



Angler's Guide 2017

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 on these waters may differ between states. You must obey the regulations of the state in which you are fishing. It is important to study a map of the area and to know which regulations apply.

Minnesota and Wisconsin Boundary Waters

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

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 with the Namekagon River, are Wisconsin inland waters.

Bait and Lines in Boundary Waters

Minnesota: Two lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If fishing with one line you may use two baits. Wisconsin: Three lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted.



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 smallmouth bass zone of Wisconsin.

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
Wisconsin: www.dnr.state.wi.us

For more information about the Riverway:
www.nps.gov/sacn

Riverway Specific Regulations

These regulations apply specifically to the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers in addition to state regulations.

- The dumping or release of live bait into the St. Croix and Namekagon is prohibited.
- The use of live crayfish as bait is prohibited.
- Taking minnows by any means for any reason is prohibited in the St. Croix River south of the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls - Taylors Falls.

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 and do not touch eyes or gills. When fish are deeply-hooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let the fish go. Return the fish to the water gently and as quickly as possible to prevent suffocation.

Fish Consumption Guidelines

Most fish are healthy to eat. 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.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
401 N. Hamilton St.
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

715-483-2274 1(800) PARKTIP
www.nps.gov/sacn
Info_SACN@nps.gov

Overview of 2017 Seasons and Limits

Abide by the regulations of the state you are fishing in.

Park Tip Hotline: **1(800) PARKTRIP**

Species	Wisconsin Inland Waters			Boundary with Wisconsin			Boundary with Minnesota		
	Open Season	Daily Limit	Minimum Size	Open Season	Daily Limit	Minimum Size	Open Season	Daily Limit	Minimum Size
Largemouth Bass (LMB)	May 6 - March 4, 2018	5	14 inches						
Smallmouth Bass (SMB)	(N) May 6 - June 16, 2017	0	catch & release only						
	(N) June 17 - March 4, 2018 (S) May 6 - March 4, 2018	5 in total with LMB	14 inches						
Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass combined									
Lake Sturgeon *	No open season	0 - none		Sept. 2 - Sept. 30, 2017 (Downstream of the St. Croix Falls Dam only)	1 per calendar year	60 inches	Sept. 2 - Sept 30, 2017 (Downstream of Taylors Falls Dam to mouth at Prescott, WI only)	1 per calendar year	60 inches
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Closed all year			June 16, 2017 - March 1, 2018	0	catch & release only	June 16, 2017 - March 1, 2018	0	catch & release only
Muskellunge	Northern Zone: May 27 - Nov. 30, 2017	1	40 inches	May 27, 2016 - Nov. 30, 2017	1	50 inches	May 27, 2017 - Nov 30, 2017	1	50 inches
Northern Pike	Northern Zone: May 6, 2017 - March 4, 2018	5	none	Apr. 29, 2017 - March 1, 2018	5	none	Apr. 29, 2017 - March 1, 2018	5	none
Yellow (Striped) Bass & White Bass	Open all year	none	none	Open all year	25 in total	none	Continuous	25 in total	none
Walleye and Sauger	May 6, 2017 - March 4, 2018	3 in total	15 - 20 inches may be kept; with one over 24 inches	Apr. 29, 2017 - March 1, 2018	6 in total	15 inches for walleyes, none for saugers	Apr. 29, 2017 - March 1, 2018	6 in total	15 inches minimum size for walleye
Channel Catfish	Open all year	10 in total	none	Open all year	10 in total	none	Continuous	10 either or combined	none
Flathead Catfish	Open all year	10 in total	none	Open all year	10 in total	none	April 1 - Nov. 30, 2018		
Does not include Paddlefish)									
Panfish (Sunfish)	Open all year	25 in total	none	Open all year	25 in total	none	Continuous	25 in total	none
Freshwater Mussels (all species)	Closed all year			Closed all year			Closed all year		

(S) Downstream from hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls - Taylors Falls; (N) Upstream from dam. *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.

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 with the Namekagon.

Boundary waters: the St. Croix River from an area approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the confluence with the Namekagon River to the confluence with the Mississippi. Wisconsin residents must carry a copy of their fishing license when fishing border waters.

Aquatic Invasive Species

By doing these six things every time you boat or paddle on the Riverway, you can help keep invasive species out of the rivers.

Don't

- bring live crayfish for bait.
- take minnows or move live fish, plants, or water from the rivers.

Do

- inspect your equipment and clean plants, animals, and mud from your boat and trailer before and after you are on the river.
- drain all water from boats, motors and all equipment.
- dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- wash your equipment with hot (>104°F) water or allow your equipment to dry for 5 days.

Mussels (clams) Are Protected

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