

Open-Water Spearing and Netting Regulations: 1837 Ceded Territory in Minnesota

This is a summary of some of the more important tribal spearing and netting regulations for the open-water fishing season in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory. It does not summarize all the regulations that may apply. If you have questions, contact your tribal office or the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) at 715-682-6619.

IMPORTANT: The specific regulations of your tribe might be different from those mentioned here and the status of lakes can change from night to night (e.g. whether a lake is open, what the bag limit is, etc.). Make sure that you have current information before you harvest fish. You must comply with your tribe's ordinances.

SEASON: The open-water season includes the period from ice-out to ice-in. During this period, you may use the harvest methods allowed by your tribe.

DAILY/NIGHTLY HOURS: There are no set times that spearing or netting must begin or end. However, a monitoring crew must be present before spearing can begin. A monitoring crew must also be present whenever a gill net is lifted, so individual tribes may identify specific net lifting times as a permit requirement.

WATERS OPEN TO HARVEST: You may spear or net on those lakes or rivers for which you have a valid permit. Check with your tribe to determine which lake or river segments are open each night or day for the method you wish to use.

RIVERS: Spearing and fyke netting are allowed; gillnetting is not. During the spawning season, rivers may be open to spearing on alternate days only. All waters are closed to harvest of lake sturgeon except the St. Croix River below Taylor Falls.

PERMITS: A permit is required for all open-water spearing and netting. Permits are typically issued on a "first come, first served" basis. During the day permits can be picked up at the tribal conservation department or headquarters. At night, if permits are still available, they may be issued at the designated boat landing for spearing or designated monitoring site for netting. You must comply with all the terms of any permit that you have been issued.

LANDINGS: You must use the landing or monitoring site designated by your tribe. An alternate landing may be used if weather conditions or safety concerns warrant. Identification of an alternate boat landing or monitoring site must be properly coordinated with tribal law enforcement and monitoring personnel.

SPEARS: Spears must have a minimum of three barbed tines, each of which are at least 4.5 inches long. Each tine must have a barb extending perpendicular at least 1/8 of an inch.

SEINING, DIP NETTING, AND FYKE (TRAP) NETTING: You may not use nets on a lake at the same time that spearing is taking place (except on Mille Lacs Lake). Fyke nets can be used in rivers. You must have a netting or seining permit valid for the water you wish to net or seine. All nets must comply with marking and safety requirements. Details on marking and setting requirements can be obtained from the tribal conservation department or GLIFWC. A creel clerk must be present at the landing to monitor harvest.

GILL-NETS: Your tribe must have declared a quota for a lake to be available for netting. You may not use nets on a lake at the same time that spearing is taking place (except on Mille Lacs Lake). Rivers are closed to gillnetting. You must possess a valid permit to use a gill net. A monitor must be present when the net is lifted.

Lakes other than Mille Lacs. Net fisheries in lakes other than Mille Lacs are intended to provide opportunity for subsistence harvest of walleye; so muskellunge and sturgeon may not be kept, nor can northern pike in excess of the bag limit, nor can commercial nets be set. Subsistence gillnetting is allowed from June 1 to March 1 in any lake that is 1,000 acres or larger and in all lakes identified in 9.08(2) of the Model Code. In lakes 1,000 acres or larger, the allowable mesh sizes (bar) are 1.5 to 1.75 inches. In identified lakes under 1,000 acres, only 1.75 inch mesh (bar) may be used. Nets may be up to 100 feet in length and 4 feet deep.

Mille Lacs Lake. Gillnetting in Mille Lacs Lake is allowed year around. Only subsistence netting may occur from March 2 - May 31. Subsistence nets during this and other times may be up to 100 feet in length and 4 feet deep. The allowable mesh sizes (bar) for subsistence nets during this and other times are 1.25 to 1.75 inches. From June 1 - March 1 both subsistence and commercial netting may be authorized. If authorized by your tribe, allowable mesh sizes (bar) for commercial nets are the same as for subsistence nets (i.e. 1.25 to 1.75 inches); however, commercial nets may be up to 300 feet in length and six feet in depth. All nets must comply with lifting, marking, and safety requirements. For gill-nets targeted at tullibee, only 1.75 inch mesh (bar) is authorized.

MIXING FISHING GEAR: you may not combine methods of harvest. When harvesting, you may not possess any other type of fishing gear except the type you have a permit for.

TRIBAL I.D./PERMIT: Tribal picture identification cards and fishing permits must be carried while fishing and presented upon request to any law enforcement officer or biologist, whether tribal or state.

CREEL SURVEYS: You must cooperate with persons conducting creel surveys. All fish speared or netted will be identified to species, counted, and weighed in aggregate. A length measurement and a scale or spine sample will be taken from a sample of fish harvested on each lake each night. Your patience during creel survey activities is appreciated.

NON-MEMBERS: No non-members may participate in spearing or netting except that members of your immediate family may operate the boat while you are spearing or may assist in the setting or lifting of nets if you are present during the activity.

NORTHERN PIKE AND MUSKELLUNGE IN MILLE LACS: Open-water spearing of northern pike and muskellunge is not allowed on Mille Lacs Lake. Northern pike may be taken using nets but muskellunge may not. If capable of surviving, muskellunge taken in nets must be released; if not capable of surviving, muskellunge must be surrendered.

BAG AND SIZE LIMITS FOR SPEARING AND NETTING:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>
Northern Pike (lakes other than Mille Lacs)	10 per person per day	Any size
Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass	10 per person per day	Any size
Walleye	Established by permits	Spearing: All must be 20" or less, except 1 may be between 20-24" and one can be any size. Gill Nets: Any size. Other Nets: Identifiable males only prior to May 1. Maximum of 20" thereafter.
Sturgeon	1 per person per year. All methods - June 1 to March 1 season except 1 sturgeon per lake during spring spearing. Tagging required.	45" minimum size limit.
Muskellunge	Harvest prohibited in Mille Lacs Lake.	
	Two (2) per person per day in rivers and lakes other than Mille Lacs for spearing and Fyke netting. Not more than 10 fish (all persons combined) from Mississippi River.	Fyke Nets: 40" minimum size limit Spearing: 40" minimum size limit for rivers, no size limit for lakes.
Tullibee	None	Any size.
White Bass, Rock Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Yellow Bass, Catfish	None	Any size.