

Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Highlights

The Minnesota DNR's Grand Rapids Area is located in Itasca and western St. Louis counties and features over 1,000 lakes including Lake Winnibigoshish. The area is known for its pristine lakes and forests and supports an amazing diversity of exceptional angling opportunities.



- Responsible for fisheries on over 1,000 lakes, 77 miles of the Mississippi River, hundreds of miles of smaller rivers and streams, and several miles of designated trout streams.
- Manage 9 lakes and 4 abandoned mine pits for stream trout and 3 lakes and 2 pits for lake trout.
- Manage 8 lakes for muskellunge.
- Conduct muskie genetic research on Moose Lake.
- Stock 69 lakes with walleye.
- Operate and maintain the largest walleye spawn take site in the state at Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake collecting over 180 million walleye eggs annually.
- Operate and maintain the Grand Rapids State Fish Hatchery which produces over 18 million walleye fry per year.
- Conduct net assessments on 35 lakes/rivers per year, including annual summer and fall sampling on Lake Winnibigoshish.
- Conduct fall electrofishing surveys on up to 6 lakes per year.
- Conduct spring panfish evaluation on up to 6 lakes each spring.
- Develop and update fisheries lake management plans for 30 lakes each year.
- Conduct VHS sampling on Winnibigoshish and Moose lakes.
- Collect fish for contaminant testing.
- Participate in county fair, lake association meetings, and civic groups as well as other aquatic education events.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate special regulations to improve or sustain quality fisheries.
- Manage numerous Aquatic Management Areas.
- Coordinate with local governments, the National Forest Service, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa on environmental issues.
- Coordinate with property owners and lake associations on fisheries and environmental concerns including shoreline restorations and aquatic plant managements.
- Monitor up to 20 fishing tournaments per year.
- Conduct various permit reviews.



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