



2025-2028
MITW
FISHING REGULATIONS



*Benjamin Miller Age 6 (parents Nathan & Emily Miller)
Northern from Keshena Lake 2025*

Conservation Commission Approved 12/2/2024

Menominee Tribal Legislature Approved 1/16/2025

2025-2028 MITW Fishing Regulations

The following rules and regulations have been developed by the Menominee Conservation Commission and through final approval by the Menominee Tribal Legislature in accordance with Chapter 287 entitled "Conservation Code" (Ch. 287).

TRIBAL RULES

Permittees shall follow all Tribal Rules and Laws. State Laws regarding fishing shall not apply within the exterior boundaries of the Menominee Indian Reservation or any land owned by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

LICENSES

All laws regarding licenses are identified in Ch. 287, and licenses are available at the Menominee Tribal Licensing and Permits Department. All permittees 16 years or older are required to have a fishing license.

DEFINITIONS

FISHING SINKER

A fishing sinker is a weight used in conjunction with a fishing lure or hook to increase its rate of sink, anchoring ability, and/or casting distance. *Also see Ch. 287 Definitions*

REGULATION OF GAME FISH

No individual may fish for small or large game fish, as defined in Ch. 287, except as provided below.

Seasons for Tribal Members: Tribal members will be allowed to fish for game fish all year, with the exception of trout and lake sturgeon. The trout fishing season shall run from November 15 to September 30. Spearing season shall be consistent with the seasons identified herein, with the exception of trout, which is closed to spearing. Lake sturgeon season is closed (see special regulations printed in separate rule book).

Seasons for Permittees: Permittees will be allowed to fish for big game fish from the first Saturday in May until the first Sunday in March, with the exceptions as follows; trout season will be from first Saturday in May to Sept. 30. The season for small game fish will be from the first Saturday in May until April 15, with the exception of Round, LaMotte, South East Bass, Legend and Moshawquit Lakes where the season for small game fish will be open year round. Season lengths are also identified in the quick reference table attached herein. Fishing for lake sturgeon is prohibited. Permittees shall remain in accordance with all applicable laws and rules specified herein as well as in Ch. 287 and all laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

BAG AND SIZE LIMITS FOR HOOK & LINE

No individual may fish for small or large game fish, as defined in Ch. 287, except as provided below.

Permittees: Bag limits are also identified in the quick reference table attached herein.

BIG GAME FISH - PERMITTEES

Bass (largemouth & smallmouth) – 4 fish per day
Minimum size – 14 inch

Walleye – 3 fish per day
Minimum size – 15 inch

Northern pike – 10 fish per day except Burney Lake where only 2 pike may be kept
Minimum size – 12 inch except Burney Lake where pike the size limit is 26"

Muskellunge – 1 fish per day
Minimum size- 32 inch

Trout – 5 fish per day (permittees are prohibited from ice fishing areas designated as trout waters outside of the trout season identified above)

Minimum size- 6 inch

Salmon – harvest prohibited

Lake Sturgeon – harvest prohibited

SMALL GAME FISH - PERMITTEES

The limit of small game fish, the total daily bag limit for small game fish is 15 in total: of which can be a combination of yellow perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, crappie, rock bass and bullhead, with the exception of the following waters: Moshawquit Lake, LaMotte Lake, Legend Lake, S.E. Bass Lake, Round Lake, which will have total daily bag limit of 25 fish of which can be a combination of yellow perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, crappie, rock bass, and bullhead.

Minimum size - none

The definition for small game fish can be found in Ch. 287.

Permittees shall not fish with more than three lines at any time and lines must be attended at all times.

Permittees shall remain in accordance with all applicable laws and rules specified herein as well as in Ch. 287 and all laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

Tribal Members: Bag limits are also identified in the quick reference table attached herein.

BIG GAME FISH - ENROLLED

Bass (largemouth & smallmouth) – 8 fish per day

Minimum size – 12 inch

Walleye – 6 fish per day

Minimum size – 15 inch

Northern pike – no limit

Minimum size – 12 inch

Muskellunge – 2 fish per day

Minimum size – 32 inch

Trout and Salmon – 20 fish per day

Minimum size- 6 inch

Winter Trout Regulations for Ice Fishing

Trout and Salmon-5 fish per day except rainbow trout which is 3 fish per day

Minimum size: Rainbow Trout-12”

All other trout and salmon-8”

* These regulations apply only when fishing through the ice on trout waters

Lake Sturgeon – Regulations pertaining to lake sturgeon are defined below

SMALL GAME FISH - ENROLLED

The limit for small game fish, including bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie and yellow perch –at this time there are no set bag limits for small game fish.

Minimum size - none

The definition for small game fish can be found in Ch. 287.

Tribal members shall remain in accordance with all applicable laws and rules specified herein as well as in Ch. 287 and all laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

All persons are required to process their fish in a timely manner as not to allow the fish to spoil. This will result in a wanton waste violation in accordance with Ch. 287.

REGULATIONS FOR SPEARING

Spear fishing is not allowed except by tribal members and in accordance with the rules as follows;

- Bag limits for big and small game fish will be set at a combined total of 10 fish per day per member.
- Bag and size limits will be set the same as hook and line bags and sizes, with the exception of the combined total
- Spearing of trout is not allowed.
- Size limits for big game fish will remain the same as the hook & line regulations.
- Spear fishing for lake sturgeon is not allowed, except as defined in special regulations herein.
- Spear fishing, other than in accordance with provisions herein, is prohibited.
- Spear fishing on lakes smaller than 30 acres is prohibited (see attached lake listing).
- Spear fishing on Hazel Lake is prohibited.

LAKE STURGEON FISHING AND SPEARING REGULATIONS

The following regulations have been developed by the Menominee Conservation Commission and through final approval by the Menominee Tribal Legislature in accordance with Ch. 287.

TRIBAL RULES

Only tribal members will be allowed to fish for or be in possession of lake sturgeon.

LAKE STURGEON FISHING AND SPEARING SEASON:

Season will only be held on Legend Lake according to the season specified herein. All other waters within the reservation will remain closed. Sturgeon spearing on Legend Lake will be year round (unless recommended by the Menominee Conservation Department).

There will be an allowable Total Harvest of 100 lake sturgeon per year. The Menominee Conservation Department will close the sturgeon fishing and spearing season 24 hours from the end of the fishing day when 90% of the total is reached.

BAG LIMIT: Two Lake Sturgeon per Tribal Member per year.

MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT: 36 inches

This will provide protection to the young stock still growing into harvestable size. Fish less than 36 inches do not provide enough food due to their low weight body condition.

LICENSING REQUIREMENT:

Only Tribal Members will be allowed to fish and spear lake sturgeon.

Only Tribal Members will be allowed in ice shack or boat while spearing.

SPEARING HOURS:

Open water and ice spearing will be allowed during all hours.

In the event of incidental death of lake sturgeon, please contact Menominee Conservation Warden to come out to your site and collect fish. Much valuable information can be taken.

TRANSPORTATION:

It is unlawful for any person to transport any unregistered sturgeon in or on any motor driven vehicle unless the sturgeon has been legally harvest according the all regulations herein. Lake sturgeon cannot be transported outside of the Menominee Reservation unless a transport tag is attached to the fish.

Transportation tag can be picked up at the Menominee Conservation Office at time of registration.

REGISTRATION:

The person who fishes or spears the lake sturgeon must be the person who registers the fish.

Menominee Conservation Department Staff or qualified individuals will be made available during the open season. Registration stations will be on-site or at the Menominee Conservation Department Office.

Any lake sturgeon speared or caught fishing must be tagged immediately and registered within 24 hours. Valuable critical information on the lake sturgeon population will help in future management of the species.

The Menominee Conservation Department will determine appropriate closure of water within the vicinity of Keshena Falls to fishing activity during lake sturgeon spawning periods.

The Menominee Environmental Services Department, MITW needs the following valuable information from registered lake sturgeon:

- 1.) Length
- 2.) Weight
- 3.) Sex
- 4.) Maturity and Age of fish
- 5.) Total Numbers Harvested
- 6.) Distribution of Harvest (location)
- 7.) Survival of Fish Stocked
- 8.) Distribution of different times stocked fish
- 9.) Pit tag Numbers

ICE HOLE RESTRICTIONS:

Total Area of a lake sturgeon spearing hole may not exceed a total of 16 square feet.

ICE HOLE MARKING:

Lake sturgeon spearing ice holes must be marked with at least 2 strips of wood that are at least 3 feet above the ice. The wood strips must not exceed 1.5 inches in width and 1/4 inch thickness. Wood lathe will meet this requirement, but should be colored lath for better visibility.

It is advisable to cut a hole and freeze the lathe into the ice for better marking of lake sturgeon holes. Lathe markers stuck in snow banks are not adequate because of snowmelt during warm weather conditions.

LITTER:

It is illegal to place or deposit any materials on the ice or lake bed. Any material used while lake sturgeon spearing or hook and line fishing must be disposed of properly. Litter and any material left will be subject to a solid waste citation.

FISHING EQUIPMENT OR SPEARING GEAR:

It is lawful to use a fishing pole for hook and line fishing, angling equipment, and spear fishing equipment while fishing for lake sturgeon.

ICE SHANTIES AND SHELTERS:

All shanties and shelters used for lake sturgeon fishing must have a name and address of the person owning shanty clearly visible from the outside of the shanty or shelter. This will help when the Menominee Conservation Warden conducts a spot check.

MINNOWING AND ROUGH FISH

No individual may take minnows or rough fish, as defined in Ch. 287, except as provided below.

Capturing of minnows and rough fish for the purpose of transporting and sale is a prohibited act, except by tribal members in accordance with the rules herein.

Bait dealer licenses are not available except to tribal members and bait dealer activities shall be in accordance with the rules as follows:

The season shall run from March 1 to December 1.

Bait dealers license available to tribal members only and can be obtained at the Tribal Licensing and Permits Department.

Rough fish may be taken by seining or netting from July 1 to September 1.

Minnows and rough fish may be taken with seines and traps provide that the nets are no longer than 50 feet in length and traps have total lengths of no more than 24 inches and are no more than 16 inches in diameter.

Individuals may possess up to 150 minnows and use no more than three traps if catching minnows for personal use.

Minnows must be removed from traps at least once per day.

TOURNAMENTS & DERBIES

A permit must be obtained from the Conservation Department for any fishing tournament or derby held on reservation waters. Applications may be picked up at the Menominee Conservation Department.

General Conditions Applicable to Permitted Tournaments of Derbies

- Lake must be greater than 200 acres in size.
- May not be held on consecutive weeks on any body of water except Legend Lake
- Use of tagged fish is prohibited unless authorized by the Menominee Conservation Department
- One body of water will be issued for each permit
- Open waters tournaments will only be allowed on Legend Lake
- Tournaments on trout waters are illegal with the exception of the Neopit Millpond.
- All litter and any material left will be subject to a solid waste citation, including the registration site. The tournament/derby permit holder will be responsible.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Snagging, foul hooking, or attempting to hook any game fish other than in the mouth is prohibited.

- All persons are required to process their fish in a timely manner as not to allow the fish to spoil. This will result in a wanton waste violation in accordance with Chapter 287.
- Maximum hole size to be used for hook and line ice fishing shall not exceed 12 inch.
- Taking fish by use of any type of explosive or firearm is prohibited.
- Leaving lines unattended while fishing on trout waters is prohibited.
- Netting and trapping of fish, or taking game fish by hand other than in accordance with provisions herein, is prohibited.
- Netting of game fish is prohibited.
- Permittees may not ice fish on any water designated as trout water other than during the trout season specified herein (see attached trout waters listing).
- Buying, selling or trading of game fish is prohibited.
- Releasing unused bait into tribal waters is prohibited.
- Ice shacks shall be removed off water bodies no later than March 15.
- Tribal members shall not fish with more than ten lines at any time and lines cannot be left unattended for more than eight hours.

It shall be illegal to fish, harvest or harass any of the following protected species:

Lake sturgeon or any other species found to be protected in accordance with all applicable laws and rules specified herein as well as in Ch. 287 and all laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe. In additions all species found to be protected through accordance with the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act shall also be included herein.

Note: fishing for lake sturgeon is allowed for Tribal Members on Legend Lake.

Menominee Trout Waters (list provided by Tribal Fish and Wildlife Biologist)

This list was defined with criteria developed for the management and protection of trout:

Lakes

Upper Bass Lake
Noseum Lake
Lake Neconish
Lake Elma
Neopit Mill Pond
Frechette Lake
Perote Lake
Crystal Springs
Marsh Lake
Beauprey Lake
Beauprey Springs
Grignon Lake
Unnamed Lake - Section 10, T29N, R16E
Unnamed Lake - Section 7, T30N, R14E

Springs

Honky Springs
North Springs
Kemnitz Springs
Deadman Springs
Waupoose Springs
Nawahquaw Springs
Askenette Springs
Keso Springs
Unnamed – Sec 23, T29N, R13E
Unnamed – Sec 35, T30N, R14E
Unnamed – Sec 6, T30N, R14E

Lakes Open to Spearing

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| South East Bass | Long |
| Lower Bass | Moshawquit |
| Upper Bass | Neopit Millpond |
| Burney | Pine (Mud) |
| Coon | Rice |
| Crowell | Round |
| Elma | Sand and Little Sand |
| Fredenberg | St. Joseph |
| LaMotte | Legend Lake |

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|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|-----------|---------|
| 2025-2028 Fishing Table -Tribal | | | | MENOMINEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION QUICK REFERENCE TABLE FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS | | | | | | Page 1 | Of 1 |
| Species/Game | SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS | | | | | | Minimum Size | Restrictions/Comments | | | |
| | Spearing | | Hook & Line | | Ice Fishing | | | | | | |
| | Season | Bag Limit | Season | Bag Limit | Season | Bag Limit | | | | | |
| BIG GAME FISH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass | T= Year Round | T= Combined total not to exceed 10 | T= Year Round | T=8 | Same as hook and line | Same as hook and line | T=12 inches | Spear fishing on Hazel Lake and lakes less than thirty (30) acres is prohibited. Permittees are prohibited from ice fishing in waters designated "Trout Waters". Tribal members shall not use more than 10 lines nor shall he/she leave their lines unattended for more than 8hours. Permittees shall not use more than 3 lines nor shall he/she leave their lines unattended for any period. Snagging of game fish is prohibited. Releasing unused bait into the water is prohibited. Sturgeon bag limit is a total of 2 per year | | | |
| Northern Pike | | | | T= No Limit | | | 12 inches | | | | |
| Walleye | | | | T=6 | | | 15 inches | | | | |
| Muskellunge | | | | T=2 | | | 32 inches | | | | |
| Salmon | Prohibited | Prohibited | Same as trout P= prohibited | Same as trout | T= ice on only | T= Same as trout | 8 inches | | | | |
| Trout | Prohibited | Prohibited | T= Nov. 15 to Sep. 30 P= First Saturday in May to Sept. 30 | T=20 | T= During ice on only | T= 5 trout T= 3 rainbow | 12 inches for rainbow 8 inches all others | | | | |
| Sturgeon | T= Year Round P= Prohibited | T=2 P= Prohibited | T= Year Round P= Prohibited | T=2 | T= Year Round | T=2 | 36 inches | | | | |
| SMALL GAME FISH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White Bass | T= Year Round | T= combined total of 10 per day | T= Year Round | T=unlimited | Same as hook and line | Same as hook and line | none | Spear fishing on Hazel Lake and lakes less than thirty (30) acres is prohibited. Permites are prohibited from ice fishing in waters designated "Trout Waters". Snagging of game fish is prohibited. Releasing unused bait into the water is prohibited. A permit must be obtained from the conservation department for any fishing tournament or derby held on reservation waters. All litter and any material left will be subject to a solid waste citation, including the registration site. The tournament/derby permit holder will be responsible. | | | |
| Rock Bass | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bluegill | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crappie | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pumpkinseed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow Perch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bullheads | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow Bass | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Catfish | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cisco | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whitefish | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MINNOWING & ROUGH FISH | Traps | Seines | | | | | | Bait dealers licenses available to tribal members only | | | |
| See regulations | T= Mar. 1 to Dec.1 | T= July 1 to Sept.1 | | | | | | Netting of game fish is prohibited | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Unless an individual possesses a bait dealer's license, the use of seines, nets or traps to capture minnows and rough fish is prohibited, unless in possession of less than 150 minnows for personal use. | | | |
| This table is a quick reference guide only and is intended to be used in conjunction with the Menominee Conservation Commissions Game Rules. *** LEGEND *** T — Tribal Member see Permittees quick reference table published separately | | | | | | | | | | | |

