**2021 Lake Updates**

by

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**Area Fisheries Overview 2020-2022**

**Lake surveys completed in 2020:**

**Aspen**, East Bearskin, **Clearwater,** Devilfish, **Hungry Jack**, **Poplar**, **Saganaga (BWCA),** Kimball, Mink.

**Lake Surveys proposed for 2021:**

Talus, **Sea Gull (BWCA),** Hand, North Shady, Rice, Trout, McFarland, Elbow, Pierz (BWCA), Mountain (BWCA), Thrush, Wench (BWCA)

**Lake management plans revised in 2021:**

Allen (BWCA), Bat (BWCA), Benson, Binagami, Bogus, Little Cascade, Clara, Crab, Devilfish, Dislocation, Esther, Gneiss (BWCA), Kelly (BWCA), Lima, Logger, Loon, Mauser, Misquah (BWCA), Moss, Peterson (BWCA), Pickerel, West Pope, Rove, Star, Stevens, Watap (BWCA), White Pine.

**Lake management plans up for revision in Winter 2022**

Cam (BWCA), Carl (BWCA), Dick, Elbow, Little John, **Leo**, Loft, Musquash, Pierz (BWCA), **Poplar**, Ram (BWCA), Rush (BWCA), Sunfish, Talus, Ward

Management plans and streams surveys are not currently available through the DNR website; paper and electronic copies (PDF) are available by request from the Grand Marais fisheries office at any time.

Although we typically request comments through a news release in the fall prior to a management plans revision, we encourage feedback from our stakeholders at any time. All comments received for lakes are considered during each management plan revision. **You can email any comments or questions to me directly.**

**Fisheries Management Summary-Caribou Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Northern Pike
* Additional Species of Interest: Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegill (low density), Black Crappie (low density)
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed 2017, next surveys planned for 2022 and 2027. Summer creel surveys will also be proposed for 2022 and 2027 to monitor harvest levels.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Walleye stocking may be considered in the future if abundance and natural reproduction show significant declines. Currently natural reproduction appears consistent.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2029
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16036000>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Clearwater Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Lake Trout and Smallmouth Bass
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Cisco
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2020, next proposed for 2026. Summer and winter creel surveys will be proposed for 2026-2027 to monitor Lake Trout harvest.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Lake Trout abundance and natural reproduction remains high.
* Special Regulations: None at this time. The need (and demand) for a Smallmouth Bass regulation may be examined in the future. The goal of such a regulation would be to improve size quality of the Smallmouth Bass fishery.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2028
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16013900>

\*2020 results awaiting final review by St. Paul; should be up by mid-summer.

**Fisheries Management Summary-Devil Track Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Northern Pike
* Additional Species of Interest: Lake Whitefish, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2019 (including creel survey), next proposed for 2023. Walleye natural reproduction checks completed annually in July.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 1,250 lbs. of Walleye finglerlings (4-8”) in the fall, contingent upon low natural reproduction for two years in a row. Last stocked in 2019.
* Special Regulations: None at this time. Junco Creek Walleye spawning area will continue to be closed in the spring of late ice out years. Fall Lake Whitefish netting season will continue per usual.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16014300>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Gunflint Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Lake Trout and Walleye
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Cisco
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2019 (including Winter creel survey), next surveys planned for 2023 and 2027.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 2,022 lbs. of Walleye finglerlings (4-8”) in the fall of every third year. Last stocked in 2020.
* Special Regulations: None at this time. The need (and demand) for a Walleye special regulation will be examined in the future. The goal of a regulation would be to enhance the abundance mature fish, and increase abundance of naturally produced fish. Spring spawning closures on the Cross River and Little Gunflint Lake will continue per usual.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16035600>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Hungry Jack Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Smallmouth Bass
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Bluegill
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2020, next survey planned for 2024.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 386 lbs. of Walleye finglerlings (4-8”) in the fall every odd year. Last stocked in 2019.
* Special Regulations: In 2018 the Smallmouth Bass special regulation was adjusted to provide additional harvest opportunities; all Smallmouth Bass **14”** or larger must be released, except that one fish over 20 inches may be kept.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16022700>

\*2020 results awaiting final review by St. Paul; should be up by mid-summer.

**Fisheries Management Summary-Tait Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Northern Pike
* Additional Species of Interest: Bluegill and Yellow Perch
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2017, next surveys planned for 2022 and 2027. A summer creel survey will also be proposed for 2022 and/or 2027 to monitor harvest levels.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Walleye natural reproduction and recruitment appears consistent.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2029.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16038400>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Pike Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Smallmouth Bass
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2019 (including creel survey), next survey planned for 2023.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Walleye natural reproduction and recruitment has appeared consistent enough to approach or meet abundance goals, but will be closely monitored.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Special Projects: First of several large wood additions completed by USFS in Winter 2021, with a goal of enhancing nearshore fish habitat.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16025200>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Poplar Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Northern Pike
* Additional Species of Interest: Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Black Crappie, Lake Whitefish
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2020, next survey schedule TBD in upcoming lake management plan review.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 580 lbs. of Walleye finglerlings (4-8”) in the fall of every odd year. Last stocked in 2019.
* Special Regulations: None at this time. The need (and demand) for a Walleye regulation will be examined in the future. The goal of a regulation would be to enhance abundance of mature fish, and increase abundance of naturally produced fish. Fall Lake Whitefish netting will continue to be permitted.
* Next Management Plan Review: **Winter 2022**.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16023900>

\*2020 results awaiting final review by St. Paul; should be up by mid-summer.

**Fisheries Management Summary-West Bearskin Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Lake Trout and Smallmouth Bass
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Bluegill, Rainbow Smelt (non-native), Walleye (very rare).
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2019, next surveys proposed for 2023, 2028, and 2032. Winter creel surveys will be proposed for 2028 and/or 2033 to monitor Lake Trout harvest levels.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Past stocking efforts have failed to improve Lake Trout abundance; nearly all fish sampled since 2002 have been wild-produced (i.e. no fin clips).
* Special Regulations: Current goal is to develop and implement a minimum-length experimental regulation for Lake Trout that will protect immature fish, boost mature fish abundance, and improve natural reproduction and recruitment by the population. **Feedback on such a regulation is desired.**
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2034
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16022800>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Leo Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Rainbow Trout
* Additional Species of Interest: Smallmouth Bass and Walleye (both undesirable for trout management).
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2015, next survey schedule TBD in upcoming lake management plan review.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 5,000 Rainbow Trout yearlings (9-12”) annually in the spring.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: **Winter 2022.**
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16019800>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Aspen Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye and Northern Pike
* Additional Species of Interest: Black Crappie, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegill
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2020, next survey planned for 2024. A summer creel survey will be proposed for 2024 to monitor Walleye harvest.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 150,000 Walleye fry (newly hatched fish) in the spring for two consecutive years of every four. Last stocked in 2021.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2026.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16020400>

\*2020 results awaiting final review by St. Paul; should be up by mid-summer.

**Fisheries Management Summary-Portage Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Splake
* Additional Species of Interest: White Sucker (undesirable for trout management at high abundances)
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2017, next survey scheduled for 2022. Angler use survey planned for 2022.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 8,000 Splake fingerlings (4-7”) in October of odd-numbered years. Last stocked in 2019.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2023**.**
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16032700>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Saganaga Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Lake Trout and Walleye
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Cisco, Lake Whitefish, Black Crappie, Rainbow Smelt (non-native)
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2020, next surveys planned for 2023.
* Stocking Plans: Stock 4.5 million Walleye fry (newly hatched fish) in U.S. waters in the spring for two consecutive years of every four. Last stocked in 2021.
* Special Regulations: Walleye; Possession limit 3 fish, minimum size limit 17”, only one fish over 20” allowed. Regulation designed to maximize recruitment of natural and stocked fish, and re-build spawning stock abundance. Regulation will be up for review in 2024.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2024.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16063300>

\*2020 results awaiting final review by St. Paul; should be up by mid-summer.

\*\*The 2017 and 2020 surveys only included U.S. portions of the lake, and were considered targeted surveys. To view those, click on the dropdown box under the “choose a survey” heading, and select “targeted survey” with corresponding dates.

**Fisheries Management Summary-Sea Gull Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Lake Trout and Walleye
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Cisco, Lake Whitefish, Black Crappie
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2018, next survey will be **mid-June 2021**. Preliminary results for that survey will be available by late-summer, final report available by April 2022.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. If Walleye abundance continues to decline despite regulatory protections, Walleye fry stocking may be implemented. Lake Trout stocking will not be resumed due to poor stocking returns in previous years, and the persistence of sufficient natural reproduction by the population.
* Special Regulations: Walleye; Possession limit 3 fish, minimum size limit 17”, only one fish over 20” allowed. Regulation designed to maximize recruitment of natural and stocked fish, and re-build spawning stock abundance. Regulation will be up for review in 2024.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16062900>

**Fisheries Management Summary-Tom Lake**

* Primary Management Species: Walleye
* Additional Species of Interest: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot
* Lake Survey Plans: Last surveyed in 2016, next survey will bein2023.
* Stocking Plans: None at this time. Walleye natural reproduction and recruitment has appeared consistent, and abundance goals have been met in a majority of the lake surveys since 1955.
* Special Regulations: None at this time.
* Next Management Plan Review: Winter 2025.
* Link to most recent survey results: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=16001900>