

Are you new to fishing or Long Lake and have questions about what game fish are in the lake?

Here is some general guidance and beginner information by fish species for your personal consideration on a voluntary basis (not required). From the LLAA Fisheries Committee.

1. When buying your annual fishing license please donate the voluntary \$5 for the state walleye stamp which helps fund walleye stocking in Minnesota which benefits Long Lake.
2. Please follow LLAA guidance related to water quality, shoreline vegetation, AIS, etc. **The best thing we can do for the fishery is to keep our lake healthy!**
3. Please try to replace your lead tackle with non-toxic tackle. This helps protect loons and other birds and wildlife that feed in Long Lake.
4. Walleye. Release walleye less than 14 inches long. Consider keeping an occasional fish over 20 inches as natural reproduction is very limited and these larger fish draw the most from our stretched forage base. Be aware that when fishing later in the summer that certain thresholds can greatly increase the mortality rate of released fish: surface temperatures of 76* or more and depths over 30 feet.
5. Perch. We have too few perch in the lake, and this is a limiting factor in how many walleyes we have in the lake. Please release perch. We have never seen high numbers of perch in Long Lake. We have stocked perch in an attempt to increase their numbers.
6. Sunfish. We have high sunfish numbers most of them very small. Harvest the smaller sunfish, they are great eating. Release or limit the harvest of sunfish over 8 inches long in order to help improve the size structure of sunfish in Long.
7. Crappie. Crappie are very vulnerable during spawning, please don't over harvest at this time. We need both the larger spawning females and the males. The males have darker coloration at this time and are often what people are targeting when fishing around the nests. The males have an important role to protect the nests during spawning. If ice fishing in over 30 feet, bringing fish up from these depths can cause barotrauma which can greatly increase the chances of mortality if released back into the lake.
8. Largemouth bass. We have a good population of bass given our relatively low littoral acres so harvest some if desired. None of the research has pointed to issues with spawning success and fishing/harvest while bass are on the beds.
9. Smallmouth bass. We have a few but not a significant population.
10. Northern pike. Follow state guidelines for release. Our pike population is within the normal survey range for this area but is not at a high enough level that would hinder stocking other species such as walleye.
11. Rock bass. We have many rock bass. We might be better off if some of this biomass was replaced by other fish species because rock bass are aggressive feeders and don't serve a significant role as prey for other species. Rock bass are excellent indicators of good water quality/clarity. Harvest some rock bass, they are good eating and taste similar to other sunfish species.