

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, 2017, 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 begins at 12:01 a.m. on May 13, 2017, and runs to 11:59 p.m. on March 25, 2018.

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;

(1) the possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in aggregate is three. 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;

(2) waiver of the size and possession restrictions for largemouth and smallmouth bass under this item is permitted for a limited number of bass-fishing tournaments each year. When determining whether to grant a waiver, the commissioner must consider:

(a) tournament size;

(b) expected participation; and

(c) potential to generate public interest and local economic activity;

and

(3) unless otherwise authorized by special permits for fishing tournaments, the angling season for largemouth and smallmouth bass begins 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 caught 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 for smallmouth bass that begins the second Monday in September and ends 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 ~~during the period commencing~~ (night closure) beginning at 10 p.m. on the Monday following the Saturday two weeks prior to the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend May 15, 2017, 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 Lacs 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 Lacs Lake during this period. December 1, 2017, except as provided in subitems (1) and (2).

(1) Beginning June 3 at 10:00 p.m. and subject to the bait restrictions under item G, subitem (3), fishing for muskellunge and northern pike is allowed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Angling for, harvesting, and possessing species other than muskellunge and northern pike during these hours are prohibited.

(2) Beginning June 3 at 10:00 p.m., bowfishing for rough fish is allowed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. No person shall have in possession any angling equipment while bowfishing under this subitem. Angling for, harvesting, and possessing species other than rough fish while bowfishing during these hours 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) taking and possessing walleye is prohibited except according to units (a) to (d):

(a) beginning at 12:01 a.m. on May 13, 2017, angling for walleye is limited to catch and release only. Any walleye caught must be immediately returned to the water;

(b) beginning at 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2017, and ending at 12:01 a.m. on July 28, 2017, angling for walleye is closed. No walleye may be taken or possessed. Angling for other species remains open, but no person may have in possession tackle other than as provided in item G, subitem (2), unit (c);

(c) beginning at 12:01 a.m. on July 28, 2017, and ending at 12:01 a.m. on September 5, 2017, angling for walleye is limited to catch and release only. Any walleye caught must be immediately returned to the water; and

(d) beginning at 12:01 a.m. on September 5, 2017, angling for walleye is closed. No walleye may be taken or possessed. Angling for other species remains open, but no person may have in possession tackle other than as provided in item G, subitem (2), unit (c).

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. The bait restrictions under subitems (1) to (3) apply while a person is on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries.

(1) There are no bait restrictions for angling between 12:01 a.m. on May 13, 2017, through 9:59 p.m. on May 15, 2017, and after November 30, 2017.

(2) During the day-angling period after May 15, 2017, the following bait restrictions apply:

(a) the day-angling period extends from 6:00 a.m. to 9:59 p.m. during any 24-hour period after May 15, 2017, through November 30, 2017;

(b) there are no bait restrictions during day-angling periods between May 15, 2017, through July 6, 2017, or between July 28, 2017, through September 4, 2017; and

(c) during day-angling periods between July 7, 2017, through July 27, 2017, and September 5, 2017, through November 30, 2017, only artificial baits or lures may be used. Persons angling for muskellunge or northern pike may also use or have in possession sucker minnows greater than eight inches in length.

(3) During the muskellunge and northern pike night-angling period under item C, subitem (1), only artificial muskellunge and northern pike 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. During the night-angling period, no person while angling may have in possession tackle or bait other than that specifically used for muskellunge or northern pike during the muskellunge or northern pike night-angling period under item C, subitem (1).

G. H. This subpart applies to the following waters.

	Name	Location	County
			Aitkin, Mille Lacs
(1)	Mille Lacs	T.42-45, R.25-28, S.Various	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.]

EFFECT OF RULE. The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 4, supersede the Commissioner's Orders issued by the commissioner of natural resources on September 6, 2016, and December 1, 2016.

REPEALER. The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 4, published in the State Register, volume 40, page 1485, May 2, 2016, are repealed.