

2009 Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Fishing Regulations*

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT**	MINIMUM LENGTH
WALLEYE***			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	May 2 - March 7	3	None
Trude Lake	May 2 - March 7	2	None
MUSKELLUNGE	May 23- Nov. 30	1	40 inches
NORTHERN PIKE	May 2 - March 7	5	None
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (including Trude Lake)	May 2 - June 19	0 (Catch and Release Only)	
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (except Trude Lake)	June 20 - March 7	2	15 inches
Trude Lake	June 20 - March 7	5	14 inches
PANFISH (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Crappie, Yellow Perch)			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (including Trude Lake)	Open All Year	10 in total	10" for Crappie. None for bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed
ROCK BASS	Open All Year	None	None
BULLHEADS AND ROUGH FISH	Open All Year	None	None
LAKE STURGEON	No Open Season	0	

* This is an abbreviated summary of seasons and size and bag limits for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. For complete fishing regulations including regulations on other lakes please refer to the official Fishing Regulations Booklet. **Motor trolling is NOT allowed on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake.**

** No person may be in possession of, or have under their control, more than the daily bag limit for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage while on the ice or water or while fishing on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

*** **Daily bag limits are subject to change based on Chippewa Indian spearing harvest. Current bag limits are posted at the boat landings.**

CHIPPEWA INDIAN HARVEST

A 1983 federal court decision reaffirmed the rights of Chippewa Indians to hunt, fish and gather wild foods within the ceded territory of northern Wisconsin. The Flowage has supported a walleye spear fishing harvest since 1984. Safe harvest levels are determined annually so that the combined harvest of anglers and spear fishers does not endanger the future of the walleye population.

INFORMATION

For more information about the fishery and fishing regulations on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage please contact:

**Mercer Ranger Station
Department of Natural Resources
5291N Statehouse Circle
Mercer, WI 54547
(715)476-7847**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/turtleflambeau/>

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The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

◇ Fishing All Seasons

◇ 2009 Fishery Survey



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Fishing All Seasons on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

The 14,300-acre Turtle-Flambeau Flowage provides some of the best angling opportunities in northern Wisconsin. The value of this flowage not only lies with its exceptional fishery but also with its vastness and wild character that can be appreciated all year.

Spring

This is the time that most anglers have been waiting for all winter - opening day of fishing! Nearly 100% of the opening weekend anglers are targeting walleye. Although opening weekend success can vary from year to year, past creel census information has shown that anglers are highly successful at catching their daily bag limit in early spring. Walleye catch rates are at their highest during May at an average of nearly one fish per hour of fishing.

As the spring unfolds into early summer, the angling interest diversifies away from walleye somewhat, towards the other main fish species found in the flowage including smallmouth bass, musky and panfish.

Summer

Summer-time finds the clientele of the flowage changes somewhat from the strict fishing oriented anglers to family vacationers.



Although fishing remains the main attraction, the warm weather allows folks to enjoy the aesthetics and diversity of activities the flowage offers.

As water temperatures warm during mid-summer and forage fish densities peak in terms of abundance, walleye become increasingly difficult to catch. It is at this time of year when other species provide good fishing action and walleye are no longer the main attraction. Smallmouth bass, musky and northern pike are targeted primarily for their fighting ability, whereas panfish are pursued as prized table fare.

Fall

In recent years, fall walleye fishing has become increasingly popular. As water temperatures drop, walleye movement and feeding activity increases while the forage base diminishes, so fishing success improves. Creel data shows that September and October catch and harvest rates

are as good or better than those found in May; for that reason, the flowage now experiences more fall fishing pressure than ever before.

Winter

As fall turns into winter and the flowage begins to ice over, walleye anglers venture out on first ice knowing early ice is the most successful period. Creel census results have shown that although more fish are harvested at other times of the year, the average size and largest fish are caught through the ice. December is the most productive month followed by January and then February. Later in the season, March is an active month for anglers who like to catch panfish. Crappies and perch are the species most sought after with the average size of fish caught being well above other fisheries in the county.

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage continues to provide great fishing opportunities within the vast solitude regardless of the season.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

2009 Fisheries Survey

This year will see the 5th comprehensive survey on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake. The last all-inclusive survey of this type was completed in 1997. At that time the flowage, including Trude Lake, supported an above average adult walleye population of 66,507 or 4.8 fish per surface acre. This

estimate is generated through a “mark and recapture” study. Fish are captured by netting shortly after ice-out and marked by clipping a small portion of a fin. After marking about 10% of the population, survey crews sample a second time; this time by electro-fishing. The proportion of marked (recaptured) to unmarked fish in the second sample will provide a statistically valid estimate of the population size.

Survey crews will return shortly after the completion of the walleye estimate to begin netting for musky. The netting effort will be similar to the effort made in 1997 and comparisons drawn to determine changes in size structure, growth, etc. over the past 12 years.

A creel census will be performed and anglers should expect to be asked to participate by answering some basic questions about their fishing trip. Your fish will be measured and examined for fin-clips by the creel clerks. This information is extremely important to the management of the walleye population in the flowage. The data will tell biologists what percentage of the population is being harvested, catch/harvest rates and fishing pressure. This information will be useful in determining population change since the last survey and how to best manage the fishery in the future. Anglers are encouraged to provide the creel clerks with accurate information.