

MINNESOTA INLAND WATER SEASONS

Fishing opener is the Saturday two weeks prior to the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Fishing licenses are effective from March 1 to the last day of February of the following year.

Check the MNDNR Regulations for list of waters with experimental and special regulations. Find additional information on Minnesota's fishing regulations from the MNDNR at www.dnr.state.mn.us

SPECIES	LIMITS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bass, Largemouth (NE) (N & E of US Hwy 53 from Duluth to I. Falls & Pelican & Ash lakes in St. Louis County)	6 combined w/ Smallmouth Bass	← Last Sunday in FEB		LARGEMOUTH (NE)		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
Bass, Largemouth (Except NE)	6 combined w/ Smallmouth Bass Catch-and-Release Season: Mid-MAY (Opener) to last Friday in MAY	← Last Sunday in FEB		LARGEMOUTH		C&R	Last Saturday in MAY to Last Sunday in FEB → ← C&R: Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Friday in MAY						
Bass, Smallmouth (NE) (N & E of US Hwy 53 from Duluth to I. Falls & Pelican & Ash lakes in St. Louis County)	6 combined w/ Largemouth Bass	← Last Sunday in FEB		SMALLMOUTH (NE)		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
Bass, Smallmouth (Except NE)	6 combined w/ Largemouth Bass Catch-and-Release Seasons: Mid-MAY (Opener) to last Friday in MAY AND 2nd Monday in SEPT to last Sunday in FEB	← Last Sunday in FEB		SMALLMOUTH		C&R	Last Saturday in MAY to 2nd Sunday in SEPT → ← C&R: Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Friday in MAY			← C&R: 2nd Monday in SEPT to last Sunday in FEB →			
Northern Pike (NE)	2; not more than 1 over 40" in possession; all from 30-40" must be immediately released	← Last Sunday in FEB		NORTHERN PIKE		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
Northern Pike (N-Cen)	10; not more than 2 over 26"; all from 22-26" must be released												
Northern Pike (S)	2; minimum 24"												
Northern Pike (LS)	2	← MAR 1st		NORTHERN PIKE (LS)		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
Muskie & Hybrid	1 combined; minimum 54"			MUSKIE & HYBRID		1st Saturday in JUNE to DEC 1st →			← 1st Saturday in JUNE to DEC 1st				
Muskie & Hybrid (TC Size Exceptions**)	1 combined; minimum 40"												
Sturgeon (Lake & Shovelnose) *See "border waters" section for special regulations	Catch-and-Release Season (same every year): 6/16 to 4/14, no tag needed	← C&R: JUNE 16th to APRIL 14th →		LAKE STURGEON		← C&R: JUNE 16th to APRIL 14th →							
Walleye/Sauger (except LS)	6 combined; not more than one walleye over 20"	← Last Sunday in FEB		WALLEYE/SAUGER		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
Walleye (LS)	2; minimum 15"	← MAR 1st		WALLEYE (LS)		Mid-MAY (OPENER) to Last Sunday in FEB →							
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Catfish, Flathead	2; only 1 over 24" in combination w/ Channel Catfish (5 total combined)	FLATHEAD CATFISH			APRIL 1st to NOV 30th →				← APRIL 1st to NOV 30th				
Catfish, Channel	Continuous; 5 combined w/ Flathead Catfish (no more than 2 can be Flathead); only 1 over 24"	Continuous CHANNEL CATFISH											
Catfish, Bullhead (Black, Brown, Yellow)	Continuous; 100	Continuous BULLHEAD CATFISH (BLACK, BROWN, YELLOW)											
Crappie (White, Black, & their hybrids)	Continuous; 10 combined	Continuous CRAPPIE											
Sunfish	Continuous; 20 combined	Continuous SUNFISH (BLUEGILL, PUMPKINSEED, GREEN, ORANGESPOTTED, LONGEAR, WARMOUTH, and their HYBRIDS)											
Perch	Continuous; 20 daily; 40 in possession	Continuous PERCH											
Rock Bass & White B.	Continuous; 30	Continuous ROCK BASS, WHITE BASS											
Whitefish	Continuous; no limit (except on Leech Lake = 25)	Continuous WHITEFISH											
Cisco (Tullibee)	Continuous; no limit (except on Leech Lake = 50)	Continuous CISCO (TULLIBEE)											
Burbot (Eelpout)	Continuous; no limit (except on Mille Lacs which is C&R only)	Continuous BURBOT											
Carp, Sucker, Buffalo, Redhorse, Drum, Gar, Bowfin, Smelt	Continuous; no limit	Continuous CARP, SUCKER, BUFFALO, DRUM, GAR, BOWFIN (DOGFISH), SMELT											
Paddlefish	No open season	No Open Season PADDFISH											

** MUSKIE SIZE EXCEPTIONS: Twin Cities area lakes: Eagle, Pierson and Wasserman, Carver County; Crystal and Orchard, Dakota County; Gervais, Island, Johanna, Phalen and Silver, Ramsey County; Bryant, Bush, Bde Maka Ska, Cedar, Crystal, Isles, Nokomis and Weaver, Hennepin County; Cedar, Scott County; Clear and Elmo, Washington County

*** NORTHERN PIKE: See zone map in MNDNR Regulations for details on how possession limits apply across zones. Dark house spearing limits differ, see MNDNR Regulations for details.