

Here are some key 2011 legislative bills that have already been written that are not only important issues as it pertains to pike and muskies, but all species. If you have an opinion on these at all, it's important that you let your voice be heard.

Much like last year's bills that we saw introduced, it's very frustrating that our legislators will write these bills without involving the DNR and gaining their support.

HF0016 - Two angling lines permitted.

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97C.315, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Lines. An angler may ~~not use more than one line except:~~
~~(1) two lines may be used to take fish through the ice; and~~
~~(2) the commissioner may, by rule, authorize the use of two lines in areas designated by the commissioner in Lake Superior.~~

HF0107 - Northern pike spearing slot limits eliminated.

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97C.385, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
Subd. 2. ~~Summer Angling limits must be same as and spearing limits.~~
(a) If the commissioner reduces the limit of a species of game fish taken by spearing in any waters under section 97A.045, subdivision 2, the commissioner must reduce the limit for taking of the species by angling in the waters during the following open season for angling.
(b) The commissioner shall not limit the size of northern pike allowed to be taken by spear.

HF0225/SF0213 - Northern pike experimental and special management waters limited.

Section 1. [97C.007] NORTHERN PIKE EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECIAL MANAGEMENT WATERS. The combined number of lakes designated for northern pike under sections 97C.001 and 97C.005 may not exceed 60 at one time. Until August 1, 2021, the designated lakes must be selected from the lakes identified in rules adopted under sections 97C.001 and 97C.005 with northern pike slot limits effective on January 1, 2011. A designation under this section must continue for at least ten years, at which time the commissioner shall determine, based on scientific studies, whether the designation should be discontinued.

SF0138/HF0242 - Cass Lake spear fishing rulemaking requirement.

Section 1. RULEMAKING; SPEARING ON CASS LAKE. The commissioner of natural resources shall amend Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 69, to allow a person to take fish by spearing on Cass Lake. The commissioner may use the good cause exemption under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388, to adopt rules under this section, and Minnesota Statutes, section 14.386, does not apply except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388.