

6262.0300 FISHING REGULATIONS FOR LAKE SUPERIOR AND TRIBUTARIES.

Subpart 1. **General Lake Superior fishing regulations.** Fish may not be taken in Lake Superior except as provided by this part or under permit.

Subp. 2. **Number of lines allowed.** No more than two lines with one bait attached to each line may be used to take fish on Lake Superior, except that only one line may be used within 100 yards of the mouth of any flowing stream.

Subp. 3. **Transportation restrictions.** While on any portion of the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior, a person licensed to take fish by angling or as otherwise authorized by Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, or the province of Ontario, may not possess or transport more than the daily limit of fish allowed under any one but not more than one of their licenses.

Subp. 4. **Taking smelt from Lake Superior.** Smelt may be taken by licensed anglers from Lake Superior and tributary streams subject to the following provisions:

A. smelt may be taken with the use of dip nets and minnow seines not more than 25 feet in length nor more than four feet in depth. Seines may not be used in any stream, except the St. Louis River, and seines may not be used in Lake Superior within 100 feet of the mouth of any stream;

B. live smelt may not be possessed or transported; and

C. taking of smelt at any time is prohibited in the following streams tributary to Lake Superior:

- (1) French River, St. Louis County;
- (2) Sucker River, St. Louis County;
- (3) Little Sucker River, St. Louis County;
- (4) Silver Creek, Lake County;
- (5) Encampment River, Lake County; and
- (6) Crow Creek, Lake County.

Subp. 5. **Prohibition on taking fish for bait purposes.**

A. Except as provided in this subpart, taking fish for bait purposes from all Minnesota waters of Lake Superior and all waters of the St. Louis River downstream of the Fond du Lac Dam in St. Louis and Carlton Counties, including any and all outflows, estuaries, streams, creeks, or waters adjacent to or flowing into these waters, is prohibited.

B. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 84D.03, subdivision 3, and 97C.341, paragraph (b), eggs from legally taken and possessed trout harvested from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries may be used to make spawn bags for bait as provided in this item and as authorized in Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.341, paragraph (a). Spawn bags may

be used only in Lake Superior and its tributaries below the posted boundaries and may be transported to and from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries.

C. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 84D.03, subdivision 3, and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.341, paragraph (c), cisco or rainbow smelt may be taken for use as bait from Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries, except those streams listed in subpart 4, item C. The cisco and rainbow smelt may be used only on Lake Superior or its tributaries below the posted boundaries, as fresh, dead, frozen, or preserved bait. Preserved cisco and smelt may be used as prescribed in part 6262.0576 on all waters of the state.

Subp. 6. **Lake Superior and tributaries open season, daily and possession limits.** Angling season and daily and possession limits for Lake Superior are as follows:

Species	Open Season	Daily and Possession Limits
A. Rainbow trout, including steelhead		
Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.	Continuous	5 in aggregate with brown and brook trout and splake. No more than 3 may be clipped rainbow trout, including steelhead. The minimum size limit for clipped rainbow trout is 16 inches in length. Clipped rainbow trout have their adipose fin removed and must show a healed scar. No harvest of unclipped rainbow trout is allowed. All unclipped rainbow trout must be returned to the water immediately, and it is unlawful for anyone to have in possession, regardless of where taken, any unclipped rainbow trout while on or fishing in Lake Superior.
In all streams of the Lake Superior watershed in St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Cook Counties above the posted boundaries and their tributaries.	Second Saturday of April through September 30	No harvest of rainbow trout is allowed. All rainbow trout must be returned to the water immediately. It is unlawful for anyone to have in possession, regardless of where taken, any rainbow trout while on or fishing in the listed waters.
B. Brook trout and splake		

<p>Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.</p>	<p>Second Saturday of April through September 30</p>	<p>5 in aggregate with brown and rainbow trout. The aggregate limit for brook trout and splake is 1, and the minimum size limit is 20 inches in length.</p>
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<p>In all streams of the Lake Superior watershed in St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Cook Counties above the posted boundaries and their tributaries.</p>	<p>Second Saturday of April through September 30</p>	<p>5 in aggregate with brown trout. No more than 1 may be over 16 inches in length.</p>
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C. Brown trout

<p>Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>5 in aggregate with rainbow and brook trout and splake. No more than 1 may be over 16 inches, and the minimum size limit is 10 inches in length.</p>
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<p>In all streams of the Lake Superior watershed in St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Cook Counties above the posted boundaries and their tributaries.</p>	<p>Second Saturday of April through September 30</p>	<p>5 in aggregate with brook trout and splake. No more than 1 may be over 16 inches in length.</p>
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D. Lake trout

<p>Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries.</p>	<p>December 1 through the first full weekend in October</p>
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- E. Chinook, coho, Atlantic, and pink salmon Continuous 5 in aggregate. All must be at least 10 inches in length.
- F. Smelt Continuous Smelt may be possessed without limit and may be bought or sold at any time.

G. Walleye

Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries. Saturday two weeks prior to Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through March 1 2. All must be at least 15 inches in length.

H. Northern pike

Lake Superior and all streams and rivers from Lake Superior upstream to the posted boundaries, including the St. Louis River upstream to the Highway 23 bridge, and Lake Superior tributaries with no posted boundaries. Saturday two weeks prior to Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through March 1 2

All other species may be taken as allowed by inland regulations, except that for the St. Louis River downstream of the Minnesota Highway 23 bridge, part 6266.0500 applies.

Subp. 7. **Single hook restrictions.** Only a single hook per rod may be used for angling below the posted boundaries in tributaries to Lake Superior, except in the Pigeon River (Cook County), and the St. Louis River (St. Louis and Carlton Counties). "Single hook" does not include a treble or double hook, stinger hook, or lure with multiple single hooks or more than one hook on any type of drop line or at the end of the line.

Statutory Authority: *MSs 14.388; 84.027; 97A.045; 97C.025; 97C.315; 97C.341; 97C.395; 97C.401; 97C.415; 97C.811; and others at 19 SR 6*

History: *18 SR 83; 19 SR 484; 19 SR 2222; 22 SR 292; 23 SR 348; 28 SR 629; 35 SR 1396; 37 SR 1664; 38 SR 787; 39 SR 822; 39 SR 1619; 50 SR 176*

NOTE: The amendments to subpart 6 are effective March 1, 2026. See 50 SR 176.

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