



## Angler's Guide 2011

A portion of the St. Croix River forms part of the state boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin. The remainder of the St. Croix River and the entire Namekagon River are in Wisconsin. Regulations vary depending on where you fish and what state your fishing license is issued from. It is important to study a map of the area and to know which regulations apply to the area you are fishing.

### Minnesota and Wisconsin Boundary Waters

Boundary waters of the St. Croix River extend upriver from the confluence of the Mississippi River in Prescott, Wisconsin, to an area approximately 2.5 miles downstream from the confluence of the Namekagon River. Anglers may fish from either shoreline in the boundary waters with a license from either state. An area downstream of the hydroelectric dam at Taylors Falls - St. Croix Falls is closed to fishing and is identified by signs and fences.

### Bait and Lines in Boundary Waters

Two lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If fishing with one line you may use two baits. Live crayfish may not be used for bait on the St. Croix or Namekagon.

### Inland Waters

The entire Namekagon River and the St. Croix River, from Gordon Dam to an area approximately 2.5 miles downstream from the confluence of the Namekagon River, are Wisconsin inland waters.



### Bass Zones

The St. Croix River is divided into northern (N) and southern (S) zones regarding open seasons for bass in boundary waters. Northern bass zone waters are upstream from the hydroelectric dam in Taylors Falls - St. Croix Falls. The entire Namekagon River is located in the northern bass zone.

### Additional Information

Anglers can find a complete listing of fishing regulations for Wisconsin or Minnesota by visiting the Department of Natural Resources website for either state.

Minnesota: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

Wisconsin: [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

For more information about the Riverway:  
[www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)

# Overview of 2011 Seasons and Limits

**Wisconsin inland waters:** entire Namekagon River and the St. Croix River from Gordon Dam to an area approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the confluence of the Namekagon. **Boundary waters:** the St. Croix River from an area approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the confluence of the Namekagon River to the confluence of the Mississippi River.

Species	Stretch of Riverway	2011 Open Seasons	Daily Limit	Minimum Size
<i>Largemouth Bass &amp; Smallmouth Bass</i> (either or combined)	Wisconsin inland waters*	May 7 - June 17 June 18 - March 4, 2012	0 (catch & release only) 5 in total	14 inches
	Boundary waters	(N) May 28 - Sept 11 (N) Sept 12 - March 1, 2012 (S) May 28 - March 1, 2012	5 in total 0 (catch & release only) 5 in total	14 inches 14 inches
<i>Lake Sturgeon</i> **	Wisconsin inland waters	No open season	0 - none	
	Boundary waters	Sept 1 - Sept 30 (WI license) Sept 4 - Sept 30 (MN license) Oct 1 - Oct 15 south of hydroelectric dam only	1 per season 1 per season 0 (catch & release only)	60 inches 60 inches
<i>Shovelnose Sturgeon</i>	Wisconsin inland waters & Boundary waters	No open season	0 - none	
<i>Muskellunge</i>	Wisconsin inland waters*	May 28 - Nov 30	1	34 inches
	Boundary waters	May 28 - March 1, 2012	1	40 inches
<i>Walleye &amp; Sauger</i>	Wisconsin inland waters	May 7 - March 4, 2012	5 in total	Both - 15 inches
	Boundary waters	April 30 - March 1, 2012	6 in total	Walleye = 15 inches Sauger = none
<i>Yellow (Striped) Bass &amp; White Bass</i>	Wisconsin inland waters	Open all year	No limit	none
	Boundary waters		25 in total	
<i>Northern Pike</i>	Wisconsin inland waters	May 7 - March 4, 2012	5	none
	Boundary waters	April 30 - March 1, 2012	5	none
<i>Catfish</i> (Does not include Paddlefish)	Wisconsin inland waters & Boundary waters	Open all year	10	none

(S) Downstream from hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls - Taylors Falls. (N) Upstream from dam. \*Northern Zone in Wisconsin. \*\*A sturgeon tag is required. You must immediately tag the legal size sturgeon that you keep in front of the sturgeon's tail. Register the fish at a Wisconsin DNR registration station no later than 6:00 p.m. the day after it was caught. In Minnesota, sturgeon registration must be mailed within 48 hours. No open season upstream from the hydroelectric dam.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Plants and animals that do not naturally occur in the St. Croix and Namekagon valleys are invasive species. Some have caused drastic and irreversible damage to the environment and native species. Remember to remove all plant material from your boat and trailer. Drain all water from your boat and trailer. Never release live bait into the river nor transport it to another location. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, never the river. Learn about aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil and what you can do to prevent them from spreading.

## Fish Consumption Guidelines

Most fish are healthy to eat and are an excellent source of protein. However, some fish could contain serious contaminants such as mercury and PCBs that can harm human health especially in children and fetuses. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin have fish advisories for the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers. Consult these advisories for more information.

## Mussels (clams) Are Protected

It is illegal to take any live mussel or empty mussel shell from the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers. Several species of mussels are on both state and federal endangered species lists.

## Catch and Release

Your help is needed in promoting sustainable fisheries management. Fish you want to release should be played as little as possible. Handle fish carefully with wet hands to protect their skin coating. When fish are deeply-hooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let the fish go. Do not touch eyes or gills as it may introduce a fatal bacterial infection. Return the fish to the water gently and as quickly as possible to prevent suffocation.

**St. Croix National Scenic Riverway**  
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[www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)