



Angler's Guide 2020

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. An area downstream of the hydroelectric dam at Taylors Falls - St. Croix Falls is closed to fishing and is identified by signs and fences.

Licenses: MN and WI fishing licenses are good from shoreline to shoreline of border waters. To fish border waters:

- Residents of Minnesota must possess a MN license
- Residents of Wisconsin must possess a WI license
- Residents of other states must possess a MN or WI license
- Anglers must have a copy of the license in possession

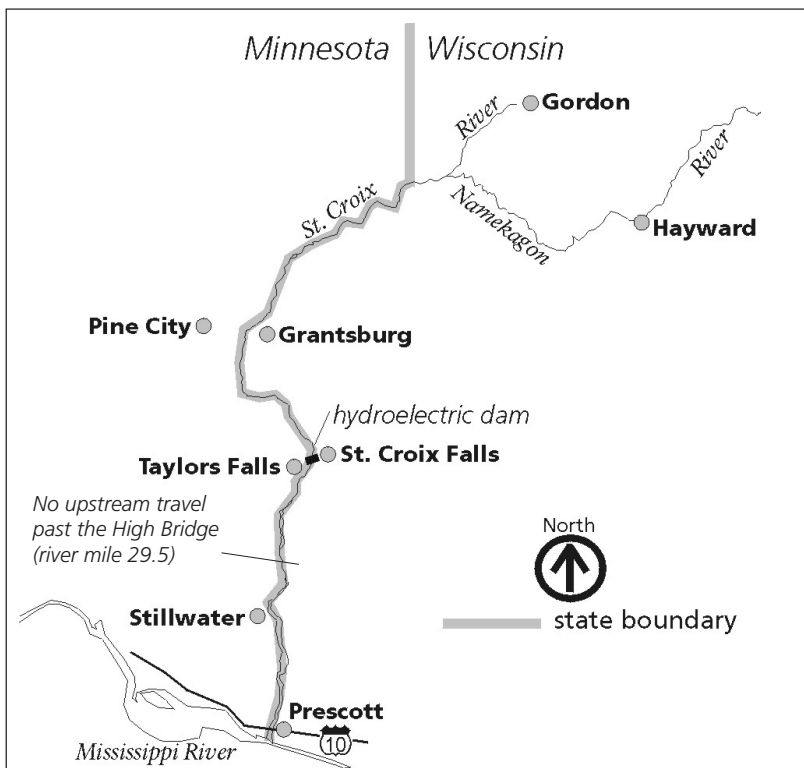
Inland Waters

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.

Angler Responsibilities:

- Obtain a license (carry paper copy)
- Knowing which state you are fishing
- Understand the state's fishing regulations
- Follow the regulations of the state in which you are fishing, not the state in which you hold a license.

NOTE: When landing a boat, you will be inspected for catch by the state where you are landing. Please take this into consideration when choosing what boat ramp to use.



Fishing Zones:

The St. Croix River is divided into northern (N) and southern (S) zones in boundary waters. The northern (N) zone is upstream from the hydroelectric dam in Taylors Falls - St. Croix Falls, and the southern (S) zone is downstream.

Bait and Lines on Boundary Waters:

MN: Two lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted. If one line, two baits are permitted.
WI: Three lines with a single lure or bait on each are permitted.

State Regulation Links:

For complete regulation details for each state, see

MN: www.dnr.state.mn.us

WI: www.dnr.state.wi.us

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
SACN_Info@nps.gov

Overview of 2020 Seasons and Limits

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

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

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 2 - March 7, 2021	5	14 inches						
	(WI-N) June 20 - March 7, 2021 (WI-S) May 2 - March 7, 2021	5 in total with LMB	14 inches						
Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass combined	all other times of year	0	catch & release	(N) May 23 - Sept. 13, 2020	5 in total	14 inches	(N) May 23 - Sept. 13, 2020	5 in total	14 inches
				(N) Sept. 14- March 1, 2021 (S) May 23 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release only	(N) Sept. 14- March 1, 2021 (S) May 23 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release only
Lake Sturgeon	No open season	0 - none		(N) June 16 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release	(N) June 16 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release
**tag required				(S) June 16 - Sept. 4 (S) Sept. 5 - 30 (S) Oct. 1 - March 1, 2021	1 per calendar year	60 inches	(S) June 16 - Sept. 4 (S) Sept. 5 - 30 (S) Oct. 1 - March 1, 2021	1 per calendar year	60 inches
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Closed all year			June 16, 2020 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release only	June 16, 2020 - March 1, 2021	0	catch & release only
Muskellunge (includes hybrids)	(WI-N) May 23 - Dec. 31, 2020	1	40 inches	May 23 - Nov. 30, 2020	1	50 inches	May 23 - Nov 30, 2020	1	50 inches
Northern Pike	(WI-N) May 2, 2020 - March 7, 2021	5	none	May 2, 2020 - March 1, 2021	5	none	May 2, 2020 - March 1, 2021	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 (includes hybrids)	May 2, 2020 - March 7, 2021	3 in total	15" - 20" may be kept; with one over 24"	May 2, 2020 - March 1, 2021	6 in total	15 inches for walleye; none for sauger	May 2, 2020 - March 1, 2020	6 in total	15 inches for walleye; none for sauger
Catfish - Channel & Flathead ***	Open all year	10 in total	none	Open all year	10 in total	none	Open all year	10 in total	none
(Paddlefish not included)									
Panfish (Sunfish, Crappies)	Open all year	25 in total	none	Open all year	25 in total	none	Continuous	25 panfish + 25 crappies	none
Freshwater Mussels (all species)	Closed all year			Closed all year			Closed all year		

Zones: (S) Downstream from hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls - Taylors Falls. (N) Upstream from dam. (WI-N) and (WI-S): for specific species, see WI DNR website for specific area in WI: www.dnr.state.wi.us.

*Measuring fish: fish must be measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the end of the compressed tail.

**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.

***Catfish and bullheads can be taken by bow or crossbow during the rough fish spearfishing season and by hand from June 1 - August 31 only in WI. See www.dnr.state.wi.us for details, including limits and gear restrictions.

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. Anglers 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.