and fish licenses until the fines are paid.

How to Figure Your Bag Limit for a Conservation License

- Applies to bag limits established for inland waters, experimental and special management waters, and border waters.
- Does not apply to size restrictions, but may only have up to the corresponding bag limit. For example: a normal limit of 5 fish with 3 over 10" for a Conservation License would be 2 fish with only 1 over 10".
- Divide the regular limit in half. If necessary, round down to the nearest whole number. For example: 5 fish regular limit would be a 2 fish conservation limit.
- Conservation licensees are not allowed to keep walleye over 20".

Conservation License Bag Limits

REGULAR DAILY OR POSSESSION BAG LIMIT	1 fish	2 fish	3 fish	4 fish	5 fish	6 fish	8 fish	10 fish	20 fish	25 fish	50 fish
CONSERVATION DAILY OR POSSESSION BAG LIMIT	Catch-and-release	1 fish	1 fish	2 fish	2 fish	3 fish	4 fish	5 fish	10 fish	12 fish	25 fish

SEASONS AND LIMITS – INLAND AND LAKE SUPERIOR

- All calendar dates are for 2026 unless noted otherwise. Season dates are inclusive unless otherwise noted.
- Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.
- Most species have experimental or special regulations on some waters. See pages 45-64.
- For Canada, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota border water regulations see pages 66-77. For Lake Superior see pages 34-36.
- Different limits for Conservation Licenses apply, chart is on page 28.
- Northern pike dark house spearing limits differ, see page 81.
- Some waters are seasonally closed to fishing to protect vulnerable concentrations of fish. Dates can vary from year to year but will be posted every spring at mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing.

INLAND WATERS

Inland Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger (and their hybrid)	May 9, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	6 combined total (only 1 walleye over 20" in possession)
Muskellunge	June 6 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 54")
Tiger (hybrid) muskellunge (see page 85 for identification guide)	June 6 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 40")
Largemouth bass — Statewide (Southern and North-central Zones)	March 1 - May 22	Catch-and-release only
	May 23, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass (when smallmouth season is open)
Smallmouth bass — Statewide (Southern and North-central Zones)	March 1 - May 22	Catch-and-release only
	May 23 - Sept. 13	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
	Sept. 14, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	Catch-and-release only

Continued on next page

Inland Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Largemouth and smallmouth bass — Northeast Zone (Pelican and Ash lakes in St. Louis County are part of the Northeast Zone for bass. See Zone Map on page 31.)	March 1 - May 8	Catch-and-release only
	May 9, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass
Crappie (white or black and their hybrids)	Continuous	10 combined total
Sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, northern, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	20 combined total
Rock bass	Continuous	30
White bass and yellow bass	Continuous	30 combined total
Channel Catfish	Continuous	5 (only 1 over 24")
Flathead Catfish	April 1 - Nov. 30	2 (only 1 over 24")
Perch	Continuous	20 daily, 40 in possession
Whitefish Sport netting regulations effective each fall are available on the DNR website.	Continuous	15 (over 7") EXCEPTION: For sport netting on Leech Lake Indian Reservation limit 25.
Cisco (tullibee) Sport netting regulations effective each fall are available on the DNR website.	Continuous	15 (over 7") EXCEPTION: For sport netting on Leech Lake Indian Reservation limit 50.
Burbot (eelpout)	Continuous	4
Bowfin, buffalo, carp, carpsuckers, freshwater drum, goldeye, redhorse, and suckers	Continuous	No limit
American eel	Continuous	Catch-and-release only
Bullhead	Continuous	100
Gar	Continuous	10
Smelt	Continuous	No limit
Lake or shovelnose sturgeon (See pages 66-77 for other sturgeon waters and regulations.)	Same dates every year: June 16 - April 14	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
Paddlefish	No open season	
Lake trout (SUMMER) Statewide	May 9 - Sept. 30	2
Lake trout (WINTER) Outside or partly outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.	2026 Season: Jan. 17 - March 31 2027 Season: Jan. 16 - March 31	2

Inland Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Lake trout (WINTER) Lakes entirely within the BWCAW.	2026 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31 2027 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31	2

Inland Seasons and Limits for Northern Pike by Zone

See Zone Map below for details on how possession limits apply across zones. Dark house spearing limits differ, see page 81.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	ZONE	ANGLING POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Northern pike	May 9, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	Northeast Zone:	2 (only 1 over 40" in possession, all from 30-40" must be immediately released)
		North-central Zone:	10 (not more than 2 over 26", all from 22-26" must be immediately released)
		Southern Zone:	2 (minimum size 24")

Northern Pike Possession Limits for Inland Waters

The state is divided into three zones for northern pike – Northeast, North-central, and Southern – each with a specific regulation for angling and for spearing. Waters with special regulations (pages 45-64), and border waters (pages 66-77), are not covered by the zone regulations and the special regulation is in effect for both spearing and angling. Details can be found at mndnr.gov/pike.



Zone Map

The Northeast Zone is defined as north and east of U.S. Highway 53 from Duluth to International Falls.

North-central/Southern Boundary: from the South Dakota Border – State Highway 7 at Ortonville – east past Hutchinson, south on State Highway 22 to Glencoe, east on U.S. Highway 212 to Chaska, south on State Highway 41 to the Minnesota River to the Mississippi River to the Wisconsin border.

The waters of the Minnesota or Mississippi rivers where those waters create the North-central/Southern Boundary are included in the Southern Zone.

What is the statewide possession limit for northern pike?

The maximum number of northern pike that you may possess is 10 fish. Zone possession limits apply to where the fish was harvested, not where it is possessed. For example, if you live in the North-central Zone you cannot possess 7 pike caught locally and 3 caught from the Southern Zone.

How do possession limits apply to lakes with special regulations on northern pike?

If the possession limit on a special regulation lake or stream is different than the zone limit, the special regulation limit applies. For example, if the special regulation limit is less than the statewide regulation, you may only have 1 daily limit from that lake included in your possession limit.

STREAM TROUT — BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW AND SPLAKE

The following regulations apply to stream trout species (brook, brown, rainbow, splake) and their hybrids living in lakes and streams. They do not include lake trout which are listed under Inland Waters. Lake Superior tributaries (pages 34-36) and Experimental and Special Regulations (pages 45-64) are also not covered in this section.

Calendar dates refer to 2026 unless noted otherwise. Daily and possession limits are the same.

Learn more about trout fishing at mndnr.gov/fishing/trout.

General Regulations

- Fishing hours for stream trout on inland waters are from 1 hour before sunrise to 11 p.m.
- Only 1 line is allowed winter or summer when fishing on designated stream trout lakes and designated trout streams.
- For legal tackle, more details can be found on page 37.
- Possessing live minnows or using them for bait on designated stream trout lakes is prohibited. Only dried, frozen, or pickled (brined) minnows are allowed. Live leeches, worms, and wax worms are legal to use.
- Possessing and using live minnows (and other live bait) is allowed on most trout streams. However, some streams have specific bait restrictions, check pages 60-64.
- Taking of any species, including catch-and-release angling, in designated trout waters is prohibited outside of an open season for trout. Any season where trout can be targeted (harvest or catch-and-release) is considered an open season.
- Taking minnows or leeches from designated trout waters, except under special permit, is prohibited.
- All stream trout must have head, tail, fins, and skin intact when being transported.
- Native rough fish and common carp may not be taken by spear, harpoon, archery, or dip net in designated trout lakes or streams. However, dark house spearing (page 81) is allowed for northern pike, whitefish and catfish.
- The list of Designated Trout Lakes can be found on the DNR website mndnr.gov/fishing/trout_lakes/list.

Stream Trout Species Seasons and Limits (Streams)

WATERS	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Streams — Statewide except listed below	April 11 - Sept. 30	5 combined total (only 1 over 16")
Streams — Southeast Minnesota Includes Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha, Dakota, and Goodhue counties.	2026 Season: Jan. 1 - April 10	Catch-and-release only
	April 11 - Sept. 14	5 combined total (only 1 over 16")
	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15	Catch-and-release only
	Oct. 16 - Dec. 31	Closed to fishing
	2027 Season: Jan. 1- April 9	Catch-and-release only
Streams — within Southeast Minnesota state parks and city boundaries Includes state parks: Beaver Creek Valley (East Beaver Creek), Forestville (Forestville Creek, Canfield Creek, South Branch Root River), and Whitewater (Middle Branch Whitewater River, Trout Run Creek). Includes cities: Chatfield, Lanesboro, Preston, Rushford, and Spring Valley.	Sept. 15, 2025 - April 10, 2026	Catch-and-release only
	April 11 - Sept. 14	5 combined total (only 1 over 16")
	Sept. 15, 2026 - April 9, 2027	Catch-and-release only

Stream Trout Species Seasons and Limits (Lakes)

WATERS	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Lakes (SUMMER) Statewide	May 9 - Oct. 31	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
Lakes (WINTER) Outside or partly outside the BWCAW	2026 Season: Jan. 17 - March 31 2027 Season: Jan. 16 - March 31	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
Lakes (WINTER) Lakes entirely within the BWCAW	2026 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31 2027 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31	5 combined total (not more than 3 over 16")
Lakes EXCEPTIONS: Little Andrus (Snowshoe), Cass County; Allen and Pleasant, Crow Wing County; Bad Medicine, Becker County.	Winter season closed for stream trout.	

LAKE SUPERIOR AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The following regulations clarify the fishing seasons and limits for Lake Superior and the streams and rivers flowing into it. While fishing Minnesota waters, anglers must follow Minnesota regulations.

Licensing

Anyone fishing on the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior must possess a Minnesota angling license and a Minnesota trout/salmon stamp validation except as listed on page 25. You need a Wisconsin fishing license to fish on Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior but you may fish the St. Louis River Estuary with a Minnesota fishing license.

Location

- There are different fishing regulations for Lake Superior and its tributaries based on whether you are above or below a posted boundary, which corresponds to areas accessible to migratory fish. A list of boundary locations on tributaries can be found on the DNR website or by contacting an Area Fisheries Office along the North Shore.
- Some tributary streams have special regulations. Additionally, some streams have sanctuary areas closed to fishing, including the French, Knife, Lester, Devil Track and Kadunce rivers, and Gauthier Creek. (See Experimental and Special Regulations, pages 45-64.)
- Angling from boats is closed October 6 - November 30 on the portion of Lake Superior from the outermost portion of the north arm of the Duluth ship canal to the mouth of Chester Creek.

Hours

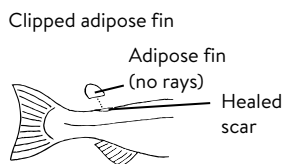
Angling hours on Lake Superior tributaries below the posted boundaries are from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset. Exceptions are the St. Louis River Estuary (St. Louis and Carlton counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).

Methods

- Anglers are restricted to a single hook or fly only — no treble hooks — on Lake Superior tributary streams and rivers below the posted boundaries. Exceptions are the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).
- No more than 2 lines may be used on Lake Superior, except only 1 line may be used within 100 yards of the mouth of any flowing stream.
- On Lake Superior tributaries below the posted boundaries, a fish that is hooked in any part of the body, except the mouth, must be immediately returned to the water.

Possession and Transportation

- Unclipped steelhead (rainbow trout) must be immediately released on Lake Superior and its tributaries. A clipped adipose fin, used to identify stocked trout, must show a healed scar (see diagram right). Marking, tagging, or fin clipping fish and then releasing them without a DNR permit is illegal.



Continued on next page

Possession and Transportation *continued*

- While fishing or while on the water, trout, salmon, muskellunge, and catfish must be transported with head and tails intact.
- While transporting fish on land, 1) rainbow, brown and brook trout, and splake must be transported with head and tail intact; and 2) salmon, lake trout, and walleye may be filleted but must retain a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales. See pages 41-42 for additional general information on transporting fish.
- Native rough fish or other species not named in the Lake Superior (page 36) section are subject to inland regulations.

Taking of Smelt

- Smelt may be taken night or day. Artificial lights may not be used to lure or attract smelt. There is no limit on smelt, and smelt from Lake Superior may be bought or sold; however, live smelt may not be possessed or transported.
- Dip nets may be used for taking smelt. Minnow seines not more than 25 feet long or 4 feet deep may be used to take smelt in the St. Louis River and in Lake Superior when more than 100 feet from the mouth of any stream.
- Taking of smelt at any time is prohibited in the following Lake Superior Tributaries: French River, Sucker River, Little Sucker River (St. Louis County); Silver Creek, Encampment Creek, Crow Creek (Lake County).

Taking of Smelt and Cisco (Tullibee), and Trout Eggs, for Bait

- Anglers may take cisco (tullibee) or smelt from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries to use as bait only on Lake Superior.
- To use cisco (tullibee) or smelt taken from Lake Superior or its tributaries as bait on other water bodies, the fish must be preserved under a DNR-issued bait preservation permit. Permit applications are available from the DNR, 500 Lafayette, St. Paul, MN 55155-4026. Freezing is not a preservation method.
- No other fish species from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries, or the St. Louis River downstream of the Fond du Lac dam, may be used as bait except trout eggs (see next bullet).
- Eggs of trout harvested from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries may be used as bait (spawn bags). Spawn bags from Lake Superior trout may only be used on Lake Superior and its tributaries below the posted boundaries, and no other waters in the state.
- Spawn bags can be bought or sold only if they are made from either 1) fish eggs from a licensed aquaculture facility; or 2) fish eggs taken from a source outside Minnesota that has been certified disease free and are preserved and labeled under a Minnesota bait preservation permit. These spawn bags may only be used in Lake Superior and tributaries below posted boundaries.

Guide Licenses

A guide's license is required to operate a charter boat for the purpose of guiding or assisting anglers on the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River Estuary. More information: mndnr.gov/licenses/commercial

Continued on next page

Lake Superior and Tributaries Below Posted Boundaries

Including St. Louis River Estuary below the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary cable and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.

Calendar dates refer to 2026 unless noted otherwise. If fishing the St. Louis River Estuary and species are not listed below see Minnesota-Wisconsin border waters regulations (page 74). Otherwise, see inland waters regulations (page 29) for any species not listed.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Brook trout and splake	April 11 - Sept. 30	1 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 20"
Rainbow trout – clipped	Continuous	3 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 16"
Rainbow trout – unclipped	Continuous	Catch-and-release only	
Brown trout	Continuous	5 (combined total brook trout, splake, brown trout and rainbow trout is 5).	Minimum size limit 10". Only 1 over 16".
Lake trout	Dec. 1, 2025 - Oct. 4, 2026 Dec. 1, 2026 - Oct. 3, 2027	3	
Salmon (Chinook, coho, pink, and Atlantic)	Continuous	5 combined total	Minimum size limit 10"
Walleye	May 9, 2026 - March 1, 2027	2	Minimum size limit 15"
Northern pike	May 9, 2026 - March 1, 2027	2	
Smelt	Continuous	No limit	
Lake or shovelnose sturgeon	Same dates every year: June 16 - April 14	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.	
Includes Lake Superior and the St. Louis River. (See pages 67-77 for other sturgeon waters and regulations.)			

Lake Superior Tributaries Above Posted Boundaries

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Brook and brown trout	April 11 - Sept. 30	5 combined total	Only 1 over 16"
Rainbow trout	April 11 - Sept. 30	Catch-and-release only	

GENERAL REGULATIONS

TACKLE AND LINES

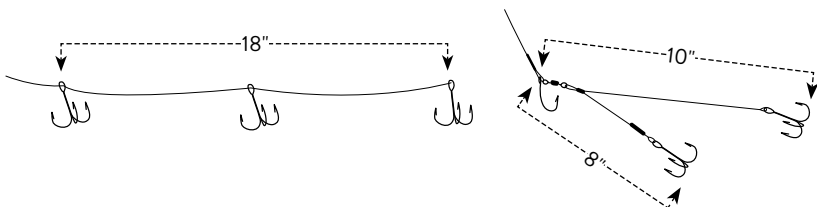
How many lines can I fish with?

- You may use only 1 line during the open water season except 2 lines may be used in the Minnesota River downstream of the Granite Falls Dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls.
- You may use 2 lines through the ice except on designated trout lakes and streams.
- On designated trout lakes and streams, only 1 line is allowed at any time.
- More than 1 line may be allowed on border waters (page 66) and Lake Superior (page 34).

How many hooks can I use on the end of my line?

- Only 1 artificial bait/lure or 1 single tackle configuration can be used at the end of your line for it to be considered a single line.
- ***NEW**—Up to 3 single- or multiple-pronged hooks may be used as a single tackle configuration. The total distance between hooks cannot exceed 18" measured along the line. Only 1 live, artificial, preserved or dead bait is allowed per line.
- "Umbrella" style rigs may be used provided only 1 wire contains hooks. The other wires may include bait/lure but cannot contain hooks.
- Up to 3 artificial flies are allowed on 1 fishing line with no restrictions on distance between flies when fishing for bass, crappie, rock bass, sunfish, or trout.
- Unless fishing on a designated trout stream or lake, you may add 1 additional "stinger" hook on a line as part of a single artificial bait/lure. The "stinger" hook must be within 3" of the artificial bait/lure.

Single Tackle Configuration Examples



Artificial Bait/Lure Examples



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Can I use bait in Minnesota waters?

- You can fish with a variety of live or dead bait including worms, night crawlers, insects and larvae. If you are fishing with minnows or leeches, a number of restrictions apply.
- If you choose to keep your bait when done fishing, you must exchange water in bait buckets with tap or bottled water prior to leaving any water body, except when you are fishing through the ice. The exception for ice fishing does not apply when fishing on Lake Superior.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into Minnesota lakes and rivers. All earthworms are non-native and can damage forests if released.
- You can't use whole or parts of game fish, goldfish, carp, or salamanders (including mudpuppies) for bait. See page 35 for Lake Superior exceptions.

What are the rules for taking and transporting live minnows and leeches?

- You can't import live minnows or leeches into Minnesota.
- Dead bait may only be imported if it comes from a water body tested negative for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) with a negative fish health certification or has been preserved under a DNR bait preservation permit issued to a commercial license. All imported dead bait must be labeled and the labeling kept on your person while angling (see website for examples).
- You can take an unlimited number of minnows and leeches with an angling license for personal use; however you may not transport more than 12 dozen at a time without a commercial minnow license. All minnows and leeches must be transported in tap/well or bottled water.

Where can I harvest minnows and leeches?

You can take them from all waters of the state where you can legally access the water except:

- Within the boundaries of state parks.
- Within designated trout waters, except under permit.
- Most aquatic invasive species infested waters. See mndnr.gov/AIS for a current list.
- All streams and connected waters in Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Rock and Nobles counties south of U.S. Highway 14 and west of U.S. Highway 59 to the South Dakota border.
- A harvest permit is required to take madtoms and stonecats in Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties.

Can I harvest bait from infested waters?

- Minnows and leeches may be taken for personal use from waters infested solely with Eurasian watermilfoil using a cylindrical trap not exceeding 16" in diameter and 32" long. At these waters, harvested bait may only be used on the water where taken. The harvest and use of bait from other infested waters is prohibited.
- Within infested streams and rivers (except for the St. Louis River Estuary), bullhead, sucker, mooneye, goldeye, and freshwater drum may be taken by hook and line for personal use as bait on the same water. Harvested bait may not be transported live from the river or stream. Where a river or stream is divided by barriers such as dams, fish for bait must be caught and used on the same section.
- You can obtain a DNR permit at mndnr.gov/fishing to take gizzard shad by cast net for personal use as bait for fishing from Minnesota portions of the Mississippi River

Continued on next page

downstream of St. Anthony Falls, the Minnesota River downstream of Granite Falls, and the St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam.

How can I take minnows and leeches?

You can use dip nets, seines and traps. See restrictions below:

- Seines may not be longer than 25 feet nor have bar mesh greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ ". If the bar mesh is between $\frac{3}{16}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ ", the seine may not be taller than 37", otherwise the seine may not be taller than 48".
- Traps dimensions may not exceed 30" in length, 30" in width, nor 15" in height. The diameter of the opening may not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", and the mesh size may not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ " bar measure. Traps must have a waterproof tag bearing the name and address of the owner.
- You cannot use throw nets (cast nets) without a DNR permit (see page 38).

When do I need to get a commercial license to take and sell minnows and leeches?

- If you want to transport more than 12 dozen.
- If you want to sell minnows or leeches at retail or wholesale.

What are the rules for live suckers?

Suckers 12" and shorter are considered minnows and regular bait rules for minnows apply. However, suckers longer than 12" may only be transported alive if they are in containers that are not livewells or other parts of a boat and only if bought from a licensed commercial vendor. You must have a valid sales receipt from the vendor on your person.

What are the rules for live bullheads?

- Live bullheads may not be transported north of Minnesota Highway 210.
- Bullheads less than 7" in length are considered minnows and may be possessed in any quantity south of Minnesota Highway 210. Bullheads must be transported in a container with a locking lid.
- You may take and possess bullheads, 7-10" in length, for use as live bait. They are counted as part of your daily and possession limit of 100.
- Legal methods of taking bullheads are dip net, angling or minnow seines.

What is restricted bait and can I harvest and use it?

- Restricted bait includes cisco (tullibee) less than 7", smelt, and VHS-susceptible species (such as fathead minnows, bluntnose minnows, spottail shiners, and emerald shiners).
- For restricted bait rules on Lake Superior and tributaries, see page 35.
- Live restricted bait must have been purchased from a licensed retailer (retain proof of purchase) or come from a VHS-free source.
- Dead restricted bait can only be used if it was harvested from a water body tested for VHS with a negative fish health certification, a VHS free zone (see mndnr.gov/bait-dead), or has been preserved and labeled under a bait preservation permit issued to a commercial license.
- All restricted dead bait must be labeled and the labeling kept on your person while angling (see mndnr.gov/bait-dead for examples).
- Freezing is not a bait preservation method because freezing doesn't kill VHS.

Where can I get more information about bait?

Check the Other Species section of the online regulations or contact the Minnesota DNR Information Center at 888-MINNDNR, or go to mndnr.gov/bait-dead.

METHODS

What if people are fishing together from a boat or on shore?

- A party is two or more people fishing together from a single watercraft or on shore while maintaining unaided visual and vocal contact.
- The number of fish your party possesses can't be more than the combined limits of all party members. You may not transport more than your individual daily or possession limit.

What fishing methods are illegal?

- Intentionally fishing for a species during its closed season.
- Using an artificial light to lure, attract or spot fish. However, you may use a lighted artificial lure. Batteries used in lighted fishing lures must not contain mercury.
- Leaving your fishing line with hooks attached in the water unattended. Receiving electronic notifications is not considered attending your fishing line.
- Using explosives, firearms, chemicals (not including a scented bait), or electricity to take fish.
- Taking fish by hand (noodling) or by snagging.

POSSESSION

How many fish can I keep?

- Your daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted. Some waters have reduced daily limits but statewide possession limits (pages 45-64) which means an angler can keep 1 limit per day from that water but can't exceed the statewide possession limit (pages 29-33) at any time.
- A fish is in your possession once you have caught and kept it. Your possession limit includes any fish you have kept that day plus any fish in storage from a previous day.
- Processed fish (e.g. pickled, smoked) still count towards your limit.
- Culling (page 20) is allowed in most waters except North Dakota border waters and Mille Lacs (except bass may be culled), until you reach your daily or possession limit.
- Once you reach your daily or possession limit for a species, you may keep fishing but all fish of that species must be immediately released and no culling is allowed. If fishing is good you may want to stay below your limit to accommodate keeping a deeply hooked, legal sized fish.

What are length limits?

Some waters have fish length restrictions, such as slot limits, minimum size limits, or 1-over the size limit. See page 20 for definitions.

You can't possess any fish outside the legal length limits of the waters on which you are traveling or fishing, unless all of the following conditions are true: 1) The fish was legally taken from a connected water body or packaged by a licensed fish packer; 2) You are traveling back to your lodging or docking and taking the most direct route; and 3) You are not fishing while you are in transit.

What if I've caught fish on waters with size restrictions different from statewide regulations?

- Unless you are in the act of preparing the fish for a meal, any kept fish with size restrictions different than statewide regulations may not be filleted. Kept fish

Continued on next page

must still have their heads, tails, fins, and skin intact so they can be measured and counted. Carcasses count toward your possession limit until you dispose of them.

- You may eat legal sized fish while on the ice, docked, or moored to shore but you must retain the carcass including the head, dorsal fin, and tail. Any fish caught and eaten on the same day count toward your daily limit.

Can I give away fish that I've kept?

If you have kept a fish and want to transfer it as a gift, it must be accompanied by a receipt that must remain with the gift. The person receiving the gift can't possess more than the statewide limit including your gift. The receipt must contain all of the following information:

- Name and address of the owner.
- Name and address of recipient.
- Date of transfer.
- Description of the gift (number and species).
- License number (DNR number or transaction number) under which the fish was taken.

TRANSPORTATION

Can I transport live fish I caught (other than bait)?

No, fish being harvested may not be transported in enough water to keep them alive. You can't transfer live fish or fish eggs from one body of water to another.

What about fish for an aquarium?

If you are older than 16, you can transport live fish for display in a home aquarium only if you purchase the fish from an aquaculture licensee and have proof of purchase.

Youth age 16 and younger can legally transport certain live fish for display in a home aquarium if:

- They have legally caught the fish from among the following species: largemouth, smallmouth or rock bass; yellow perch; crappie; bluegill, pumpkinseed, green or orange-spotted sunfish; black, yellow, and brown bullhead.
- No more than 4 fish of each species are transported at any given time.
- All fish are 10" or less in length.
- Fish are not transported in water taken from any lake or stream. You must bring bottled or tap water for transport.

How do I prepare fish I've caught for transport?

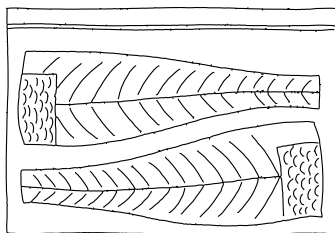
- You must package and transport fish in such a way that they can be readily unwrapped, separated, identified and counted.
- A fish may not be cut into more than 2 fillets.
- If you are transporting lake sturgeon, muskellunge, catfish, splake or brook, brown and rainbow trout, you must transport them with the head and tail intact so the fish can be measured.
- Bullhead, sunfish and crappie may be filleted without leaving a patch of skin.
- Fillets from all other species must have a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales intact from a portion of the body other than the belly, unless they are packaged by a licensed fish packer.
- Saugey without head and tail intact will be counted as walleye unless they are packaged by a licensed fish packer.

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One of the best ways to transport your fish so they can be counted and identified is in clear plastic freezer bags.

Fillets and dressed fish must show at least a 1-inch square patch of skin with scales so fish species can be identified.

See pages 45-64 for waters with special or experimental regulations.



OTHER SPECIES

Threatened and Endangered Species

You can't take or possess any state-endangered or threatened species, including skipjack herring, crystal darter, pallid shiner, slender madtom, gravel chub, plains topminnow, black buffalo, pugnose shiner, paddlefish, Blanchard's cricket frog, Blanding's turtle, wood turtle, or endangered or threatened mussels, unless you have an endangered species permit.

Crayfish

Can I take my own crayfish?

***NEW**—Yes, people with a fishing license and children younger than 16 can take and possess up to 25 pounds of live crayfish for personal use. However, you cannot possess red swamp crayfish, as they are a prohibited invasive species (more details on page 15). A permit is needed to sell crayfish, to take/possess more than 25 pounds of crayfish, or to harvest crayfish from infested waters. More information can be found at mndnr.gov/fishing/commercial.

When can I take crayfish?

***NEW**—From April 1 to November 30. Traps may be left overnight but may only be tended from 1 hour before sunrise through 1 hour after sunset. Traps must be labeled with owner's identification information. Any traps used in infested waters must be tagged by DNR Fisheries staff.

Where can I use crayfish as bait?

- Crayfish may not be used for bait in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway north or upstream of the St. Croix Boom Site boat launch, or within Voyageurs National Park.
- Except as noted above, preserved crayfish may be used in all waters of the state and live crayfish may only be used in the water where they were captured.

Federal aid in sport fish restoration

Minnesota's rich outdoor heritage is enjoyed by all. When you purchase a fishing rod, reel, or most any other sporting gear, you pay a federal excise tax. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants that money back to the states using a formula based on fishing licenses sold and the state's land area. These funds support fish population monitoring, research, habitat projects, and efforts related to angler access, recruitment, and retention.



Frogs and Salamanders

Can I take my own frogs?

In most cases, yes:

- People with a fishing license and children younger than 16 can take, use, buy and sell an unlimited number of frogs up to 6" long for bait.
- A special frog license is required to take frogs for any purpose other than bait.
- You must have an endangered species permit to possess Blanchard's cricket frogs.

When can I take frogs for bait?

From May 16 to March 31 the following year.

Can I release frogs or tadpoles?

No. Unused frogs or tadpoles can't be released in any Minnesota water.

Can I use salamanders (including mudpuppies) as bait?

No. Salamanders are protected wild animals and cannot be used as bait. Several salamander species including mudpuppies are species of special concern.

Turtles

Can I take my own turtles?

People with a resident fishing license (or youth under 16) and recreational turtle license can take, possess and transport snapping and western painted turtles for personal use.

What kind of turtles can I take?

- Western painted: between 4 and 5½" in shell length, possession limit 3. Turtles used in turtle races may be any length greater than 4".
- Snapping: minimum size is 12" in shell length, possession limit is 3. Season is from July 1 through April 30 the following year.
- All other species of turtles may only be purchased from a commercial vendor.

What about turtle races?

Residents younger than 18 may take, possess, and rent up to 25 turtles for use in a non-profit turtle race. Each turtle must be greater than 4" in length.

How do you measure turtle shell length?

Measure the top shell length (the hard upper shell of the turtle) from above the neck to above the tail. The measuring device should measure a straight line above the curvature of the shell.

How can I take turtles?

You may use traditional angling gear, such as dip nets and hook and line. You may not use traps, commercial gear, firearms, bows, spears, impaling objects, explosives, drugs, poisons, lime or other harmful substances to take turtles.

Can I take turtle eggs?

A DNR permit is required to take turtle eggs.

Can I release turtles in Minnesota?

No. Unused or unwanted turtles can't be released in any Minnesota water.

Where do I get a recreational turtle license?

Licenses can be purchased at any DNR license agent or online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense.

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Native freshwater mussels (Clams)

Can I take live freshwater mussels?

***NEW**—No. State law prohibits the harvest, capture, and possession of live freshwater mussels. Of Minnesota's 51 native freshwater mussel species, 24 are endangered or threatened.

Can I take dead freshwater mussel shells?

Anyone with a fishing license and children younger than 16 may hand-pick or possess up to 24 whole shells or 48 half shells from dead mussels of species that are not endangered or threatened.

- List of Minnesota's endangered and threatened species: mndnr.gov/freshwater-mussel
- You can't take freshwater mussel shells from the St. Croix River.
- You can't possess zebra mussels.
- Freshwater mussel shells can't be bought or sold.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

- If you catch a fish (including native rough fish and common carp) and you don't intend to use it for anything, you must return it immediately back into the water alive. You can't waste a fish by discarding it, or any part of it, on the ice, on the bank, or into the water.
- You can't dispose of any rubbish (including parts of fish or other animals), or chemicals into public waters, or on shore.
- You can't deposit fish parts or other material (chum) into waters to attract fish.
- You can't possess or transport white perch, ruffe, round goby, black carp, bighead carp, grass carp or silver carp, unless you are taking them to a DNR office. If you catch a black, bighead, grass or silver carp, see page 15.
- You can't buy or sell game fish, native rough fish, whitefish, or cisco (tullibee) unless you buy the fish from a commercial, private hatchery, or aquatic farm licensee.
- You can't release bait (including worms) anywhere in Minnesota. All unwanted bait should be disposed of in the trash.

See page 16 for boat and trailer transport restrictions.

PERMITS

A Minnesota DNR permit is required to:

- Transplant aquatic plants, apply chemicals and perform certain types of cutting to control vegetation in any public water.
- Mark or tag fish and then release them.
- Harvest minnows from designated trout lakes or streams or from most infested waters.
- Conduct some fishing contests.

A permit from the county sheriff is required for most organized events on the water or ice, including fishing contests.

Find more information at mndnr.gov/permits or contact your regional Fisheries Office (page 98).

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT LAKES

A number of lakes in Minnesota are managed under both treaties and DNR regulations. Angling harvest on these intensive management lakes may change throughout the year to maintain sustainable fish populations. If regulations change, information will be posted at public boat ramps, the DNR website, and in newspapers.

Mille Lacs Lake including tributaries to posted boundaries (Aitkin, Crow Wing and Mille Lacs counties). Regulations for walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, tullibee, and other fish species will be posted at public access sites and the DNR website at mndnr.gov/millelacslake.

Red Lake, Upper including Shotley Brook and Tamarac River (Beltrami County). Those portions of Red Lake located within the Red Lake Indian Reservation are closed to non-band members except by special authorization of the tribal council.

- Northern pike: all from 30-40" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 40" allowed.
- Walleye: Restrictions or changes will be posted at public access sites and on the DNR website. A person's statewide possession limit may not include more than the current daily limit of Red Lake walleye.

WATERS WITH EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS

These regulations differ from statewide or border water regulations and take precedence. Unless otherwise stated, all general regulations, seasons, limits, border water regulations, possession, and transportation regulations apply to these waters. If you want to keep fish with special or experimental size restrictions, the fish must remain intact to verify it is of legal size until you are preparing to eat the fish. Regulations are posted at access sites but be sure to also check other sections of this booklet and other states' regulations when on border waters. Note: some regulations specify a daily limit for the lake and others specify a possession limit. See definitions on page 20.

These regulations are intended to improve fishing quality or provide unique opportunities. The DNR regularly evaluates the regulations and needs your compliance to ensure success.

National Wildlife Refuges May Have Differing Regulations

Please check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 612-713-5360.

Voyageurs National Park

In response to the threat of invasive species introductions, the park only allows artificial bait in the interior lakes and prohibits the use of privately owned watercraft and the landing of float planes in these lakes. These regulations do not apply to Rainy, Kabetogama, Namakan, Crane, and Sand Point lakes. Contact Voyageurs National Park for more information: 218-283-6600.

Lakes (County)

- A** **AGNES LAKE (Douglas)** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- AITKIN LAKE** including area known as **Aitkin Flowage (Aitkin)** See Big Sandy Lake.
- ALEXANDER LAKE (Morrison)** Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".
- *NEW—AMBER LAKE (Martin)** See Fairmont Chain of Lakes.
- ALLEN LAKE (Crow Wing)** Stream trout: winter fishing for stream trout is not allowed.
- AMELIA LAKE (Pope)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- ANDREW LAKE (Douglas)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- ANDRUSIA LAKE (Beltrami)** See Cass Lake Chain.
- ANN LAKE (Carver)** Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".
- ANNIE BATTLE LAKE** including inlet to **Molly Stark Lake** and outlet to **Blanche Lake (Otter Tail)** Use of gas and electric motors, powered augers, and other electronic fish-finding devices is prohibited. Sunfish: daily limit 5. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit 5.
- ARROWHEAD LAKE (Crow Wing)** See Whitefish Chain.
- ASH LAKE (St. Louis)** Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".
- AUGUSTA LAKE** including connected **Clearwater, Grass, Augusta, Otter, and Caroline lakes (Wright)** Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- B** **BAD MEDICINE LAKE (Becker)** Stream trout: winter fishing for stream trout is not allowed.
- BALM LAKE (Beltrami)** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- BALSAM LAKE** including connected **Haskell and Scrapper lakes (Itasca)** Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".
- BASS LAKE** near **Cohasset (Itasca)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BASS LAKE** near **Underwood (Otter Tail)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BASS LAKE** near **Burtrum north of Long Lake (Todd)** Walleye: possession limit 2. Largemouth bass: possession limit 1. Northern pike: possession limit 3, all larger than 26" must be immediately released.
- BASSWOOD LAKE (Lake)** Northern pike: all from 30-40" must be immediately released. Possession limit 2, only 1 over 40". Season is continuous. Special regulations apply only to Minnesota waters of Basswood Lake. Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BATTLE LAKE (Itasca)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR (Chester Woods) (Olmsted)** See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.
- BEAR HEAD LAKE (St. Louis)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BEAR LAKE (Itasca)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BEAUTY LAKE (Todd)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- BECKER LAKE (Stearns)** See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.
- BELTRAMI LAKE (Beltrami)** See Turtle River chain of lakes.

BERTHA LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

BEUBER LAKE (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BIG BASS LAKE (Beltrami) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BIG FLOYD LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BIG LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BIG MANTRAP (Hubbard) Crappie: daily limit 5. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

BIG MARINE LAKE (Washington) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

BIG PINE LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10. Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Crappie: daily limit 5.

BIG PORTAGE LAKE and connected Rice and Deep Portage lakes (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

BIG RICE LAKE (Beltrami) See Cass Chain.

BIG SANDY LAKE and connected waters (Aitkin): Aitkin Lake including area known as Aitkin Flowage, Davis Lake including bay known as Steamboat Lake, Flowage Lake, Sandy River Lake, Prairie River from confluence with Tamarack River downstream to confluence with Big Sandy Lake, Sandy River from State Highway 210 downstream to confluence with the Mississippi River, and West Savanna River from County Highway 14 downstream to confluence with the Prairie River. Sunfish: daily limit 5. Walleye: all less than 14" or greater than 18" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

BIG SWAN LAKE (Todd) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 6, only 1 over 36".

BIG TROUT LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

BLACKDUCK LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BLACKDUCK LAKE (St. Louis) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

BLACK BASS LAKE (Mille Lacs) Use of gas or electric augers, underwater cameras, and other electronic fish-finding devices is prohibited. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: catch-and-release only. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

BLACKWELL LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

BLUEBERRY LAKE (Wadena) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

BOLFING LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

BOOT LAKE (Anoka) Closed to fishing.

BORDEN LAKE (Crow Wing) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: daily limit 5.

BOY LAKE and connected Swift Lake (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

BUCK LAKE near Burtrum (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

***NEW—BUDD LAKE (Martin)** See Fairmont Chain of Lakes.

BUFFALO LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

C CAMPBELL LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CARIBOU LAKE (Itasca) Lake trout: minimum size limit 20". Possession limit 1.

CARNELIAN LAKE (Stearns) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CASCADE LAKE (Cascade Ponds) (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

CASS CHAIN including connecting waters Wolf, Ose, Andrusia, Big Lake Creek, Mississippi River, Cass, Fox Creek, Pike Bay, Windigo, Buck, Big Rice, Little Rice, Kitchi, Turtle River, and Pug Hole (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CEDAR LAKE (Morrison) Walleye: possession limit 2. Crappie: daily limit 5. Northern pike: possession limit 3, all larger than 26" must be immediately released.

CEDAR LAKE north of Sauk Centre (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CEDAR ISLAND LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

CENTER LAKE, North and South (Chisago) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

CENTERVILLE LAKE (Anoka) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CHARLEY LAKE (Ramsey) Closed to fishing.

CHILD LAKE (Cass) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

CHISAGO LAKE (Chisago) Largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released.

CHRISTINA LAKE (Douglas) Closed to fishing.

CLAMSHELL LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

CLEAR LAKE (Aitkin) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

***NEW—CLEAR LAKE (Jackson)** Yellow bass: daily limit 100, no possession limit, no closed season.

CLEAR LAKE (Waseca) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only.

CLEARWATER LAKE including connected Caroline, Augusta, Grass and Otter lakes and connecting portions of the Clearwater River (Stearns and Wright) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

CLITHERALL LAKE (Otter Tail) Smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

COON LAKE (Anoka) Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

COON-SANDWICK LAKE (Itasca) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

CRANE LAKE including Vermilion Gorge and Echo River from mouth upstream to County Highway 424 bridge (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Walleye and sauger: possession limit 6 combined, only 4 may be walleye.

CRAWFORD LAKE (Wright) Crappie: possession limit 5. Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only. Perch: possession limit 10. Sunfish: possession limit 5. Walleye: possession limit 2.

CROOKED LAKE (Anoka) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

CROOKED LAKE and connected Welsh Lake (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CROOKED LAKE (Stearns) Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

CROSS LAKE and connected waters including the Snake River under the I-35 bridges downstream to the Cross Lake Road/County Road 9 bridge (Pine) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

CROSS LAKE RESERVOIR (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

CROW WING LAKES, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th including the Crow Wing River from County Road 109 upstream to Crown Point Road (Hubbard) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

CROW WING LAKES, 5th and 6th (Hubbard) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

CROW WING LAKES, 8th, 9th, and 10th (Hubbard) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

CRYSTAL LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

CUT FOOT SIOUX LAKE and connected Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake, First River Flowage, and Egg Lake (Itasca): See Winnibigoshish.

D **DAGGETT LAKE (Crow Wing)** See Whitefish Chain.

DAM LAKE and connected Lily Lake and Dam Brook (Aitkin) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

DAVIS LAKE (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

DEEP LAKE (Ramsey) Closed to fishing.

DEER LAKE (Beltrami) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Sunfish: daily limit 5.

DEER LAKE near Effie (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

DEER LAKE including Otter Tail River (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

DEMONTREVILLE LAKE (Washington) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

DIAMOND LAKE (Kandiyohi) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

DIXON LAKE (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish.

DUTCH LAKE (Hennepin) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

DYERS LAKE (Cook) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

E **EAST LOST LAKE including Otter Tail River (Otter Tail)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.

EAST TWIN LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

EDWARD LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ELEPHANT LAKE (St. Louis) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

ELLIOT LAKE (St. Louis) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

EUNICE LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Daily limit 5. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

F ***NEW—FAIRMONT CHAIN OF LAKES including George Lake, Sisseton Lake, Budd Lake, Hall Lake, and Amber Lake (Martin)** Yellow bass: daily limit 100, no possession limit, no closed season.

FARM LAKE (Lake) Walleye: (includes the North Branch Kawishiwi River from Farm Lake 4.8 miles east to the long portage) all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

FARM ISLAND LAKE (Aitkin) Walleye: all from 16-19" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

FISH LAKE near Parkers Prairie (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: daily limit 5.

FISH LAKE near Weetown (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: daily limit 5.

FISH LAKE RESERVOIR (St. Louis) Walleye: all less than 13" or greater than 17" must be immediately released, except 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Possession limit 3. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

FISH TRAP LAKE (Morrison) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

FLADMARK LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: possession limit 10. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit 5.

FLORIDA LAKE (Kandiyohi) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

FLOUR LAKE (Cook) Smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

FLOWAGE LAKE (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

FOSTER-AREND LAKE (Olmsted) Trout: continuous season. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 16" allowed in possession. Sunfish, crappie, yellow perch, largemouth and smallmouth bass, see Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

FOX LAKE (Beltrami) See Turtle River chain of lakes.

FRANKLIN LAKE (Otter Tail) Crappie: minimum size limit 10", daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

G GAMEHAVEN (Boy Scout Lake or Willow Reservoir No. 4) (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

GARDEN LAKE (Lake) Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only one over 26" allowed in possession.

GARFIELD LAKE (Hubbard) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GEORGE LAKE (Hubbard) Northern pike: all from 24"-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

GEORGE LAKE (Kandiyohi) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

***NEW—GEORGE LAKE (Martin)** See Fairmont Chain of Lakes.

GILBERT LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GILCHRIST LAKE (Pope) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

GIRL LAKE (Cass) Northern pike: all from 24"-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

GLADSTONE LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GOODRICH LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GOOSE LAKE (Chisago) Crappie: daily limit 5. Walleye: minimum size limit 17".

GRASS LAKE (Wright) See Clearwater Lake.

GRAVE LAKE (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GREAT NORTHERN LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

GREEN LAKE (Chisago) Walleye: minimum size limit 17", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

GREEN LAKE (Kandiyohi) Walleye: possession limit 3.

***NEW—GREEN PRAIRIE FISH LAKE (Morrison)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GREEN PRAIRIE LAKE (Morrison) Sunfish: possession limit 10.

GREEN WATER LAKE (Becker) Closed to fishing.

GRINDSTONE LAKE (Pine) Smelt: seines may not be used within 100' of any inflow or outflow of the lake.

GROVE LAKE (Pope) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

GULL LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

GULL LAKE CHAIN including connected Gull, Upper Gull, Margaret, Ray, Love, Nisswa, Roy, and Round lakes (Crow Wing, Cass) Northern pike: all from 30-40" must be immediately released, possession limit 2, only 1 over 40".

GULL LAKE (Cook) Walleye: see Saganaga Lake.

GUN LAKE (Aitkin) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

H HALF MOON (Crow Wing) See Mississippi River.

***NEW—HALL LAKE (Martin)** See Fairmont Chain of Lakes.

HASKELL LAKE (Itasca) See Balsam Lake (Itasca).

HEIGHT OF LAND LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

HENRY LAKE (Douglas) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

HORSESHOE LAKE and connected Minnewawa Lake (Aitkin) Walleye: possession limit 3. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

HORSESHOE LAKE (Cass) Near Backus. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

HORSESHOE LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

HOVDE LAKE (Cass) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

HUBERT LAKE (Crow Wing) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

HUNGRY JACK LAKE (Cook) Smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

I *NEW—IMOGENE LAKE (Martin) Yellow bass: daily limit 100, no possession limit, no closed season.

INDIAN LAKE (Wright) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

INGUADONA LAKE and connected Rice Lake (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 10. Crappie: daily limit 5.

IRENE LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

ISLAND LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

ISLAND LAKE near Ponto Lake (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ISLAND LAKE near Deer River (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ISLAND LAKE near Northome (Itasca) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

ISLAND-LOON LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

ISLAND LAKE RESERVOIR including Cloquet River from mouth of Island Reservoir upstream 0.5 miles to rapids and Otter River from mouth of Island Reservoir upstream to Boulder Reservoir dam (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 15-20" must be immediately released. Possession limit 10, only 1 over 20".

ITASCA LAKE (Clearwater) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

- J** **JANE LAKE (Washington)** Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.
JAY GOULD including Little Jay Gould and Blackwater Reservoir upstream to Highway 6 (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
JULIA LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- K** **KABEKONA LAKE (Hubbard)** Walleye: all from 20-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit 4, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.
KABETOGAMA LAKE including Sullivan Bay and Ash River to Ash River Falls (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Walleye and sauger: possession limit 6 combined, only 4 may be walleye.
KALMAR RESERVOIR (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.
KERBS (Otter Tail) See Little McDonald Lake.
KITCHI LAKE (Beltrami) See Cass Lake Chain.
KNAUS LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.
KNIFE LAKE (Kanabec) Walleye: all from 18-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.
KRAYS LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.
- L** **LA SALLE LAKE (Hubbard)** Walleye: possession limit 2. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Northern pike: possession limit 1. Black crappie: possession limit 5. Sunfish: possession limit 5. Yellow perch: possession limit 10.
LAC QUI PARLE LAKE upstream to Marsh Lake Dam, including the Watson Sag upstream to the diversion dam (Lac qui Parle and Chippewa) Walleye: possession limit 4, only 1 over 20". Crappie: daily limit 5.
LADY LAKE near Grey Eagle (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
LAKE OF THE WOODS and tributaries (Lake of the Woods and Roseau) See pages 67-70.
LEECH LAKE (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5. Walleye: possession limit 4, only 1 over 20".
LESTER LAKE (Hubbard) All species: catch-and-release only.
LEVEN LAKE (Pope) Sunfish: daily limit 10.
LIDA LAKES, South and North, including Mud Lake (Otter Tail) Crappie: minimum size limit 11". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 10.
LILY LAKE and connected Long Lake (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
LIND LAKE (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
LITTLE ANDRUS (Cass) Stream trout: winter fishing for stream trout is not allowed.
LITTLE BOWSTRING LAKE (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.
LITTLE BOY LAKE (Cass) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, possession limit 4, only 1 over 26".
LITTLE CORMORANT LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Daily limit 5. Walleye: minimum size limit 17", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
LITTLE CUTFOOT SIOUX (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish.

LITTLE FLOYD LAKE (Becker) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, daily limit 3, only 1 over 36".

LITTLE MANTRAP LAKE (Hubbard) Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

LITTLE MCDONALD LAKE including Kerbs Lake (Otter Tail) Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

LITTLE PINE LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

LITTLE PINE LAKE including Mud Lake west of County Hwy 51 and up to 425th Avenue (Otter Tail) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

LITTLE RABBIT LAKE (Crow Wing) See Mississippi River.

LITTLE SAUK LAKE (Todd) Sunfish: possession limit 5. Crappie: possession limit 5.

LITTLE SPLITHAND LAKE (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LITTLE SUGAR BUSH LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LITTLE TOAD LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 10. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

LITTLE TROUT LAKE (St. Louis) Lake trout: catch-and-release only.

LITTLE TURTLE LAKE (Beltrami) See Turtle River chain of lakes.

LITTLE TURTLE LAKE near Marcell (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LITTLE VERMILION LAKE including Loon River to Loon River Falls portage (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Walleye and sauger: possession limit 6 combined, only 4 may be walleye.

LITTLE WEBB LAKE (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LITTLE WOMAN LAKE (Cass) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

LONG LAKE near Hawick (Kandiyohi) Largemouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

LONG LAKE near Clearwater (Stearns) Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

LONG LAKE south of Richmond (Stearns) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

LONG LAKE including connected Lily Lake (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LONG LAKE near Burtrum (Todd) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

***NEW—LONG LAKE near Spaulding (Todd)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.

LONG LAKE near Vergas (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

LOVE LAKE (Cass) See Gull Chain.

LOW LAKE (St. Louis) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

LOWER HAY LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

M MAHNOMEN MINE and connected Alstead and Arco Mines (Crow Wing) Lake trout: minimum length limit 20". Possession limit 1.

MANDALL LAKE (Chisago) Crappie: daily limit 5. Walleye: minimum size limit 17", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

MANOR WOODS POND (Country Club Pond) (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

MAPLE LAKE (Douglas) Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Daily limit 5.

***NEW—MAPLE LAKE (Todd):** Sunfish special regulation repealed.

MAPLE LAKE, Upper (Wright) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

MARGARET LAKE (Cass) See Gull Chain.

MARION LAKE (Dakota) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MARTIN LAKE (Anoka) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

MARY LAKE (Hubbard) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MARY LAKE (Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MAUD LAKE (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: size limit 10". Daily limit 5. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

MAZASKA LAKE (Rice) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MEDICINE LAKE (Beltrami) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MEDICINE LAKE (Hennepin) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MELISSA LAKE (Becker) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

MIDDLE LAKE (Otter Tail) Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MILL LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

MILLE LACS (See mndnr.gov/millelacslake).

MINERVA LAKE (Clearwater) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MINK-SOMERS LAKE near Maple Lake (Wright) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: daily limit 5. Walleye: minimum size limit 17". Possession limit 3, only 1 over 20". Largemouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Possession or use of live minnows is prohibited.

MINNEWASHTA LAKE (Carver) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

MINNEWASKA LAKE (Pope) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

MINNEWAWA LAKE and connected Horseshoe Lake (Aitkin) Walleye: possession limit 3. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

MINNIE BELLE LAKE (Meeker) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MISSION LAKES, Lower and Upper (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MITCHELL LAKE (Crow Wing) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

MOCCASIN LAKE (Cass) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MOODY LAKE (Crow Wing) All species: catch-and-release only.

MOON LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MOOSE LAKE near Deer River (Itasca) Walleye: all from 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession.

MOOSE LAKE (Todd) Largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MOOSEHEAD LAKE (Carlton) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MOUND LAKE (Todd) Crappie: possession limit 5.

MOVIL LAKE including Turtle River (Beltrami) See Turtle River chain of lakes.

MUKOODA LAKE (St. Louis) Lake trout: catch-and-release only.

MULE LAKE (Cass) Walleye: possession limit 3.

NAMAKAN LAKE (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Walleye and sauger: possession limit 6 combined, only 4 may be walleye.

NEST LAKE (Kandiyohi) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

NISSWA LAKE (Crow Wing) See Gull Chain.

NORTH LONG LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

NORTH STAR LAKE including Little North Star Lake (Itasca) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

NORTH TURTLE LAKE (Otter Tail) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: minimum size limit 10".

NORTH TWIN LAKE (Beltrami) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

NORWAY LAKE (Otter Tail) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

OLSON LAKE (Washington) Largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

ORWELL RESERVOIR and up to Dayton Hollow Dam (Otter Tail) Crappie: daily limit 5.

OSAKIS and Little Osakis lakes (Douglas and Todd) Sunfish: daily limit 10. Walleye: minimum size limit 15", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

OWASSO LAKE (Ramsey) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

OX YOKE LAKE (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

OZAWINDIB LAKE (Clearwater) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Crappie: daily limit 5.

PARLEY LAKE (Carver) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

PELICAN LAKE (St. Louis) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

PENNINGTON MINE (Crow Wing) Lake trout: minimum size limit 20". Possession limit 1.

PERCH LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

PICKEREL LAKE (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

PIERZ (FISH) LAKE (Morrison) Largemouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

PIG LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

PIKE BAY LAKE and connected Fox Creek (Cass) See Cass Chain.

PIMUSHE LAKE (Beltrami) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

PINE LAKE, BIG (Otter Tail) See Big Pine Lake (Otter Tail).

***NEW—PLATTE LAKE (Crow Wing) and connected Sullivan Lake (Morrison)** Sunfish: daily limit 10 combined total for both lakes.

PLEASANT LAKE (Crow Wing) Stream trout: winter fishing for stream trout is not allowed.

PLEASANT LAKE (Ramsey) Closed to fishing.

PLEASANT LAKE (Stearns) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

POKEGAMA LAKE near Grand Rapids (Itasca) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

POKEGAMA LAKE and connected waters including the Snake River from the Little Walleye landing downstream to the I-35 bridges (Pine) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

PORTAGE LAKE North of Ten Mile Lake (Cass) largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

PRAIRIE LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

PRIOR LAKE, Upper and Lower (Scott) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

Q QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER POND (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

R RABBIT LAKES, Big and East Big (Crow Wing) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

RABBITS LAKE (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish.

***NEW—RABIDEAU LAKE (Beltrami)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.

RABOUR LAKE (Chisago) Crappie: daily limit 5. Walleye: minimum size limit 17", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

RACHEL LAKE and Little Rachel Lake (Douglas) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

RAINY LAKE including the Rainy River above the dam at International Falls, all of Rainy Lake to the dam at Kettle Falls, Black Bay including Gold Portage below the rapids, all of the Rat Root River, and Rat Root Lake (Koochiching and St. Louis) Walleye and sauger: possession limit 8 (not more than 4 can be walleye). All walleye from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 walleye over 26" allowed in possession.

RAT LAKE (Aitkin) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

RAVEN LAKE (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish.

RAY LAKE (Cass) See Gull Chain.

RED LAKE See Intensive Management Lakes (page 45).

RED RIVER LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

RED ROCK LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

RED WING POTTERY POND (Goodhue) Trout: continuous season. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 16" allowed in possession.

RENO LAKE (Pope) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

RICE LAKE and connected Inguadona Lake (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 10. Crappie: daily limit 5.

RICE LAKE east side of Brainerd (Crow Wing): See Mississippi River.

RILEY LAKE (Carver) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

RIPLEY LAKE (Meeker) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ROCHESTER-OLMSTED COUNTY AREA LAKES (Olmsted) including Bear Creek Reservoir (Chester Woods), Cascade Lake (Cascade Ponds), Foster-Arend Lake, Gamehaven Lake (Boy Scout Lake or Willow Reservoir No. 4), Kalmar Reservoir, Quarry Hill Nature Center Pond, Manor Woods Pond (Country Club Pond), Silver Lake, Silver Creek Reservoir, Willow Creek Reservoir. The daily and possession limits for the following species apply to the waters listed above as a whole, that is, only 1 daily and possession limit may be taken from the group of waters that comprise the Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes. Sunfish, crappie, yellow perch: combined possession limit 10, and only 5 may be crappie. Largemouth or smallmouth bass: possession limit of 1. Northern pike: daily and possession limit 1.

ROGERS LAKE (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ROUND LAKE (Crow Wing) See Gull Chain.

ROUND LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ROUND LAKE near Harding (Morrison) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ROUND LAKE near Squaw Lake including the Popple River downstream to State Highway Bridge 46 (Itasca) Walleye: all from 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession.

ROY LAKE (Crow Wing) See Gull Chain.

RUSH LAKE, East and West (Chisago) Northern pike: all from 26-40" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 40".

RUSH-HEN LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

S SAGAMORE MINE (Crow Wing) Lake trout: minimum size limit 20". Possession limit 1.

SAGANAGA LAKE including Gull Lake and the Sea Gull River (Cook) Walleye: Possession limit 3, only 1 over 20".

SALLIE LAKE (Becker) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

SANBORN LAKE (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SAND LAKE and connected Talac and Sorenson Lakes (Becker) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

***NEW—SAND LAKE** including connecting Birds Eye Lake, Little Sand Lake, Portage Lake, Rice Lake and Bowstring River upstream to County Road 35 bridge and downstream to the County Road 145 bridge (Itasca) Walleye: all 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SAND LAKE (Lake) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SAND POINT LAKE (St. Louis) Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Walleye and sauger possession limit 6 combined, only 4 may be walleye.

SANDY RIVER LAKE (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

SARAH LAKE (Hennepin) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SARAH LAKE (Polk) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES from Highway 23 downstream to the Cold Spring Dam including Becker, Bolfin, Cedar Island, Great Northern, Horseshoe, Knaus, Krays, Schneider and Zumwalde lakes (Stearns) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

SCHNEIDER LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

SCRAPPER LAKE (Itasca) See Balsam Lake (Itasca).

SEA GULL LAKE including Alpine River between Alpine Lake and Sea Gull Lake (Cook)
Walleye: Possession limit 3, only 1 over 20".

SEWELL LAKE (Otter Tail) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

SHAKOPEE LAKE (Mille Lacs) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SHAMINEAU LAKE (Morrison) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released, possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

SHIELDS LAKE (Rice) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

SHIELDS LAKE (Washington) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SILVER CREEK RESERVOIR (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

SILVER LAKE (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

***NEW—SISSETON LAKE (Martin)** See Fairmont Chain of Lakes.

SOUTH FARM LAKE (Lake) Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

SOUTH LINDSTROM LAKE (Chisago) Largemouth bass: all 12" and larger must be immediately released.

SOUTH TWIN LAKE (Beltrami) Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

SPIDER LAKE (Hubbard) Crappie: minimum size limit 10".

SPIDER LAKE (Itasca) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

SPLITHAND LAKE including Moody's Creek upstream to County Road 432 (Itasca)
Walleye: all from 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession. Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

ST. OLAF LAKE (Waseca) Northern pike: minimum size limit 30". Possession limit 1.

STAR LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 5. Crappie: daily limit 5.

STEIGER LAKE (Carver) Northern pike and largemouth bass: catch-and-release only.

STRAND LAKE (St. Louis) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

STUART LAKE (Otter Tail) Crappie: minimum size limit 10". Sunfish: daily limit 10.

SUCKER LAKES, Upper, Middle, and Lower (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SUGAR LAKE (Cass) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SUGAR LAKE (Wright) Crappie: daily limit 5. Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

***NEW — SULLIVAN LAKE (Morrison)** see Platte Lake.

SWAN LAKE including Swan River downstream to dam, upstream to County Road 12, and connected streams (Itasca) Walleye: all from 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession.

SWIFT LAKE (Cass) See Boy Lake.

SYLVAN LAKE near Pillager (Cass) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

SYLVIA LAKES, East and West (Wright) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 10.

- T** **TAMARACK LAKE, North (Becker)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- TEN MILE LAKE, NORTH and SOUTH (Otter Tail)** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- THIRTEEN LAKE (Cass)** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- THOMPSON LAKE (Cook)** Trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.
- THREE ISLAND LAKE including Turtle River (Beltrami)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- THRUSH LAKE (Cook)** Trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.
- TRELIPE LAKE, Lower (Cass)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- TRELIPE LAKE, Upper (Cass)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- TROUT LAKE near Coleraine (Itasca)** Walleye: all from 20-24" must be immediately released, only 1 over 24" allowed in possession.
- TURNIP LAKE (Cook)** Trout: catch-and-release only. Artificial lures and flies with a single hook only. Use and possession of bait prohibited. Closed to winter fishing.
- TURTLE LAKE (Becker)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- TURTLE LAKE, BIG including connected Turtle River (Beltrami)** See Turtle River chain of lakes.
- TURTLE LAKE (Itasca)** Smallmouth bass (regulation modified): all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- TURTLE LAKE (Ramsey)** Largemouth and smallmouth bass (regulation modified): all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- TURTLE RIVER chain of lakes including connected Turtle River Lake, Little Turtle, Big Turtle, Movil, Beltrami, Fox lakes, and the Turtle River from Little Turtle Lake downstream to Fox Lake (Beltrami)** Northern pike: all from 22-30" must be immediately released, possession limit is 10, only 1 over 30". Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- TWENTY-ONE LAKE (Otter Tail)** Sunfish: possession limit 10. Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass: catch-and-release only. Crappie: possession limit 5.
- TWO ISLAND LAKE (Cook)** Smallmouth bass: all from 14-20" must be immediately released, only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.
- V** **VANDUSE (Hobo) LAKE (Aitkin)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- VENSTROM LAKE (Otter Tail)** Crappie: minimum size limit 11". Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession. Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- VERMILLION LAKE (Cass)** Sunfish: daily limit 5.
- VERMILION LAKE (St. Louis)** Walleye: all from 20-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit 4, only 1 over 26".
- VERMONT LAKE (Douglas)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- VILLARD LAKE (Pope)** Sunfish: daily limit 10.
- W** **WABEDO LAKE (Cass)** Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36". Walleye: all from 18-26" must be immediately released. Possession limit 4, only 1 over 26".

WACONIA LAKE (Carver) Walleye: minimum size limit 16", only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

WALL LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

WASHINGTON LAKE (Le Sueur) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

WAUKENABO LAKE and connected West Lake (Aitkin) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

WELCH LAKE (Cass) See Crooked Lake.

WEST BATTLE LAKE (Otter Tail) Crappie: daily limit 5.

WEST LOST LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 10.

WEST SILENT LAKE (Otter Tail) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

WHISKEY LAKE (Douglas) Sunfish: daily limit 5.

WHITE IRON LAKE (St. Louis and Lake) Walleye: all from 17-26" must be immediately released, only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

WHITEFACE RESERVOIR (St. Louis) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

WHITEFISH CHAIN, including connected Cross Lake Reservoir, Lower Hay, Arrowhead, Bertha, Clamshell, Big Trout, Pig, Island-Loon, Rush-Hen, Dagget, and Little Pine lakes (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

WHITEFISH LAKE (Crow Wing) See Whitefish Chain.

WILD RICE RESERVOIR (St. Louis) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

WILKINSON LAKE (Anoka and Ramsey) Closed to fishing.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR (Olmsted) See Rochester-Olmsted County Area Lakes.

WINDIGO LAKE (Beltrami) See Cass Chain.

WINNIBIGOSHISH Lake and connected waters (Beltrami, Cass, and Itasca): Mississippi River to Knutson Dam, Third River Flowage to Little Dixon Lake, Pigeon River to Pigeon Lake Dam, First River, Egg Lake through Cut Foot Sioux Lake, Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake, Raven Flowage to Raven Lake, and Sugar Lake. Sunfish: daily limit 5. Walleye: all from 18-23" must be immediately released, only 1 over 23" allowed in possession.

WOLF LAKE (Beltrami) See Cass Lake Chain.

WOMAN LAKE (Cass) Northern pike: all from 24-36" must be immediately released. Possession limit 3, only 1 over 36".

Y YAWKEY MINE (Crow Wing) Lake trout: minimum size limit 20". Possession limit 1.

Z ZUMWALDE LAKE (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

Streams and Rivers (County)

A ASH RIVER (St. Louis) See Kabetogama Lake.

B BEAVER CREEK, East (Houston) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream (Beaver Creek Valley State Park). See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Beaver Creek Valley State Park.

BELLE CREEK (Goodhue) Trout: catch-and-release on a 7.3 mile posted section from the confluence with the Cannon River upstream to Highway 19.

BOWSTRING RIVER (Itasca) See Sand Lake.

C CAMP CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: catch-and-release on a 2.7-mile posted section from 0.8 miles above the confluence with the Root River, South Branch upstream 2.7 miles.

Artificial lures and flies only. On the third Saturday in May, statewide regulations apply to the posted section of the stream.

CANFIELD CREEK (SOUTH BRANCH CREEK) (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only. See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Canfield Creek in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

D DEVIL TRACK RIVER (Cook) Fish sanctuary: mile 1.1 to mile 1.6 open to fishing from June 1 - August 31 only.

E EAGLE CREEK (Scott) Trout: catch-and-release only.

ECHO RIVER (St. Louis) See Crane Lake.

F FIRST RIVER (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish Lake.

FORESTVILLE CREEK (NORTH BRANCH CREEK) (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

FRENCH RIVER (St. Louis) Fish sanctuary: all fishing closed from the river's mouth at Lake Superior to the State Highway 61 four-lane expressway, including that portion of old Highway 61 that crosses the French River.

G GARVIN BROOK (Winona) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released from the Highway 14 crossing to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

GAUTHIER CREEK (Cook) Fish sanctuary: entire stream open to fishing from June 1 - August 31 only.

GRIBBEN CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

H HAY CREEK (Goodhue) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 4-mile posted section from 325th Street downstream. Artificial lures and flies only.

HOOVER CREEK mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge (Lake of the Woods) Northern pike: see Lake of the Woods.

K KADUNCE RIVER (Cook) Fish sanctuary: mile 0.2 (lower falls) to mile 0.4 open to fishing from June 1 - August 31 only.

KEDRON CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: catch-and-release only on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

KNIFE RIVER (St. Louis and Lake) Fish sanctuary: between the signs from the top of the second falls 100 feet downstream, and from State Highway 61 bridge downstream to the sign below the fish trap is permanently closed to fishing.

L LAWNDALE CREEK (Wilkin) Brook trout: catch-and-release only for brook trout on a 3.5-mile posted section within Atherton Wildlife Management Area. Artificial lures and flies only. All hooks must be barbless.

LESTER RIVER (St. Louis) Immediately downstream from the Superior Street bridge to the bottom of the first falls is closed to fishing.

LOGAN CREEK (Olmsted) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream from the confluence with the Whitewater River, North Branch, upstream

to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

LOON RIVER See Little Vermilion Lake.

M MAHOODS CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream.

MILL CREEK (Fillmore and Olmsted) Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Chatfield from the confluence with the North Branch Root River upstream to Sprau's tributary.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Dakota) From the Hastings dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border (inland waters of Pool 3) Walleye: minimum size limit 15".

MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY (Ramsey, Washington, Hennepin, and Dakota) Walleye, sauger, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass: catch-and-release with a continuous season in the following stretches: a) Minnesota River downstream from the Mendota Bridge; b) Minnehaha Creek downstream from Minnehaha Falls; and c) Pool 2 of the Mississippi River between the Hastings Dam and the Ford Dam, including all backwater lakes and connecting waters except Crosby, Pickerel, Upper, Little Pigs Eye, and North Star Steel lakes.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER from Blandin Dam downstream to Coon Rapids Dam (Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, Wright, Anoka, and Hennepin) Muskellunge: catch-and-release only.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Sherburne, Stearns and Wright) Smallmouth bass: all from 12-20" must be immediately released from the confluence of the Crow River upstream to the St. Cloud Dam, including tributaries to the posted boundaries. Possession limit is 3, only 1 over 20".

MISSISSIPPI RIVER from Brainerd Dam upstream to Highway 6 including Rice, Little Rabbit, and Half Moon Lakes and connected backwaters (Crow Wing) Crappie: daily limit 5. Sunfish: daily limit 5.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Beltrami, Cass, and Itasca) See Winnibigoshish Lake.

O OTTER TAIL RIVER (Otter Tail, Becker, and Wilkin) Smallmouth bass: catch-and-release from Wilkin County Road 19 crossing upstream to the Friberg Dam including all impoundments, and from Otter Tail County Highway 51 upstream to the Hubbel Pond Dam including Mud, Rice, and Town lakes.

P PIGEON RIVER (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish Lake.

PRAIRIE RIVER (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

PRAIRIE RIVER from Prairie Lake Dam downstream to Mississippi River (Itasca) Muskellunge: catch-and-release only.

R RAINY RIVER (Koochiching) and tributaries (Koochiching and Lake of the Woods) See pages 68-70.

RAT ROOT RIVER (Koochiching) See Rainy Lake.

RAVEN FLOWAGE (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish Lake.

RED LAKE TRIBUTARIES See Red Lake (page 45).

ROOT RIVER, Middle Branch (Fillmore) Trout: catch-and-release on the entire stream.

ROOT RIVER, South Branch (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 4.8-mile posted section within Forestville State Park. See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Preston from the River Place West bridge downstream to the U.S. Highway 52 bridge. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Lanesboro from the Lanesboro Dam downstream to the confluence with the Root River.

ROOT RIVER, South Fork (Fillmore) Trout: catch-and-release on a 7.7 mile section from County Road 12 upstream to the source. Artificial lures and flies only.

RUSH CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Rushford.

S **ST. CROIX RIVER** See pages 74-77.

ST. LOUIS RIVER (St. Louis) Fish sanctuary: no fishing allowed at any time from the Fond du Lac Dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary cable. No fishing allowed from the boundary cable downstream to the Highway 23 bridge from March 1 - May 18. Muskellunge: minimum size limit 50" on only the Minnesota-Wisconsin border waters.

SANDY RIVER (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

SAUK RIVER (Stearns) See Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

SEA GULL RIVER (Cook) Walleye: See Saganaga Lake.

SHOTLEY BROOK from Highway 72 West to Upper Red Lake (Beltrami) See Red Lake (page 45).

SNAKE RIVER (Pine) See Cross Lake and Pokegama Lake.

SPRING VALLEY CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 6.8-mile posted section from Deer Creek upstream to Fillmore Township Road 359. Trout: special catch-and-release season October 16 - December 31 on posted reach in Spring Valley from West Park Street downstream to Minnesota State Highway 16 bridge.

STONEY BROOK (Cass) Brook trout: all must be immediately released on the posted section beginning at the mouth at Upper Gull Lake upstream to the road crossing at County Road 29 (Minor's Corner).

T **TAMARACK RIVER (from the Beltrami County line west to Upper Red lake)** See Red Lake (page 45).

THIRD RIVER FLOWAGE (Itasca) See Winnibigoshish Lake.

TROUT RUN CREEK (Fillmore and Winona) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream. Artificial lures and flies only.

TROUT RUN CREEK (in Whitewater State Park) See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Whitewater State Park.

TROUT VALLEY CREEK (Winona) Brook trout: minimum size limit 12". Possession limit 1. Artificial lures and flies only.

TURTLE RIVER (Beltrami) See Turtle River chain of lakes.

V **VERMILION GORGE (St. Louis)** See Crane Lake.

VERMILLION RIVER upstream of Vermillion Falls in Hastings and all tributaries

(Dakota) Brown trout: catch-and-release only. Rainbow trout: regular statewide regulations apply.

W **WATSON SAG (Chippewa)** See Lac qui Parle Lake.

WEST INDIAN CREEK (Wabasha) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released from the upstream Wabasha County Road 4 crossing to the source.

WEST SAVANNA RIVER (Aitkin) See Big Sandy Lake.

WHITEWATER RIVER, Middle Branch (Winona and Olmsted) Trout: catch-and-release on a 9.2-mile posted section from the group camp in Whitewater State Park upstream to the source. Artificial lures and flies only. See page 33 for special angling seasons within the boundaries of Whitewater State Park.

WHITEWATER RIVER, North Branch (Wabasha, Olmsted and Winona) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on a 12.1 mile posted section from Township Road 29 upstream to County Road 4. Artificial lures and flies only.

WISEL CREEK (Fillmore) Trout: all from 12-16" must be immediately released on the entire stream.

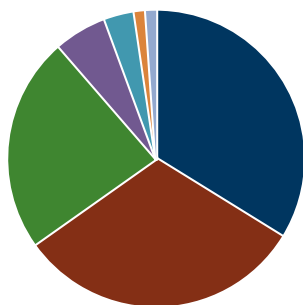
Z **ZUMBRO RIVER, NORTH FORK (Goodhue and Wabasha)** Trout: catch-and-release on an 11.9 mile posted section from the Zumbro River, Main Branch upstream to Highway 10.

ZUMBRO RIVER (Wabasha) Smallmouth bass: catch-and-release along a 12-mile posted section from Highway 63 at Zumbro Falls upstream to the Zumbro Lake Dam.

Your License Dollars at Work

License dollars improve fishing, hunting, wildlife and habitat to maintain and create outdoor recreation opportunities

How DNR Spends a License Dollar



- Fisheries – 33.8 cents
- Wildlife – 31.4 cents
- Conservation officers – 23.4 cents
- Clean water – 5.7 cents
- Licensing – 3.3 cents
- Boat ramps and accesses – 1.2 cent
- Sustainable forests – 1.1 cent



**WAIT
21 DAYS**

You can protect Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species by leaving docks and lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before placing in another waterbody.

- ✓ **Clean** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, and other water-related equipment.
- ✓ **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving any water access or shoreland property.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.

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mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

EWB_0040_25

BORDER WATERS

This section covers Minnesota's border waters with Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, as well as the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. It does not include the waters of Lake Superior, which are not covered under border water rules. More details can be found on pages 34-36 for Lake Superior. All calendar dates refer to 2026 unless noted otherwise.

LICENSING

What license do I need to fish border waters?

- Minnesota residents must have a Minnesota license.
- Residents of a state bordering that water must have their state's license.
- Other nonresidents may purchase a Minnesota or the bordering state's nonresident license.

Can I fish anywhere on the border waters with a Minnesota license?

- In Canadian border waters, Minnesota residents or nonresidents fishing with a Minnesota nonresident license, may only fish the Minnesota portion of the Canadian border waters. To fish the Canadian portion, you must have a Canadian license and follow Canada and Minnesota border crossing regulations and processes.
- In other border waters, Minnesota residents or nonresidents fishing with a Minnesota nonresident license, may fish throughout the defined waters bordering the two states.

What if I don't see a particular regulation listed in this section?

Unless otherwise noted, all general regulations relating to angling methods, licensing, season, limits, fish possession and transportation apply to border waters (pages 37-44). Also, all fish must be within length limits regardless of where they were caught (more details can be found on pages 40-41). Please check the Experimental and Special Regulations section (pages 45-64) for different regulations that may apply.

If fishing regulations differ between the border states, what regulations do I follow?

You must obey the regulations of the state in which you are fishing. More permissive regulations are limited to that state's waters.

Can I launch my boat or transport my catch back home from the adjacent state's boat launch?

Yes, you can launch your boat and transport your catch by the most direct route back to the state that you are licensed.

Do bowfishing regulations allowed for inland waters apply to border waters?

The bowfishing regulations covered on page 78 are only allowed on Minnesota's portion of the border waters. If the bordering state's bowfishing regulations are the same, bowfishers may take legal fish shore to shore under a Minnesota license.

LAKE STURGEON ENDORSEMENTS



The new licensing system may go live prior to 2026 fishing seasons. Once live, it will affect activities in this section. See page 3 for details.

Lake Sturgeon rules for the 2026 season were not final as of the printing deadline for this regulation book. Rules will be posted to the DNR website mndnr.gov/fishing.

Generally:

- An angler may take and possess only 1 lake sturgeon per calendar year.
- Lake sturgeon may not be possessed or transported without a tag/endorsement.
- Registration of a harvested sturgeon must be completed within 48 hours.
- Tags/endorsements are not transferable, and no duplicates will be issued.
- Lake sturgeon must be transported intact (gills and internal organs may be removed).
- Members of a fishing party may not take sturgeon for other anglers' limits; party fishing is not allowed for sturgeon.

CANADA-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the Minnesota portions of the following waters. Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.

Cook County: Clove Lake, Devils Elbow Lake, North Fowl Lake, South Fowl Lake, Gneiss (Round) Lake, Granite Lake, Granite River, Gunflint Lake, Little Gunflint Lake, Lily Lake (Fan, Vaseux), Magnetic Lake, Marabaeuf Lake, Moose Lake, Mountain Lake, North Lake, Little North Lake, Pigeon River, Pine River, Rat Lake, Rose Lake, Rove Lake, Saganaga Lake, South Lake, and Watap Lake.

Koochiching County: Big Fork River mouth to State Highway 11 bridge, Black River mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge, Little Fork River mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge.

Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties: Rainy River.

Koochiching and St. Louis counties: Rainy Lake (including Black Bay).

Lake County: Basswood Lake (except Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back Bays, which are considered inland waters), Basswood River, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Cypress Lake, Knife Lake (except South Arm), Little Knife Lake, Knife River, Melon Lake, Seed Lake, Sucker Lake, and Swamp Lake.

Lake and St. Louis counties: Crooked Lake.

Lake of the Woods County: Baudette River up to State Highway 11 bridge, Bostic Creek mouth upstream to County Road 8 bridge, Kelly Creek mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge, Rapid River up to State Highway 11 bridge, Silver Creek mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge, Wabanica River mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge, Winter Road River mouth upstream to State Highway 172 bridge.

Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties: Lake of the Woods.

Continued on next page

Roseau County: Swift ditch mouth up to County Road 12 culvert, Warroad River mouth upstream to State Highway 11 bridge.

St. Louis County: Bottle Lake, Iron Lake, Lac La Croix, Loon Lake, Loon River to Loon River Falls, Namakan Lake, Sand Point Lake, and Little Vermilion Lake.

Canada-Minnesota Regulations

- 1 line per angler is allowed, except 2 lines may be used when ice fishing.
- Parts of Saganaga, Little Gunflint, and Little North lakes are closed to fishing in May. For current dates, call Grand Marais Area Office: 218-387-6021.
- While in Minnesota, anglers may not possess more than a Minnesota limit of fish from Canada-Minnesota border waters. Fish from Canadian inland waters may be possessed in Minnesota in excess of the Minnesota limit only if the angler has proof – such as lodging receipts or verification through U.S. Customs – that the fish were taken from inland Canadian waters.
- A person cannot possess or use a gaff while fishing on the Rainy River.
- Sauger without head and tail intact will be counted as walleye.
- Bowfishing (Minnesota’s portion of the waters only) see page 78.
- Dark houses, fish houses and shelters, see pages 81-83.
- Dark house spearing season November 15, 2026 - February 28, 2027. Canada-Minnesota border water possession limits apply.

Canada-Minnesota Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger	May 10, 2025 - April 14, 2026 May 9, 2026 - April 14, 2027	6 combined total (only 1 over 20" in possession).
EXCEPTION: Lake of the Woods and tributaries from mouth to upstream boundaries listed on page 67.	May 10, 2025 - April 14, 2026 May 9, 2026 - April 14, 2027	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½-28" must be immediately released).
EXCEPTION: Four Mile Bay (Southeast bay of Lake of the Woods)	March 1 - April 14 each year	Catch-and-release only
	May 9, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½-28" must be immediately released).
EXCEPTION: Namakan, Sand Point and Little Vermilion	May 10, 2025 - April 14, 2026 May 9, 2026 - April 14, 2027	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; walleye from 18-26" must be immediately released; only 1 walleye over 26").
EXCEPTION: Rainy Lake	May 10, 2025 - April 14, 2026 May 9, 2026 - April 14, 2027	8 (not more than 4 can be walleye; walleye from 18-26" must be immediately released; only 1 walleye over 26").

Continued on next page

Canada-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger <i>continued</i> EXCEPTION: Rainy River (Mouth to the dam at International Falls and all tributaries from the mouth to the upstream boundaries listed on page 67.)	March 1 - April 14 each year	Catch-and-release only
	May 9, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	6 (not more than 4 can be walleye; only 1 walleye over 28"; walleye 19½-28" must be immediately released.)
	EXCEPTION: Saganaga Lake May 9, 2026 - April 14, 2027	3 (only 1 walleye over 20").
Northern pike	Continuous	3 (only 1 over 30" in possession)
EXCEPTION: Lake of the Woods and Rainy River to the dam at International Falls and all tributaries from the mouth to the upstream boundary listed on page 67.	Continuous	3 (All from 30-40" must be immediately released. Only 1 over 40" allowed in possession.)
EXCEPTION: Basswood Lake (includes Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back bays)	Continuous	2 (All northern pike from 30-40" must be immediately released. Only 1 over 40" allowed in possession.)
Muskellunge	June 20 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 50")
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	Continuous	6 combined total
Lake sturgeon	April 24 - May 7	1 per calendar year (fish must be 45-50" inclusive, or over 75").
	May 8 - 15	Catch-and-release only. No tag/endorsement needed.
	Closed: May 16 - June 30	Closed
	July 1 - Sept. 30	1 per calendar year (fish must be 45-50" inclusive, or over 75").
	Oct. 1 - April 23 of following year	Catch-and-release only. No tag/endorsement needed.
Crappie	Continuous	10
Sunfish	Continuous	20 combined total
EXCEPTION: Basswood Lake (includes Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back bays)	Continuous	5
Lake trout (SUMMER)	May 9 - Sept. 30	2
Lake trout (WINTER) Lakes outside or partly outside the BWCAW	2026 Season:	2
	Jan. 17 - March 15	
	2027 Season: Jan. 16 - March 15	

Continued on next page

Canada-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Lake trout (WINTER) <i>continued</i> Lakes entirely within the BWCAW.	2026 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31 2027 Season: Jan. 1 - March 31	2
Stream trout	May 2 - Sept. 30	5 (not more than 3 over 16")
All other species	Continuous	Inland limits apply

IOWA-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters:

- Jackson County: Little Spirit Lake.
- Jackson and Nobles counties: Iowa Lake.
- Martin County: Okamanpeedan (Tuttle), Iowa, and Swag lakes.

Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

Iowa-Minnesota Regulations

- Anglers may use up to 2 lines with 2 hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.
- Spearing may be used anytime to take carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, bowfin, gar, or quillback.
- Spearing game fish is unlawful.
- Bowfishing regulations, page 78.
- Dark house spearing, ice angling, and ice shelter regulations, pages 81-83.

Iowa-Minnesota Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye	Continuous	3
Northern pike	Continuous	3
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	Continuous	3 combined total
Muskellunge	May 21 - Nov. 30	1 (minimum size 40")
Catfish	Continuous	8 combined total
Sunfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, northern, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	25 combined total
Perch	Continuous	25
White bass and yellow bass	Continuous	No limit
Bullhead	Continuous	No limit
Carp, sucker, redhorse, freshwater drum, buffalo, burbot (eelpout), bowfin, and quillback	Continuous	No limit
Gar	Continuous	10

NORTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA

Seasons and regulations apply to the Bois de Sioux River and the Red River of the North. Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

North Dakota-Minnesota Regulations

- Anglers may use 2 lines with up to 2 hooks per line.
- Dark house spearing is legal; however, catfish may not be speared at any time. Rules regarding dark house spearing, ice angling and shelters found on pages 81-83.
- It is unlawful to possess a spear, spring gaff or bow and arrow on or adjacent to any water body where the spearing and archery season is closed.
- Carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, suckers, redhorse, bowfin, and gar may be taken by spearing between sunrise and sunset from May 1 through December 31.
- The bowfishing regulations on page 78 are allowed only on Minnesota’s portion of the border waters when they differ from those of the border state. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- Culling is not allowed. However, at the end of your fishing day you may release live fish before leaving the water.
- Anglers fishing from the North Dakota shoreline must possess a North Dakota fishing license.

North Dakota-Minnesota Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger	Continuous	3 combined total
Northern pike	Continuous	3
Sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, northern, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	30
Perch	Continuous	50
Crappie	Continuous	30
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	Continuous	3 combined total
Lake sturgeon	June 16 - April 14 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
	April 15 - June 15 each year	Closed
Muskellunge	Continuous	1 (minimum size 50")
Rock bass	Continuous	20
Bullhead	Continuous	100
Catfish	Continuous	5 (only 1 over 24")
Carp, sucker, redhorse, freshwater drum, buffalo, burbot (eelpout), bowfin, and white bass	Continuous	No limit
Gar	Continuous	10

SOUTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters:

- Big Stone County: Big Stone Lake.
- Lincoln County: Hendricks Lake.
- Traverse County: Lake Traverse, Mud Lake, Bois de Sioux River to North Dakota border, and Mustinka River from the mouth to the Minnesota State Highway 117 bridge.

Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.

South Dakota-Minnesota Regulations

- Anglers may use 2 lines with up to 3 hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.
- Carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, suckers, redhorse, bowfin, burbot (eelpout), and gar may be taken by spearing from sunrise to sunset from May 1, 2026 - February 28, 2027.
- The bowfishing regulations on page 78 are allowed only on Minnesota’s portion of the border waters when they differ from those of South Dakota. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- It is unlawful to possess a spear, spring gaff, or bow and arrow on or adjacent to any body of water where the spearing and archery season is closed.
- Spearing game fish is unlawful except northern pike (season and limit in table below) and catfish may be speared from a dark house. For other rules regarding dark house spearing, ice angling, and ice shelters see pages 81-83.
- Catfish may not be taken by spearing anytime on the Bois De Sioux River from White Rock Dam to the North Dakota border.
- Culling is not allowed on the Bois de Sioux River from the White Rock Dam to the North Dakota border. However, at the end of your fishing day you may release live fish before leaving the water.

South Dakota-Minnesota Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger	Continuous	4 combined total (only 1 walleye over 20")
Northern pike angling	Continuous	6
Northern pike spearing	Nov. 15, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	3
Largemouth and smallmouth bass	Continuous	6 combined total
Crappie	Continuous	10
Sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, northern, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	10 combined total

Continued on next page

South Dakota-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Rock bass	Continuous	20
Bullhead	Continuous	100
Perch	Continuous	15 daily and 30 in possession
Catfish (channel and flathead)	Channel catfish: continuous Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	5 combined total. Not more than 2 can be flathead (only 1 catfish over 24").
Lake sturgeon	June 16 - April 14 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
	April 15 - June 15 each year	Closed
Carp, sucker, redbreast, freshwater drum, buffalo, burbot (eelpout), bowfin, and white bass	Continuous	No limit
Gar	Continuous	10

Aquatic Plant Permit Requirements

Water plants such as bulrushes are essential for healthy lake ecosystems. They reduce wave erosion, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and purify water. Because lake plants can interfere with swimming and boating by lakeshore owners – but are also vital to lake health – the DNR allows removal under the following conditions.

DNR permit is NOT required to cut or pull submersed (underwater) plants as long as:

- The area does not extend along more than 50 feet of your shoreline or one-half the length of your frontage, whichever is less;
- The total area is less than 2,500 square feet (except for boat channels); and
- The plants are immediately and permanently disposed of on high ground where they can't re-enter the water.

DNR permit IS required to:

- Remove emergent plants (such as bulrushes, cattails, and wild rice).
- Use herbicides or algicides in Minnesota lakes.
- Install or use an automated device such as the Crary WeedRoller®
- Remove water lilies (other than in a narrow channel extending to open water).
- Remove plants in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet.

A person who illegally destroys plants can be cited and made to pay for the restoration of those plants.

For more information, call your regional DNR office (page 98) or visit our website at mndnr.gov/apm/aquatic-plant-management-permits.

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA

The seasons and regulations listed below apply to the following waters: Mississippi River (downstream of the Highway 10 bridge in Prescott, Wisconsin and all waters between the Burlington Northern [Wisconsin] and Canadian Pacific [Minnesota] railroad tracks). Lake Pepin, St. Croix River, Lake St. Croix and St. Louis River Estuary.

Daily and possession limits are the same. All species not listed are covered by the inland regulations of the state where a fish is taken. Anglers may fish shore to shore with either a Minnesota or Wisconsin fishing license.

Wisconsin-Minnesota Regulations

- 2 lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If fishing with 1 line, you may use 2 baits.
- Fish hooked in any part of the body, except the mouth, must be returned to the water immediately.
- Anglers must be within 400 feet of their tip-ups.
- Native rough fish and common carp may be taken by spearing and dip-netting between sunrise and sunset from May 2, 2026 - March 1, 2027. Dip net hoops cannot exceed 24" in diameter.
- Spearing game fish is prohibited. It is unlawful to have a spear on or adjacent to any body of water where the spearing season is closed.
- Dark house spearing, ice angling, and ice shelter regulations, pages 81-83.
- The bowfishing regulations on page 78 are allowed only on Minnesota's portion of the border waters when they differ from those of Wisconsin. If the bowfishing regulations are the same, then they may be exercised from shore to shore.
- Fish sanctuaries, no fishing allowed:
 - › Mississippi River: no fishing allowed within 300 feet below Lock and Dam 3 (near Red Wing) and Lock and Dam 4 (Alma, Wisconsin) from March 1 - April 30.
 - › St. Croix River: no fishing allowed by bank or boat from March 2 through June 15 from the Taylors Falls (St. Croix Falls) dam to the upstream side of the Highway 8 bridge.
 - › St. Louis River Estuary: no fishing allowed at any time from the Fond du Lac Dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary cable. No fishing allowed from the boundary cable downstream to the Highway 23 bridge from March 1 - May 18.

Wisconsin-Minnesota Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger St. Louis River Estuary	May 09, 2026 - March 1, 2027	2 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye)
St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	May 2, 2026 - March 1, 2027	6 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye)
St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to the U.S. Hwy 10 bridge	May 2, 2026 - March 1, 2027	4 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye, only 1 walleye or sauger over 20")

Continued on next page

Wisconsin-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger <i>continued</i> *NEW—Mississippi River Pools 3-8 including Lake Pepin	Continuous	4 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye, only 1 walleye or sauger over 20")
Mississippi River downstream of Lock and Dam 8	Continuous	6 combined total (15" minimum size for walleye, all walleye from 20-27" must be immediately released, only 1 walleye over 27")
Largemouth and smallmouth bass St. Louis River Estuary	May 23, 2026 - March 1, 2027	5 combined total (14" minimum size)
St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	May 23 - Sept. 13	5 (14" minimum size)
	Sept. 14, 2026 - March 1, 2027	Catch-and-release only
St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to U.S. Hwy 10 bridge	May 23, 2026 - March 1, 2027	5 (14" minimum size)
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	5 (14" minimum size)
Northern pike St. Louis River Estuary	May 9, 2026 - March 1, 2027	2
St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	May 2, 2026 - March 1, 2027	5
St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to U.S. Hwy 10 bridge	May 2, 2026 - March 1, 2027	3 (only 1 over 30")
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	3 (only 1 over 30")
Muskellunge	May 23 - Nov. 30	1 (50" minimum size)
Perch St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam, Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	15
St. Louis River Estuary and St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	Continuous	25
Catfish (channel and flathead) St. Louis River Estuary and St. Croix upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	Channel catfish: continuous Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	10 combined total

Wisconsin-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Catfish (channel and flathead) <i>continued</i> St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to U.S. Hwy 10 bridge	Channel catfish: continuous	5 (only 1 over 24")
	Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	2 (only 1 over 24")
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Channel catfish: continuous Flathead catfish: April 1 - Nov. 30	10 combined total (only 1 catfish over 30")
Carp, sucker, redhorse, freshwater drum, buffalo, burbot (eelpout), and bowfin	Continuous	No limit
Bullhead	Continuous	No limit
Gar	Continuous	10
White bass and yellow bass St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam and Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	10 combined total
St. Louis River Estuary and St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	Continuous	25 combined total
Crappie St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam, Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	15
St. Louis River Estuary and St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	Continuous	25
Rock bass	Continuous	25
Sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orangespotted, northern, warmouth, and their hybrids) St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam, Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	15
St. Louis River Estuary and St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	Continuous	25
Paddlefish	No open season	
Lake sturgeon St. Louis River Estuary and the Mississippi River below the Red Wing dam and Lake Pepin	June 16 - April 14 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.

Continued on next page

Wisconsin-Minnesota Seasons and Limits *continued*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Lake sturgeon <i>continued</i> Mississippi River above the Red Wing dam to the mouth of the St. Croix River	June 16 - March 1 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
St. Croix River upstream of Taylors Falls Dam	June 16 - March 1 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to mouth including Lake St. Croix	June 16 - Sept. 4	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
	Sept. 5 - 30	1 per calendar year (60" minimum size). A sturgeon tag/endorsement is needed to harvest a lake sturgeon. Details on page 67.
	Oct. 1 - March 1 each year	Catch-and-release only; no tag/endorsement needed.
Shovelnose sturgeon St. Croix River including Lake St. Croix and Mississippi River above Red Wing dam	June 16 - March 1 each year	Catch-and-release only
Mississippi River below Red Wing dam	Continuous	3

BOWFISHING, SPEARING, HARPOONING AND DIP NETTING

BOWFISHING

Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	SEASONS (DAY AND NIGHT)	POSSESSION LIMIT
Bullhead	Early Season: March 1 - April 30 each year Regular Statewide: May 1 - Feb. 28	100
Sucker and redhorse	(Early Seasons are south of Hwy 210, only on lakes and on Minnesota, Mississippi, or St. Croix rivers. You must bowfish from a boat during the early season.)	50 each
Carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, bowfin,		No limit
Gar		10

Can I fish with a bow and arrow?

You can bowfish for native rough fish and common carp over open water or through the ice in a fish house or shelter, day or night, with or without lights, during the open season.

- You need a fishing license if you're 16 or older unless you qualify for an angling license exclusion.
- Arrows must have a barb and be attached to the bow with a tethered line.
- To possess a bow, you need to follow local ordinances. You can use a bow while taking native rough fish and common carp from a watercraft with or without a motor.
- From sunset to sunrise you cannot discharge a bow within 300 feet of a campsite or within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- You cannot make more than 65 decibels of noise on the "A" scale measured at a distance of 50 feet from the boat.
- If you shoot a fish you have to try to retrieve the fish and your arrow.
- You can't shoot a fish and throw it back in the water, leave it on any bank of any waterway or any access site or otherwise illegally dispose of the fish.
- You can't bowfish in designated trout lakes and streams nor in posted spawning areas.

Can I fish with a crossbow?

Yes, you can use a crossbow for bowfishing.

What species may I take when bowfishing?

You may only bowfish for common carp and native rough fish, which include buffalo, sucker, redhorse, freshwater drum, bowfin, gar, goldeye and bullhead.

If I take fish by bowfishing can I also take fish by spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining?

Yes, but you cannot exceed the daily limit for each species taken with any combination of bowfishing, spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining equipment to reach the limit.

SPEARING, HARPOONING AND DIP NETS

Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	SPEARING SEASON (SUNRISE TO SUNSET)	HARPOONING, DIP NET, AND SEINE SEASON (SUNRISE TO SUNSET)	POSSESSION LIMIT
Sucker	May 1, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	May 1, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	50
Bullhead	April 25, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027		100
Redhorse			50
Carp, buffalo, freshwater drum, bowfin			No limit
Gar			10

Can I spear, harpoon or dip net for native rough fish and common carp (not including gar)?

You can harpoon or dip net for native rough fish and common carp from sunrise to sunset provided:

- You have a fishing license if you're 16 or older unless you qualify for an angling license exclusion.
- Speared or dead fish are not returned to the water or left on the banks.

What equipment can I use for native rough fish and common carp?

- You can only use spears, underwater harpoons, dip nets, seines used for taking smelt, traps used for taking minnows for bait or angling equipment and nets associated with angling.
- You can use an underwater harpoon or spear discharged by a rubber-powered gun, spring gun or air gun and attached with a tethered line not more than 20 feet long and discharged only when the equipment and the operator are entirely under water.
- Harpoons may not be carried in a cocked position while out of the water.
- The hoops on hand-held dip nets cannot exceed 24" in diameter.
- During a closed season, you cannot possess spears, traps, dip nets, seines or harpoons on or near any waters.

Where can I spear, harpoon or dip net for fish?

- All inland waters except Baby Lake (Cass County) and where taking fish is prohibited.
- You cannot harpoon within 1,000 feet of swimming beach.
- You can't spear, harpoon or dip net in a designated trout stream or trout lake.

Can I sell or buy native rough fish and common carp?

No. Only common carp can be bought or sold.

Can I take a limit of fish for each method?

No. You cannot exceed the daily limit for each species taken with any combination of spearing, harpooning, dip netting or seining equipment to reach the limit. Fish taken by bowfishing also are included in this limit.

LET'S TALK

TRASH!

ICE IS NO PLACE FOR YOUR GARBAGE & WASTE.

PLEASE LEGALLY CONTAIN
& DISPOSE OF IT.



ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE!

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

(Guidelines for New, Clear Ice Only)



<4"
Keep off

4"
On foot

5-7"
Snowmobile

7-8"
Side-by-side
ATV

9-12"
Car

13-17"
Truck

20+"
Heavy duty
truck with
wheelhouse
shelter

m DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOV 2020 2024

DARK HOUSE SPEARING, ICE ANGLING AND ICE SHELTERS

DARK HOUSE SPEARING

Seasons and Limits

SPECIES	SPEARING SEASON (SUNRISE TO SUNSET)	ZONES AND POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Northern pike Angling limits differ, see page 31.	Nov. 15, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 except where prohibited.	See Zone Map on page 31. For border waters or special regulations, refer to those sections.
		Northeast Zone: 2 (only 1 northern pike over 26")
		North-central Zone: 10 (either 2 northern pike over 26" and none from 22 to 26" or 1 from 22 to 26" and 1 over 26")
		Southern Zone: 2 (minimum size 24")
Catfish, channel	Nov. 15, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 except where prohibited.	5 (only 1 over 24")
Catfish, flathead	Nov. 15, 2026 - Nov. 30, 2026 except where prohibited.	2 (only 1 over 24")
Whitefish	Nov. 15, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 except where prohibited.	15

What species of fish can I spear from a dark house?

Northern pike, catfish, and whitefish may be speared but only if using a darkhouse. Native rough fish (including gar) and carp may be speared in or outside of a darkhouse. See page 79 for native rough and carp spearing seasons as they differ.

What is a dark house?

Any structure that is darkened to view fish under the ice. Holes in the ice are cut inside these structures so fish can be speared. Please mark your holes upon leaving.

Do I need a license to spear from a dark house?

Residents age 18 through 89 and nonresidents age 18 and older need a spearing license and an angling license. Youth age 16 and 17 need an angling license only.

What methods can I use while spearing in a dark house?

- You may fish with 1 additional line but any fish caught must be landed immediately and not left out as a decoy.
- You cannot use artificial lights to see fish or attract fish when spearing.
- You can use lighted decoy fish powered by a battery not containing mercury.
- Any visual backdrop material used must be retrieved by the end of your trip.

If more than 1 person is spearing in a dark house, how many fish can you spear?

Party fishing does not apply to spearing. Each person can only spear their own fish.

Where can I spear fish in a dark house?

Most inland waters. Only Baby Lake (Cass County) is closed to dark house spearing. Native rough fish may not be taken while dark house spearing in designated trout lakes. For border waters, more details can be found on pages 66-77.

ICE ANGLING

- 2 lines may be used through the ice, except only 1 line can be used on designated trout lakes and streams.
- You must remain within sight of your line. If you're using a tip-up (a device with spooled line and a flag that pops up to indicate when a fish bites) you must be within 200 feet of the device.
- *NEW—Non-motorized devices that set the hook using a spring or the force of a fishing rod released from a bent position can be used through the ice. The device cannot automatically reel or spool the line or automatically retrieve a hooked fish.
- Other than the number of lines allowed, ice anglers must follow all general and special fishing regulations.

ICE SHELTERS

What is a shelter?

A fish house, dark house, or other structure that is set on the ice to provide shelter.

What is a portable shelter?

A portable shelter is a shelter that collapses, folds, or is disassembled for transportation. Portable shelters do not include trailer/campers with or without slide-outs.

Do I need a license for my fish house or dark house?

- All shelters, except portable shelters, placed on the ice in inland and Canadian border waters need a shelter license.
- However, portable shelters in inland and Canadian border waters need a license if a person leaves the portable shelter unattended any time between midnight and 1 hour before sunrise, or is not within 200 feet of the portable shelter.
- Shelters must be licensed by the owner of the shelter.
- A shelter license is not required on the border waters between Minnesota and Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- A shelter license is valid from March 1 through April 30 of the following year.

Do I need any kind of identification on my shelter?

All shelters need identification, except portable shelters that are occupied. Occupying a shelter means staying within 200 feet of it. Identification means:

- One of the following: owner's name and address; owner's driver's license number; or owner's Minnesota DNR identification number.
- Identification must be readily visible from the exterior of the shelter with characters at least 2" high.

Where can I place my shelter?

- Anywhere on Minnesota waters. Shelters must be no closer than 10 feet apart.
- In the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness you can use a shelter but must remove it from the ice each night and each time you leave the BWCAW.

Are there any regulations about shelters I must comply with?

Any shelters on the ice overnight must have at least 2 square inches of reflective material on each side.

Are there different shelter regulations for border waters for adjacent states?

If you are on border waters between Minnesota and Wisconsin, Iowa or North and South Dakota, the regulations for the state that issues your fishing license apply for your shelter.

Does the trailer I use to haul my fish house, fishing equipment or fish house on wheels need to be registered?

Yes. See your local deputy registrar for trailer registration.

Can I use a fish shelter after the removal date?

Yes. After removal dates, shelters may remain on the ice between midnight and 1 hour before sunrise only when occupied or attended.

What happens if I don't remove my shelter before the deadline?

The owners of the shelter will be prosecuted, and the structure and contents may be confiscated or destroyed by a conservation officer.

Can I leave my shelter on a public access site after I take it off the ice?

No.

Can I place or leave any items, including fish, on the ice outside my shelter?

You can store non-garbage related items outside your shelter such as coolers, storage containers, food and beverages that haven't been consumed, and other supplies and equipment. However, garbage, debris, dead animals, human or pet waste, or any other item that would be considered litter if left behind, may not be placed outside a shelter directly on the ice. All garbage, waste, and dead fish must be placed in a container that is secured to a shelter or sled.

Shelter Removal Dates

All shelters must be off the ice no later than midnight for each of the dates given in the following categories below.

Inland Waters

Dates of removal are determined by an east-west line formed by U.S. Highway 10, east along Highway 34 to Minnesota Highway 200, east along Highway 200 to U.S. Highway 2, and east along Highway 2 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

Border Waters

- Minnesota-Iowa, February 20
- Minnesota-Wisconsin, March 1
- Minnesota-North and South Dakota, March 5
- Minnesota-Canada, March 31

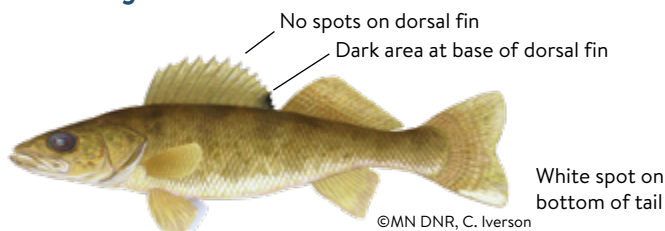


ILLUSTRATED FISH OF MINNESOTA

Knowing what fish species you are catching is not only fun, but in many cases it's required by law. It is particularly important to know how to distinguish walleye from sauger (and saugeye), to know the difference between northern pike and muskellunge, and to be able to tell what species of trout or salmon you catch.

Walleye and Sauger

Walleye



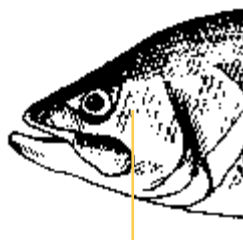
Sauger



Walleye and sauger hybrid fillets are counted as part of a walleye possession limit during transportation.

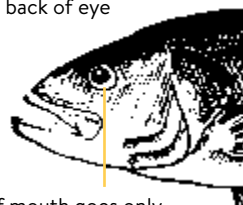
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth



Back of mouth goes way beyond back of eye

Smallmouth



Back of mouth goes only to middle of eye

Northern Pike and Muskellunge

Muskellunge

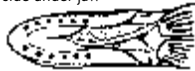
Clear



Paired fins having more pointed tips

Tail with pointed tips

Six or more pores on each side under jaw

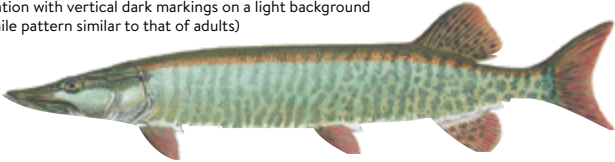


Spotted



Barred

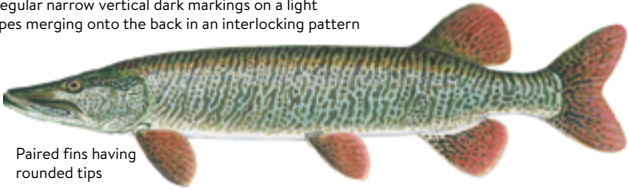
Coloration with vertical dark markings on a light background (Juvenile pattern similar to that of adults)



Tiger (hybrid) Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy* X *Esox lucius*)

Coloration having irregular narrow vertical dark markings on a light background with stripes merging onto the back in an interlocking pattern

Tail with rounded tips



Paired fins having rounded tips

Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)

Tail with more rounded tips

Coloration with pattern of horizontal rows of light round to oval spots on a dark background

Five or fewer pores on each side under jaw



Paired fins having more rounded tips



(Juvenile pattern has white, oblique bars which extend from the white belly)

©MN DNR, C. Iverson

Catfish

Flathead Catfish



Square tail

©MN DNR, C. Iverson

Channel Catfish



Forked tail

©MN DNR, C. Iverson

Trout and Salmon

Brown Trout

Large dark spots and red dots on brown body



Duane Raver, USFWS

Square tail

Brook Trout

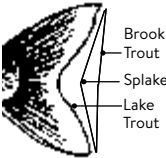
White leading edge on lower fins



Duane Raver, USFWS

Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body

To tell a brook trout from a splake from a lake trout, look at the tail. A splake is a cross between a brook trout and a lake trout.



Lake Trout

White spots on grayish body



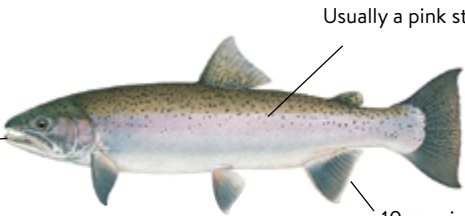
White leading edge on lower fins

©MN DNR, C. Iverson

Forked tail

Steelhead (Rainbow Trout)

Inside mouth is white



Usually a pink stripe on silvery body

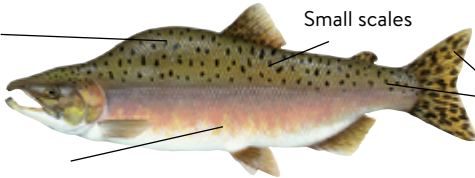
Small spots throughout tail

10 rays in anal fin

Joseph Tomelleri

Pink Salmon

Spawning male has hump on back.



Small scales

Some eye-sized spots in tail and on back

Green and white blotches on spawning fish

Tim Knepp, USFWS

Chinook Salmon

Inside mouth
is dark



Spots
throughout
tail

15-17 rays in anal fin

Joseph Tomelleri

Coho Salmon

Inside mouth
is gray



Spots in top half
of tail only

13-15 rays in anal fin

Tim Knepp, USFWS

Rainbow Trout

Pinkish stripe
on silvery body



Small black dots
throughout the body
that extend into tail

Duane Raver, USFWS

Rainbow Trout and Salmon Identification Guide

Rainbow trout:
white mouth
Coho salmon and
Chinook salmon:
grayish to black mouth



The shape of the anal fin is another way to identify these species. This can easily be seen by depressing the front edge of the anal fin to its base.



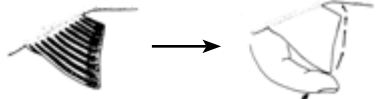
Rainbow trout: tail has many small spots in distinct rows.

Coho salmon: tail has some large spots mostly on the upper half.

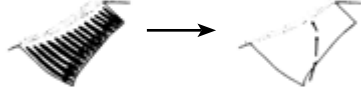
Chinook salmon: Tail has large spots throughout, especially in the silver area at the base of the tail.



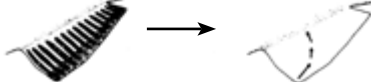
Rainbow trout: tip falls to or beyond end of base



Coho salmon: tip falls slightly past middle

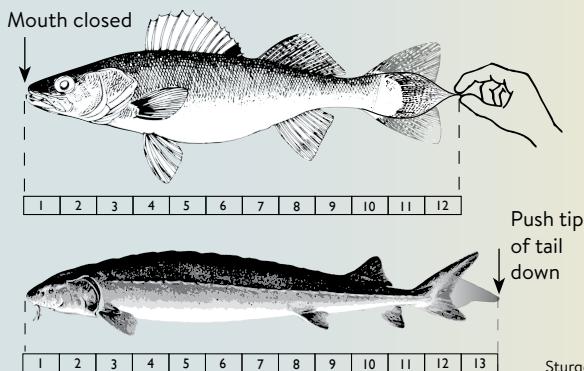


Chinook salmon: tip falls short of middle



How to Measure the Total Length of a Fish

To determine the legal length of a fish, lay it flat on its side, pinch or squeeze the tail to maximize length, and measure from the nose or jaw, whichever is longer, to the farthest part of the tail when fully extended.



Sturgeon image by Maynard Reece

Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler

Fish are sometimes injured when weighed. With this chart, you can quickly determine the approximate weight of your fish using a ruler or tape measure.

Crappie length (inches)	Crappie weight (lbs.)
8	0.3
9	0.4
10	0.6
11	0.8
12	1.1
13	1.4
14	1.8
15	2.2
16	2.7
17	3.3

Trout length (inches)	Trout weight (lbs.)
8	0.2
9	0.3
10	0.4
11	0.6
12	0.8
13	0.9
14	1.1
15	1.4
16	1.6
17	1.8
18	2.3

Bass length (inches)	Bass weight (lbs.)
12	1.0
13	1.3
14	1.7
15	2.1
16	2.5
17	3.0
18	3.6
19	4.2
20	5.0
21	5.7
22	6.6
23	7.6

Walleye length (inches)	Walleye weight (lbs.)
14	0.9
15	1.1
16	1.3
17	1.6
18	2
19	2.3
20	2.7
21	3.2
22	3.6
23	4.2
24	4.8
25	5.4
26	6.2
27	6.9
28	7.9

Sunfish length (inches)	Sunfish weight (lbs.)
6	0.2
7	0.3
8	0.4
9	0.6
10	0.9
11	1.1
12	1.5
13	1.9
14	2.4

Muskie length (inches)	Muskie weight (lbs.)
48	29
49	32
50	34
51	36
52	39
53	41
54	44
55	47
56	50

These figures are rough estimates only. Actual weights vary slightly by season and water body.

Northern length (inches)	Northern weight (lbs.)
18	1.2
19	1.4
20	1.6
21	1.9
22	2.2
23	2.5
24	2.9
25	3.3
26	3.8
27	4.2
28	4.7
29	5.3
30	5.8
31	6.5
32	7.1
33	7.9
34	8.7
35	9.3
36	10.4
37	11.5
38	12.2
39	13.2
40	16

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Boat and Water Safety

Everyone on your boat needs to have an accessible, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vest of the proper size and type. In addition, if the boat is 16 feet or longer, there must also be an approved throwable device such as a boater's seat cushion or ring buoy.

Children under the age of 10 must wear a life jacket on board any boat underway. Underway means not attached to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock. There are exceptions to the law for: children who are below the top deck, or in an enclosed cabin, or on a boat operated by a licensed captain, or on a boat that is anchored for the purpose of swimming or diving.

It's always a good idea to wear your life jacket. Most fatal boating mishaps occur when boats capsize or people fall overboard, especially on small boats. These types of accidents can happen even on calm waters, while traveling at slow speed or stopped.

For a complete summary of the boating regulations and safety information, contact the DNR Information Center for a copy of the Minnesota Boating Guide, or find it online at mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater. For rules pertaining to the use of motorboats within Wildlife Management Areas, refer to the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook or call the DNR.



**THAT'S
a LIFE
JACKET?**



**You
BETCHA!**

**9 out of 10 boating deaths
could be prevented
by wearing a life jacket.**

Aquatic Management Areas

The DNR Fish and Wildlife Division acquires land along lakes and streams to protect critical fish habitat and to provide fishing opportunities. These areas, known as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs), have specific use types (easement, restricted use and general use) and are posted with signs that indicate allowable and unauthorized uses for each use type. As a reminder it is always unlawful to leave any personal equipment, such as tree stands, unattended on AMAs. For more information on AMAs please go to the AMA Finder at: mndnr.gov/amas.

Catch-and-Release

Catch-and-release fishing offers anglers a way to enjoy their sport with less harm to the resource.

- Do not plan to release fish that have been on a stringer or in a livewell.
- Play and land the fish quickly.
- Don't angle for fish in very deep water, unless you plan to keep what you catch. Fizzing fish, the act of inserting a needle into a fish to deflate the gas bladder, caught in deep water is strongly discouraged. Rather than helping the fish survive, it is more likely the fish will be killed from internal damage.
- Do not hold the fish by the eye sockets or gills, but rather by the lower lip or under the gill plate and also support the belly of the fish.
- Wet your hands before touching a fish to prevent removing its protective coating.
- If a hook is deeply embedded, cut the line so that at least 1" hangs out of the mouth. This helps the hook to lay flush when the fish takes in food.
- Circle hooks may help in reducing deeply hooked fish. They are made to hook fish in the mouth.
- A fish that can be legally kept should not be released if it is bleeding heavily, which indicates its chance of survival is poor.
- You cannot target a species during its closed season, even if you plan to release it.

Managing Minnesota's Fisheries

The DNR Fish and Wildlife Division is responsible for managing the state's diverse fisheries resources (4,500 fishable lakes and 16,000 miles of fishable streams). Each year, roughly 1.7 million people fish in Minnesota, and sport fishing generates approximately \$6 billion in direct expenditures, making angling one of the state's largest industries.

Much of Minnesota's fisheries program is reimbursed by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program (federal excise tax), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Master Angler Program

The Fishing Hall of Fame of Minnesota recognizes anglers who catch large fish of various species. Categories include adult, youth, and catch-and-release.

For more information on becoming a Master Angler, visit the DNR website or fishinghalloffamemn.com

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

The program provides funding for projects to restore, enhance, and protect Minnesota's fish, game, and wildlife habitat. See mndnr.gov/cpl for details.

STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

Minnesota's State Record Fish Program generates excitement among anglers, the public and the media! Records are maintained for the species listed in categories below. No additional species or hybrids are currently being added to the state record fish program. State record fish applications and instructions are available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/recordfish. Minimum lengths and weights are established for all open categories (details here). Any incomplete applications will not be accepted. Species identification must be verified by DNR Fisheries staff and must be able to be verified by a scientific key (link available online).

How Do I Submit an Application?

Complete rules for catch-and-release and certified weight record fish submissions and applications are available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/recordfish. To be eligible for a state record, the fish must be caught in a public body of water during open seasons by an angler with a valid angling license. The application must be submitted within 90 days of the catch. Record fish submissions must include photographs or video of the fish, with clear identification of species characteristics. Photographs or video must show the full length of the fish on or next to a clearly marked measuring device, with the snout of the fish on zero and the tail pinched for accurate measurement, and the weight measured on a certified scale (found at most shipping stores and grocery stores). Catch-and-release record submissions should also include photos or video of the fish being released unharmed. Harvested fish must be brought to a DNR Fisheries office for species confirmation (locations are listed on the DNR website). DNR does not keep line class records.

Catch-and-Release Records

The following is a complete list of Minnesota's state record catch-and-release fish, including lake (county) where the fish was caught and released unharmed. Lengths are listed in inches. New catch-and-release record submissions must meet minimum length requirements listed on the website at mndnr.gov/recordfish.

- Bass, Largemouth: Open record
- Bass, Smallmouth: 22¾", Basswood Lake (Lake)
- Bowfin: Open record
- Buffalo, Bigmouth: 32½", Cannon River (Rice)
- Buffalo, Smallmouth: 32½", St. Croix River (Washington)
- Catfish, Channel: Open record
- Catfish, Flathead: 52½", St. Croix River (Washington)
- Drum, Freshwater (Sheepshead): Open record
- Gar, Shortnose: Open record
- Gar, Longnose: 51", Mississippi River (Houston)
- Muskellunge: 58¾", Mille Lacs Lake (Mille Lacs)
- Muskellunge, Tiger: Open record
- Northern Pike: 46¾", Basswood Lake (Lake)
- Sauger: Open record
- Sturgeon, Lake: 78", St. Croix River (Washington)
- Sturgeon, Shovelnose: 35", Minnesota River (Scott)
- Sucker, Blue: Open record
- Trout, Brook: 19", Alruss Lake (St. Louis)
- Trout, Brown: 30", Lake Superior (St. Louis)
- Trout, Lake: 43¾", Lake Superior (St. Louis)
- Trout, Rainbow: 24", Miner's Lake (St. Louis)
- Walleye: Open record

Certified Weight Records

The following is a complete list of Minnesota's state record certified weight fish and the lake (county) where they were caught and harvested. Weights given are in pounds and ounces (example: 55-5 is 55 pounds, 5 ounces). Certified weight submissions must meet minimum length requirements listed on the website at mndnr.gov/recordfish. Record established without weight documented on a certified scale (most prior to 1980) have been moved to the non-certified weight category.

- Bass, Largemouth: 8-15, Auburn Lake (Carver)
- Bass, Rock: 2-4, Mille Lacs Lake (Mille Lacs)
- Bass, Smallmouth: open record
- Bass, White: 4-8, Vadnais Lake (Ramsey)
- Bass, Yellow: 1-3, Clear Lake (Jackson)
- Bowfin: 12-9, Mississippi River (Wabasha)
- Buffalo, Bigmouth: 41-11, Mississippi River (Goodhue)
- Buffalo, Smallmouth: 20-0, Big Sandy (Aitkin)
- Bullhead, Black: 3-13, Reno Lake (Pope)
- Bullhead, Brown: open record
- Bullhead, Yellow: 3-10, Osakis Lake (Todd)
- Burbot (eelpout): 19-10, Lake of the Woods (Lake of the Woods)
- Carp, Common: open record
- Carpsucker, Quillback: 7-4, Upper Red Lake (Beltrami)
- Carpsucker, River: 4-6, Minnesota River (Carver)
- Catfish, Channel: open record
- Catfish, Flathead: open record
- Cisco (Tullibee): 5-13, Sybil Lake (Otter Tail)
- Crappie, Black: 3-13, Cedar Lake (Rice)
- Crappie, White: 3-15, Lake Constance (Wright)
- Drum, Freshwater (Sheepshead): 35-3, Mississippi River (Winona)
- Gar, Longnose: 16-12, St. Croix River (Washington)
- Gar, Shortnose: 5-4, Minnesota River (Renville)
- Goldeye: 3-5, Minnesota River (Blue Earth)
- Hogsucker, Northern: 3-4, Mississippi River (Stearns)
- Mooneye: 2-1, Minnesota River (Redwood)
- Muskellunge: 55-14, Mille Lacs Lake (Mille Lacs)
- Muskellunge, Tiger: 34-12, Lake Elmo (Washington)
- Perch, Yellow: open record
- Pike, Northern: open record
- Redhorse, Golden: 4-8, Otter Tail River (Otter Tail)
- Redhorse, Greater: 12-11, Sauk River (Stearns)
- Redhorse, River: 12-10, Kettle River (Pine)
- Redhorse, Shorthead: 7-15, Rum River (Anoka)
- Redhorse, Silver: 10-6, Rainy River (Lake of the Woods)
- Salmon, Atlantic: 12-13, Baptism River (Lake)
- Salmon, Chinook: 33-4, Poplar River (Cook); and 33-4, Lake Superior (St. Louis)
- Salmon, Coho: 12-5, Lake Superior (St. Louis)
- Salmon, Kokanee: 2-15, Caribou Lake (Itasca)
- Salmon, Pink: 4-8, Cascade River (Cook)

Continued on next page

- Sauger: 6-2, Mississippi River (Goodhue)
- Saugeye (Walleye-Sauger Hybrid): 9-13, Mississippi River (Goodhue)
- Sturgeon, Lake: 94-4, Kettle River (Pine)
- Sturgeon, Shovelnose: 6-7, Mississippi River (Goodhue)
- Sucker, Longnose: 3-10, Brule River (Cook)
- Sucker, White: 9-1, Big Fish Lake (Stearns)
- Sunfish, Bluegill: 1-13, Osakis Lake (Todd/Douglas)
- Sunfish, Green: 1-4, North Arbor Lake (Hennepin)
- Sunfish, Hybrid: 1-12, Zumbro River (Olmsted); and 1-12, Green Lake (Kandiyohi)
- Sunfish, Pumpkinseed: 1-5, Leech Lake (Cass)
- Trout, Brook: 6-5, Pigeon River (Cook)
- Trout, Brown: 16-12, Lake Superior (St. Louis)
- Trout, Lake: open record
- Trout, Rainbow (Steelhead): 16-6, Devil Track River (Cook)
- Trout, Splake: 13-5, Larson Lake (Itasca)
- Trout, Tiger: 2-9, Mill Creek (Olmsted)
- Walleye: open record
- Warmouth: 0-9, Bartlet Lake (Winona)
- Whitefish, Lake: 13-9, Lake of the Woods (Roseau)
- Whitefish, Round (Menominee): 2-7, Lake Superior (Cook)

Non-Certified Weight Records

Prior to 1980, record fish submissions did not require weight to be documented on a certified scale. DNR continues to recognize these fish in a separate non-certified weight category until the record is beaten. The following is a complete list of Minnesota's state record non-certified weight fish and the lake (county) where they were caught and harvested. Weights given are in pounds and ounces (example: 55-5 is 55 pounds, 5 ounces).

- Bass, Smallmouth: 8-0, West Battle Lake (Otter Tail). Non-certified record.
- Bullhead, Brown: 7-1, Shallow Lake (Itasca). Non-certified record.
- Carp, Common: 55-5, Clearwater Lake (Wright). Non-certified record.
- Catfish, Channel: 38-0, Mississippi River (Hennepin). Non-certified record.
- Catfish, Flathead: 70-0, St. Croix River (Washington). Non-certified record.
- Perch, Yellow: 3-4, Lake Plantagenet (Hubbard). Non-certified record.
- Pike, Northern: 45-12, Basswood Lake (Lake). Non-certified record.
- Trout, Lake: 43-8, Lake Superior (Cook). Non-certified record.
- Walleye: 17-8, Seagull River (Cook). Non-certified record.

SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

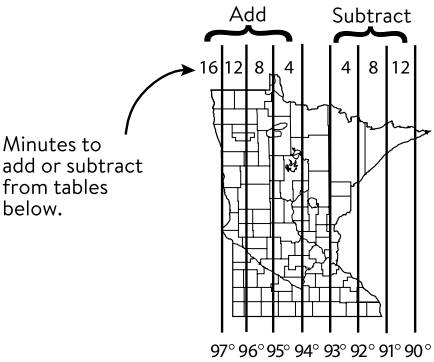
The following table is provided primarily for trout and salmon anglers who need to know the sunrise and sunset times on the waters they fish. Times shown are approximations of sunrise and sunset and vary by where you are located. Times shown are Central Daylight Saving Time beginning March 8, 2026 through November 1, 2026. Central Standard Time for all other dates.

Sunrise/Sunset Table

DATE	MAR. SUN- RISE	MAR. SUN- SET	APR. SUN- RISE	APR. SUN- SET	MAY SUN- RISE	MAY SUN- SET	JUNE SUN- RISE	JUNE SUN- SET	JULY SUN- RISE	JULY SUN- SET	AUG. SUN- RISE	AUG. SUN- SET
1	6:50	6:00	6:55	7:41	6:03	8:18	5:30	8:52	5:30	9:04	5:58	8:40
2	6:49	6:02	6:53	7:42	6:02	8:20	5:29	8:53	5:31	9:03	5:59	8:39
3	6:47	6:03	6:51	7:43	6:00	8:21	5:29	8:54	5:31	9:03	6:00	8:38
4	6:45	6:04	6:49	7:44	5:59	8:22	5:28	8:55	5:32	9:03	6:01	8:36
5	6:43	6:06	6:47	7:46	5:57	8:23	5:28	8:56	5:32	9:02	6:03	8:35
6	6:41	6:07	6:45	7:47	5:56	8:24	5:28	8:56	5:33	9:02	6:04	8:34
7	6:40	6:08	6:43	7:48	5:55	8:26	5:27	8:57	5:34	9:02	6:05	8:32
8	7:38	7:10	6:42	7:49	5:53	8:27	5:27	8:58	5:35	9:01	6:06	8:31
9	7:36	7:12	6:40	7:51	5:52	8:28	5:27	8:58	5:35	9:01	6:07	8:29
10	7:34	7:13	6:38	7:52	5:51	8:29	5:26	8:59	5:36	9:00	6:08	8:28
11	7:32	7:14	6:36	7:53	5:49	8:30	5:26	8:59	5:37	9:00	6:10	8:26
12	7:31	7:15	6:34	7:54	5:48	8:32	5:26	9:00	5:38	8:59	6:11	8:25
13	7:28	6:14	6:33	7:56	5:47	8:33	5:26	9:01	5:39	8:59	6:12	8:23
14	7:27	7:18	6:31	7:57	5:46	8:34	5:26	9:01	5:39	8:58	6:13	8:22
15	7:25	7:19	6:29	7:58	5:45	8:35	5:26	9:01	5:40	8:57	6:14	8:20
16	7:24	7:20	6:27	7:59	5:43	8:36	5:26	9:02	5:41	8:56	6:16	8:18
17	7:23	7:21	6:26	8:01	5:42	8:37	5:26	9:02	5:42	8:56	6:17	8:17
18	7:21	7:23	6:24	8:02	5:41	8:38	5:26	9:03	5:43	8:55	6:18	8:15
19	7:19	7:24	6:22	8:03	5:40	8:40	5:26	9:03	5:44	8:54	6:19	8:14
20	7:17	7:25	6:21	8:05	5:39	8:41	5:26	9:03	5:45	8:53	6:20	8:12
21	7:15	7:27	6:19	8:06	5:38	8:42	5:26	9:03	5:46	8:52	6:22	8:10
22	7:13	7:28	6:17	8:07	5:37	8:43	5:27	9:04	5:47	8:51	6:23	8:09
23	7:11	7:29	6:16	8:08	5:36	8:44	5:27	9:04	5:48	8:50	6:24	8:07
24	7:10	7:30	6:14	8:10	5:36	8:45	5:27	9:04	5:49	8:49	6:25	8:05
25	7:08	7:32	6:12	8:11	5:35	8:46	5:27	9:04	5:50	8:48	6:26	8:03
26	7:06	7:33	6:11	8:12	5:34	8:47	5:28	9:04	5:51	8:47	6:28	8:02
27	7:04	7:34	6:09	8:13	5:33	8:48	5:28	9:04	5:52	8:46	6:29	8:00
28	7:02	7:35	6:08	8:15	5:32	8:49	5:29	9:04	5:54	8:45	6:30	7:58
29	7:00	7:37	6:06	8:16	5:32	8:50	5:29	9:04	5:55	8:44	6:31	7:56
30	6:58	7:38	6:05	8:17	5:31	8:51	5:30	9:04	5:56	8:43	6:32	7:55
31	6:56	7:39			5:30	8:52			5:57	8:41	6:33	7:53

The times in the table below are for the longitudinal line running north and south through Minneapolis/St. Paul.

To find the sunrise or sunset hours on the water you fish, go to mndnr.gov/sunrise-sunset/



Sunrise/Sunset Table

DATE	SEPT. SUN-RISE	SEPT. SUN-SET	OCT. SUN-RISE	OCT. SUN-SET	NOV. SUN-RISE	NOV. SUN-SET	DEC. SUN-RISE	DEC. SUN-SET	JAN. SUN-RISE	JAN. SUN-SET	FEB. SUN-RISE	FEB. SUN-SET
1	6:35	7:51	7:11	6:54	6:52	5:01	7:31	4:33	7:52	4:42	7:33	5:21
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	6:53	4:59	7:32	4:33	7:52	4:43	7:32	5:22
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	6:55	4:58	7:33	4:33	7:52	4:44	7:31	5:24
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	6:56	4:57	7:34	4:32	7:52	4:45	7:30	5:25
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	6:57	4:55	7:35	4:32	7:51	4:46	7:29	5:27
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:53	7:36	4:32	7:51	4:47	7:27	5:28
7	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:43	7:00	4:53	7:37	4:32	7:51	4:48	7:26	5:29
8	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:41	7:01	4:52	7:38	4:32	7:51	4:49	7:25	5:31
9	6:44	7:36	7:21	6:40	7:02	4:51	7:39	4:32	7:51	4:50	7:23	5:32
10	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:04	4:50	7:40	4:32	7:50	4:52	7:22	5:34
11	6:47	7:32	7:23	6:36	7:05	4:49	7:41	4:32	7:50	4:53	7:20	5:35
12	6:48	7:30	7:25	6:34	7:06	4:48	7:42	4:32	7:50	4:54	7:19	5:37
13	6:49	7:28	7:26	6:32	7:08	4:47	7:43	4:32	7:49	4:55	7:18	5:38
14	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46	7:44	4:32	7:49	4:56	7:16	5:39
15	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45	7:44	4:32	7:48	4:58	7:15	5:41
16	6:53	7:23	7:30	6:27	7:12	4:44	7:45	4:32	7:48	4:59	7:13	5:42
17	6:54	7:21	7:31	6:25	7:13	4:43	7:46	4:33	7:47	5:00	7:12	5:44
18	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42	7:46	4:33	7:46	5:01	7:10	5:45
19	6:56	7:17	7:34	6:22	7:16	4:41	7:47	4:33	7:46	5:03	7:08	5:46
20	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:20	7:17	4:40	7:48	4:34	7:45	5:04	7:07	5:48
21	6:59	7:13	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39	7:48	4:34	7:44	5:05	7:05	5:49
22	7:00	7:11	7:38	6:17	7:20	4:39	7:49	4:35	7:43	5:07	7:04	5:51
23	7:01	7:09	7:39	6:16	7:21	4:38	7:49	4:35	7:42	5:08	7:02	5:52
24	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37	7:50	4:36	7:42	5:10	7:00	5:53
25	7:03	7:06	7:42	6:12	7:24	4:36	7:50	4:37	7:41	5:11	6:59	5:55
26	7:05	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:25	4:36	7:50	4:37	7:40	5:12	6:57	5:56
27	7:06	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35	7:51	4:38	7:39	5:14	6:55	5:58
28	7:07	7:00	7:46	6:08	7:27	4:35	7:51	4:39	7:38	5:15	6:53	5:59
29	7:08	6:58	7:46	6:07	7:28	4:34	7:51	4:39	7:37	5:17		
30	7:09	6:56	7:48	6:05	7:30	4:34	7:51	4:40	7:36	5:18		
31			7:50	6:03			7:51	4:41	7:35	5:19		

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Fish are an important part of a nutritious, well-balanced diet. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) provides fish consumption guidance to help you and your family make informed choices about which fish to eat and how often. Following the guidance enables you to reduce your exposure to contaminants — such as mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Fish consumption guidance is based on:

- Where you caught the fish. Some water bodies have lower levels of contaminants than others.
- Who you are. Some people are more sensitive than others to negative health effects from exposure to contaminants in fish. The most sensitive groups include people who are or may become pregnant, those who are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed, and children under age 15 years.
- The species of fish. The maximum number of servings recommended per week or month may vary among fish species caught in the same water body.

Fish consumption guidance is available no matter where you fish in Minnesota, and it's easy to find.

- For lakes: mndnr.gov/lakefinder
- For rivers and streams: health.state.mn.us/fish
- For any water body not listed by name, follow the statewide guidelines on the next page.



mndnr.gov/lakefinder



health.state.mn.us/fish

The information in this book is accurate as of the time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the online resources listed here.



STATEWIDE FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES



= Sensitive populations: Children under age 15; girls, women, and people age 15 and older who may become pregnant, people who are pregnant, people who are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.



= General populations: People not planning to become pregnant; boys and men age 15 and older.

Species	4 servings per week	1 serving per week	1 serving per month	Do not eat
Bass				
Bullhead				
Catfish				
Cisco (Lake Herring)				
Crappie				
Inland Stream Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow)				
Lake Trout				
Lake Whitefish				
Muskellunge				
Northern Pike				
Sunfish				
Walleye				
Yellow Perch				
Other Species Not Listed				

Additional tips

- If you plan to eat what you catch, choose panfish over larger fish and choose inland trout over Lake Superior trout.
- Eat smaller fish of species that eat other fish (such as walleyes, northern pike and lake trout), because smaller fish are lower in mercury.
- Cut away the belly fat as you are filleting fatty fish such as carp, catfish and lake trout, because that's where PCBs accumulate the most.

MDH guidelines are based on eating fish fillets. If eating other parts of the fish, contaminant levels may be higher.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Conservation Officer

Call the DNR Information Center to connect with a Conservation Officer: 888-MINNDNR (646-6367). If you witness a violation in progress or need to contact a Conservation Officer immediately, call the Turn in Poachers 24-hour hotline: 800-652-9093.



Licenses

DNR License Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4026
651-297-1230 or 877-348-0498
Watercraft registration: 800-285-2000
mndnr.gov/buyalicense

DNR general information

888-646-6367 or 651-296-6157
info.dnr@state.mn.us

Information on and reporting harmful invasive species

651-259-5100 or 888-646-6367

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

612-713-5360

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Permits and reservations are not under DNR jurisdiction. This is a national forest wilderness area. For information, contact:
Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808
Information: 218-626-4300
Reservations: 877-444-6777
recreation.gov

Voyageurs National Park

218-283-6600

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

218-847-2641

DNR Fisheries Headquarters and Offices

Northwest Region

Bemidji
Headquarters
218-308-2623

Baudette Area
218-395-6040

Bemidji Area
218-308-2339

Detroit Lakes Area
218-846-8290

Fergus Falls Area
218-671-7940

Glenwood Area
320-634-7321

Park Rapids Area
218-552-2310

Walker Area
218-552-2330

Northeast Region

Grand Rapids
Headquarters
218-328-8831

Aitkin Area
218-429-3010

Brainerd Area
218-203-4302

Duluth and Lake
Superior Area
218-302-3264

Finland Area
218-353-8840

Grand Marais Area
218-387-6021

Grand Rapids Area
218-328-8836

International Falls Area
218-598-8190

Tower Area
218-300-7802

Central Region

Central Headquarters
651-259-5831

Garrison Area
(Mille Lacs)
320-692-0085

Hinckley Area
320-384-7721

Lake City Area
651-299-4010

Lanesboro Area
507-467-2442

Little Falls Area
320-232-1064

Metro East Area
651-259-5831

Metro West Area
952-236-5170

Sauk Rapids Area
320-223-7878

South Region

South Headquarters
507-233-1215

Hutchinson Area
320-753-0339

Ortonville Area
320-839-2656

Spicer Area
320-409-2040

Waterville Area
507-497-1820

Windom Area
507-832-6020

CALL US

Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions

License, titling and registration: M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

General information: M-F 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157

info.dnr@state.mn.us



@mnFishWildlife



@mndnr



@MinnesotaDNR

Turn in Poachers

24-hour hotline, 800-652-9093

m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6157

mndnr.gov

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Minnesota Fishing Regulations

The following updates were made after the fishing regulations handbook was printed. The updates are summarized below. See the page listed for the detailed change.

June 04, 2026

- **Page 33.** Olmsted County was spelled incorrectly.
- **Page 57.** Rice Lake should have been included in the connected waters of Sand Lake.
- **Page 59.** The largemouth and smallmouth bass regulation for North and South Ten Mile Lakes was mistakenly removed from the book.
- **Page 76.** Eelpout removed because it was duplicated.