



Fisheries Focus

DNR
Glenwood
Fisheries

JANUARY 2008



Some fishing regulations changed on Dec. 10, 2007

Minnesota anglers should be aware of changes in fishing regulations when new rules were published Dec. 10, 2007 in the State Register, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Rule changes include:

ICE FISHING MEAL PREPARATION

While on or fishing waters with size restrictions, all fish for which the size restriction applies must have their heads, tails, fins and skin intact and be measurable except when a person is preparing and using such fish for a meal.

TAKE A KID ICE FISHING

Anglers older than 16 do not need a license from Feb. 16-18, 2008, if they are accompanied by a child younger than 16 and are actively participating in Take A Kid Ice Fishing Weekend.

MUSKIE SEASON

Muskie season closed on Dec. 15, 2007. The 2008 season will begin on Saturday, June 7, 2008, and close on Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

NIGHT BOWFISHING

Taking fish via archery at night will be allowed from June 1, 2008, to Aug. 31, 2008, on selected lakes. Some special provisions for barbed arrows and noise level restrictions will apply.

WHITEFISH/CISCOE NETTING

Changes in regulations close the following lakes to whitefish/ciscoe netting: Burgen (Douglas County), Latoka (Douglas County), Osakis (Douglas and Todd County), and Victoria lakes (Douglas County).

A complete list of regulation changes and additional details will be available on the DNR Web site at www.mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing.



ADDITIONAL FISHING REGULATION CHANGES



The 2007 fishing license will now be valid until April 30, 2008. If you currently have a 2007 license, you won't need to purchase a new license until May 1, 2008. If you didn't have a 2007 license, a new license will need to be purchased by March 1, 2008.



Lake Miliona now has a 48-inch minimum size limit on muskies.



Lakes Burgen and Andrews northern pike 24-inch maximum regulation has been dropped. The change will take effect March 1, 2008.



Lake Rachel northern pike 24-inch maximum has been changed to a 24 – 36 inch protected slot with one fish allowed over 36 inches. The change will take effect March 1, 2008.



The Adopt-a-River program encourages Minnesota volunteers to "adopt" a section of a lake, river, wetland or


ravine to ensure its long-term health through annual cleanups. Volunteers choose their own site from shorelines that have not yet been adopted. The program supplies "how-to" assistance, free rubbish bags, gloves and recognition after a reporting of cleanup results. Information tracked includes pounds of rubbish collected, volunteer hours, and descriptions of the debris found.

The "how-to" assistance for participants includes a free cleanup/organizing kit and other logistical support. A members' newsletter and related stewardship information is also available. The program is suitable for students, recreationists, service groups, and conservation organizations. Depending upon how you set it up, the program is appropriate for third graders through adults.

The Adopt-a-River Program is part of the Department of Natural Resources' Trails and Waterways Division. This division specializes in providing access to the vast lands and waters of the state. As the division's stewardship specialists, the Adopt-a-River program challenges you to become personally involved in the care of our resources. The Adopt-a-River program, with a watershed approach, links public trails and floodplain areas into a common fabric: the watershed.

Along with the increased usage of the Long Prairie River from the Carlos dam to Highway 29 comes an increase in the amount of litter found along the banks and in the water. This section of the river would be an ideal candidate for an annual river cleanup.

If you know of a group that would like to get involved and make a positive impact on this scenic resource, contact the program coordinator at (651) 259-5630 or by e-mail at

paul.nordell@dnr.state.mn.us. 


Aquatic Plant Management Compliance Checks

Approximately 1500 aquatic plant management (APM) permits are issued in the Northwest Region each year. In 2007 APM compliance check tours were completed on 15 lakes across the 3 Fisheries Areas in the southern part of the Region (Glenwood, Fergus Falls, and Detroit Lakes).

Compliance checks were conducted by entire shoreline boat tours, allowing all potential emergent vegetation removal and automated untended aquatic plant control device (AUAPCD) violations to be identified (i.e., WeedRollers and Beachroomers). Potential violations were reported to the local Conservation Officer.

A total of 4485 lakeshore parcels were inspected through the 2007 efforts, with 49 violations reported to the Division of Enforcement. Four lakes inspected in 2007 had no violations to report: Rush, Otter Tail Co.; Irene and Darling, Douglas Co.; and Long (near Vergas), Otter Tail Co. Overall, the most common violation was using additional WeedRoller radius and/or running the unit at unpermitted mounting locations. Four machines were in violation for operating after the permit expiration date (September 1), and 6 were in violation of 3-year permit conditions (due to additional WeedRoller radius and/or additional mounting locations). Local Conservation Officers issued 35 citations and 12 warnings as a result of the compliance check program efforts.

Lakeshore property owners are reminded to check the aquatic plant management rules prior to any work and/or call Leslie George, Aquatic Plant Management Specialist, at the Glenwood Fisheries office (320-634-4573) with any

questions. 



2007 Walleye Fingerling Stocking Summary

| LAKE | POUNDS | NUMBER |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| DOUGLAS COUNTY | | |
| Aaron | 836 | 1,321 |
| Carlos* | 910 | 15,061 |
| Darling * | 479 | 11,970 |
| Geneva* | 265 | 3,392 |
| Indian | 76 | 684 |
| Irene* | 538 | 7,070 |
| LeHommeDieu* | 765 | 9,152 |
| Lobster | 1,422 | 2,651 |
| Miltona | 2,553 | 9,484 |
| Moses | 402 | 518 |
| Oscar | 800 | 1,056 |
| Rachel | 252 | 2,225 |
| Smith* | 550 | 5,721 |
| Turtle | 386 | 659 |
| Vermont | 90 | 500 |
| Victoria* | 120 | 1,536 |
| GRANT COUNTY | | |
| Cottonwood | 491 | 1,399 |
| Thompson | 150 | 1,126 |
| POPE COUNTY | | |
| Gilchrist | 412 | 545 |
| Grove | 554 | 746 |
| Linka | 157 | 1,506 |
| Pelican | 832 | 3,975 |
| Scandinavian | 474 | 5,520 |
| TODD COUNTY | | |
| Osakis | 406 | 12,001 |
| TOTAL | 13,920 | 99,818 |

* Stocked by private sector under State contract.

LAKE SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN 2007

Lake surveys were conducted on the following lakes in the Glenwood Fisheries Area. Surveys included the use of trapnets, gillnets and largemouth bass electrofishing. The data will be compiled this winter and the lake survey reports will be available this summer on the internet.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Agnes
Andrew
Gilbert
Henry
Ida
Miltona
Stowe
Whiskey

POPE COUNTY

Goose
Grove
Westport

GRANT COUNTY

Barrett
Pomme de Terre

STEVENS COUNTY

Charlotte/Moore
Perkins

In addition, several other surveys were completed this year:

A muskie assessment was conducted on Oscar Lake this spring.

Northern pike ice-out trapnetting surveys were conducted on Lakes Burgen and Andrews.

Vegetation and substrate was mapped on Lake Latoka.

Smallmouth bass were sampled on the Long Prairie River.

2007 FALL WALLEYE YOUNG-OF-YEAR ELECTROFISHING RESULTS

| Lake | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Andrew | | <1.0 | 40.0 | 41.3 | 78.1 | 6.0 | 86.1 | 6.0 |
| Big Chippewa | <1.0 | 31.0 | 22.0 | 54.5 | 14.0 | 7.0 | 62.5 | 68.0 |
| Ida | 24.5 | 125.0 | 28.0 | 22.0 | 2.0 | 17.0 | 53.0 | 24.0 |
| Mary | 70.0 | 53.7 | 117.0 | 0.8 | 219.5 | 5.0 | 154.6 | 44.0 |
| Miltona | 0.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 63.6 | 17.0 | 81.3 | 44.0 |
| Minnewaska | <1.01 | 72.6 | 14.4 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 7.7 | 23.3 | 6.2 |
| Big Pelican | | 106.0 | 6.4 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 157.0 | 0.0 | 33.0 |
| Reno | 3.0 | 78.0 | 30.00 | 30.5 | 0.0 | 97.0 | 2.1 | 0.0 |
| Osakis | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 31.0* |

Numbers represent YOY walleye sampled per hour.

* Electrofishing conducted in spring.

Long Prairie River gets new public access

Canoeists and tubers alike will now have an easier and safer time enjoying the Long Prairie River.

The Viking Sportsmen helped in acquiring the land. Bruce Winterfeldt from DNR Trails and Waterways designed and constructed the fantastic public access on the Long Prairie River next to Continental Bridge near Carlos Corners.

There is ample parking and an innovative interlocking pathway down to the river. Due to the steep grade to the river, Winterfeldt was concerned about doing extensive earthwork for fear of erosion problems. Instead, he designed the access to compliment the site, not destroy it. This is the first time Winterfeldt has used the interlocking pathway material. The project turned out so well that Winterfeldt is considering using this material at other project sites.



Fish house and dark house licensing changes greet ice anglers

Changes to fish house rules during the close of the 2007 Legislative session will greet anglers in Minnesota this ice fishing season, particularly those leaving such structures unattended on the ice overnight. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) expects the changes to generate some questions since the 2007 Fishing Regulations Handbook does not reflect the new statute language.

Col. Mike Hamm, DNR's chief conservation officer, said the changes are pretty straightforward. "If you haul a fish house out and leave it unattended on the ice overnight, it needs a fish house license," Hamm said. The rule change applies to both dark houses and fish houses.

The legal definition for a "fish house" means a structure set on the ice of state waters to provide shelter while taking fish by angling. For a fish house or a dark house to require a shelter license, it has to be left unattended on the ice overnight and used for taking fish.

"Overnight" is defined as the hours between sunset and sunrise outlined in the DNR's sunrise/sunset tables in the 2007 Fishing Regulations Handbook.

Also under new provisions of the statute, residents and nonresidents are treated the same. This means in most cases a nonresident using a fish house during daylight hours will not need a fish house license. Likewise, if a nonresident angler is found occupying a fish

house during the night, no fish house license will be required. However, if a nonresident places a fish house on a lake and leaves it unattended overnight, a nonresident shelter license will be required.

"For the 2007-2008 winter season, residents and nonresidents will need the appropriate fish house license only if the fish house is left unattended on the ice overnight," Hamm said.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Resident or nonresident is angling with a fish house for five hours during the day. Person leaves ice with the fish house. Does angler need a fish house license?

Answer: No. A fish house license is not required in this instance.

Question: Resident or nonresident angler stays overnight in a fish house. Does person need a fish house license?

Answer: No. A fish house license is not required in this instance, as long as the fish house is occupied.

Question: Resident or nonresident angler leaves fish house unoccupied on an area lake overnight in front of the resort angler is staying at. Does the fish house require a fish house license?

Answer: Yes. A fish house license would be required in this instance. Anytime the fish house is left unattended overnight, a fish house license is required. *(continued next page)*

(Fish House contd) **Question:** A group of (resident or nonresident) anglers pulls a fish house on the ice for a weekend of ice fishing.

The fish house is designed with a wheel system that allows for easy access and removal from the lake. The anglers stay in the house and never leave it unoccupied during the course of the weekend. Does the fish house require a license?

Answer: No. A fish house license is not required as long as the fish house is attended. This includes daylight, as well as nighttime use.

Question: A group of anglers (resident or nonresident) anglers constructs an 8- by - 8- by 12-foot fish house on a local lake. Regularly the group, or members of the group, will meet at the fish house after work to fish. By 9 p.m. they've all left and return the following day at 5 p.m. for more fun. Does this fish house require a license?

Answer: Yes. Depending on who owns the fish house, a resident or a nonresident fish house license would be required.

The following regulations apply to fish houses, dark houses and portable shelters used on all Minnesota waters, unless noted in the 2007 Minnesota Fishing Regulations Handbook.

- A person may not take fish from a dark house or fish house that is left unattended on the ice overnight unless the house is licensed and has a license tag attached to the exterior in a readily visible location. The commissioner must issue a tag with a dark house or fish house license, marked with a number to correspond with the license and the years of issue. A dark house or fishing

house is not required of a resident on boundary waters where the adjacent state does not charge a fee for the same activity.

- Nonresidents may obtain a license for a fish shelter.
- All shelters (including dark houses, fish houses and portable shelters) placed on the ice of Minnesota waters must have either the complete name and address, driver's license number, or the nine-digit Minnesota DNR number on the license of the owner plainly and legibly displayed on the outside in letters, and figures at least two inches in height.
- A tag, furnished with the license, must be attached to the exterior in a readily visible location.
- Dark houses, fish houses and portable shelters must have a door that can be opened from the outside at any time when in use.
- Fish houses left on the ice overnight need to have at least two square inches of reflective material on each side of the house.
- Fish houses must comply with the identification requirements of the state for which the angler is licensed.
- No person may erect a dark house, fish house or shelter within 10 feet of an existing dark house, fish house or shelter.
- Portable dark houses, fish houses and shelters may be used for fishing within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), but must be removed from the ice each night. The structure must be removed from the BWCAW each time the occupant leaves the BWCAW.



Thanks Art, for the memories



Many of our Wildlife Management Areas have an interesting history and benefit the many people who visit these areas.

This past spring burn season, the Glenwood Wildlife burn crew was preparing for a prescribed burn on the north tract of the Art Engelbrecht WMA in Douglas County. Two turkey hunters had just finished a successful hunt and were taking pictures in the same parking lot where we were unloading our burn equipment. After visiting with the hunters, we completed our prescribed burn. These turkey hunters later sent us a letter complimenting DNR for what we do. Here is what they wrote.

“Recently I was hunting wild turkey in a state WMA near Forada. I harvested a beautiful bird at 10:30 AM and returning to my truck, a fire burning crew from the DNR (Glenwood Office) was preparing to burn the wildlife area north of where I hunted. We engaged in conversation about the wildlife in the area. I spoke of the many turkey I heard gobble that morning and many I had seen in the area in recent days. Over the winter, there was a flock of approximately 100 birds a mile north of where we were located. The pheasant population has increased dramatically in the last three years with many roosters being heard every morning and evening.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people on the fire crew, yourself, and other members of the DNR who work hard to maintain the habitat on the Wildlife Areas. Without dedicated people like

you, myself and others would not have the opportunity and quality of hunts that we so enjoy.”

However, this is not where the story begins, nor is it where it ends. This experience is hopefully one of many that are enjoyed by hunters on the Art Engelbrecht WMA, as well as on countless other WMAs, other state lands, and federal public lands throughout Minnesota. This story actually begins with Art Engelbrecht, the former owner who in 1998 sold these 320 acres to the DNR as part of the WMA system with two conditions: First, to be granted life estate on 21 acres where he was born some 88 years ago in his living room, and second, to have the DNR bulldoze his house, barns, trees and other evidence of his existence here to provide habitat for wildlife on this WMA. Purchasing the Engelbrecht land to become a WMA was so well supported in Douglas County that nearly every local sportsmen club and civic group donated money. The Viking Sportsmen of Alexandria even took out a loan to help purchase Mr. Engelbrecht’s land.

Art Engelbrecht has been the consummate conservationist throughout his long and interesting career. He had a zoo in his backyard with timberwolves, black bears, mountain lions, red fox, and bobcats that were tame enough to ride with him in his car. He has served with the Minnesota state Legislature, was instrumental in shaping the Reinvest in Minnesota program, has organized many conservation programs, and led the effort to re-establish the Giant Canada Goose in Minnesota. He has hunted the Brooks Range in Alaska for Dall Sheep, ducks and pheasants all over the country, and took up turkey hunting around the age of 80. Mr. Engelbrecht has carved decoys and birds for the last 30 years, and now these works of art are highly sought after.

The Art Engelbrecht WMA provides a place for people to make their outdoor memories. That was one of the main reasons that Mr. Engelbrecht sold his land to DNR. Everyone who reads the dedication sign will be reminded of Art’s contribution to natural resource conservation in Minnesota.

Art passed away this past December and will be missed.

