

CHAPTER 6264
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
EXPERIMENTAL FISHING WATERS; REGULATIONS

6264.0100 SEASONS AND LIMITS
 6264.0200 WATERS WITH RESTRICTIONS ON
 SPEARING AND SIZE LIMITS.

6264.0300 DESIGNATED EXPERIMENTAL
 WATERS.

6264.0100 SEASONS AND LIMITS

Muskellunge, including muskellunge–northern pike hybrid, may be taken by angling in all waters from the first Saturday in June to the third Monday in February. Daily and possession limit is one. The minimum size limit will be 40 inches in length, except in Shoepac Lake, St. Louis county, where a 30–inch minimum size limit will apply.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97A.045; 97C.401; 97C.405*

History: *18 SR 83*

6264.0200 WATERS WITH RESTRICTIONS ON SPEARING AND SIZE LIMITS.

Subpart 1. Designated waters with spearing prohibited. A person may not take fish by spearing from the lakes named in this part, and may not possess a spear while on or fishing in the following lakes. These designations, as provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.011, remain in effect until midnight of the stated end date.

| | Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----|--------------|---|------------------|------------|
| A. | Baby | T.140,141, R.29 | Cass | 3/1/2004 |
| B. | Bad Axe | T.142, R.34 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| C. | Beers | T.135, R.42, S.11 + Various | Otter Tail | 1/1/1998 |
| D. | Big | T.146,147, R.31 | Beltrami | 3/1/2004 |
| E. | Big Mantrap | T.141,142 R.33,34 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| F. | Big Sand | T.141, R.34 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| G. | Cass | T.145,146 R.30,31 (Various Sections) | Cass Beltrami | 1/15/1998 |
| H. | Cross | T.39, R.21, and its Snake River flowage in Sections 31 and 32 of T.39, R.21 | Pine | 3/1/2004 |
| I. | Deer | T.56,57, R.26,27 | Itasca | 3/1/2004 |
| J. | Dumbbell | T.59, R.8, T.60, R.7 | Lake | 3/1/2004 |
| K. | French | T.110, R.21,22 | Rice | 3/1/2004 |
| L. | Harris | T.61, R.10,11 | Lake | 3/1/2004 |
| M. | Independence | T.118, R.23,24 | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| N. | Indian | T.130, R.38, S.32, 33 | Douglas | 12/31/2000 |
| O. | Little Moose | T.57, R.26 | Itasca | 3/1/2004 |
| P. | Little Sand | T.141, R.33,34 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| Q. | Lobster | T.128, R.38,39 | Douglas | 3/1/2004 |
| R. | Moose | T.57, R.26,27 | Itasca | 3/1/2004 |
| S. | North Star | T.58,59, R.26 | Itasca | 3/1/2004 |
| T. | Rush | T.37, R.21,22 | Chisago | 3/1/2004 |
| U. | Spider | T.141, R.33 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| V. | Spider | T.58, R.25,26 | Itasca | 3/1/2004 |
| W. | Stocking | T.141, R.34 | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| X. | Sugar | T.121,122, R.27 | Wright | 3/1/2004 |

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|----|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Y. | Wabedo | T.140, R.28 | Cass | 3/1/2004 |
| Z. | West Battle | T.132, R.40 T.133, R.39,40 | Otter Tail | 3/1/2004 |

Subp. 2. **Designated waters with size restrictions and spearing allowed.** The minimum size limit for muskellunge in the following lakes is 48 inches and no muskellunge may be possessed less than that length while on or fishing in the waters of these lakes. Spearing is allowed in these lakes.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------------|--|-----------------|----------|
| A. Elk | T.143, R.36, Various Sections | Clearwater | 3/1/2004 |
| B. Little Wolf | T.145, R.31,32 Various Sections | Cass Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |
| C. Plantaganette | T.145,146, R.33,34 Various Sections | Hubbard | 3/1/2004 |

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.011*

History: *18 SR 83*

6264.0300 DESIGNATED EXPERIMENTAL WATERS.

Subpart 1. **General provisions.** While on or fishing on designated experimental waters, all fish for which size restrictions apply must be intact and measurable, regardless of where taken. Length of fish is determined by measuring from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail when fully extended.

Subp. 2. **Muskellunge size restrictions and spearing exclusion.** The following lakes have experimental regulations with size restrictions for muskellunge and a spearing ban from December 1 through February 15. A person may not have a spear in possession or under control while on or fishing on the waters of these lakes during this period. All muskellunge in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be 48 inches or greater in length. All muskellunge less than 48 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| A. Bald Eagle | T.30,31, R.21,21, S.Various | Anoka, Ramsey, Washington | 3/1/2004 |
| B. Eagle | T.118,119, R.22, S.Various | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| C. Owasso | T.29,30, R.23, S.Various | Ramsey | 3/1/2004 |
| D. Rebecca | T.118,119, R.24, S.Various | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |

Subp. 3. **Spearing prohibited.** The following lakes are closed to the taking of fish by spearing from December 1 through February 15. A person may not have a spear in possession or under control while on or fishing on the waters of these lakes during this period.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| A. Minnetonka | T.116,117, R.22-24, S.Various | Hennepin, Carver | 3/1/2004 |
| B. Libbs | T.117, R.22, S.17 | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| C. Peavy | T.117, R.23, S.1 | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| D. Forest | T.117, R.23, S.7 | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| E. Tanager | T.117, R.23, S.10,11 | Hennepin | 3/1/2004 |
| F. Cedar | T.113, R.22, S.22 | Scott | 3/1/2004 |

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Subp. 4. **Largemouth bass – minimum length limits.** All largemouth bass in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be 16 inches or greater in length. All largemouth bass less than 16 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| A. Crooked | T.31,32, R.24, S.4,33 | Anoka | 3/1/1994 |
| B. Golden | T.31, R.23, S.25,36 | Anoka | 3/1/1994 |
| C. Rebecca | T.115, R.17, S.20,21 | Dakota | 3/1/1994 |
| D. Bush | T.116, R.21, S.Various | Hennepin | 3/1/1994 |
| E. Round | T.116, R.22, S.8 | Hennepin | 3/1/1994 |
| F. Snelling | T.28, R.23, S.Various | Hennepin | 3/1/1994 |
| G. Como | T.29, R.23, S.23,26 | Ramsey | 3/1/1994 |

Subp. 5. **Largemouth bass – slot length limits.** All largemouth bass in possession while on or fishing from these waters must be less than 12 inches in length or greater than 16 inches in length. All largemouth bass which are 12 to 16 inches in length, inclusive, shall be returned to the water immediately.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|
| A. Hyland | T.116, R.21, S.29,32 | Hennepin | 3/1/1994 |
| B. Rebecca | T.118,119, R.24, S.Various | Hennepin | 3/1/1994 |
| C. DeMontreville | T.29, R.21, S.4,5,9 | Washington | 3/1/1994 |
| D. Jane | T.29, R.21, S.9,10 | Washington | 3/1/1994 |
| E. Olson | T.29, R.21, S.8,9 | Washington | 3/1/1994 |

Subp. 6. **Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Becker and Otter Tail counties.** The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. Not more than three northern pike in possession may be over 24 inches in length.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| A. Detroit | T.138,139, R.41, S.Various | Becker | 3/1/1996 |
| B. Sallie | T.138, R.41, S.Various | Becker | 3/1/1996 |
| C. Melissa | T.138, R.41, S.Various | Becker | 3/1/1996 |
| D. Dead | T.134,135, R.40,41, S. Various | Otter Tail | 3/1/1996 |
| E. Star | T.136, R.40, S.Various | Otter Tail | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 7. **Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Beltrami, Hubbard, and Aitkin counties.** The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 24 inches in length.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| A. Gull | T.148,149, R.32, S.Various | Beltrami | 3/1/1996 |
| B. George | T.143, R.34, S.Various | Hubbard | 3/1/1996 |

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|----|------|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| C. | Nord | T.46, R.26, S.Variou | Aitkin | 3/1/1996 |
|----|------|-------------------------|--------|----------|

Subp. 8. **Northern pike expanded limits.** The possession limit for northern pike from the following waters is six fish.

| | Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----|---------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| A. | Portage | T.140, R.35, S.Variou | Hubbard | 3/1/1994 |
| B. | Midge | T.145, R.32, S.10,11,15 | Hubbard | 3/1/1994 |
| C. | Puposky | T.149, R.33,34, S.Variou | Beltrami | 3/1/1994 |

Subp. 9. **Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Cass county.** The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 22 inches in length.

| | Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----|----------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| A. | Birch | T.140, R.30,31, S.Variou | Cass | 3/1/1996 |
| B. | Pleasant | T.140, R.30, S.Variou | Cass | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 10. **Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Aitkin and Itasca counties.** The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. All northern pike in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be either less than 20 inches in length or greater than 30 inches in length. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 30 inches in length. All northern pike that are 20 to 30 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately.

| | Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----|---------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| A. | Sissabagamah | T.46,47, R.26, S.Variou | Aitkin | 3/1/1997 |
| B. | Wilkins | T.48, R.25, S.15,16,22 | Aitkin | 3/1/1997 |
| C. | Coon–Sandwick | T.60,61, R.25, S.Variou | Itasca | 3/1/1997 |

Subp. 11. **Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Beltrami county.** The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. All northern pike in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be less than 22 inches in length or greater than 30 inches in length. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 30 inches in length. All northern pike that are 22 to 30 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately.

| | Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----|------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| A. | Medicine | T.149, R.32, S.Variou | Beltrami | 3/1/1997 |
| B. | North Twin | T.148, R.31, S.Variou | Beltrami | 3/1/1997 |

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Subp. 12. Northern pike expanded limits and size restrictions – Crow Wing and Morrison counties. The possession limit for northern pike taken from the following waters is six fish. All northern pike in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be less than 24 inches in length or greater than 30 inches in length. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 30 inches in length. All northern pike that are 24 to 30 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| A. Platte | T.42,43, R.28,29, S.Various | Crow Wing, Morrison | 3/1/2002 |
| B. Sullivan | T.42, R.28,29, S.Various | Morrison | 3/1/2002 |

Subp. 13. Pebble Lake experimental regulations. The season for taking all species of fish by angling is open continuously, except that the open season for largemouth bass is consistent with statewide regulations for inland waters.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|--------|---------------------------|------------|----------|
| Pebble | T.132, R.43, S.Various | Otter Tail | 3/1/1994 |

Subp. 14. Stieger Lake experimental regulations. Stieger Lake is closed at all times to the possession of largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye. All largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye must be returned to the water immediately. Sparring is prohibited from December 1 through February 15.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|---------|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Stieger | T.116, R.24, S.11,12,13 | Carver | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 15. Waconia Lake experimental regulations. All walleye in possession must be 16 inches or greater in length. Walleye less than 16 inches must be returned to the water immediately. All largemouth bass in possession must be less than 17 inches in length or greater than 21 inches in length. All largemouth bass which are 17 to 21 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately. Not more than one largemouth bass in possession may be over 21 inches in length.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|---------|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Waconia | T.116, R.24,25, S.Various | Carver | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 16. Zumbro River experimental regulations. All smallmouth bass in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be less than nine inches in length. All smallmouth bass over nine inches in length must be returned to the water immediately. The possession and use of live or dead minnows, leeches, or worms while angling on these waters is prohibited.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|--------------|--|--------|----------|
| Zumbro River | T.109, R.14, S.22,27, from the upstream side of the bridge at Wabasha County State Aid Highway 7 upstream | | |

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approximately 2.9 miles to the posted boundary below the Zumbro Lake dam plunge pool

Wabasha 3/1/1997

Subp. 17. Big Sand Lake experimental regulations. Not more than one northern pike in possession may be over 24 inches in length. Not more than one walleye in possession may be over 20 inches in length.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----------|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| Big Sand | T.141, R.34, S.Various | Hubbard | 3/1/1995 |

Subp. 18. Mille Lacs Lake experimental regulations. Mille Lacs Lake is closed to the taking of fish between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily during the period commencing at 10:00 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 above referenced closure, no person shall be on the waters of Mille Lacs Lake while having in possession or under control any equipment whereby fish may be taken. Not more than one walleye in possession may be over 20 inches in length. Spearing is prohibited from December 1 through April 30. A person may not have a spear in possession or under control while on or fishing on Mille Lacs Lake during this period.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Mille Lacs | T.42-45, R.25-28, S.Various | Aitkin, Mille Lacs | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 19. Mississippi River experimental regulations. The possession limit for smallmouth bass taken from the following waters is three fish. All smallmouth bass in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be less than 12 inches in length or greater than 20 inches in length. All smallmouth bass that are 12 to 20 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately. Not more than one smallmouth bass in possession may be over 20 inches in length.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|----------|
| Mississippi River | T.32,121, R.23, S.10,14, from the upstream side of the bridge at Highway 101 in Elk River upstream to the downstream side of the bridge at Highway 24 near Clearwater Township T.134, R.30, S.22,23 | Sherburne, Wright | 3/1/1999 |

Subp. 20. Rum River experimental regulations. The possession limit for smallmouth bass taken from the following waters is three fish. All smallmouth bass in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be less than ten inches in length or greater than 18 inches in length. All smallmouth bass that are ten to 18 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water immediately. Not more than one smallmouth bass in possession may be over 18 inches in length.

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| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|--------------------------|---|------------|----------|
| A. Rum River | Main Branch of the Rum River from the downstream side of the Minnesota Highway 27 Bridge near Onamia in T.41, R.26, S.6, downstream to the rock dam in Princeton T.36, R.26, S.33 | Mille Lacs | 3/1/1999 |
| B. West Branch Rum River | West Branch of the Rum River from the downstream side of U.S. Highway 169 bridge in Princeton T.36, R.26, S.36, downstream to its confluence with the Main Branch Rum River in the same section | Mille Lacs | 3/1/1999 |

Subp. 21. Grindstone Lake experimental regulations. The season for taking all species of fish by angling is open continuously. The use of three hooks on one line is permitted and spearing is prohibited. All sturgeon in possession while on or fishing on Grindstone Lake must be 30 inches or greater in length. All sturgeon less than 30 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| Grindstone | T.42, R.21, S.Various | Pine | 3/1/1994 |

Subp. 22. Trout minimum length limits. All trout in possession while on or fishing on these waters must be 18 inches or greater in length. All trout less than 18 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately. The possession limit on these waters is one trout. While on or fishing on these waters, only artificial lures and flies with single hooks may be used. No bait may be used or possessed while fishing on these waters. These waters are closed to winter fishing.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|----------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| A. Thrush Lake | T.63, R.1W, S.31 | Cook | 3/1/1996 |
| B. Turnip Lake | T.64, R.1E, S.24 | Cook | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 23. Square Lake experimental regulations. The possession of trout and salmon is prohibited for 28 consecutive days immediately following and including the May opening day each year. All trout and salmon taken by anglers during that period must be returned to the water immediately. During the remainder of the season, the limit for trout and salmon combined is two. Not more than one fish in possession may be an Atlantic salmon, and all Atlantic salmon in possession must be 16 inches or greater. All Atlantic salmon less than 16 inches must be returned to the water immediately. A trout and salmon stamp is required to possess trout or salmon for all persons required to possess a Minnesota fishing license.

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| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|--------|----------------------|------------|----------|
| Square | T.31, R.20W, S.23,26 | Washington | 3/1/1998 |

Subp. 24. **Winter stream trout season.** The following waters are open to angling during a winter trout season from January 1 through March 31. While on or fishing on these waters, all trout must be immediately returned to the water. All legal methods of taking trout are allowed, except that barbed hooks are prohibited. A hook from which the barb has been removed by crimping or filing is allowed. It is illegal to possess trout while on or fishing from these waters during the winter stream trout season.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| A. Middle Branch Whitewater R. | T.107, R.10, S.9, 16,17,20, from the upstream side of State Highway 74 bridge in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4, S.9 upstream approximately 2.9 miles to the confluence with Trout Run, SE 1/4 SE 1/4, S.20 | Winona | 3/1/1996 |
| B. South Branch Whitewater R. | T.107, R.10, S.3, 10,11,14, from the confluence with the Whitewater River in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4, S.3 upstream approximately 2.0 miles to the downstream side of Winona County Highway 37 bridge in the NW 1/4 NE 1/4, S.14 | Winona | 3/1/1996 |
| C. Beaver Cr. | T.108, R.10, S.19, 20,21, and T.108, R.11, S.24 from the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area Sanctuary boundary at the north section line of S.21 to T.108, R.10 upstream approximately 3.9 miles to the source in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4, S.24 of T.108, R.11 | Winona, Wabasha | 3/1/1996 |
| D. Hay Cr. | T.112, R.15, S.23, 24,26,27, from the posted boundary at the point where Hay Creek crosses the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 section line of S.24 upstream | | |

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approximately 3.9
miles to the posted
boundary in the
SW 1/4 SE 1/4, S.27 Goodhue 3/1/1996

Subp. 25. Catch and release fishing on trout streams. While on or fishing on the following waters, all trout must be immediately returned to the water. All legal methods of taking trout are allowed, except that barbed hooks are prohibited. A hook from which the barb has been removed by crimping or filing is allowed.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|----------|
| A. Middle Branch Whitewater R. | T.107, R.11, S.35 and T.106, R.11, S.2,3,10, from the posted boundary at the point where a tributary enters the stream from the west in the NW 1/4 NE 1/4, S.35 of T.107, R.11 upstream approximately 3.3 miles to the source in the SW 1/4 NE 1/4, S.10 of T.106, R.11 | Olmsted | 3/1/1996 |
| B. Hay Cr. | T.112, R.15, S.23, 24,26,27 from the posted boundary at the point where Hay Creek crosses the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 section line of S.24 upstream approximately 3.9 miles to the posted boundary in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4, S.27 | Goodhue | 3/1/1996 |

Subp. 26. Main Branch Whitewater River maximum length limits. While on or fishing on the following waters, all trout in possession must be ten inches or less in length, except that one trout 18 inches or larger may be kept. All trout greater than ten inches in length must be returned to the water immediately, except that one trout 18 inches or larger in length may be kept. All legal methods of taking trout are allowed, except that barbed hooks are prohibited. A hook from which the barb has been removed by crimping or filing is allowed.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| Main Branch Whitewater R. | T.108, R.10, S.10, 11,14,15, from the point where the Whitewater River crosses the north section line of S.11 (northern boundary of the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area | | |

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Refuge) upstream
approximately 3.1
miles to the
downstream side of
the Winona County
State Aid Highway
30 bridge

Winona 3/1/1996

Subp. 27. **South Branch Whitewater River maximum length limits.** While on or fishing on the following waters, all trout in possession must be ten inches or less in length. Trout greater than ten inches in length must be returned to the water immediately. All legal methods of taking trout are allowed, except that barbed hooks are prohibited. A hook from which the barb has been removed by crimping or filing is allowed.

| Name | Location | County | End Date |
|-------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| South Branch Whitewater R. | T.107, R.10, S.13, 14,24, from the upstream side of the abandoned bridge on County Road 112 in the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, S.14 upstream approximately 1.0 mile to the posted boundary in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4, S.24 | Winona | 3/1/1996 |

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.001*

History: *18 SR 83*