2017-2018 Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake Fishing Regulations*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISH SPECIES</th>
<th>OPEN SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT**</th>
<th>LENGTH RESTRICTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WALLEYE</td>
<td>May 6 - March 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSKELLUNGE</td>
<td>May 27- Nov. 30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40“ minimum length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN PIKE</td>
<td>May 6 - March 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGEMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>May 6 - March 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Only fish &lt; 14”, except 1 &gt; 18”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMALLMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>May 6 - June 16</td>
<td>0 (Catch and Release Only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMALLMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>June 17 - March 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Only fish &lt; 14”, except 1 &gt; 18”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANFISH (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Crappie, Perch)</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>10 in total</td>
<td>10” for Crappie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCK BASS</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLHEADS AND ROUGH FISH</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE STURGEON</td>
<td>No Open Season</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This is an abbreviated summary of seasons, size and bag limits. For complete fishing regulations please refer to the official Fishing Regulations Booklet.

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

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/topic/lands/turtleflambeau/

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The Fishery of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage:  
➢ Fish Population Status

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake  
Fishing Regulations 2017
The Fishery of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is one of northern Wisconsin’s gems, providing folks a wilderness experience with exceptional angling opportunities. The TFF fish community is highly diverse and has something to offer every angler. Although perhaps most famous for a high density, naturally reproducing walleye fishery, the Flowage is also home to a world-class smallmouth bass fishery. Panfish available in the flowage may not be as numerous as in other waters, but all species (bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch) are available in above-average sizes. The TFF muskellunge fishery also has a history of producing world-class specimens and although are found in low-moderate numbers, most are quality size, and there are definitely some true trophies swimming in these waters. All of these fishing opportunities are available to anglers while also providing an unparalleled wilderness experience.

Although well-respected for its fishery, the TFF is also well-known as a “scenic waters area,” which identifies the wild character (e.g. undeveloped shorelines and abundance of wildlife) it has to offer. Therefore, the value of the flowage not only lies with its exceptional year-round fishing, but also with its natural beauty, keeping anglers and outdoor enthusiasts returning year after year. So, whether you are pursuing one of Wisconsin’s most desirable gamefish, looking for an outdoor adventure, or just interested in enjoying beauty of the outdoors, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is a destination that you will not be disappointed in!

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage: Fish Population Status

Walleye

During a comprehensive fishery survey in 2016, the adult walleye population was estimated at 2.8 fish/acre. This density is slightly lower than historic levels documented on the Flowage (around 4 fish/acre), but this self-sustaining population still provides a very quality fishery. The population is currently showing the effects of weak reproduction that occurred during 2010, 2012, and 2013.

Walleye

With the average size of walleyes being 13.3”, most of the fish available are good “eaters”. These survey results provide anglers with a good representation of what they can expect to find in the near-shore areas during the late spring and early summer months.

Smallmouth Bass

The TFF boasts an outstanding smallmouth bass fishery. The population is characterized by strong numbers along with a quality size structure. A 2016, late-spring electrofishing survey documented the following smallmouth bass size distribution in the Flowage:

Panfish

The TFF panfishery is on the up and up. Although anglers should not expect to catch large numbers of panfish, the ones that are caught should be of exceptionally size. A 2016 summer fyke-netting survey sampled a total of 297 bluegills, 97% of which were larger than 6”. Spring surveys also documented quality numbers of black crappies and yellow perch, which averaged lengths of 10.2” and 7.8”, respectively. Anglers visiting during late-spring or summer months might want to try targeting these populations, since very few fisheries in the northwoods exhibit the quality panfishery that currently exists here on TFF!

Musky

The TFF musky fishery has been noted for providing an opportunity for a true giant. While this reputation is still well-deserved, anglers can also expect to find very respectable numbers of quality fish. Late-spring fyke netting efforts in 2016 documented 213 individuals ranging in length from 11.5-49.5”, 19% of which were larger than 42”. Survey crews will be completing a muskellunge population estimate on the entire flowage during 2017 to understand precisely how many adults are present. Regardless, with natural reproduction occurring, a balanced size structure, and the trophy potential, it is hard to ask for more from a musky population!