

# 2004 Minnesota Fishing Regulations



Effective March 1, 2004  
through February 28, 2005

**“Securing the future of fishing”**  
(see back cover for details)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Regulations New for 2004 	5
Fish Consumption Advisory .....	6
Fishing Licenses.....	9
Take A Kid Fishing Weekend.....	12
Take A Mom Fishing Weekend.....	12
General Regulations .....	14
Seasons and Limits	
Inland Waters.....	18
Stream Trout.....	21
Lake Superior and Tributaries.....	23
Treaty and Experimental and Special Regulations .....	27
Border Waters	
Licensing.....	46
Canada-Minnesota .....	46
Wisconsin-Minnesota.....	49
Iowa-Minnesota .....	51
South Dakota-Minnesota .....	52
North Dakota-Minnesota .....	53
Rough Fish: Spearing, Archery and Dip Nets.....	55
Ice Angling, Spearing and Shelters.....	58
Transportation, Shipment, and Storage of Fish .....	61
Fish Identification .....	63
Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler .....	66
Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers .....	68
Other Aquatic Species .....	72
(Mussels, Crayfish, Frogs, Minnows and Leeches, Turtles)	
Other Information	
Boat and Water Safety.....	74
State Aquatic Management Areas.....	74
Master Angler/Record Fish .....	77
Addresses, Telephone Numbers, Web Site .....	80
Trespass Law .....	83
Sunrise/Sunset Timetable.....	86

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These regulations are printed at a cost of approximately 12¢ each.

Cover by Bill Marchel, Fort Ripley, Minnesota.

This booklet is a synopsis of the state fishing laws and regulations. For complete fishing laws and regulations, consult Minnesota Statutes and Rules of the DNR.

## REGULATIONS NEW FOR 2004

- New trout stamp fee and sports license increases (page 10)
- New social security number Requirement to buy licenses (page 9)
- Ability to prepare fish for a meal while on waters with size limits (page 14)
- Cisco (tullibee) bag limit reduction on Leech Lake reservation (page 19)
- Lake Superior closure for boat fishing (page 25)
- Gaffs not allowed on Rainy River (page 48)
- South Dakota border water possession limits for walleye, crappie, and sunfish reduced (page 52)
- North Dakota border waters no culling and new walleye and northern pike regulations (pages 53–54)
- Modified list of lakes where spearing is prohibited (pages 59–60)
- Additions to infested waters list (pages 70–71)
- New turtle size limits, seasons and recreational license requirements (page 73)
- Closure of minnow harvest in Southwestern Minnesota streams within the Missouri River watershed (page 73)
- Fish house identification (page 58)

### New Experimental/Special Regulations

Big Stone Lake (Big Stone County)	Green Lake (Kandiyohi County)
Blackwater Lake (Cass County)	Hungry Jack Lake (Cook County)
Elk Lake (Clearwater County)	Lake Thirteen (Cass County)
Flour Lake (Cook County)	Mule Lake (Cass County)
Goose Lake (Chisago County)	Stony Lake (Cass County)
Green Lake (Chisago County)	Two Island (Cook County)

Removed Boys Lake (Cook County)

Sturgeon regulations for Minnesota-Canadian border waters (page 48)

### Additions to Synopsis

- Sunfish clarification (pages 18, 50, 51, 52)
- Culling regulation clarification (page 14)
- Transportation across waters with differing regulations clarification (page 14)
- Lake Superior boundary reference (page 23)
- Exception listed for Minnesota-Canada border waters for walleye and northern pike regulations (page 47)
- Minnesota-Wisconsin border water clarification (page 49)
- New exotics (pages 14, 69)
- Harpoon clarification (page 55)

# Eat **fish** often?

Most fish are healthy to eat. And fish are an excellent source of low-fat protein.

But any fish (store-bought or sport-caught) could contain contaminants such as mercury and PCBs that can harm human health — especially the development of children and fetuses.

The Minnesota Dept. of Health provides advice on how often fish can be safely eaten. The consumption guidelines below are based on mercury levels

## Tips for reducing contaminants

1. **Eat smaller fish.** Large fish contain higher levels of contaminants.
2. **Eat more panfish** (sunfish, crappies) and **fewer predator fish** (walleyes, northern pike, lake trout).
3. **Trim skin and fat**, especially belly fat. Also, eat fewer fatty fish such as carp, catfish, and lake trout. PCBs build up in fish fat.

measured in fish from lakes across the state. Specific advice for waters where fish have been tested is on the DNR web site ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)) and in DNR lake survey reports.

## General Consumption Guidelines for fish caught in MN

### For Children and Women of Child-bearing Age

Panfish	1 meal/week
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Walleye < 20 inches

Northern Pike < 30 inches	1 meal/month
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All sizes of other species not listed

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Walleye > 20 inches

Northern Pike > 30 inches	Do not eat
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Muskellunge

### For Other Adults

Panfish	Unlimited
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All sizes of other species	1 meal/week
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For more information, call the Minn. Dept. of Health at 651/215-0950 or toll-free 800/657-3908.



## FISHING LICENSES

The Electronic Licensing System (ELS) issues licenses and stamps through 1,800 ELS license agent locations throughout Minnesota, the DNR web site ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)), and a toll free telephone number (888) 665-4256. An additional \$3.50 convenience fee is added for sales via the web site or telephone. A temporary authorization number (TAN) is issued for your use when utilizing the web or phone.

Specialty licenses, which are issued annually, such as disability and foreign exchange student, can only be obtained from ELS Special Agents. Check the DNR web site under special agents or call the DNR Information Center for a listing. Recreational turtle, mental disability, and veterans' disability can only be obtained from the DNR License Center in St. Paul.

Residents wishing to obtain a license or stamp must provide their Minnesota Driver's License, Minnesota Public Safety Identification or Minnesota DNR number from a prior ELS license. Nonresidents must provide their nonresident driver's license number, social security number or Minnesota DNR number from a prior ELS license. Duplicate licenses are available at any ELS agent location.

The printed ELS licenses have a backing on the adhesive side that contains important information. After purchase, customers should fold the license **without taking off the backing**.

### Social Security Number (SSN) Required

To purchase a non-commercial game or fish license, a customer, regardless of age, must either have their social security number (SSN) on file with the DNR or must provide it as part of the license application. Once your SSN is in our records, you will not be asked again for this number. United States residents who do not have a SSN must complete and sign a form stating that they have not been issued a SSN. These forms are available from ELS Special Agents, DNR web site, or DNR Information Center. Only ELS Special Agents can process this form and authorize the purchase of a license. Customers who refuse to provide their SSN or sign a form will be denied a license. We understand the sensitivity of this requirement and have taken steps to ensure that the SSN will not be printed on any document and will be kept in a highly secure database.

Note: The 2003 Legislature passed this requirement to meet the 1996 Federal National Welfare Reform Act that assists states in the enforcement of child support programs.

### Public Record Notice:

Your SSN number is not part of the public record. Most other data supplied when buying a license becomes public record. If you do not

wish to have this data made available for bulk mailings, contact the DNR at (651) 296-6157 (Twin Cities metro area), or (888) 646-6367 (Minnesota toll free) or by e-mail [info@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:info@dnr.state.mn.us).

## LIFETIME LICENSES

You must be a resident of Minnesota for at least one year to purchase a resident lifetime license or be under age 21 and the child of a person who has been a Minnesota resident for at least one year. The resident lifetime license is valid even if the licensee moves out of Minnesota.

If you buy a lifetime license, each year you must still obtain a free

### 2004 FISHING LICENSE FEES

*(Price does not include any additional fees charged for issuing the license or stamp.)*

March 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005

#### RESIDENT LICENSES

Angling, Individual (age 16 and older)	\$17.00
Angling, Combination (husband and wife <sup>1</sup> )	25.00
Angling, Individual 24 Hour	8.50
☞ Sports, Individual <sup>3</sup>	29.50
☞ Sports, Combination (husband and wife <sup>1</sup> ) <sup>2</sup>	38.50
Dark House Spearing <sup>4</sup>	17.00
☞ Trout and Salmon Stamp	10.00
Fish House or Dark House	11.50
Whitefish Netting <sup>4</sup>	10.00
Rental Fish House or Dark House	26.00
Recreational Turtle License <sup>4</sup> (See page 73 for requirements)	25.00

LIFETIME LICENSE	Fishing	Small Game	Sports
age 3 and under	\$227	\$217	\$357
4 to age 15	\$300	\$290	\$480
16 to age 50	\$383	\$363	\$613
51 and over	\$203	\$213	\$413

#### NONRESIDENT LICENSES

Angling, Individual	\$34.00
Angling, Family (husband, wife <sup>1</sup> , and children under age 16)	46.00
Angling, Individual 7 Day	24.00
Angling, Individual 24 Hour	8.50
Angling, Individual 72 Hour	20.00
Angling, Husband and Wife <sup>1</sup> 14 Day	35.00
☞ Trout and Salmon Stamp	10.00
Fish House (See pg 59 for requirement)	33.00
Fish House 7 Day (See pg 59 for requirement)	19.00

LIFETIME LICENSE	Fishing	Small Game
age 3 and under	\$447	\$947
4 to age 15	\$600	\$1,280
16 to age 50	\$773	\$1,633
51 and over	\$513	\$1,083

<sup>1</sup> The marriage must be legal as recognized by Minnesota law.

<sup>2</sup> A sports combination license is one small game hunting license and two fishing licenses.

<sup>3</sup> A sports license includes fishing and small game hunting.

<sup>4</sup> Also requires the purchase of an angling license.

annual license from a license vendor or through the DNR phone license system. Also, you may purchase trout stamp validations only from license vendors or by telephone.

Lifetime licenses are nonrefundable and they are available for individuals only.

### LICENSES ISSUED WITHOUT A FEE\*

- Permanent angling license issued to any Minnesota Resident over age 16 who is mentally retarded or a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability.
- Annual angling and/or spearing license issued to Minnesota Residents who are blind, disabled, receiving a supplemental income (SSI, SSD), receiving worker's compensation for total and permanent disability, ward of the Commissioner of Human Services, a resident of a state institution that has an approved application, or a foreign exchange student attending school in Minnesota.

### EXEMPT FROM LICENSE REQUIREMENT \*

- Minnesota residents in the U.S. Military who are stationed outside the state.
- Patients of a state hospital or U.S. Veterans Administration hospital, inmates of a state correctional facility, residents of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home, and residents of a licensed board and lodging facility.
- Persons who are enrolled in and regularly participate in an adult day care program of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home.
- Residents of a drug or alcohol residential treatment program who are under the age of 20.
- Residents who receive aid under the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 (U.S. Code Title 45, section 228b (a5)) or receive U.S. Postal Service disability pay under U.S. Code Title 5, section 8337.

Military staff must carry leave or furlough papers. Railroad and Postal Service exemptions must carry evidence of disability retirement. All other persons listed as exempt must carry written consent from the superintendent or chief executive of the institution. An unlicensed person may assist a disabled angler who has a disability license, provided that only the lawful lines are in use.

\* Trout stamp not required.

### Trout Stamp

Trout stamp validations are printed on the ELS license. This is the only verification you need to prove purchase of the trout stamp. If you wish to receive an actual pictorial stamp (no longer required if you have the stamp validation on your license), you must request it at time of purchase and pay an additional \$2 processing fee.

Except as noted, anglers need a trout stamp validation and a fishing or sports license when fishing in designated trout streams, designated

trout lakes, Lake Superior, and when in possession of trout or salmon. Trout stamps are not required for children less than 16 years old, adults who are 65 and older, people fishing with a 24-hour license, or people who are exempted from fishing license requirements or who receive a fishing license at no charge.

For short-term licenses, anglers may choose any consecutive dates. Agents charge an issuing fee for each license and stamp sold.

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

### Residents

- To qualify as a resident, a person must maintain a legal residence in Minnesota for at least 60 consecutive days before purchasing a license.
- A nonresident under age 21 and has a parent who is a Minnesota resident, can buy a resident license.
- All residents age 16 or older must have the appropriate license on their person when fishing. Exceptions: Mothers on Take A Mom Fishing Weekend (May 8-9) and adults accompanying children under age 16 on Take A Kid Fishing Weekend (June 11-13) may fish without a license on those dates.
- All residents age 15 and younger are allowed to take their own limit of fish.

### Nonresidents

- All nonresidents age 16 and older are required to have an appropriate fishing license while angling. Nonresidents under age 16 don't need a license if an accompanying parent or guardian is licensed. Children of an adult who has a Minnesota nonresident family license may possess their own limit of fish. However, if the adult has an individual license, the child's fish are included as part of the adult's limit. Nonresidents under age 16 may purchase a license and possess their own limit of fish.
- Nonresident full-time students spending the full term of a school year in Minnesota can purchase a resident license upon presenting proof of their student status. Foreign exchange students attending school in Minnesota may receive a free angling license upon presenting proof of their exchange student status.
- Nonresidents in the U.S. military who have officially transferred to or are in training in Minnesota are eligible for resident fishing licenses.

### License Revocation

If, within a three-year period, you are convicted of two fishing violations, your fishing privileges will be revoked for one year. Violations of fishing laws in other states may affect your fishing privileges in Minnesota.

Under the gross over limits penalty provisions, your license privileges can be revoked for three or five years, depending on the number of fish involved in the violation.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

The following regulations apply to all Minnesota waters unless noted otherwise in this booklet.

### Possessing and Transporting Fish

- Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted. Fish are in an angler's possession whether on hand, in cold storage, in transport, or elsewhere.
- ☞ • Once a limit of fish has been reduced to possession, no culling or live well sorting of that species is allowed.
- Fish must be transported in a way that they can be counted and the species of each fish can be identified. If statewide length limits apply to the species, the head and tail must be intact so the fish can be measured. For northern pike and walleye, see pages 61–62.
- ☞ • While on waters with size restrictions, all fish for which the size restriction applies must have their heads, tails, fins, and skin intact and be measurable; except when a watercraft is docked or moored to shore and the person is in the act of preparing the fish for a meal.
- It is illegal for anglers to transport live fish, including in livewells of trailered boats. The only exception is for purposes of display in a home aquarium. Here are the conditions: You can purchase game fish from an authorized licensee and transport the fish live if you have the necessary documents (such as a sales receipt), or, if you are age 16 or under, you may transport—if you've legally caught them by angling—largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, black crappie, white crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, orange spotted sunfish, and black, yellow, and brown bullhead. No more than four of each species may be transported at any one time, and any individual fish can be no longer than 10 inches in total length. At no time may water from infested waters be transported.
- It is illegal for anyone to have in possession, regardless of where taken, any fish outside the legal length limits for that species while on or fishing that water body.
- ☞ • A person who is in transit and taking the most direct route back to their lodging or docking, and not fishing, may possess fish outside of or in excess of the limits for that water body, if legally taken from a connected water.
- ☞ • Possessing or transporting white perch, ruffe, round goby, black carp, bighead carp, grass carp, or silver carp is unlawful, except when taking them to the DNR.

### Angling Methods

- Anglers may use only one hook. An artificial lure is considered one hook. A treble hook, when not part of an artificial lure, is considered three hooks and is not legal. The exceptions are: Three artificial flies

- may be used when angling for trout, crappie, sunfish, and rock bass.
- Anglers may use only one line. The exceptions are:
    - a) Two lines may be used through the ice (other than on designated trout lakes and streams); and b) Two lines may be used on Lake Superior when more than 100 yards from the point where a tributary stream or river enters the lake.
  - Using whole or parts of game fish, goldfish, or carp for bait is unlawful.
  - You may not intentionally fish for any species during its closed season.
  - Angling with an unattended line, setline, or trotline is unlawful.
  - Using an artificial light to lure or attract fish, or to see fish when spearing, is unlawful. Exception: While angling, a person may affix to the end of a fishing line a lighted artificial bait with hooks attached. Any battery that is used in lighted fishing lures cannot contain any intentionally introduced mercury.
  - A party is defined as a group of two or more persons:
    - 1) angling from a single watercraft; or
    - 2) if not in a watercraft, maintaining unaided visual **and** vocal contact with each other. The total number of fish possessed by the party may not exceed the combined limits of the numbers of the party. Each party member may transport only an individual limit of fish.
  - The use of explosives, firearms, chemicals (not including fish scents), or electricity for taking fish is unlawful.
  - It is unlawful to intentionally take a fish by snagging.

## Other

- Transplanting aquatic plants, placing exotic species, applying chemicals and some types of cutting to control vegetation in any public waters requires a permit. (See page 60 for more information).
- Dragging boat anchors or other weights with a motor-propelled boat through aquatic vegetation is unlawful.
- Depositing fish entrails or fish parts into public waters or onto lake or stream shores is prohibited.
- Littering of any materials and depositing rubbish, poisonous substances, or chemicals harmful to aquatic life into public waters, onto ice, or lake or stream shores is illegal. Fish line and various packaging materials can be harmful to wildlife.
- Marking or tagging fish and then releasing them without a DNR permit is unlawful.
- A DNR permit is required for any fishing contest where entry fees are over \$25, prizes exceed \$25,000, or when participants exceed 30 for open water and 150 for ice fishing. See web site or call DNR Information Center for more information.
- A permit from the county sheriff is required for most organized events on the water or ice.
- Buying or selling game fish, whitefish, or cisco is unlawful. The exceptions are smelt and fish obtained under a commercial, private hatchery, or aquatic farm license.

- Transporting and stocking live fish or fish eggs or transferring fish or fish eggs from one body of water to another is prohibited without a DNR permit.
- Some fish spawning areas are posted to prohibit motorized boat travel. Landowners or lessees adjacent to these areas may use the shortest and most direct route when traveling to and from their property, provided they operate their boat at no more than 5 mph.
- Importing live minnows into Minnesota for use as bait is unlawful.
- **Notice to Fall Fishermen:** Lakes classified as Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas and Wildlife Management Areas are closed to motorboats as posted during the fall waterfowl hunting season. Refer to the most current hunting regulations for a complete list of these lakes. Please give resting flocks of birds and hunting decoys a wide berth when boating and fishing.
- Some ponds and lakes are licensed for private aquaculture use. If you trespass to gain access to these waters for fishing, you may be in violation of fishing laws in addition to trespassing laws.
- Any fish that is caught and will not be utilized must be returned alive back into the water. A person cannot wantonly waste a fish that is caught by leaving it or any usable portion on the ice, thrown up on the bank, or intentionally killing it and returning it back into the water unless authorized.

## For Your Information

### GET THE LEAD OUT

Lead is a toxic heavy metal that can harm fish and wildlife. In response to growing awareness and concern, the tackle industry has begun to create non-toxic sinkers.

#### What you can do to help:

- Switch to non-toxic sinkers and jigs that are made from steel, tin, bismuth, or plastic.
- Ask local sporting good stores to stock non-lead fishing tackle.
- Spread the word by telling other anglers about the problem.
- Dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs properly by locating a drop-off location.



## Tax time is your time to help wildlife

Look for the line with the loon on your Minnesota tax form and donate to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff. It's fast, easy, and tax deductible. Be part of a wildlife success story.



## SEASONS AND LIMITS FOR INLAND WATERS

- All calendar dates are for 2004 unless noted otherwise.
- Daily and possession limits are the same unless otherwise noted.
- Most species have experimental or special regulations on some waters. See pages 27–44.
- For Canada, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota border water regulations, see pages 46–54.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>WALLEYE</b> and <b>SAUGER</b> (either or combined)	May 15, 2004- Feb. 20, 2005	6* (Not more than 1 walleye over 24" may be taken each day.)
*(Minimum size limit 15" for walleyes on the inland waters of Pool 3 [dam at Hastings to railroad tracks on the Minnesota—Wisconsin border]).		
<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	May 15, 2004- Feb. 20, 2005	3 (Not more than 1 over 30" may be taken each day.)
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b> including <b>HYBRID</b> <b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>	June 5, 2004- Feb. 20, 2005	1*
*Minimum size limit for both species: 40". Exception: Minimum size is 30" in Shoepac Lake in Voyageurs National Park (St. Louis County).		
<b>LARGEMOUTH</b> and <b>SMALLMOUTH</b> <b>BASS</b> (either or combined)	May 29, 2004- Feb. 20, 2005 (May 15, 2004- Feb. 20, 2005, north and east of U.S. Hwy. 53 from Duluth to Inter- national Falls and Pelican and Ash lakes in St. Louis County.)	6 (No harvest of smallmouth bass is allowed from September 13, 2004 through the end of the season. All smallmouth bass taken during this period must be immediately returned to the water.)
<b>CRAPPIE</b>	Continuous	10
<b>SUNFISH*</b> (either or combined) *(bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orange-spotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	20
<b>ROCK BASS</b>	Continuous	30
<b>WHITE BASS</b>	Continuous	30

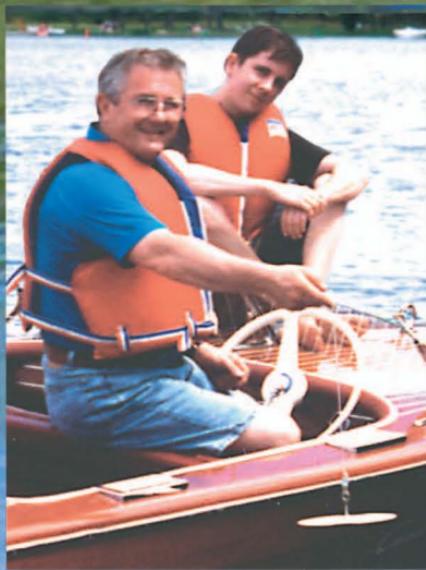
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SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
<b>CHANNEL and FLATHEAD CATFISH</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	5 (Only 1 fish over 24". Not more than 2 can be flathead.)
<b>PERCH</b>	Continuous	20 daily and 40 in possession
<b>BULLHEAD</b>	Continuous	100
<b>WHITEFISH and UNDER-UTILIZED FISH*</b>	Continuous	No limit
<i>Exception:</i> Whitefish limit on Leech Lake Indian Reservation is 25 and cisco is 50. *Under-utilized fish include: carp, buffalo, sucker, sheepshead, bowfin, burbot, cisco, gar, goldeye, and redhorse.		
<b>SMELT</b>	Continuous	No limit
<b>LAKE STURGEON or SHOVELNOSE STURGEON</b>	Closed	
See Border Waters section (pages 48, 50, 52, 54) for other sturgeon waters.		
<b>PADDLEFISH</b>	No open season	
<b>LAKE TROUT</b> Summer, statewide	May 15-Sept. 30	2
<b>Winter</b> , lakes outside or partly outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) and exceptions (including Clearwater, Magnetic, Ram, Saganaga, Seagull, East Bearskin, and Snowbank Lakes)	Jan. 17, 2004-March 15, 2004 and Jan. 15, 2005-March 15, 2005	2
<b>Winter</b> , lakes entirely within the BWCA	Jan. 3, 2004-March 31, 2004 and Jan. 1, 2005-March 31, 2005	2

### OPENER DATES for Walleye, Bass, and Muskie

Opener	Walleye	Bass	Muskie
<b>2005</b>	May 14	May 28	June 4
<b>2006</b>	May 13	May 27	June 3

# Wanted: Volunteer Water Quality Monitors



To be a volunteer lake or stream monitor takes little time and effort, yet yields a wealth of information about the health of our waters.



**GET HOOKED**

On Volunteer Monitoring

**Make a difference now and for future anglers.**

Call 1-800-657-3864 and sign up today.

[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)



Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency

## STREAM TROUT

The following regulations apply only to *stream trout* (splake, brook, brown, and rainbow trout) in inland lakes and streams. They *do not* include *lake trout*, which are listed under Inland Waters, (page 19). **Lake Superior Tributaries (page 23) and Experimental and Special Regulations (pages 27–44) are also not covered in this section.**

Calendar dates refer to 2004 unless noted otherwise.

Daily and possession limits are the same.

### Streams

STREAM TROUT	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
STREAM TROUT	<b>Statewide except Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha, and Goodhue counties.</b>		
	Apr. 17-Sept. 30	5 combined	Not more than 1 over 16"
STREAM TROUT	<b>Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha, and Goodhue counties</b>		
	Apr. 1-16	Catch and release only; barbless hooks only	
	Apr. 17-Sept. 14	5 combined	Not more than 1 over 16"
	Sept. 15-Sept. 30	Catch and release only; barbless hooks only	

### Lakes (summer)

STREAM TROUT	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
STREAM TROUT	<b>Statewide</b>		
	May 15-Oct. 31	5 combined	Not more than 3 over 16"

*continued on next page*



## Lakes (winter)

STREAM TROUT cont.	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
	<b>Outside or partly outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and exceptions, which include Ram, Lizz, and Meditation Lakes</b>		
	Jan. 17, 2004- March 15, 2004 and Jan. 15, 2005- March 15, 2005	5 combined	Not more than 3 over 16"
	<b>Entirely within the BWCA</b>		
	Jan. 3, 2004- March 31, 2004 and Jan. 1, 2005- March 31, 2005	5 combined	Not more than 3 over 16"
	<b>Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties</b>		
	Season closed on lakes in these counties. Does not include lake trout.		

## Stream Trout Regulations

- Fishing hours for stream trout on inland waters are from one hour before sunrise to 11 p.m.
- Only one line is allowed winter or summer when fishing on designated stream trout lakes (listed in the DNR's "Guide to Lakes Managed for Stream Trout") and designated trout streams.
- Possessing live minnows, not including leeches, or using them for bait on designated stream trout lakes is prohibited. Only dried, frozen, or pickled (brined) minnows are allowed. Live leeches are legal to use.
- Angling for any species in designated trout waters during the closed trout season is prohibited.
- 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.
- Rough fish may not be taken by spear, harpoon, archery, or dip net in designated trout lakes or streams.
- The list of Designated Trout Lakes and Streams can be found on the DNR web page.

\* "Stream trout" are defined as brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, and splake in both lakes and streams.

## SEASONS AND LIMITS FOR LAKE SUPERIOR AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The following regulations have been expanded to clarify for anglers the fishing seasons and limits for the variety of coldwater fish in Lake Superior and the streams and rivers flowing into it.

Daily and possession limits are the same.

All other species not named are subject to inland regulations.

Posted upstream boundaries on Lake Superior tributaries generally define the areas accessible to anadromous trout and salmon. The boundaries, as well as fish sanctuary areas, are marked with signs.

☞ (See DNR web site for boundaries map and north shore fishing guide.)

### BROOK TROUT AND SPLAKE COMBINED

Open Season

Possession Limit

Aggregate Limit  
with Brown and  
Rainbow Trout

Size Limit

LAKE SUPERIOR & TRIBUTARIES	Open Season	Possession Limit	Aggregate Limit with Brown and Rainbow Trout	Size Limit
<b>Lake Superior Tributaries in Carlton County</b> ( <i>including Nemadji River system and all its tributaries</i> )	April 17– Sept. 30	10	10	Only 1 over 16"
<b>St. Louis River and its Tributaries</b> <i>upstream of Fond du Lac Dam</i>	April 17– Sept. 30	5	5	Only 1 over 16"
<b>Lake Superior and other Tributaries</b> ( <i>not mentioned above</i> ) <b>below posted boundaries</b> ( <i>including St. Louis River below the Minnesota Highway 23 bridge</i> )	April 17– Sept. 6	1	5	Minimum size limit: 20"
<b>Other Lake Superior Tributaries</b> <i>above posted boundaries</i>	April 17– Sept. 30	10	10	Only 1 over 16"

*continued on next page*

## RAINBOW TROUT, INCLUDING STEELHEAD

LAKE SUPERIOR & TRIBUTARIES cont.		<i>Open Season</i>	<i>Possession Limit</i>	<i>Aggregate Limit with Brown and Brook Trout, and Splake</i>	<i>Size Limit</i>
	<b>Lake Superior Tributaries in Carlton County</b> (including Nemadji River system and all its tributaries)				
<b>Clipped Fish*</b>	Continuous	3	10	Minimum size limit: 16"	
<b>Unclipped Fish*</b>	Continuous	Catch and release only			
<b>Lake Superior and other Tributaries below posted boundaries</b> (including St. Louis River below Minnesota Highway 23 bridge)					
<b>Clipped Fish*</b>	Continuous	3	5	Minimum size limit: 16"	
<b>Unclipped Fish*</b>	Continuous	Catch and release only			
<b>Lake Superior Tributaries above posted boundaries</b>	April 17– Sept. 30	Catch and release only			

\*Clipped fish have their adipose fin removed and must show a healed scar (see illustration on page XX).

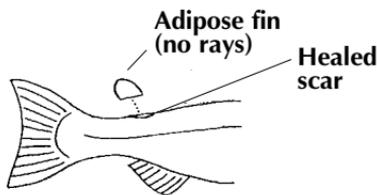
## BROWN TROUT

LAKE SUPERIOR & TRIBUTARIES cont.		<i>Open Season</i>	<i>Possession Limit</i>	<i>Aggregate Limit with Brown and Brook Trout, and Splake</i>	<i>Size Limit</i>
	<b>Lake Superior Tributaries in Carlton County</b> (including Nemadji River system and all its tributaries)	April 17– Sept. 30	5	10	Only 1 over 16"
<b>St. Louis River and its Tributaries upstream of Fond du Lac Dam</b>	April 17– Sept. 30	5	5	Only 1 over 16"	
<b>Lake Superior and other Tributaries below posted boundaries</b> (including St. Louis River below the Minnesota Highway 23 bridge)	Continuous	5	5	Only 1 over 16" Min. size limit 10"	
<b>Lake Superior Tributaries above posted boundaries</b>	April 17– Sept. 30	5	10	Only 1 over 16"	

SEASONS FOR LAKE SUPERIOR AND ITS TRIBUTARIES BELOW POSTED BOUNDARIES		
SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
LAKE TROUT	Dec. 1, 2003- Sept. 30, 2004 and Dec. 1, 2004- Sept. 30, 2005	3
CHINOOK COHO, PINK ATLANTIC SALMON	Continuous	5 combined, (only 1 can be an Atlantic salmon) min. size limit: 10"
WALLEYE	May 15, 2004- March 1, 2005	2, minimum size 15"
NORTHERN PIKE	May 15, 2004- March 1, 2005	2
SMELT	Continuous	No Limit

## Regulations

- Two lines may be used on Lake Superior, except only one is allowed within 100 yards from where a tributary stream enters the lake. Also, only one line may be used in tributary streams.
- Anglers are restricted to a single hook only—no treble hooks—on Lake Superior tributary streams and rivers up to the posted boundaries. Exceptions are the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton Counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).
- Angling hours on Lake Superior tributaries below the posted boundaries are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Exceptions are the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton Counties) and the Pigeon River (Cook County).
- Special regulations on North Shore streams include posted sanctuaries on the Knife, Little Knife, Devil Track, and Kadunce Rivers and on Gauthier Creek. (See Experimental and Special Regulations, pages 40–41.)
- 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 below).
- From the mouth of Chester Creek to the outer most portion of the north/west arm of the Duluth ship channel is closed to fishing from boats from October 1 through November 30.



*continued on next page*



## TREATY REGULATIONS

Mille Lacs Lake and other 1837 Treaty lake regulations might change throughout the year. Treaty-related regulation changes will be posted at the access, announced in newspapers, and on the DNR web site. You can also call the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367. An 1837 Treaty regulations brochure is also available in April.

Approximately 110 fishing lakes in east-central Minnesota lie within the 1837 ceded territory. Fishing regulations might change after the Indian Bands declare their harvest goals around March 15. These changes are to ensure that the total harvest stays at a safe level. The following counties have lakes that could be affected: Aitkin, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, and Washington.

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.

## EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Experimental and special regulations are used to individually manage specific lakes or stream portions. These regulations differ from statewide or border water regulations for those species identified. **Unless otherwise specifically mentioned, all other general regulations, seasons, limits, border water regulations, possession, and transportation apply to these waters. So, please check other state regulation booklets and other sections of this booklet.**

Regulations are posted at access sites. Those lakes in the following list with a (T) are in the 1837 Treaty area, so make sure you check the accesses for any changes or additions. Your compliance is needed to ensure that these regulations are successful. The regulations help improve fishing quality, protect unique fisheries, provide additional fishing opportunities, or protect threatened species. The DNR regularly evaluates regulations to determine their success.

### Terminology

Some anglers might not be familiar with the following terms used in this synopsis:

**Tributary:** A stream or river that flows into a lake or a larger stream or river.

**Designated stream trout lakes:** These 161 waters have been stocked with trout that are native to streams: rainbow, brown, or brook trout. Some also have splake, a cross between a lake trout and a brook trout.

**Inland waters:** Lakes and rivers within Minnesota not bordering Canada or another state.

**Daily and possession limits (bags):** Total number of a certain species or combination of species that an angler may possess in one day or

indefinitely both on or off the water. Minnesota's daily limits are the same as possession limits, except for yellow perch, which is 20 daily and 40 in possession. For example, you may not have more than six walleye, including what's in the live well and in the freezer.

**Use:** General statewide limits prevent the commercialization of sport fishing and distribute the catch among anglers.

**Protected slot limit:** Prohibits harvest of fish from a designated size range. Fish within this size range must be released. For example, a 12-to-16-inch protected slot limit for bass means that all bass from 12 to 16 inches long must be released.

**Use:** Protected slot limits protect medium-sized fish so they can grow to be the larger fish anglers most enjoy catching. Protected slots are best used on lakes with fast growth and a surplus of small fish.

**Harvest slot limit:** Allows the harvest of fish from a designated size range. For example, a 14-to-18-inch harvest slot means that only fish from 14-to-18-inches may be kept. All others must be released.

**Use:** Harvest slot limits protect fish above and below the range while limiting the overall harvest.

**Minimum size limit:** Prohibits harvest of fish below some specified length and larger. For example, the statewide minimum size limit for muskellunge is 40 inches, meaning that you may not keep a muskellunge (muskie) less than 40 inches in length.

**Use:** Generally imposed to lower the total harvest in highly vulnerable populations and to reduce harvest of fish before they reach sexual maturity. This protects slow-maturing fish such as muskies, steelhead, and the lake sturgeon until they can spawn at least once.

**Maximum size limit:** Prohibits the harvest of fish from some specified length and larger. For example, a 24-inch maximum size limit for northern pike means you may not keep a northern pike that is 24 inches or larger.

**Use:** Used in situations with relatively few sexually mature adults or where large numbers of smaller fish exist and the goal is to increase growth rates.

**One-over limit:** Allows the harvest of one fish over a set limit. For example, on inland waters you can keep one walleye that is over 24 inches long.

**Use:** This limit allows the harvest of a trophy fish that an angler might catch once in a lifetime.

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**LAKES** (Make sure to also check pages 18–26, and 39–54.)

**Ada Lake** (Cass County)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Alexander Lake** (Morrison County)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Andrews Lake** (Douglas County)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Ann Lake** (Carver County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Annie Battle Lake** (Otter Tail County)

Use of gas and electric motors, aqua-views, augers, and other electronic fish-finding devices is prohibited.

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

NORTHERN PIKE and LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

BLACK CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 11". Possession limit 5.

**Annie Battle Lake Inlet (to Molly Stark Lake) and Outlet (to Blanche Lake)** (Otter Tail County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

NORTHERN PIKE and LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

BLACK CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 11". Possession limit 5.

**Ash Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Bald Eagle Lake** (Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington Counties)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**Bass Lake** (Itasca County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

**Bass Lake** (Todd County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit 2.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: Possession limit 1.

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 40". Possession limit 1.

**Basswood Lake** (Lake County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Bear Creek Reservoir** (Olmsted County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: Minimum size limit 15".

BLUEGILL: Possession limit 10. Minimum size limit 7", Nov. 1–April 30.

**Beltrami Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Big Birch Lake** (Todd and Stearns Counties)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Big Carnelian Lake** (Washington County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Big Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Big Mantrap Lake** (Hubbard County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Big Sand Lake** (Hubbard County)

WALLEYE: All from 18" through 26" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

**Big Stone Lake** (Big Stone County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit 4. Only 1 20" or larger allowed in possession.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit 10.

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Big Swan Lake** (Todd County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Birch Lake Reservoir** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Blackwater Lake** (Cass County)

BASS: Catch and release only.

**Blueberry Lake** (Wadena County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Burgen Lake** (Douglas County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Campbell Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Caribou Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Carnelian Lake** (Stearns County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Cedar Lake** (Morrison County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit 2, except 1 over 24" allowed in possession.

BLACK CRAPPIE: Possession limit 5.

NORTHERN PIKE: Possession limit 1. Minimum size limit 40".

**Center Lake, North and South** (Chisago County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Charles Lake** (Ramsey County)

Closed to fishing.

**Child Lake** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Chisago Lake** (Chisago County) (T)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Christina Lake** (Douglas and Grant Counties)

Open to winter fishing only, December 1–March 31. Closed to fishing at all other times.

**Clear Lake** (Waseca County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS and SMALLMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Clitherall Lake** (Otter Tail County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Coon-Sandwich Lake** (Itasca County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 20" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 30" allowed in a possession limit.

**Cotton Lake** (Becker County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Crane Lake including Vermilion Gorge** (St. Louis County)

WALLEYE: All less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately returned to the water, except 1 over 23" is allowed in a possession limit.

**Crawford Lake** (Wright County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit 5.

WALLEYE: Possession limit 2.

PERCH: Possession limit 10.

**Crooked Lake** (Anoka County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Crow Wing Lakes, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th** (Hubbard County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 40". Possession limit 1.

**Deep Lake** (Ramsey County)

Closed to fishing.

**Deer Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**DeMontreville Lake** (Washington County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Dudley Lake** (Rice County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30".

**Eagle Lake** (Hennepin County)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**East Battle Lake** (Otter Tail County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 22" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Elephant Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 40". Possession limit 1.

 **Elk Lake** (Clearwater County)

MUSKELLUNGE: Catch and release only.

**Farm Lake** (Lake County) Includes the North Branch Kawishiwi River from Farm Lake 4.8 miles east to the long portage.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Farm Island Lake** (Aitkin County)

WALLEYE: All from 16" through 19" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Fish Trap Lake** (Morrison County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Fladmark Lake** (Otter Tail County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

NORTHERN PIKE and LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

☞ **Flour Lake** (Cook County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

**Floyd Lake, Big and Little** (Becker County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Foster Arend Lake** (Olmsted County)

TROUT: Continuous season. Possession limit 3 with only 1 over 16".

**Fox Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Garden Lake** (Lake County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**George Lake** (Hubbard County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Girl Lake** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

☞ **Goose Lake** (Chisago County)(T)

WALLEYE: Minimum size limit 17".

**Grave Lake** (Itasca County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

☞ **Green Lake** (Chisago County)(T)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 9".

WALLEYE: Minimum size limit 17".

☞ **Green Lake** (Kandiyohi County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS and LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 14" through 21" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 21" allowed in possession.

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Gull Lake** (Cook County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit is 6, with only 1 over 19.5". All others must be immediately returned to the water.

**Hovde Lake** (Cass County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

☞ **Hungry Jack Lake** (Cook County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

**Island Lake** (near Northome) (Itasca County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Jane Lake** (Washington County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Kabetogama Lake** (St. Louis County) including Sullivan Bay and Ash River to Ash River Falls.

WALLEYE: All less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately returned to the water, except 1 over 23" is allowed in possession.

**Kelly Lake** (Rice County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30".

**Knife Lake** (Kanabec County) (T)

WALLEYE: All from 18" through 24" must be immediately returned to the water.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Lac Qui Parle Lake upstream to Marsh Lake Dam, including the Watson Sag upstream to the diversion dam** (Lac Qui Parle and Chippewa Counties)

WALLEYE: Minimum size limit 15".

**Lake of the Woods** including the Rainy River from the mouth upstream to the dam in International Falls, Baudette and Winter Road Rivers (Lake of the Woods County), and Warroad River (Roseau County).

NORTHERN PIKE: Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 40". All from 30" through 40" must be immediately returned to the water.

 **Lake Thirteen** (Cass County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Latoka Lake** (Douglas County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Little Boy Lake** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Little Cascade Lake** (Cook County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Little Mantrap Lake** (Hubbard County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All from 12" through 18" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Little McDonald Lake** (Otter Tail County)

WALLEYE: All from 18" through 26" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 26" allowed in a possession limit.

**Little Sauk Lake** (Todd County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit is 2.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: Possession limit is 1.

SUNFISH: Possession limit is 5.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit is 5.

YELLOW PERCH: Possession limit is 10.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 30".

**Little Vermilion Lake** (St. Louis County) including Loon River to Loon River Falls.

WALLEYE: All less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately returned to the water, except 1 over 23" is allowed in possession.

**Little Wolf Lake** (Cass and Hubbard Counties)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**Little Woman Lake** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Long Lake** (Aitkin County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Long Lake** (Kandiyohi County, near Hawick)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Long Lake** (Todd County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Loon Lake** (Cook County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30". Possession limit 1.

**Maple Lake** (Douglas County)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 10".

**Medicine Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 22" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 30" allowed in possession.

**Melissa Lake** (Becker County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Mille Lacs Lake including tributaries to posted boundaries** (Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs Counties) (T)

No one may fish for any species or possess fishing gear on the lake from 10 p.m. through 6 a.m. starting at 10 p.m. on May 17 and ending at 12:01 a.m. on June 14. Closed to winter spearing for all species.

**Walleye, northern pike, and tulibee: Restrictions or changes will be posted at public access sites.**

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All less than 21" must be immediately returned to the water. Possession limit 1.

**Mink Lake** (Wright County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit 5.

YELLOW PERCH: Possession limit 10.

WALLEYE: Possession limit 2.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Possession limit 1.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession. Possession or use of live minnows is prohibited.

**Minnewashta Lake** (Carver County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Minnie Belle Lake** (Meeker County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Mission Lake, Lower and Upper** (Crow Wing County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Mitchell Lake** (Crow Wing County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 40". Possession limit 1.

**Moccasin Lake** (Cass County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Moody Lake** (Crow Wing County)

Closed to fishing.

**Moose Lake** (Todd County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Movil Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

 **Mule Lake** (Cass County)

BASS: Catch and release only.

**Namakan Lake** (St. Louis County)

WALLEYE: All less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately returned to the water, except 1 over 23" allowed in possession.

**North Lida Lake** (Otter Tail County)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 11".

**North Star Lake including Little North Star Lake** (Itasca County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**North Twin Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 22" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 30" allowed in possession.

**Norway Lake** (Otter Tail County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

WALLEYE: Possession limit 3.

NORTHERN PIKE: Possession limit 1.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit 5.

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

YELLOW PERCH: Possession limit 10.

**Olson Lake** (Washington County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Osakis Lake** (Douglas and Todd Counties)

WALLEYE: Minimum size limit 15".

**Otter Tail Lake** (Otter Tail County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30". Possession limit 1.

**Owasso Lake** (Ramsey County)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**Ox Yoke Lake** (Cass County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Pelican Lake** (St. Louis County)

LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS: All from 14" through 20" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 32" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 32" allowed in possession.

**Pierz (Fish) Lake** (Morrison County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Pike Lake** (Cook County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All 11" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Pimushe Lake** (Beltrami County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Pine Lake, Big and Little** (Otter Tail County)

WALLEYE: All from 18" through 26" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

**Plantaganette Lake** (Hubbard County)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**Pleasant Lake** (Ramsey County)

Closed to fishing.

**Pleasant Lake** (Stearns County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Portage Lake** (Cass County, north of Ten Mile Lake)

LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Prairie Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30". Possession limit 1.

**Rabbit Lakes, Big and East Big** (Crow Wing County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Rachel Lake and Little Rachel Lake** (Douglas County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**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 Counties)

WALLEYE and SAUGER: Possession limit of 8 (Not more than 4 can be walleye; fish from 17" through 28" must be immediately released; only one walleye over 28" allowed in possession.

**Rebecca Lake** (Hennepin County)

MUSKELLUNGE: Minimum size limit 48".

**Red Lake, Upper and its tributaries** (Beltrami County)

WALLEYE: Closed to the taking of walleye. It is unlawful to have any walleye in possession regardless of where taken while on or fishing this water.

**Reeds Lake** (Waseca County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30".

**Round Lake** (Crow Wing County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30". Possession limit 1.

**Saganaga Lake** (Cook County)

WALLEYE: Possession limit 6, with only 1 over 19.5".

**Sallie Lake** (Becker County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 24" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Sanburn Lake** (Cass County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

**Sand Point Lake** (St. Louis County)

WALLEYE: All less than 13" or larger than 17" must be immediately returned to the water, except 1 over 23" is allowed in possession.

**Shamaineau Lake** (Morrison County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Sissabagamah Lake** (Aitkin County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 20" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 30" allowed in possession.

**Somers Lake** (Wright County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 5.

CRAPPIE: Possession limit 5.

YELLOW PERCH: Possession limit 10.

WALLEYE: Possession limit 2.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Possession limit 1.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

Possession or use of live minnows is prohibited.

**South Farm Lake** (Lake County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**South Lida Lake** (Otter Tail County)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 11".

**South Lindstrom Lake** (Chisago County) (T)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Spider Lake** (Hubbard County)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 10".

**Square Lake** (Washington County)

TROUT: All must be immediately returned to the water from May 15 through June 11 and from October 1 through October 31. Remainder of the summer and winter seasons the possession limit for trout is 2.

**St. Olaf Lake** (Waseca County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Minimum size limit 30".

**Stieger Lake** (Carver County)

NORTHERN PIKE and LARGEMOUTH BASS:

All must be immediately returned to the water.

 **Stony Lake** (Cass County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

**Sturgeon Lake** (Pine County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 20" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Ten Mile Lake** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All 20" and larger must be immediately returned to the water.

**Ten Mile Lake, North and South** (Otter Tail County)

LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS: Minimum size limit 21". Possession limit 1.

**Three Island Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Thrush Lake** (Cook County)

TROUT: Possession limit of 1, with a minimum size of 18". Artificial lures and flies with single hook only. Closed to winter fishing.

**Turnip Lake** (Cook County)

TROUT: Possession limit of 1, with a minimum size of 18". Artificial lures and flies with single hook only. Closed to winter fishing.

**Turtle Lake** (Ramsey County)

LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

**Turtle, Big & Little Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Turtle River Lake** (Beltrami County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Twenty One Lake** (Otter Tail County)

SUNFISH: Possession limit 10.

NORTHERN PIKE and LARGEMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water.

 **Two Island Lake** (Cook County)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All 12" and larger must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 20" allowed in possession.

**Unnamed Lake (Louise/Pothole)** (Cass County located between Wabedo and Little Boy)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Venstrom Lake** (Otter Tail County)

CRAPPIE: Minimum size limit 11".

**Vermilion Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Wabedo Lake** (Cass County) Including Unnamed Lake between Wabedo and Little Boy.

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Waconia Lake** (Carver County)

WALLEYE: Minimum size 16".

**West Battle Lake** (Otter Tail County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**White Iron Lake** (St. Louis County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**Wilkins Lake** (Aitkin County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 20" through 30" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 30" allowed in a possession limit.

**Wilkinson Lake** (Anoka and Ramsey Counties)

Closed to fishing.

**Winnibigoshish Lake and connected waters: 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, Raven Flowage to Raven Lake, and Sugar Lake** (Beltrami, Cass and Itasca Counties)

WALLEYE: All from 17" through 26" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 26" allowed in possession.

**Woman** (Cass County)

NORTHERN PIKE: All from 24" through 36" must be immediately returned to the water. Only 1 over 36" allowed in possession.

**STREAMS AND RIVERS** (Make sure to check pages 18–26, 28–39, and 46–54.)

**Ash River:** See page 32.

**Baudette River** (Lake of the Woods County)

NORTHERN PIKE: Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 40". All from 30" through 40" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Beaver Creek** (Wabasha and Winona Counties)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on the entire stream, a 6.3-mile posted section from the mouth to the source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Beaver Creek, West** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1.9-mile posted section from the point where West Beaver Creek joins East Beaver Creek in Beaver Creek Valley State Park upstream to the posted boundary. All hooks must be barbless.

**Bee Creek** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1.6-mile posted section beginning at the Minnesota State Line in the town of Bee, Minnesota continuing upstream to the posted boundary at a driveway crossing. All hooks must be barbless.

**Camp Creek** (Fillmore County)

BROWN TROUT: All from 12" through 16" in length must be immediately returned to the water on the posted section from the mouth upstream 3.5 miles. All hooks must be barbless.

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on posted section from mouth upstream 3.5 miles. All hooks must be barbless.

**South Branch, formerly Canfield Creek** (Fillmore County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on the entire stream (Forestville State Park). All hooks must be barbless.

**Cold Spring Brook** (Wabasha County)

BROOK TROUT: Minimum size limit 12". Possession limit 1. All hooks must be barbless.

**Coolridge Creek** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 0.13-mile posted section beginning at the point where Coolridge Creek enters Pine Creek and continuing upstream to the posted boundary. All hooks must be barbless.

**Crooked Creek** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 6.4-mile posted section beginning at the first township bridge crossing approximately 1 mile upstream of Freeburg, Minnesota and continuing upstream to the posted boundary near the source approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the uppermost Hwy. 249 bridge crossing. All hooks must be barbless.

**Crooked Creek, South Fork** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1.43-mile posted section beginning at the junction with Crooked Creek and continuing upstream to the posted boundary downstream of the reservoir. All hooks must be barbless.

**Daley Creek** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 2.5-mile posted section beginning upstream of the Hwy16 crossing and continuing upstream to the posted boundary at the township road crossing (fourth stream crossing). All hooks must be barbless.

**Devil Track River** (Cook County)

FISH SANCTUARY: Mile 1.1 to Mile 1.6 open to fishing from June 1 through August 31 only.

**Diamond Creek** (Fillmore County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 5.25-mile posted section beginning at the third stream crossing upstream of the Hwy16 bridge continuing upstream to the source of both branches. All hooks must be barbless.

**Duschee Creek** (Fillmore County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on the posted section from mouth upstream 5.5 miles. All hooks must be barbless.

**Eagle Creek** (Scott County)

TROUT: Catch and release only.

**East Beaver Creek** (Houston County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on entire stream (Beaver Creek Valley State Park). All hooks must be barbless.

**Ferguson Creek** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1.25-mile posted section beginning where Ferguson Creek enters Rush Creek and continuing upstream to the posted boundary at the spring source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Garvin Brook** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1-mile posted section beginning at Arches (Farmers) Park and continuing downstream to the posted point at the end of State Forest land. All hooks must be barbless.

**Gauthier Creek** (Cook County)

FISH SANCTUARY: Entire stream open to fishing from June 1 through August 31 only.

**Gribben Creek** (Fillmore County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 3.8-mile posted section beginning at the Hwy 16 bridge and continuing upstream to the source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Hay Creek** (Goodhue County)

TROUT: All must be immediately returned to the water on 4.2-mile posted section. Winter season: Catch-and-release only January 1 to March 31 on a 7.6-mile posted section, beginning at the 325th Street bridge and continuing downstream to the posted end point at the boundary of State Forest land in Section 12. All hooks must be barbless.

**Hemmingway Creek** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 0.83-mile posted section beginning where Hemmingway Creek enters Pine Creek and continuing upstream to the posted boundary where the State Forest land ends. All hooks must be barbless.

**Kadunce River** (Cook County)

FISH SANCTUARY: Mile 0.2 (lower falls) to Mile 0.4 open to fishing from June 1 through August 31 only.

**Knife River** (St. Louis and Lake Counties)

FISH SANCTUARY: River and tributaries upstream from Lake County Road 9 open to fishing from May 15 through September 30 only. The river between the cables upstream of the U.S. Highway 61 bridge open to fishing from June 1 through August 31. U.S. Highway 61 bridge downstream to the cable below the fish trap is permanently closed to fishing.

**Little Knife River** (St. Louis County)

FISH SANCTUARY: From the weir upstream to the source, fishing is allowed from June 1 through August 31 only.

**Main Branch Whitewater River** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 11.9-mile posted section beginning at the Wabasha-Winona County line and continuing upstream to the confluence of the Middle and North branches of the Whitewater River. All hooks must be barbless.

**Middle Branch Whitewater** (Winona and Olmsted Counties)

TROUT: All must be immediately returned to the water on 3.3-mile posted section from the junction of the tributary that is 1/4 mile upstream of the Olmsted County Road 107 bridge crossing to the source. Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 11.2-mile posted section from the mouth upstream to the Olmsted County Road 9 bridge crossing. All hooks must be barbless.

**Mississippi River Valley** (Ramsey, Washington, Hennepin, and Dakota Counties)

WALLEYE, SAUGER, SMALLMOUTH BASS, and LARGEMOUTH BASS:

All must be immediately returned to the water 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 Lake, Pickerel Lake, Upper Lake, Little Pigs Eye Lake, and North Star Steel Lake.

**Mississippi River** (Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: From the confluence of the Crow River upstream to the St. Cloud Dam, the possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 20".

All from 12" through 20" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Mississippi River Pools 5, 5A, and 8** (Wabasha, Houston, and Winona Counties)

SUNFISH: Possession limit is 10.

**Money Creek, West Branch** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 3.14-mile posted section beginning approximately 1,000 feet above the County Road 19 stream crossing and continuing to the posted boundary at the spring source. All hooks must be barbless.

**North Branch Creek** (Fillmore County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 on the entire stream, a 2.59-mile posted section from the mouth within Forestville State Park to the source. All hooks must be barbless.

**North Branch Whitewater River** (Wabasha, Olmsted, and Winona Counties)

BROWN TROUT: All from 12" through 16" in length must be immediately returned to the water from the second low-water crossing upstream from Elba to the river's source. All hooks must be barbless.

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31 on a 7.7-mile posted section from the mouth upstream to the confluence of Logan Creek. All hooks must be barbless.

**North Branch Kawishiwi River** (Lake County) See page 31.**Otter Tail River** (Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties)

SMALLMOUTH BASS: All must be immediately returned to the water from Wilkin County Road 19 crossing upstream to the Friberg Dam including all impoundments.

**Pine Creek** (Winona County)

TROUT: Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 5.6 mile posted section beginning where Pine Creek enters Rush Creek and continuing upstream beyond the point where Hemmingway Creek enters Pine Creek to the posted boundary where the State Forest land ends. All hooks must be barbless.

**Rainy River to the dam at International Falls and the Warroad, Baudette, and Winter Road Rivers (tributaries to Lake of the Woods)** (Lake of the Woods, Koochiching and Roseau Counties)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 40". All from 30" through 40" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Rainy River:** See pages 33 and 36.

**Rat Root River:** See page 36.

**Red Lake Tributaries:** See page 36.

**Rush Creek** (Winona County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 6.4-mile posted section beginning at the southernmost County Road 25 bridge crossing and continuing upstream to the posted boundary (north section line, section 18). All hooks must be barbless.

**Sea Gull River** (Cook County)

**WALLEYE:** Possession limit is 6, with only 1 over 19.5" All others must be immediately returned to the water.

**South Branch Root River** (Fillmore County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season January 1 through March 31 from the mouth to the dam in Lanesboro, and from the historic bridge (Meighen's Store) in Forestville State Park upstream to the park boundary. All hooks must be barbless.

**South Branch Whitewater River** (Winona County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release from January 1 through March 31 on a 3.8-mile posted section from the mouth to 1 mile upstream of the closed County Road 112 bridge crossing. All hooks must be barbless.

**St. Louis River** (St. Louis County)

**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 Hwy. 23 bridge from February 28 through May 18.

**South Fork Root River** (Fillmore County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, beginning at the junction where Nepstad (Shattuck) Creek enters South Fork Root River and continuing upstream 7.6-miles to the upper boundary of the Hvoself W.M.A. All hooks must be barbless.

**Swedes Bottom Creek** (Houston County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1-mile posted section beginning at the township road bridge and continuing upstream to the spring source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Torkelson Creek** (Fillmore County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on the 2.1-mile posted section beginning where Torkelson enters the North Branch Root River continuing upstream to the spring source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Trout Run Creek** (Winona and Fillmore Counties)

**BROWN TROUT:** All from 12" through 16" in length must be immediately returned to the water on the entire stream. All hooks must be barbless.

**Trout Run Creek** (Winona County Whitewater State Park)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1-mile posted section beginning at the mouth and continuing upstream to the end of State Park property. All hooks must be barbless.

**Trout Valley Creek** (Winona County)

**BROOK TROUT:** Minimum size limit 12". Possession limit 1. All hooks must be barbless.

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on a 1.25-mile posted section beginning at the uppermost Winona County Road 31 bridge crossing and continuing downstream to the next Winona County Road 31 bridge. All hooks must be barbless.

**Vermilion Gorge:** See page 31.**Warroad River** (Roseau County)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 40". All from 30" through 40" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Watson Sag:** See page 33.**West Indian Creek** (Wabasha County)

**BROWN TROUT:** All from 12" through 16" in length must be immediately returned to the water from the upstream Wabasha County Road 4 crossing to the source. All hooks must be barbless.

**Winnibigoshish connected waters:** See page 38.**Winter Road River** (Lake of the Woods County)

**NORTHERN PIKE:** Possession limit is 3, with only 1 over 40". All from 30" through 40" must be immediately returned to the water.

**Wisel Creek** (Fillmore County)

**TROUT:** Winter catch-and-release season from January 1 through March 31, on the 4.0-mile posted section beginning at County Road 18 bridge (Chickentown Bridge) and continuing downstream to the junction with the South Fork of the Root River. All hooks must be barbless.

**Zumbro River** (Wabasha County)

**SMALLMOUTH BASS:** All must be immediately returned to the water along a 12-mile posted section from the Highway 63 bridge at Zumbro Falls upstream to, and including, its plunge pool below Zumbro Lake Dam.

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## BORDER WATERS

When Minnesota's fishing regulations differ from the bordering state's regulations, Minnesota residents and persons fishing under a Minnesota non-resident license must comply with the Minnesota regulations and may not exercise more liberal fishing privileges in the waters of the bordering state. Anglers can only exercise more liberal fishing privileges in Minnesota waters. The exception is fish houses, which do not need to be licensed if the bordering state does not require a license. Currently, Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota do not require a fish house license. **So, please check other state regulation booklets and the Experimental and Special Regulations section of this booklet (pages 27–44) for different regulations that might apply.**

Minnesota has a reciprocal agreement with each of its bordering states: Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Residents of Minnesota or a bordering state may fish throughout the waters bordering the two states only if they possess a valid resident license from their resident state. Lake Superior is not covered under this agreement (see page 23). Nonresident anglers who have a nonresident license from either Minnesota or the bordering state may also fish throughout the border waters between the two states. Anglers may launch and fish from either shore and may transport their catch by the most direct route to the state in which they are licensed. This includes children who are not required to have a license.

Unless otherwise specifically mentioned in this section, all general regulations relating to angling methods, licensing, seasons, limits, possession and transportation of fish, apply to border waters (see pages 14–22 and 61–62). While on or fishing these waters, all fish must be within the specified length limits regardless of where caught.

### Dates

All calendar dates refer to 2004 unless noted otherwise.

### Licensing

**Minnesota-Canada Border Waters:** Anglers who have a Minnesota resident or nonresident license may fish only the Minnesota portion of Canada's border waters.

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## CANADA-MINNESOTA

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

**Cook County:** Clove Lake, Devil's Elbow Lake, North Fowl Lake, South Fowl Lake, Gneiss (Round) Lake, Granite Lake, Granite River, Gunflint Lake, Little Gunflint Lake, Lily Lake, Magnetic Lake, Maraboeuf 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 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), 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.



SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
Rainy Lake	Continuous	3 (Only 1 over 28".)
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>	June 19–Nov. 30	1 (Minimum size 40".)
<b>LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	6
<b>LAKE STURGEON</b>	April 24–May 7 and July 1–Sept. 30	1 per license year (Fish must be 45-50 inches, inclusive, or over 75 inches.) Immediately upon reducing a fish to possession, you must sign and date your angling license.
	May 8–May 16 and October 1, 2004– April 23, 2005	Catch and release only.
<b>CRAPPIE</b>	Continuous	10
<b>LAKE TROUT</b>	May 15–Sept. 30	2
Lakes outside or partly outside the BWCA and exceptions (See pg. 00)	Jan. 17, 2004– March 15, 2004 and Jan. 15, 2005– March 15, 2005	2
Lakes within the BWCA	Jan. 3– March 31, 2004 and Jan. 1, 2005– March 31, 2005	2
<b>STREAM TROUT</b>	May 1–Sept. 30	5 (Not more than 3 over 16".)
<b>ALL OTHER SPECIES</b>	Continuous	Inland limits apply

### CAN–MN Regulations

- One line per angler is allowed, except two lines may be used when ice fishing.
- Saganaga Narrows, Seagull River, Gull Lake and Cross River from Cook County Road 12 to Gunflint Lake closed to fishing April 1–May 28, 2004.
- Saganaga Falls (Granite River mouth) and the channel between Little Gunflint and Little North lakes closed to fishing April 1 through May 31, 2004.
- On Saganaga Lake, the winter lake trout season corresponds with lakes outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (see page 19).
- Dressed (filleted) sauger are counted as walleye. See page 62 for packing regs.
- Dark houses, fish houses, and shelters must be removed from the ice by March 31. Anglers may use portable shelters after March 31, but must remove them daily after use.
- While in Minnesota, anglers may not possess more than a Minnesota limit of fish from Minnesota–Canada 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. Cust-

toms—that the fish were taken from inland Canadian waters.

- Fish with length limits may not be possessed as fillets on the water while angling.
- A person cannot possess or use a gaff while fishing on the Rainy River.

## WISCONSIN–MINNESOTA

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

- Mississippi River (downstream of Prescott, Wisconsin and all waters between the Burlington Northern [Wisconsin] and Chicago Milwaukee [Minnesota] railroad tracks), Lake Pepin, St. Croix River, Lake St. Croix, St. Louis River, St. Louis Bay, and Superior Bay.

Daily and possession limits are the same.

Licensing: See page 46.

	SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA	<b>WALLEYE and SAUGER</b> (either or combined)		
	St. Louis River	May 15, 2004– March 1, 2005	2 (15" minimum size for walleye)
	St. Croix River	May 1, 2004– March 1, 2005	6 (15" minimum size for walleye)
	Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	6 (15" minimum size for walleye)
	<b>LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS</b> (either or combined)		
	St. Louis River	May 29, 2004– March 1, 2005	5 (14" minimum size)
	St. Croix River <i>Upstream of Taylors Falls Dam</i>	May 29– Sept. 12, 2004 Sept. 13, 2004– March 1, 2005	5 (14" minimum size)  Catch and release only
	<i>Downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to U.S. Hwy. 10 Bridge</i>	May 29, 2004– March 1, 2005	5 (14" minimum size)
	Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	5 (14" minimum size.)
	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>		
St. Louis River	May 15, 2004– March 1, 2005	2	
St. Croix River	May 1, 2004– March 1, 2005	5	
Mississippi River and Lake Pepin	Continuous	5	

*continued on next page*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>	May 29, 2004– March 1, 2005	1 (Minimum size 40".)
<b>PERCH</b>	Continuous	25
<b>CHANNEL and FLATHEAD Catfish</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	10
<b>BULLHEAD</b>	Continuous	No Limit
<b>ROUGH FISH</b>	Continuous	No Limit
<b>WHITE BASS and YELLOW BASS</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	25
<b>CRAPPIE</b>	Continuous	25
<b>ROCK BASS</b>	Continuous	25
<b>SUNFISH*</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	25**
*(bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orange-spotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids) **Except for Mississippi River Pools 5, 5A and 8: possession limit 10.		
<b>PADDLEFISH</b>	No Open Season	
<b>LAKE STURGEON</b> Closed (except as noted below) Lake sturgeon may be harvested September 4 thru October 15 on the St. Croix River from Taylors Falls Dam downstream to the mouth at Prescott, Wisconsin. The possession limit is one per season and the minimum size limit is 50" . The season is closed on all other waters except those along the Ontario-Minnesota border. (see page 48.)		
<b>SHOVELNOSE STURGEON</b>	Continuous	10 (No minimum size.)
Downstream from Red Wing Dam only.		
All species not listed above are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.		

### WI-MN Regulations

- Two lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If fishing with one line you may use two baits.
- Fish hooked in any part of the body except the mouth must be returned to the water immediately.
- Tip-ups must be within 400 feet of the angler.
- Rough fish may be taken by spearing, archery, and dip-netting during daylight hours from May 1, 2004 through March 1, 2005. Dip net hoops cannot exceed 24 inches 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.
- Fish houses or shelters must be removed no later than March 1. Portable shelters may be used after March 1, but must be removed daily after use.

- It is illegal to cull fish that have been reduced to possession.
- No fishing allowed within 300 feet below Mississippi River Lock and Dam 3 (near Red Wing) and Lock and Dam 4 (Alma, WI) from March 1-April 30.

## 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.

Licensing—See page 46.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>WALLEYE</b>	May 1, 2004– Feb. 15, 2005	6
<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	May 1, 2004– Feb. 15, 2005	3
<b>LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS</b> (either or combined)	May 1, 2004– Feb. 15, 2005	6
<b>CATFISH</b>	May 1, 2004– Feb. 15, 2005	8
<b>SUNFISH*</b> (either or combined) *(bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orange-spotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	30
<b>CRAPPIE</b>	Continuous	15
<b>PERCH</b>	Continuous	30
<b>WHITE BASS</b>	Continuous	30
<b>BULLHEAD</b>	Continuous	No Limit
<b>UNPROTECTED FISH</b> (Carp, Sucker, Redhorse, Sheepshead, Buffalo, Burbot, Dogfish, Gar, and Quillback)	Continuous	No Limit
All species not listed above are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.		

## IA-MN Regulations

- Anglers may use up to two lines with two hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.
- Spearing or archery may be used to take carp, buffalo, sheepshead, dogfish, gar, or quillback from sunrise to sunset May 1, 2004 through February 15, 2005.

- Spearing game fish is unlawful.
- Fish houses must comply with the licensing and identification requirements of the state for which the angler is licensed.
- Fish houses or shelters must be removed from the ice no later than February 20. Anglers may use portable shelters after that date, but must remove them daily.

## 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.

Licensing—See page 46.

	SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
SOUTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA	<b>WALLEYE and SAUGER</b> (either or combined)	April 24, 2004– Feb. 28, 2005	4 (only 1 20" or larger)
	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	April 24, 2004– Feb. 28, 2005	6
	<b>LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS</b> (either or combined)*	April 24, 2004– Feb. 28, 2005	6
	<b>CRAPPIE</b>	Continuous	10
	<b>SUNFISH*</b> (either or combined) *(bluegill, pumpkinseed, green, orange, spotted, longear, warmouth, and their hybrids)	Continuous	10
	<b>ROCK BASS</b>	Continuous	20
	<b>BULLHEAD</b>	Continuous	100
	<b>PERCH</b>	Continuous	25
	<b>CATFISH</b>	Continuous	5 (Only 1 over 24".)
	<b>STURGEON</b>	No Open Season	
	<b>UNPROTECTED FISH</b> (Carp, Sucker, Redhorse, Sheepshead [Freshwater Drum], Buffalo, Burbot, Dogfish [Bowfin], Gar, White Bass)	Continuous	No Limit
All species not listed above are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.			

## SD–MN Regulations

- Anglers may use two lines with up to three hooks per line.
- Setlines, trotlines, or unattended lines are unlawful.
- Anglers may possess only one limit of fish.
- Unprotected fish, except white bass, may be taken by spearing or archery from sunrise to sunset from April 24 through November 30.
- 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 from a fish house or dark house is unlawful.
- Spearing game fish is unlawful.
- Fish houses or shelters must be removed from the ice no later than March 5. Anglers may use portable shelters after March 5, but must remove them daily after use.
- Mud Lake in Traverse County is open to liberalized fishing (use of snagging, spears, dip nets and legal minnow seines permitted; maximum of 6 lines; possession limit is three times the normal possession limit) December 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005.
- The following waters in Traverse County are closed to fishing from March 1 to April 23: Mud Lake within 500 feet downstream of Reservation Dam at State Highway 117; and Bois de Sioux River within 500 feet downstream of White Rock Dam at State Highway 236.
- It is illegal to cull fish that have been reduced to possession.

## 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.

Licensing—See page 46.

Regulations are the same as those for South Dakota–Minnesota border waters except for the following:

	SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
N. DAKOTA-MINNESOTA	<b>WALLEYE</b> and <b>SAUGER</b> (either or combined)	Continuous	3
	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	Continuous	3
	<b>PERCH</b>	Continuous	50
	<b>LARGEMOUTH</b> and <b>SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>	Continuous	3

*continued on next page*

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>CATFISH</b>	Continuous	5 (Not more than 1 over 24".)
<b>STURGEON</b>	No open season	
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>	Continuous	1 (Minimum size 40".)
All species not listed above are covered by the inland regulations of the state where taken.		

N. DAKOTA-MINNESOTA cont.

### ND-MN Regulations

- Two lines are permitted, and two hooks are permitted on each line.
- Spearing from a fish house or a dark house is unlawful.
- It is unlawful to possess a spear or bow and arrow on or adjacent to any water body where the spearing and archery season is closed.
- Rough fish, except burbot (eelpout), may be taken by spearing or archery May 1 through December 31.
- It is illegal to cull fish that have been reduced to possession.

## For Your Information

### FISHING EDUCATION

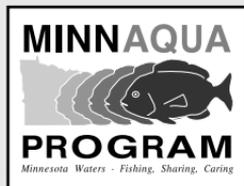
**MinnAqua** is an aquatics education program combining sport fishing, ecology, resource management, and conservation. Call (651) 297-4919.

**Aquatic Project WILD** addresses the importance of water as a basic component of habitat for both people and wildlife. Teachers can attend a workshop to obtain the supplementary curriculum guides. Call (651) 297-2423.

**The Minnesota Clean Rivers Project** encourages Minnesotans to adopt a section of waterway and help ensure its long-term health by doing at least one annual clean-up. Call (651) 297-5476.

**Project WET** is a K-12 curriculum with more than 90 activities including water science, water's role in the ecosystem, and cultural aspects of water use. Teachers can attend a workshop to obtain the curriculum guide. Call (651) 297-4951.

See the DNR Web site ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)).



## ROUGH FISH SPEARING, ARCHERY, AND DIP NETS

Rough fish are defined as carp, buffalo, sucker, redhorse, freshwater drum (sheepshead), bowfin (dogfish), burbot (eelpout), cisco (tullibee), gar, mooneye, and bullhead. The regulations below apply to spearing rough fish in state waters unless noted otherwise in this booklet.

SPECIES	SPEARING SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT
BULLHEAD	From sunrise to sunset, May 1, 2004–Feb. 20, 2005 (See pg. 58 for dark house spearing laws)	100
SUCKER		50
REDHORSE		50
OTHER ROUGH FISH SPECIES		No limit

- A bow may be transported uncased and discharged while taking rough fish in a boat powered by an electric motor. Crossbows may not be used to take rough fish, except by disabled persons who have a valid crossbow permit. Permit applications are available from any DNR regional office by calling the DNR Information Center number or through the DNR web site listed on page 80.
- Arrows must be attached to the bow with a tethered line.
- Licensed anglers and children under 16 may take rough fish by spearing, harpooning, archery, and hand-held dip nets in all inland waters, except where taking fish is prohibited. All rough fish, except cisco (tullibee), may be bought and sold. Note: whitefish are not considered a rough fish.
- Hand-held dip nets shall not have hoops exceeding 24 inches in diameter. (For more on smelt, see page 26.)
- Rough fish may not be taken by spear, harpoon, archery, or dip net in designated trout lakes or streams.
- Harpoons (spears) must have a tethered line not more than 20 feet long, may be discharged only when the equipment and the operator are entirely under the surface of the water, and may not be used within 1,000 feet of a swimming beach.
- It is unlawful to possess at or near waters a spear, net, or any device other than angling line that can take fish from February 21 through April 30, 2005. The exception is landing nets used for angling.
- Speared or dead rough fish may not be returned to the water or left on the ice or banks of any lake or stream.

# ICE ANGLING, SPEARING, AND SHELTERS

## General Regulations

- Two lines may be used through the ice (other than on designated trout lakes and streams).
- Anglers must remain within 200 feet of their tip-up.
- Using an artificial light to lure or attract fish, or to see fish when spearing, is unlawful. Exception: While angling, a person may affix to the end of a fishing line a lighted artificial bait with hooks attached. Any battery that is used in lighted fishing lures cannot contain any intentionally introduced mercury.
- Nonresidents may angle from a licensed fish house.
- Nonresidents may obtain a license for a fish shelter. However, the shelter cannot remain on the ice when unattended.
- Northern pike, catfish, and whitefish may be taken by dark house spearing through the ice from December 1, 2004 through February 20, 2005 except where prohibited.
- Residents age 16 through 64 must have a dark house spearing license and an angling license. Residents age 65 years old and older are exempt from the dark house spearing license, but must have an angling license to spear.
- Party fishing does not apply while spearing.
- Taking fish by angling or with tip-ups is prohibited while spearing fish in a dark house, fish house, or portable shelter.
- Nonresidents may not spear from a dark house.

## Fish House or Dark House

The following regulations apply to fish houses, dark houses, and portable shelters used on all Minnesota waters, unless otherwise noted elsewhere in this booklet.

- All shelters, which include dark houses, fish houses, and portable shelters, placed on the ice of Minnesota waters must have the complete name and address, driver's license number or Minnesota DNR number of the owner plainly and legibly displayed on the outside in letters, and figures at least 2 inches in height. Dark houses, fish houses, and portable shelters placed on the ice for shelter while fishing must be licensed, except that a license is not required on border waters with Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota. A tag, furnished with the license, must be attached to the exterior in a readily visible location.
- Dark houses, fish houses, and portable shelters must have a door that can be opened from the outside at any time when in use.
- Fish houses left on the ice overnight need to have at least 2 square inches of reflective material on each side of the house.
- No person may erect a dark house, fish house, or shelter within

10 feet of an existing dark house, fish house, or shelter.

- Portable dark houses, fish houses, and shelters may be used for fishing within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), but must be removed from the ice each night. The structure must be removed from the BWCA each time the occupant leaves the BWCA.

### Shelter Removal Dates

Dark houses, fish houses, and shelters must be off the ice no later than midnight for each of the dates given in the following categories:

#### Border Waters

Minnesota–Iowa February 20

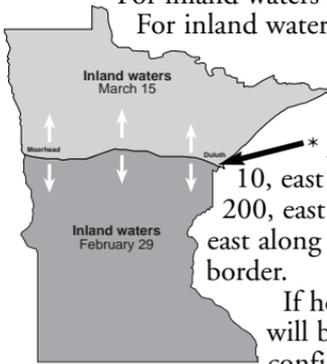
Minnesota–Wisconsin March 1

Minnesota–North and South Dakota March 5

Minnesota–Canada March 31

For inland waters **south** of the line\* February 28

For inland waters **north** of the line\* March 15



\* 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.

If houses or shelters are not removed, owners will be prosecuted, and the structure may be confiscated and removed, or destroyed by a conservation officer. Contents of the structure may be seized and held for 60 days; if not claimed by the owner within that time, they become property of the State of Minnesota.

**Note:** After the date when ice or fish houses or shelters must be removed, portable shelters may be placed on the ice and used from one hour before sunrise to midnight, but only if there is an open fishing season on the lake.

- Storing or leaving fish houses or dark houses on a public access is prohibited.

### 🚫 SPEARING PROHIBITED

Winter spearing for northern pike is prohibited on the following lakes:

Baby\* (Cass County)  
 Bald Eagle (Anoka, Ramsey and Washington Counties)  
 Beers\* (Otter Tail County)  
 Big\* (Beltrami County)  
 Big Mantrap\* (Hubbard County)  
 Cass\* (Beltrami and Cass Counties)

Cross and its Snake River Flowage\* (Pine County)  
 Deer\* (Itasca County)  
 Eagle (Hennepin County)  
 Forest (Hennepin County)  
 French\* (Rice County)  
 Libbs (Hennepin County)

Lobster\* (Douglas County)  
 Mille Lacs (Aitkin, Crow Wing and  
 Mille Lacs Counties)  
 Minnetonka (Hennepin and Carver  
 Counties)  
 Moose\* (Itasca County)  
 North Star \* (Itasca County)  
 Owasso (Ramsey County)  
 Peavey (Hennepin County)

Rebecca (Hennepin County)  
 Rush \* (Chisago County)  
 Spider\* (Itasca County)  
 Stieger (Carver County)  
 Sugar\* (Wright County)  
 Tanager (Hennepin County)  
 Wabedo\* (Cass County)  
 West Battle\* (Otter Tail County)

\*Denotes lakes where no spearing is allowed at any time.

## For Your Information

### Aquatic plant permit requirements

Water plants such as bulrushes are essential for 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 not required

For underwater plants only, you may cut or pull plants as long as:

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

#### DNR permit is required to:

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

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 (pgs. 81–82)

## TRANSPORTATION, SHIPMENT, AND STORAGE OF FISH

Fish prepared for transportation, shipment, or storage are defined as follows:

**Undressed fish** must have heads, tails, fins, and skin intact. Entrails, gills, and scales may be removed.

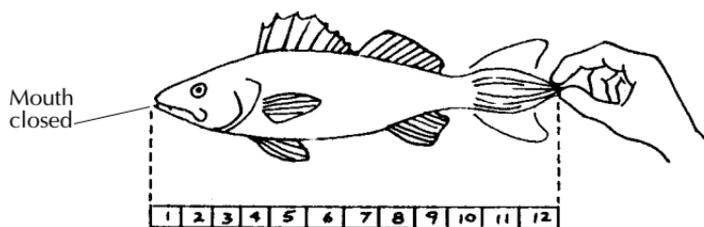
**Dressed fish** may have heads and scales or skin removed, in addition to gills and entrails.

**Fillet**s are fish flesh, excluding cheeks, that has been removed from a fish. Scales or skin may be removed or intact.

### Transportation

- Licensed anglers and resident children under 16 may transport up to a possession limit of any fish species. However, fish must be packaged in such a way that they can be readily unwrapped, separated, identified, and counted.
- Northern pike and walleye may be transported dressed or as fillets, but must retain a 1-square-inch patch of skin. Exception: Northern pike and walleye must be undressed while on experimental or special regulation waters. Other fish species with *statewide* length limits (muskellunge, sturgeon, splake, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, and salmon) must be transported undressed so that they can be measured.
- To reduce the spread of harmful aquatic exotic species, anglers may not transport live fish, except for home aquariums (see page 14). This includes transporting live fish in the livewell of your trailered boat and water that came from infested waters.

To determine the legal "total length" of a fish, lay it flat on its side, squeeze the tail from tip to tip, and measure from the nose to where the tail tips meet.

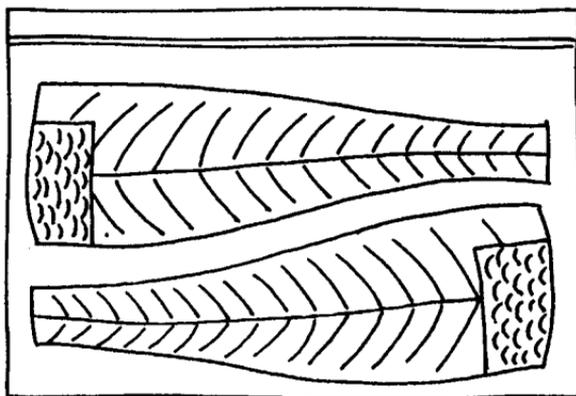


All fish must be killed or released before transportation. This does not apply to minnows.

- A fish cannot be reduced to more than two fillets.
- All dressed fish and fillets must have a 1-square-inch patch of skin with scales intact from a portion of the body other than the belly.

**Sauger prepared in this manner are counted as walleye.** The exceptions are bullhead, sunfish, and crappie, which may be completely filleted and skinned.

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



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

## Shipment

- Licensed anglers may make three shipments of fish per year. A permit issued by a conservation officer is required for each shipment. A shipment cannot contain more than a possession limit of one species.
- Fish which have been prepared, packed, and labeled by a licensed fish packer must comply with regulations governing licensed fish packers and those regarding fish species length limits. From March 15 through November 30, filleted sauger are counted as walleye.

## Storage

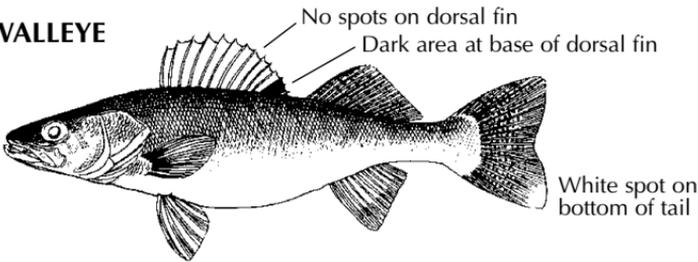
- Fish in cold storage count toward a possession limit.
- Frozen fish should be packaged in a way that they can be counted and identified.
- A person who stores fish for another must plainly mark the package, in ink, with the name, address, and fishing license number of the owner, and the number of fish in the package.

## FISH IDENTIFICATION

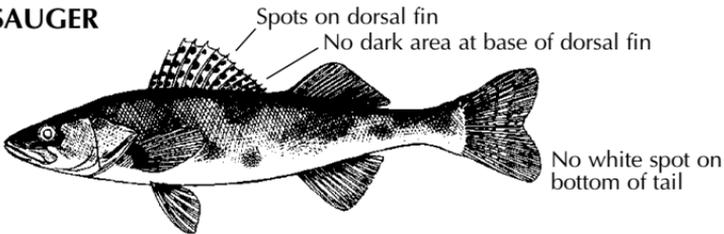
Knowing what fish species you are catching is not only fun, but in many cases it's required by law. It is particularly important to know how to distinguish walleye from sauger, to know the difference between northern pike and muskellunge, and to be able to tell what species of trout or salmon you catch.

### WALLEYE and SAUGER

#### WALLEYE



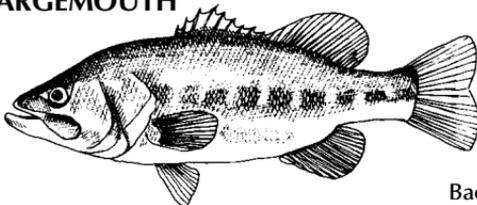
#### SAUGER



A walleye/sauger (saugeye) hybrid fillets are counted as part of a walleye possession limit during transportation.

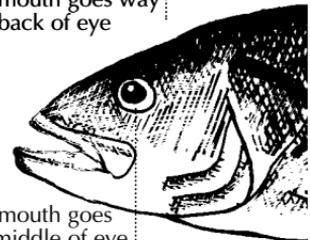
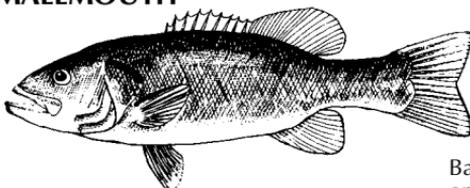
### LARGEMOUTH BASS and SMALLMOUTH BASS

#### LARGEMOUTH



Back of mouth goes way beyond back of eye

#### SMALLMOUTH

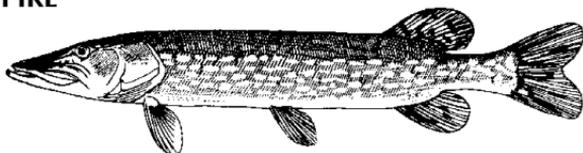


Back of mouth goes only to middle of eye

## NORTHERN PIKE and MUSKELLUNGE

### NORTHERN PIKE

LIGHT markings on DARK background



Rounded tail fins

### MUSKELLUNGE: BARRED PHASE

DARK markings on LIGHT background



Pointed tail fins

### MUSKELLUNGE: SPOTTED PHASE

DARK markings on LIGHT background

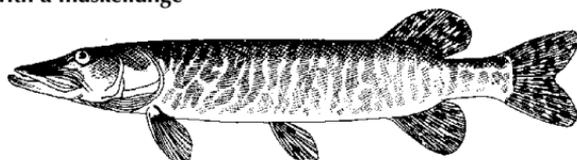


Pointed tail fins

### TIGER (HYBRID) MUSKIE

Northern pike crossed with a muskellunge

DARK markings on LIGHT background (as on muskie)



Rounded tail fins (as on northern pike)

### A NO-FAIL WAY TO TELL A

MUSKELLUNGE from a NORTHERN PIKE



6 or more pores on each side under jaw

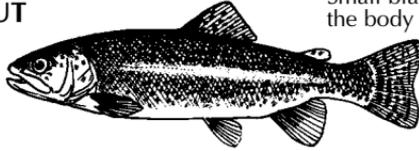


5 or fewer pores on each side under jaw

## TROUT AND SALMON

### RAINBOW TROUT

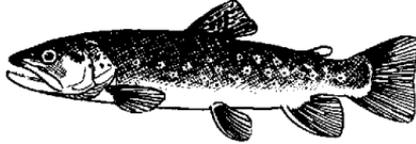
Pinkish stripe on silvery body



Small black dots throughout the body that extend into tail

### BROWN TROUT

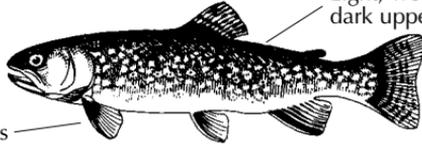
Large dark spots and red dots on brown body



Square tail

### BROOK TROUT

White leading edge on lower fins

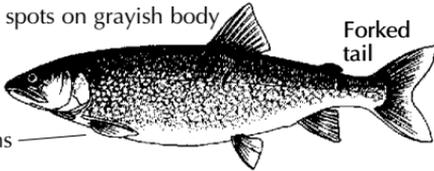


Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body

### LAKE TROUT

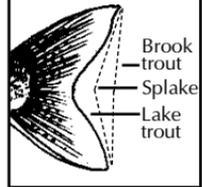
White leading edge on lower fins

White spots on grayish body



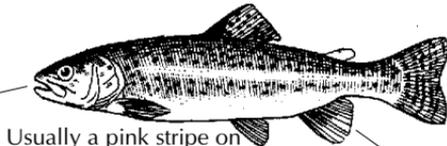
Forked tail

To tell a brookie from a splake from a lake trout, look at the tail:



### STEELHEAD (Rainbow Trout)

Inside mouth is white



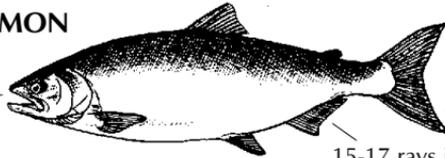
Usually a pink stripe on silvery body

Small spots throughout tail

10 rays in anal fin

### CHINOOK SALMON

Inside mouth is dark

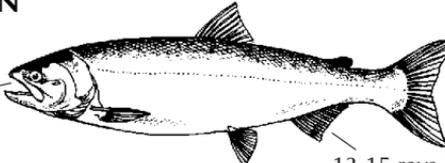


Spots throughout tail

15-17 rays in anal fin

### COHO SALMON

Inside mouth is gray

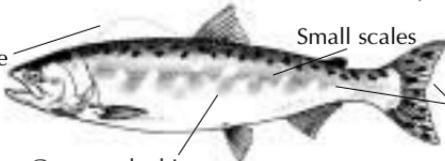


Spots in top half of tail only

13-15 rays in anal fin

### 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

## Rainbow Trout-Salmon Identification Guide

**RAINBOW TROUT**  
= white mouth

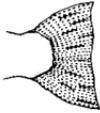
**COHO SALMON AND  
CHINOOK SALMON**  
= greyish to black mouth



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 as shown below.



**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



## Weigh Your Fish with a Ruler

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

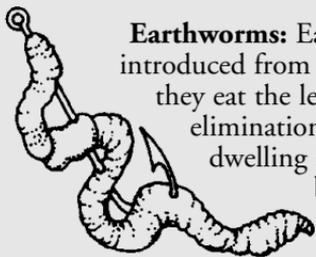
<b>CRAPPIE</b>		<b>TROUT</b>		<b>BASS</b>		<b>WALLEYE</b>		<b>NORTHERN</b>	
length (inches)	weight (lbs.)								
8	0.3	8	0.2	12	1.0	14	1.0	24	3.2
9	0.4	9	0.3	13	1.3	15	1.2	25	3.6
10	0.6	10	0.4	14	1.7	16	1.5	26	4.0
11	0.8	11	0.6	15	2.1	17	1.8	27	4.6
12	1.1	12	0.8	16	2.5	18	2.2	28	5.2
13	1.4	13	0.9	17	3.0	19	2.5	29	5.8
14	1.8	14	1.1	18	3.6	20	3.0	30	6.4
15	2.2	15	1.4	19	4.2	21	3.5	31	7.1
16	2.7	16	1.6	20	5.0	22	4.1	32	7.8
17	3.3	17	1.8	21	5.7	23	4.7	33	8.6
		18	2.3	22	6.6	24	5.4	34	9.4
				23	7.6	25	6.1	35	10.3
						26	6.9	36	11.2
						27	7.8	37	12.2
						28	8.8	38	13.3
						29	9.8	39	14.4
								40	15.6
								41	16.8
								42	18.1
<b>SUNFISH</b>									
length (inches)	weight (lbs.)								
8	0.4								
9	0.6								
10	0.8								
11	1.1								
12	1.5								
13	1.9								
14	2.4								
15	3.0								
16	3.7								

**Note:** These figures are rough estimates only. Actual weights vary slightly by lake and stream.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

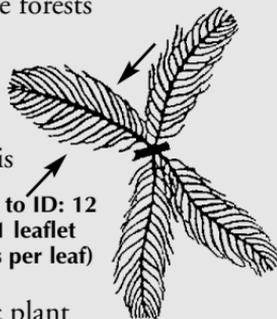
Harmful exotics pose a threat to Minnesota waters, native plants and animals, and water-based recreation, including fishing. Currently, these harmful exotics and disease exist in Minnesota forests, lakes, and rivers. They could easily spread—and new species could enter from other states—if citizens who use state waters don't take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of harmful exotic species.



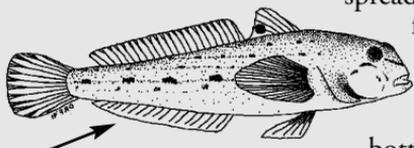
**Earthworms:** Earthworms in Minnesota have been introduced from Europe. They are harmful to forests because they eat the leaf litter and change the soil, resulting in the elimination of seedlings, ferns, wildflowers, and ground-dwelling animals. Help save the forests by disposing of unwanted bait in the trash.

**Eurasian watermilfoil:** In shallow waters, this aquatic plant can interfere with water recreation, and its floating surface mats can crowd out important native plants. Fragments clinging to boats and trailers can

(Key to ID: 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf)



spread the prolific plant from one water body to another.

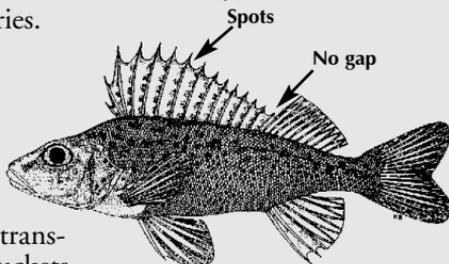


(Key to ID: Single scallop-shaped pelvic fin, fish is usually 3"-6" long)

**Round Goby:** This small

bottom-dwelling fish from Europe can displace native bottom-dwelling fish and is a nuisance for anglers. It poses a threat to fisheries in the Great Lakes, where it has already entered, and in inland fisheries.

**Ruffe:** This small perch-like fish, native to Europe, is very abundant in the Duluth harbor. It displaces several native fish species and is a nuisance for anglers. Ruffe can be accidentally transported in bait buckets and livewells.

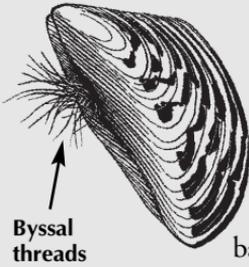


(Key to ID: Spots between rays of dorsal fin, no gap between fins)

**Spiny Water Flea:** These tiny (less than 3/8") animals, abundant in Lake Superior, can be a nuisance to anglers.

(Key to ID: Forms gelatinous globs where lines and downrigger wires connect to swivels, lures, or downrigger weights)

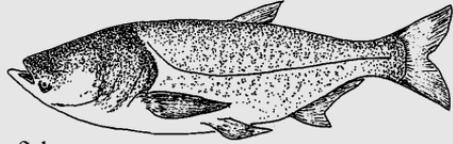




Byssal threads

(Key to ID: Only freshwater mollusk that attaches to objects with byssal threads)

**Zebra mussel:** This small ( $1/4$ " to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " ) mussel from Asia displaces native mussels, disrupts lake ecosystems, and clogs industrial equipment. Zebra mussels attach to boats, aquatic plants, and objects placed in the water. The tiny larvae can be accidentally transported in livewells and bait buckets.



(Key to ID: Eye located at lower part of head below the mouth; adults weigh up to 60 pounds.)

**Bighead carp:** One of these large Asian fish was caught in the Mississippi River south of

Red Wing during 2003. It eats plankton, thereby reducing food available for native fish and wildlife. Report and bring bighead carp to the DNR if caught or found.

**Fish Diseases:** Diseases, such as largemouth bass virus and heterosporis, can harm game fish populations. These diseases can be moved from one lake to another in the water. Help prevent the spread or introduction of these diseases by draining water from livewells, bilges, and bait containers before transporting boats and equipment.

## EXOTIC SPECIES LAWS (prohibitions and restrictions) Transportation, Launching, and Bait Harvest

It is *unlawful* to:

- transport aquatic plants, ruffe, round goby, zebra mussels, or other *prohibited* exotic species (see list below) on public roads;
- transport infested water (including in livewells and bait containers) from infested waters;
- transport live crayfish to other waters or to use them as bait in waters other than where they were taken;
- launch a watercraft with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or *prohibited* exotic species attached;
- harvest minnows, frogs, or any other wild animals from *infested waters*\* for bait, except for personal use from waters that are designated as infested waters solely because they contain Eurasian watermilfoil, and for commercial use by permit. **Minnows harvested for personal use from infested waters may only be used in that water body. A person cannot transport these minnows or the water to another water body.**
- use nets and other equipment that have also been used in *infested waters*\* for commercial fishing unless they have been dried for ten days or frozen for two days before using in noninfested waters;
- transport live fish using water from *infested waters*\*.

## Prohibited Exotic Fish

**Fish in Minnesota waters:** bighead carp, grass carp, round goby, ruffe, sea lamprey, white perch.

**Fish not known to be in Minnesota waters:** black carp, rudd, silver carp, zander.

\*Infested waters are listed on pages 70–71.

**INFESTED WATERS (Minnesota waters infested with:)****Eurasian Watermilfoil**

<u>County</u>	<u>Water body</u>
Aitkin:	Mille Lacs
☞ Anoka:	Cenaiko, Centerville, Coon, Crooked, George, Otter, Peltier, Unnamed (in Springbrook Nature Center)
☞ Carver:	Ann, Auburn, Bavaria, Burandt, Eagle, Fireman's Lotus, Minnewashta, Parley, Pierson, Riley, Schutz, Stieger, Stone, Virginia, Waconia, Wasserman, Zumbra
Chisago:	Ellen, Green, Rush
Crow Wing:	Bay, Ossawinnamakee, Ruth, Ripple River, between Bay Lake and Tame Fish Lake
Dakota:	Crystal, Lac Lavon, Marion, Schultz, Sunset, Twin Lakes
Douglas:	Oscar
☞ Hennepin:	Arrowhead, Bass, Brownie, Bryant, Bush, Calhoun, Cedar, Christmas, Dutch, Eagle, Fish, Forest, Galpin, Gleason, Harriet, Hiawatha, Independence, Lake of the Isles, Libbs, Little Long, Long, Medicine, Minnehaha Cr., Minnetonka, Mitchell, Niccum's Pond, Nokomis, Parker's, Peavy, Rebecca, Rice, Riley, Round, Sarah, Schmidt, Swan, Tanager, Whaletail, Wirth, Wolf
Isanti:	Green
Itasca:	Ice, McKinney, North Twin
Kanabec:	Knife
Kandiyohi:	Green, Norway
LeSueur:	East Jefferson, German
Meeker:	Ripley, Stella, Washington
Mille Lacs:	Mille Lacs from the mouths of the tributaries of Mille Lacs to the first public road
☞ Morrison:	Alexander
Olmsted:	George
☞ Pine:	Sand
Pope:	Gilchrist, Minnewaska
☞ Ramsey:	Bald Eagle, Gervais, Island, Keller, Kohlmans, Loeb, McCarron, Owasso, Phalen, Round, Silver, Snail, Spoon Creek, Sucker, Turtle, Vadnais, Wabasso, White Bear, Unnamed
Rice:	Cedar
St. Louis:	Gilbert Pit, Horseshoe
Scott:	O'Dowd, Lower and Upper Prior, Thole
Sherburne:	Little Elk
Stearns:	Sauk, wetland along Clearwater River
☞ Todd:	Little Birch, Sauk
Washington:	Powers, White Bear, St. Croix R., Sunset
☞ Wright:	Augusta, Beebe, Buffalo, Clearwater, Clearwater River (downstream of Clearwater Lake), Deer, Fish, French, Goose, Howard, Indian, Little Waverly, Mary, Mink, Pulaski, Ramsey, Rock, Sugar, Waverly, Weigand
Multiple:	Mississippi River (downstream of St. Anthony Falls)

(Continued) **Minnesota waters infested with:****Round Goby, Ruffe, and White Perch**County      Water body

Multiple:      Lake Superior

St. Louis River (downstream of the Fond du Lac dam)

**Spiny Water Flea**County      Water body

Cook:      Lake Saganaga

St. Louis:      Fish Lake, Island Lake

Multiple:      Lake Superior, Cloquet River (from Island Lake to the St. Louis River), and St. Louis River (downstream of the Cloquet River)

**Zebra Mussels**County      Water body

Crow Wing:      Pelican Brook, Lake Ossawinnamakee

Olmsted:      Zumbro

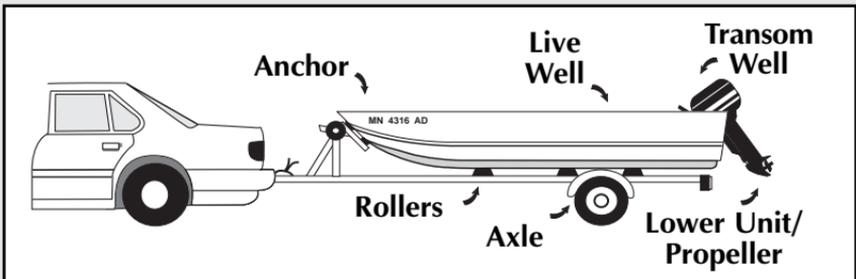
Multiple:      Lake Superior

Mississippi River (downstream of St. Anthony Falls)

St. Croix River (downstream of the St. Croix Boomsite Recreation Area – also river mile 25.4)

St. Louis River (downstream of the Fond du Lac dam)

Zumbro River (downstream of Lake Zumbro)

**How you can stop the spread of exotics:**

✓ **Remove** any visible plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and other boating equipment *before* leaving *any* water body.

✓ **Drain** water from the motor, livewell, bilge and transom wells at the ramp or access *before* leaving *any* water body.

✓ **Dispose** of unwanted minnows and leeches in trash. Never release live bait into a water body, or release aquatic animals from one water body into another.

✓ **Wash/dry** your boat and other boating equipment that normally gets wet to kill exotic animal species that were not visible at the boat launch. Before transporting to another water, either **rinse** with *hot* tap water, **spray** with high pressure water such as a car wash, or **dry** for at least 5 days.

## OTHER AQUATIC SPECIES

The following regulations apply to the taking and possession of mussels (clams), crayfish, frogs, minnows, leeches, and turtles for personal or commercial use.

Wild animals may not be taken from infested waters, except for bait for personal use from waters that are designated as infested waters solely because they contain Eurasian watermilfoil, and for commercial use by permit.

### Mussels (Clams)

- 25 of Minnesota's 48 species of mussels are protected under the state's endangered species law. **Whole mussels or parts, including shells, of protected species may not be taken or possessed except with a DNR permit. Do not disturb mussels unless you are able to distinguish between protected and other mussel species.**
- Except as noted above, any person permitted by law to take fish may take and possess up to 24 whole or 48 shell halves of dead mussels (clams) if the harvesting is done by hand. No live mussels or clams may be harvested or sold.
- The open season for mussel (clam) shell harvest is May 16, 2004 through February 28, 2005.
- The commercial harvest of mussels requires a permit.
- It is illegal to take any live mussel or empty mussel shell from the St. Croix River, which is a unit of the National Park Service.
- Zebra mussels are illegal to possess.

### Crayfish

- Licensed anglers and children under 16 may take and possess up to 25 pounds of crayfish for personal use.
- The crayfish season is April 1 through November 30.
- Crayfish cannot be sold as bait.
- Importing live crayfish or eggs is prohibited except with a DNR permit\*.
- Crayfish may be used as bait in the body of water where they are captured.
- Crayfish cannot be transferred from one body of water to another except with a DNR permit\*.
- The commercial harvest of crayfish requires a DNR permit\*.
- A permit is needed to sell crayfish for aquarium use.

### Frogs

- Licensed anglers and children under age 16 may take, use, buy, and sell an unlimited number of frogs for bait only from May 16, 2004 to March 31, 2005. The overall maximum length (with legs outstretched) of frogs shall not exceed 6 inches.
- A frogging license is required to take frogs for purposes other than bait.

### Minnows and Leeches

- Licensed anglers may take minnows or leeches for their own use with
- \* Permit applications are available from the DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

dip nets, traps, or seines. However, seines may not be over 25 feet long or more than 148 meshes deep with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bar measure, or more than 197 meshes deep with  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch bar measure. For traps, width and length may not exceed 30 inches, height may not exceed 15 inches, the diameter or width of the opening may not exceed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and mesh size may not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch bar measure. Traps must have a waterproof tag bearing the name and address of the owner.

- Minnows or leeches may not be taken from designated trout waters except with a DNR permit.
- Unwanted minnows and leeches cannot be dumped in the water.
- Live carp may not be transported or used as bait.
- DNR commercial licenses are required in order to sell minnows or leeches, either wholesale or retail, or to possess more than 24 dozen minnows or leeches.
- Only licensed minnow exporters may export minnows and leeches.
- Game fish (including perch and sunfish of any size) or parts of game fish may not be used for bait.
- Minnows and leeches taken from infested waters (see pages 70–71) may only be used for fishing at the body of water where taken.
- **It is illegal to bring live minnows and leeches into Minnesota without a permit and to use imported live minnows and leeches for bait in Minnesota waters.**
- ☞ • All streams and associated tributaries and connected waters of the Missouri River watershed in Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Rock, or Nobles counties that lie south of U.S. Highway 14 to the Iowa border and west of U.S. Highway 59 to South Dakota are closed to minnow harvest.

## Turtles

- ☞ • Resident anglers, children under 16, and recreational turtle licensees may take, possess, and transport turtles for personal use. Western painted, snapping, and spiny softshell turtles are the only harvestable species.
- ☞ • Turtles may not be sold or bought for resale without a turtle license. Retail customers do not need a license. Residents under age 18 may take, possess, rent, or sell up to 25 turtles for use in a non-profit turtle race.
- Turtles may be taken by angling, bow and arrow, spearing, turtle hooks, and hand under an angling license.
- ☞ • The snapping turtle possession limit is 3. Minimum size limit is 12" in shell length. Snapping turtles may not be taken during May and June.
- Blanding's turtles and wood turtles are threatened species and may not be taken or possessed except with a DNR permit.
- ☞ • Recreational turtle license allows the use of three turtle traps. Traps may not exceed 5'x4'x8' and must have a tag.
- ☞ • Spiny softshell minimum size limit is 12" in shell length. Spiny softshells may not be taken June 1-July 15.
- ☞ • A person may not collect turtle eggs from natural nests, except under a permit.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### BOAT AND WATER SAFETY

For a complete summary of the boating regulations, contact the DNR Information Center for a copy of the *Minnesota Boating Guide*, or find it on the DNR web site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) under Boat and Water Safety. For rules pertaining to the use of motorboats within Wildlife Management Areas, refer to the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* or call DNR Information Center (see page 80).

- All watercraft, including canoes, must be registered (licensed) in Minnesota or the state of residence, even if that state does not require canoe registration.
- All watercraft, regardless of length, needs to carry, and have readily accessible, one U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable (Type I, II, III or V) life preserver (PFD) for each person on board. In addition, boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks) must carry at least one USCG approved Type IV throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) for the boat.
- Navigation lights are required from sunset to sunrise. **(Remember to keep your white stern (back) light on while still fishing or at anchor. This light must be visible for 360 degrees around the boat and may not be blocked from view).**
- USCG approved fire extinguishers are required on boats with enclosed fuel or engine compartments.
- Persons 12-17 years of age are required to have a DNR watercraft operator's permit to operate a boat of more than 25 horsepower, unless someone at least 21 is on board in reach of the controls.
- You are required to report a boating accident to the county sheriff if there is an injury, death or damage over \$500.

### Boating Safety Tips

- Boating while intoxicated is not only illegal, it's dangerous. About half of all fatal boating accidents are alcohol-related.
- Most boating deaths occur when a person falls out of or capsizes a small boat. Wear your life jacket: It's the most important thing you can do to increase your survival time in cold water and save your life.

### STATE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREAS

DNR Fisheries acquires land along lakes and streams to provide fishing opportunities and to protect critical fish habitat. These areas, known as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs), are posted with signs to indicate allowable uses. Each sign is marked with a letter to easily identify permitted activities:

**G General Use AMAs:** Permitted activities include angling, non-motorized travel, wildlife observation, hunting, and trapping.

**R Restricted Use AMAs:** Permitted uses include angling, nonmotorized travel, and wildlife observation.

**E Easement AMAs:** Only angling is allowed unless otherwise indicated.

The following uses are prohibited except where specifically designated:

- No motorized vehicles.
- No campfires or overnight camping or parking of vehicle, trailer, or boat.
- No destruction, disturbance, or removal of plants, trees, other vegetative material, signs, posts, fences, gates, buildings, or other property (except that edible fruits, seeds and mushrooms may be removed for personal use).
- No target, trap, skeet, or indiscriminate shooting.
- No construction of a building, dock, fence, billboard, sign, or other structure (except that portable stands are permitted if they are removed after legal shooting hours).
- No livestock, horses, or other domestic animals (except dogs controlled by the owner).
- No disposal of garbage, trash, spoil, sludge, rocks, vehicles, carcasses, or other debris.

## CATCH-AND-RELEASE

Improved fishing technology and increasing fishing pressure have caused fishing quality to decline in many waters. Catch-and-release fishing offers anglers a way to enjoy their sport with less harm to the resource. Each year, more anglers discover the satisfaction of watching a fish they've caught swim away. However, catch-and-release fishing can result in some delayed mortality depending on environmental conditions, location of puncture, and handling. So, when the fish are really biting, it is a good idea to practice some restraint in how many fish you catch-and-release. Here are some tips for proper catch-and-release:

- Don't place fish you plan to release on a stringer or in a livewell, because they have less chance of surviving. Make the decision to release a fish when you catch it.
- Play and land the fish quickly. A prolonged struggle places too much stress on a fish.
- Don't angle for fish in very deep water, unless you plan to keep what you catch. Fish pulled from cool deep water through warmer surface water can be too stressed for survival.
- Handle the fish gently and keep it in the water as much as possible. If possible, unhook the fish without placing it in a net or lifting it from the water. Fish placed in nets or on a boat floor can suffer damage to scales and eyes.

*continued on next page*

- When lifting fish for a photograph or just to admire it, hold it horizontal, supporting the weight with both hands. 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. You can damage the internal organs of fish, especially larger ones, by lifting them from the water.
- Wet your hands before touching a fish to help prevent removal of their protective slime coating.
- If a hook is deeply imbedded, do not tear the hook out, but try to remove it carefully with a pointed pliers or hook/barb cutting tool. If the hook is too deep, cut the line so that at least an inch hangs out of the mouth. This helps the hook to lay flush when the fish takes in food.
- Circle hooks may help in eliminating 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 practice catch-and-release for a species during its closed season.
- In streams, release fish into calm water. Hold the fish until it swims free from your hand. A tired fish placed in fast water can die by tumbling downstream into rocks.
- Gently slide the fish, never toss it, back into the water.

## MANAGING MINNESOTA'S FISHERIES

The DNR Section of Fisheries is responsible for managing the state's diverse fisheries resources. Each year, roughly 2 million people fish in Minnesota, and sport fishing generates approximately \$1.9 billion in direct expenditures, making angling one of the state's largest industries.

### The Resource

- Minnesota has 11,482 lakes 10 acres or larger, of which about 5,400 are fishing lakes. Excluding Lake Superior, the state has 3.8 million acres of fishing water. Minnesota's portion of Lake Superior is 1.4 million acres.
- There are 15,000 miles of fishable streams in Minnesota, including 2,600 miles of trout streams.

### The Section of Fisheries

- The DNR Section of Fisheries has a full-time staff of about 320. There are 4 regional and 28 area fisheries offices.
- The state operates 17 hatcheries: 5 for trout and salmon and 12 for coolwater species.
- The annual budget for the Section of Fisheries is approximately \$29 million, which is funded primarily by fishing license and stamp fees.
- 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.

## Management

- *Surveys*: Fisheries personnel conduct lake, stream, and creel surveys to produce management plans for hundreds of lakes and streams each year. This information is used to protect and improve the state's fisheries resource.
- *Research*: Fisheries research is conducted to find new and more efficient ways to manage fisheries.
- *Trout habitat*: Ongoing habitat improvement and maintenance work is conducted on trout streams that have publicly owned land or easements.
- *Fish tagging*: As part of research projects, DNR biologists sometimes place small tags in fish. If you catch a tagged fish, please report the date, location, species, and size of the fish you caught, as well as the tag number, to the nearest DNR Fisheries office (see pg. 81–82).
- *Liberalized fishing*: In late winter, some shallow lakes suffer winterkill. This means the snow and ice were so thick that plants didn't get enough sunlight and have died, using up oxygen needed by fish when they decompose. When the DNR knows a lake will fully winterkill, it allows temporary liberalized fishing, which means there are no limits on this water. This is intended to prevent unnecessary waste of fish. (See DNR web site for more information.)
- *Lake rehabilitation*: These projects reclaim waters suffering from habitat degradation and overpopulation of some fish species.
- *Spawning habitat improvements*: This can enhance naturally reproducing populations of species such as walleye and northerns.
- *Stocking*: DNR fisheries personnel stock game fish fry and fingerlings in lakes lacking habitat for natural reproduction.
- *Fishing piers*: These are installed on lakes to provide opportunities for shore fishing.
- *Habitat acquisition*: The DNR buys lands next to lakes and streams to protect spawning areas and shoreline vegetation, and it increases access to fishing waters.
- *Education*: Each year, the MinnAqua program teaches beginning anglers, primarily inner city youth, about fishing and aquatic biology.
- Fisheries personnel also monitor and regulate aquaculture, fishing tournaments, commercial fishing operations, aquatic plant management, and aeration.

## MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM

Anglers can qualify to become a Minnesota Master Angler. This program, cosponsored by G. Loomis Rods, the Minnesota DNR, and the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame, recognizes anglers who catch large fish of various species. Categories include adult, youth, and catch-and-release. Awards for more than 50 fish species include: a pin, a certificate, and a place on the state Master Angler honor role.

For more information on becoming a Master Angler, visit the web site at: [www.minnesotafishinghalloffame.com](http://www.minnesotafishinghalloffame.com).

## STATE RECORD FISH

Catching a big fish, no matter what the species, is always a thrill, and it usually requires exceptional fishing skill. To recognize the achievements of anglers who catch the biggest fish in each species, the DNR annually presents an award of recognition to any angler who breaks a state record.

If you catch a fish that you think could be a record, follow these steps:

- Weigh the fish on a state-certified scale (found at most bait shops and butcher shops), witnessed by two observers.
- Take the fish to a DNR fisheries office for positive identification and a state record fish application.
- Complete the application and send it along with a clear, full-length photo of your fish to the address listed on the form.

The following is a complete list of Minnesota's state record fish and where they were caught. Weights given are in pounds and ounces (example: 55-5 is 55 pounds, 5 ounces). Counties are in parentheses.

**Bass, Largemouth:** 8-13, Tetonka Lake (LeSueur).

**Bass, Rock:** 2-0, Osakis Lake (Todd).

**Bass, Smallmouth:** 8-0, West Battle Lake (Otter Tail).

**Bass, White:** 4-0, St. Croix River (Washington); and 4-0, Genoa Barge (Houston).

**Bluegill:** 2-13, Alice Lake (Hubbard).

**Bowfin:** 10-15, Mary Lake (Douglas); and 10-15, French Lake (Rice).

**Buffalo, Bigmouth:** 41-11, Mississippi River (Goodhue).

**Buffalo, Black:** 20-0, Minnesota River (Nicollet).

**Buffalo, Smallmouth:** 13-4, Mississippi River (Ramsey).

**Bullhead, Black:** 3-13, Reno Lake (Pope).

**Bullhead, Brown:** 7-1, Shallow Lake (Itasca).

**Bullhead, Yellow:** 3-10, Osakis Lake (Todd).

**Burbot:** 19-3, Lake of the Woods (Lake of the Woods).

**Carp:** 55-5, Clearwater Lake (Wright).

**Carp sucker, River:** 3-15, Mississippi River (Ramsey).

**Catfish, Channel:** 38-0, Mississippi River (Hennepin).

**Catfish, Flathead:** 70-0, St. Croix River (Washington).

**Crappie, Black:** 5-0, Vermillion River (Dakota).

**Crappie, White:** 3-15, Lake Constance (Wright).

**Drum, Freshwater:** 35-3, Mississippi River (Winona).

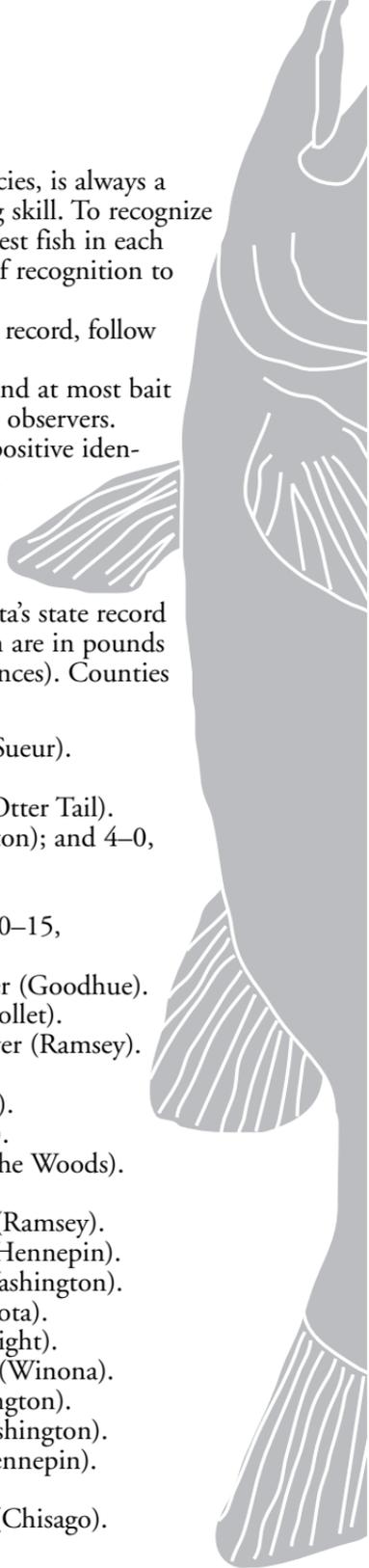
**Eel, American:** 6-9, St. Croix River (Washington).

**Gar, Longnose:** 16-12, St. Croix River (Washington).

**Gar, Shortnose:** 4-10, Mississippi River (Hennepin).

**Goldeye:** 2-13, Root River (Houston).

**Hogsucker, Northern:** 1-15, Sunrise River (Chisago).



- 
- Mooneye:** 1–15, Minnesota River (Redwood).  
**Muskellunge:** 54–0, Lake Winnibigoshish (Itasca).  
**Muskellunge, Tiger:** 34–12, Lake Elmo (Washington).  
**Perch, Yellow:** 3–4, Lake Plantaganette (Hubbard).  
**Pike, Northern:** 45–12, Basswood Lake (Lake).  
**Pumpkinseed:** 1–6, Leech Lake (Cass).  
**Quillback:** 6–14, Mississippi River (Ramsey).  
**Redhorse, Golden:** 2–13, Otter Tail River (OtterTail).  
**Redhorse, Greater:** 11–13, Upper South Long Lake (Crow Wing).  
**Redhorse, River:** 10–3, Kettle River (Pine).  
**Redhorse, Shorthead:** 7–15, Rum River (Anoka).  
**Redhorse, Silver:** 8–4, Sauk River (Stearns).  
**Salmon, Atlantic:** 12–13, Baptism River (Lake).  
**Salmon, Chinook:** 33–4, Poplar River (Cook); and 33–4, Lake Superior (St. Louis).  
**Salmon, Coho:** 10–7, Lake Superior (Lake).  
**Salmon, Kokanee:** 2–15, Caribou Lake (Itasca).  
**Salmon, Pink:** 4–8, Cascade River (Cook).  
**Sauger:** 6–3, Mississippi River (Goodhue).  
**Splake:** 13–6, Larson Lake (Itasca).  
**Sturgeon, Lake:** 94–4, Kettle River (Pine).  
**Sturgeon, Shovelnose:** 5–5, Mississippi River (Goodhue).  
**Sucker, Blue:** 14–3, Mississippi River (Wabasha).  
**Sucker, Longnose:** 3–2, Rainy River (Koochiching).  
**Sucker, White:** 9–1, Big Fish Lake (Stearns).  
**Sunfish, Green:** 1–3, Scheuble Lake (Carver).  
**Sunfish, Hybrid:** 1–12, Zumbro River (Olmsted).  
**Trout, Brook:** 6–5, Pigeon River (Cook).  
**Trout, Brown:** 16–12, Lake Superior (St. Louis).  
**Trout, Lake:** 43–8, Lake Superior (Cook).  
**Trout, Rainbow (Steelhead):** 16–6, Devil Track River (Cook).  
**Trout, Tiger:** 2–9, Mill Creek (Olmsted).  
**Tullibee (Cisco):** 5–12, Little Long (St. Louis).  
**Walleye:** 17–8, Seagull River (Cook).  
**Walleye-Sauger Hybrid:** 9–13, Mississippi River (Goodhue).  
**Whitefish, Lake:** 12–5, Leech Lake (Cass).  
**Whitefish, Menominee:** 2–8, Lake Superior (Cook).

## ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Licenses

DNR License Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4026  
Watercraft Registration:  
(800) 285-2000  
Phone License Sales:  
(888) 665-4236  
Internet Sales:  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

### Lake Survey Reports and Fisheries Brochures

DNR Fisheries  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4012  
(651) 296-3325

### DNR Web Site (Including Lake Survey Reports)

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

### General Information/Licensing/ Public Access Maps

DNR Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
(651) 296-6157 or  
(888) 646-6367  
Telecommunications for the Deaf  
(651) 296-5484 or  
(800) 657-3929TDD

### Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Note: 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) 550-6777  
[www.bwcaw.org](http://www.bwcaw.org)

### Reporting Fish and Game Violations

Turn In Poachers (TIP) has a statewide, 24-hour toll-free hotline. Callers may remain anonymous.  
(800) 652-9093

### Information on and Reporting Harmful Exotic Species

(651) 296-2835 or  
(888) 646-6367

### Lake Maps

Minnesota Bookstore  
660 Olive Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 297-3000 or  
(800) 657-3757

### Minnesota Office of Tourism

100 Metro Square,  
121 7th Place E.  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-5029 or  
1-800-657-3700  
[www.exploreMinnesota.com](http://www.exploreMinnesota.com)

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to MN-DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031, or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

This information is available in an alternative format upon request.



RECYCLABLE: The coated cover protects your regulations from water and the wear and tear of constant use. To recycle, remove the cover and staples, and then recycle the remaining pages.

**DNR FISHERIES OFFICES (651) 296-5484 or (800) 657-3929 TDD****Park Rapids Area Office**

301 S. Grove Avenue  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
(218) 732-4153

**Walker Area Office**

07316 State 371 NW  
Walker, MN 56484  
(218) 547-1683

**NORTHEAST REGION**

1201 East Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
(218) 327-4414

**NORTHWEST REGION**

2115 Birchmont  
Beach Road N.E.  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
(218) 755-3959

**Baudette Area Office**

204 Main Street E.  
Baudette, MN 56623  
(218) 634-2522

**Bemidji Area Office**

2114 Bemidji Avenue  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
(218) 755-2974

**Detroit Lakes Area Office**

14583 Cnty. Hwy.19  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
(218) 847-1579

**Fergus Falls Area Office**

1509 - 1st Avenue North  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 739-7576

**Glenwood Area Office**

23070 N. Lakeshore Drive  
Glenwood, MN 56334  
(320) 634-4573

**Aitkin Area Office**

P.O. Box 138  
1200 Minnesota Ave. S.  
Aitkin, MN 56431-0138  
(218) 927-3751

**Brainerd Area Office**

1601 Minnesota Drive  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
(218) 828-2550  
(218) 828-2735

**Duluth and Lake**

**Superior Area Office**  
5351 North Shore Drive  
Duluth, MN 55804  
(218) 525-0853

**Finland Area Office**

P.O. Box 546  
Finland, MN 55603  
(218) 353-7591

**Grand Rapids Area Office**

1201 E. Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
(218) 327-4430

**Grand Marais Area Office**

1356 Hwy. 61 E.  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
(218) 387-3056

**International Falls  
Area Office**

392 E. Hwy. 11  
Intl. Falls, MN 56649  
(218) 286-5220

**Tower Area Office**

650 Highway 169  
Tower, MN 55790-8304  
(218) 753-2580 Ex. 221

**CENTRAL REGION**

1200 Warner Road  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
(651) 772-7950

**Hinckley Area Office**

P.O. Box 398  
306 Power Ave. No.  
Hinckley, MN 55037  
(320) 384-7721

**Little Falls Area Office**

16543 Haven Road  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(320) 616-2450

**Metro East**

1200 Warner Road  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
(651) 772-7950

**Metro West**

9925 Valley View Road  
Eden Prairie, MN  
55344-3526  
(952) 826-6771

**Montrose Area Office**

7372 State Hwy. 25 S.W.  
Montrose, MN 55363  
(763) 675-3301

**SOUTH REGION**

261 Hwy. 15 S.  
New Ulm, MN 56073 -8915  
(507) 359-6000

**Hutchinson Area Office**

20596 Hwy. 7  
Hutchinson, MN 55350  
(320) 234-2550

**Lake City Area Office**

1801 South Oak St.  
Lake City, MN 55041  
1-(651) 345-3365

**Lanesboro Area Office**

Route 2, Box 85, County Rd. 31  
Lanesboro, MN 55949  
(507) 467-2442

**Ortonville Area Office**

811 Pine St.  
Ortonville, MN 56278  
(320) 839-2656

**Rochester Office**

2300 Silver Creek Rd. N.E.  
Rochester, MN 55906  
(507) 285-7427

**Spicer Area Office**

P.O. Box 457, 10590 Co. Rd. 8 NE  
Spicer, MN 56288  
(320) 796-2161

**Waterville Area Office**

50317 Fish Hatchery Rd.  
P.O. Box 86  
Waterville, MN 56096-0086  
(507) 362-4223

**Windom Area Office**

175 Co. Rd. 26  
Windom, MN 56101-1868  
(507) 831-2919

# TRESPASS

## MINNESOTA'S TRESPASS LAW

The trespass law applies to all outdoor recreation. Whether fishing, hunting, or taking part in any other 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 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. Civil penalties start with \$50 for first offense and up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. All Conservation and Peace Officers enforce trespass laws.

### Rules of Thumb for Water Access and Recreational Use

These are simple rules of thumb 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, we recommend that you ask the landowner for permission.

#### 1. 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 abuts the surface of the water, or if you have permission to cross private land to reach the surface of the water.

#### 2. What is recreational use?

Recreational use includes boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, trapping, and similar activities. It includes walking in the water in connection with such activities regardless of who owns the land beneath the surface of the water.

#### 3. 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.

**When in doubt,  
ask permission.**



**Respect private  
property when  
fishing near  
docks.**

## For Your Information

### DO YOUR PART TO ENHANCE VALUABLE SHORELINE

Native vegetation along the shoreline provides habitat for fish and wildlife and prevents shoreline erosion while buffering the lake from harmful runoff. For more information about conserving or restoring native plants along your lakeshore check out the "Restore Your Shore CD" and "Lakescaping For Wildlife and Water Quality." available through the MN Bookstore (see page 80).

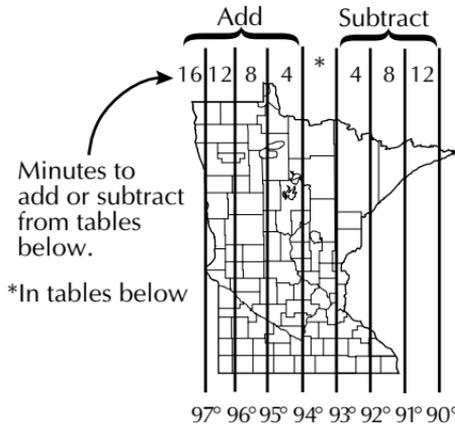


## SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLES

- This 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 Central Daylight Saving Time beginning April 4, 2004 through October 30, 2004. Central Standard Time for all other dates.
- The times in the table below are for the longitudinal line running north and south through Minneapolis/St. Paul. To use the table to find the sunrise or sunset hours on the water you fish, locate the water on the map at right and add or subtract the minutes shown above the map to the time in the table.

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

Example: Whitewater State Park is in the "Subtract 8 Minutes" time zone. Therefore, sunrise there on June 10 will be 5:18 a.m. (5:26 minus 8 minutes).



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

# “Securing the future of fishing”

Whether casting for muskie or watching bobbers for bluegill, anglers quickly get connected to natural resources. They learn what foods fish eat, where fish live and what fish need to survive. In time, some anglers choose to help protect fish and their habitat. They take action to improve water quality and conserve the resource. They make fishing better for future generations.

That’s why DNR Fisheries supports two programs that introduce people to fishing. MinnAqua, which began in 1989, teaches new anglers about lake and stream ecology by teaching them to fish. Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN), which began in 2000, works through communities to provide fishing in small urban lakes. The program aims to give youth, minorities and senior citizens a quality fishing experience.

Together, these programs have introduced thousands of anglers to the thrill of a tug on their fishing line. MinnAqua has introduced 400,000 new anglers to

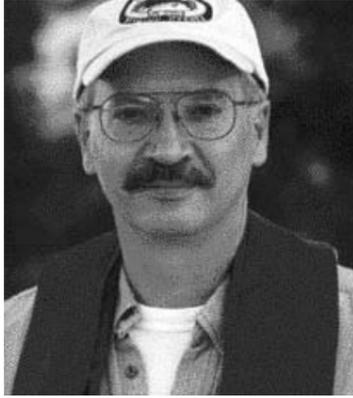


Photo: Deb Rose

fishing. Through FiN, 18 new shore fishing sites have been constructed, about 2,900 feet of shoreline have been improved and more than 52,000 adult bluegill and crappie have been stocked in the seven-county metro area.

These accomplishments, made possible with help from communities, schools, educators and volunteers, are only a start. By getting more people involved in angling, MinnAqua and FiN will assure that this family-oriented activity continues to be one of Minnesota’s favorite pastimes.

By helping more people understand how our natural world works, we will encourage environmental stewardship, assuring healthier habitats for fish and wildlife -- as well as humans -- for generations to come.

*Ron Payer*  
Section Chief, DNR Fisheries

## **Minnesota DNR**

(651) 296-6157

(888) 646-6367

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

## **Turn in Poachers**

(800) 652-9093

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**