

**Department of Natural Resources****Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Mille Lacs Lake Fishing****6264.0400 DESIGNATED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT WATERS.**

[For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

**Subp. 4. Mille Lacs Lake and associated tributaries special management regulations.**

A. While a person is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the possession limit for northern pike is five. Only one northern pike in possession may be greater than 40 inches in length. All northern pike in possession must be less than ~~24~~ 30 inches in length or greater than ~~36~~ 40 inches in length. All northern pike that are ~~24~~ 30 to ~~36~~ 40 inches in length, inclusive, must be immediately returned to the water. ~~A person's possession limit may not include more than one northern pike over 36 inches in length.~~ Beginning December 1, 2016, the possession limit for northern pike is five. At least two northern pike less than 30 inches in length taken the same day from Mille Lacs Lake must be in immediate possession before possessing a northern pike greater than 30 inches in length, and only one northern pike in possession may be greater than 30 inches in length. The angling season for northern pike commences at 12:01 a.m. on the Saturday two weeks before the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and runs to 11:59 p.m. on the last Sunday in March.

B. ~~The possession limit for smallmouth bass is one.~~ While a person is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries, the possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in aggregate is four. Only one largemouth or smallmouth bass in possession may be greater than 21 inches in length. All largemouth and smallmouth bass in possession must be ~~21~~ less than 17 inches or greater than 21 inches in length. All largemouth and smallmouth bass less than that are 17 to 21 inches in length, inclusive, must be immediately returned to the water. These size and

possession restrictions for largemouth and smallmouth bass are waived by the Department of Natural Resources permit for a limited number of bass-fishing tournaments each year. Selection of tournaments for this exemption is based on tournament size, expected participation, and potential to generate public interest and local economic activity. Unless otherwise authorized by special permits for fishing tournaments, the angling season for largemouth and smallmouth bass commences at 12:01 a.m. on the Saturday two weeks before the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and runs to 11:59 p.m. on the last Sunday in February. All largemouth and smallmouth bass before the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend must be immediately returned to the water. Notwithstanding part 6262.0200, subpart 1, item A, subitem (2), the catch and release season beginning the second Monday in September to the last Sunday in February does not apply to Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries.

C. Mille Lacs Lake is closed to the taking of fish between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. daily (night closure) during the period commencing at 10 p.m. on the Monday following the Saturday two weeks prior to the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and ending at 12:01 a.m. on ~~Monday, four weeks after the date of commencement. During the closure, no person shall be on the waters of Mille Laes Lake while having in possession any equipment whereby fish may be taken. Spearing is prohibited from December 1 through April 30. A person may not have a spear in possession while on or fishing in Mille Laes Lake during this period.~~ December 1, except as provided in subitems (1) and (2).

(1) Beginning June 6 at 10 p.m., fishing for muskellunge is allowed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Only artificial muskellunge lures greater than eight inches in length, measured from the front of the eye of the lure to the end of the trailing hook, or sucker minnows greater than eight inches in length may be used or in possession. While fishing for muskellunge under this subitem, no person may have in possession tackle or bait other than that specifically used for muskellunge. Angling for, harvest of, and possession of species other than muskellunge are prohibited.

(2) Beginning June 6 at 10 p.m., bowfishing for rough fish is allowed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. No person shall have in possession any angling equipment while bowfishing under this subitem. Angling for, harvest of, and possession of species other than rough fish while bowfishing are prohibited.

[For text of item D, see M.R.]

E. While a person is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries;

(1) the possession and daily limit for Northern cisco (tullibee) is ten fish; and

(2) angling for walleye is limited to catch and release only. Any walleye caught must be immediately returned to the water.

F. Fish that are taken by angling and not immediately released into the water after capture are considered to be in possession and part of the bag limit. Once a fish has been reduced to possession, culling or live-well sorting (the act of exchanging one fish for another) is not allowed, except that culling or live-well sorting, before meeting a bag limit of fish reduced to possession, is allowed for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

G. This subpart applies to the following waters.

	Name	Location	County
(1)	Mille Lacs	T.42-45, R.25-28, S.Various	Aitkin, Mille Lacs
(2)	Borden Creek	T.44, R.25, S.5	Aitkin
(3)	Seastade Creek	T.45, R.26, S.22	Aitkin
(4)	Marmon (Twenty) Creek	T.45, R.25, S.32	Aitkin
(5)	Grave Creek	T.45, R.25, S.8	Aitkin
(6)	Peterson Creek	T.43, R.25, S.5	Mille Lacs

(7)	Thains River (Malone Creek)	T.42, R.25, S.2	Mille Lacs
(8)	West Sucker Creek	T.42, R.25, S.18	Mille Lacs
(9)	South Sucker Creek	T.42, R.25, S.18	Mille Lacs
(10)	Garrison (Borden) Creek	T.44, R.28, S.12	Crow Wing
(11)	Seguchie Creek	T.44, R.28, S.36	Crow Wing
(12)	Reddy Creek	T.45, R.26, S.23	Aitkin
(13)	Whitefish Creek	T.43, R.27, S.7	Mille Lacs
(14)	Seventeen Creek	T.44, R.25, S.17,18,29	Aitkin
(15)	Cedar Creek	T.43, R.25, S.15	Mille Lacs
(16)	McCleans Creek	T.45, R.27, S.34	Aitkin
(17)	Unnamed	T.43, R.25, S.8	Mille Lacs
(18)	Unnamed	T.42, R.26, S.11	Mille Lacs
(19)	Unnamed	T.42, R.26, S.22	Mille Lacs
(20)	Unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.8	Mille Lacs
(21)	Unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.6	Mille Lacs
(22)	Unnamed	T.43, R.27, S.21	Mille Lacs
(23)	Unnamed	T.44, R.27, S.31	Crow Wing
(24)	Unnamed	T.44, R.28, S.36	Crow Wing
(25)	Unnamed	T.44, R.27, S.4	Aitkin
(26)	Unnamed	T.45, R.27, S.25	Aitkin
(27)	Unnamed	T.44, R.25, S.29	Aitkin
(28)	Unnamed	T.44, R.25, S.31,32	Aitkin
(29)	Unnamed	T.44, R.28, S.24	Crow Wing
(30)	Unnamed	T.44, R.28, S.13	Crow Wing
(31)	Rum River Outlet	T.43, R.27, S.33	Mille Lacs

[For text of subps 5 to 131, see M.R.]

**REPEALER.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 4, published in the State Register, volume 39, page 1539, May 4,

2015; volume 39, page 1569, May 11, 2015; and volume 40, page 217, August 24, 2015, are repealed.