

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

[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]

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

A. The angling season for northern pike in Mille Lacs Lake and its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries begins at 12:01 a.m. on May 11, 2019, and continues to 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020. 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.

(1) From May 11, 2019, to 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2019, 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. Only one northern pike in possession may be greater than 40 inches in length.

(2) Beginning December 1, 2019, at least two northern pike less than 30 inches in length taken the same day from Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries 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.

B. The possession limit for smallmouth bass is one. Unless otherwise authorized by special permits for fishing tournaments, the angling season for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Mille Lacs Lake and its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries begins at 12:01 a.m. on May 11, 2019, and continues to 11:59 p.m. on February 23, 2020. All

largemouth and smallmouth bass caught before the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend must be immediately returned to the water. Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on September 9, 2019, all smallmouth bass must be immediately returned to the water. 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; and

(2) the commissioner shall waive the size, possession, and season restrictions for largemouth and smallmouth bass under this item 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;

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

(d) conservation and biological health of the fishery.

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 13, 2019,~~ 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, 2019, except as provided in subitems (1) and (2).

(1) Beginning June 1 at 10:00 p.m. and subject to the bait restrictions under item H, 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 1 at 10:00 p.m., bow fishing for rough fish is allowed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. No person may have in possession any angling equipment while bow fishing under this subitem. Angling for, harvesting, and possessing species other than rough fish while bow fishing during these hours are prohibited.

[For text of items D and E, see Minnesota Rules]

F. A person on or fishing in Mille Lacs Lake or its associated tributaries to the posted boundaries may take walleye according to subitems (1) and (2).

(1) Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on May 11, 2019, the possession limit for walleye is one. All walleye in possession must be from 21 inches in length to 23 inches in length, inclusive, except that a person's possession limit may include one walleye over 28 inches in length. All walleye less than 21 inches in length or greater than 23 inches but less than 28 inches in length must be immediately returned to the water. This subitem is effective until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2019.

(2) Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2019, angling for walleye is limited to catch and release only. Any walleye caught must be immediately returned to the water. This subitem is effective until 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2019.

F. G. 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.

H. 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 11, 2019, through 9:59 p.m. on May 13, 2019, or after November 30, 2019.

(2) During the day-angling period after May 13, 2019, 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 13, 2019, through November 30, 2019; and

(b) there are no bait restrictions during day-angling periods between May 13, 2019, through November 30, 2019.

(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.~~ I. 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 |

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|------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| (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 |

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|------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| (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 subparts 5 to 58, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 59, see State Register, volume 43, page 493]

[For text of subparts 60 to 145, see Minnesota Rules]

EFFECT OF RULE. The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 4, supersede the Commissioner's Order issued by the commissioner of natural resources on December 1, 2018.

REPEALER. The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 4, published in the State Register, volume 42, page 1254, April 23, 2018, are repealed.