

Minnesota Fishing Report

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Good numbers of walleye continue to be pulled from lakes and rivers throughout the state. Overall, anglers are having the most success using lindy rigs and jigs tipped with leeches, with crawlers and minnows also working well. Low light hours are generally best.

Northeast Minnesota

International Falls - Rainy Lake and the Rainy River

Walleye anglers report that while fish are starting to move to the deeper waters

and mid-lake reefs of Rainy Lake, they can still be found in 10-15 feet of water, especially along the windy sides of the rocky shorelines. Black Bay has been a hot spot. Slowly trolling a gold or white spinner rig tipped with a minnow seems to be working best. Black Bay has also been the place to catch crappies. For large pike, hit the weedy edges around Jackfish, Black, Cranberry, and Lost bays.

Cook/Tower - Lake Vermilion

Walleye have started to move to deeper waters. For the most fish, troll rapalas, cast leeches, and minnows into 10-15 foot depths at the weedlines and rocky piles, or drift live bait rigs or jigs. Flour and Poplar

lakes, located midway up the Gunflint Trail, are giving up some nice-size walleye. These lakes, as well as Saganaga Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail, are giving up lots of whitefish, northern pike, and smallmouth bass. Trout anglers should check out Sawbill Lake near Tofte where the rainbows are coming from the deep waters on nightcrawlers. Duke Lake, just east of Twin Lakes, is also giving up nice numbers of trout. For splake, use minnows on Seagull and Clearwater lakes.

Grand Rapids

The cool start to summer is extending the spring patterns on area lakes, with surface water temperatures hovering around 63-degrees. Walleye anglers report good action on lakes such as Lake Winnebigoishish (southeast side in 20-25 feet of water) and Bowstring Lake (as shallow as 8 feet). Be sure to also check out some of the smaller lakes such as Spider, Deer, and Big Turtle – these lakes receive less fishing pressure and have fewer slot or size restrictions. For the most walleye, use a fairly aggressive jigging technique along with a jig and minnow or a lindy rig and leech.

Northwest Minnesota

Baudette - Lake of the Woods and the Rainy River

On Lake of the Woods, walleye anglers are jigging and using spinners with live bait in 4-12 feet of water and in depths of 26-31 feet. Lots of slot-size and larger fish are coming from both depths. Anglers are catching their limits while anchored or

drifting using 3/8-ounce orange, pink, or gold jigs. At the Northwest Angle and Islands area, anglers are having a blast with the smallmouth bass, walleye, and muskies!

Bemidji

Surface water temperatures had risen to the mid-60s in most area lakes last week. Most species had finished spawning and were beginning to establish summer patterns. Expect the sunfish to have relocated to the deeper cabbage and coontail weed beds. The crappies will mix between the deep weeds and suspending just off of structure in deeper waters, making feeding movements to structure during morning and evening hours. Walleye had started to move away from the shoreline structure, heading for the deeper water and mid-lake structure where major insect hatches would occur over the next few weeks. Anglers were switching to live bait rigs tipped with leeches, nightcrawlers, or larger minnows. Some walleye anglers had also started using bottom bouncers with spinners. While muskie anglers continued to see good numbers of fish, few catches were reported, likely due to clear waters giving muskie the advantage. Muskie fishing typically picks up as surface water temperatures increase, with the peak bite occurring when algae begins to reduce visibility in the lakes.

Cass Lake

Walleye continue to hit lindy rigs tipped with leeches in 14-20 feet of water,

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especially at Bucks, North Cedar, Wishbone, Deadman's, and Turtle River bars on Cass Lake. Perch can be found cruising the shallows on the north and east shores of Cass and Pike Bay lakes. And anglers report excellent bass action in Dicks Bay, Allens Bay, Buck Lake, and Kitchi Lake.

Walker - Leech Lake

On Leech Lake, anglers are having success with the walleye and panfish in the many bays, such as Kabekona, Shingobee, and Steamboat bays. Uram, Miller, and Headquarters bays in the big lake also offer good fishing. The humps of Walker Bay continue to produce large walleye, and lots of eating-size fish are coming from the Hardwoods and Deadhead Bay. Good reports have also come in from Stoney Point, Otter Tail Point, and the Pelican Reef area. The shiner season is nearly over, and minnows are becoming harder to keep alive. Jumbo leeches and crawlers are a great alternative when used on a jig or lindy rig. Bottom bouncers with a spinner rig and crawler are starting to produce walleye on the rocks on the east side of the lake.

Detroit Lakes

Crappies and sunnies remain active – water temperatures remain in the mid to low 60s, and some anglers are still finding panfish full of spawn. Walleye are active off the shoreline breaks that extend into main lake areas, with jigs and minnows, and rigs and leeches producing fish. Look to the outside weed edge in 13-18 feet of water for the most fish. Muskie anglers continue to report more follows than bites. Some bass are still on their beds in the shallows where they have been attacking jigs and spinnerbaits. For the most action, hit Toad, Long, Floyd, Cotton, and Melissa lakes. Smallmouth bass are in Island and Cormorant lakes. Walleye can be found in Big Detroit, White Earth, the Pines, Otter Tail, Lida, Star, Pelican, and Sallie lakes. Muskies are abundant in Pelican, Sallie, Big and Little Detroit lakes. Panfish are everywhere.

Central Region

Brainerd Lakes Area

Redtails, leeches, and shiner minnows are all producing walleye in 14-20 feet of water on Gull, Pelican, and North Long lakes. Northern pike are hitting minnows worked in 8-14 feet on Gull, Pelican, and Edward's lakes. Crappies can be found at the 6-10 foot cabbage, while bass and sunfish remain shallow on most lakes. To-

wards the city of Crosby, smallmouth and largemouth bass are attacking plastics in the shallows of most lakes. The best northern pike action is taking place on the small lakes in the State Recreation Area, with sucker minnows working best. Trout have moved deeper but continue to be taken on a regular basis from the pits, including Huntington, Manuel, Section Six, Snowshoe, and Mallen. Lakes Adney, Greer, Bay, and Horseshoe are all producing lots of sunfish and crappies in 4-10 feet of water.

Aitkin

Farm Island and Cedar lakes continue to produce good numbers of fish. Bass action has been spectacular on both lakes when anglers use plastic worms and shallow crankbaits in 4-8 feet of water. Northern pike are very active along the weedlines, hitting jig and minnow combinations. Walleye action remains good in depths of 12-18 feet, with leeches and rainbows working well. On Big Sandy Lake, walleye are hitting leeches at the sharp breaks and 9 foot rock piles. Lake Minnewawa is producing bluegills and bass at the shorelines. Little Round Lake can be counted on for some great smallmouth bass action in less than 6 feet of water. On the north end of Lake Mille Lacs, the north end sand remains good, but fishing has been even better on the rocks just south of there. Agate Reef and 2-Mile are producing good numbers of fish, especially on leeches. Walleye are being pulled from the transition areas, mud flats, gravel areas, and rocky structures. The best presentation continues to be pulling long lindy rigs through 12 feet of water. Some anglers have had success with crawlers and spinners. Anglers report releasing a lot of 24-27 inch fish. At the transition areas, work depths of 26-32 feet. And the evening bobber bite remains strong.

Isle/Onamia - Lake Mille Lacs

Lake Mille Lacs surface water temperatures remain in the low 60s, with many of the shoreline areas and near-shore reefs

still holding good numbers of walleye. Walleye anglers report a decent deep water bite as well. Anglers are doing well in a variety of depths ranging from 5-35 feet and over all types of bottom cover. Leeches are the top bait at this time, followed closely by nightcrawlers. Some of the better spots have recently included Indian Point, 2-Mile, Hawkbill, Curly's Flat, Myr Mar Flat, and Sherman's Flat. Smallmouth bass anglers are doing well at the shallow rock areas. For the most fish, use a slip bobber and leech, or try casting the rock areas using white tube jigs.

Twin Cities Area

Northeast Metro/Chisago Lakes

Bass action has been good on Chisago and South Lindstrom lakes. Fish have moved out to the weedlines, where they can be found in 8-12 feet of water. Panfish have completed their spawn. Lots of sunnies are coming from around the docks, with the larger fish being pulled from depths of 8-10 feet. Walleye continue to be pulled from 18-22 feet of water on

leeches, fatheads, and shiners. For the most fish, work the transitions from hard bottom to sandy to silt. Crappies can be found suspended in 20-22 feet of water, down roughly 6-8 feet. Depth finders show them all over area lakes. Most species are biting at the sandy bottoms just off of Rose Hill on South Lindstrom Lake. North Center Lake is producing lots of fish on the north end by Nelson Island.

White Bear Lake Area Lakes

The sunfish and bass are biting in less than 6 feet of water on White Bear and Bald Eagle lakes. The crappies have moved out a bit deeper on both lakes and continue to be caught on crappie minnows and jigs. The walleye are biting best in depths of 10-12 feet on Bald Eagle Lake, with leeches and fathead minnows working well. On White Bear Lake, a few fish are being reported by anglers using fatheads in depths of 20-25 feet. Northern pike remain active on both lakes, with sucker minnows and trolled spinnerbaits producing fish. Anglers report lots of muskie follows, but few bites.

Lake Waconia

Fishing patterns have become fairly consistent on Lake Waconia. Sunfish are coming from the south shoreline, as well as around the pencil reeds on the west and northwest shorelines. For lots of fish, use waxworms, crawlers, and leeches. If you prefer artificials, use a berkley gulp or beetle spin. While crappies have moved deeper, they are still being taken by anglers working solid weedlines on a reef. Walleye have started to relocate to their summer destinations now that the water has warmed. For the greatest number of fish, use a jig and minnow, jig and leech, or a lindy rig tipped with a leech. Low light hours around dawn and dusk have been best. Many walleye anglers are having success fishing the reefs, such as Keg's, North, and Anderson's, especially when working the weedlines in 14-18 feet of water. Muskie fishing has been a challenge for most anglers, with fish more sluggish than usual this time of year. There have been a few reports of anglers catching a muskie or two around the moon phases, during low light hours. Bucktails and large plastics have worked best. Bass anglers are having a blast. Some of the bass are coming from the pencil reeds and along the docks in Harm's Point. Others are being pulled from the weeds in Cemetery, Center, and North reefs on jigs and worms.



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