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FISH	OVERVIEW	ANGLER TIPS	RECORDS
LAKE STURGEON	<p>Once nearly wiped out of the Rainy River, sturgeon are now a very popular fish for anglers. These fish are famous for their large size and unique appearance. Females of this long-lived species typically don't spawn for the first time until their mid-20s!</p>	<p>Lake sturgeon fishing is most popular during the spring season on the Rainy River. The sturgeon move up river toward their spawning grounds in the spring, which are typically areas of the river with rapids. Anglers commonly use multiple nightcrawlers and/or minnows for bait. Bring appropriate gear if you hope to land a large sturgeon. Extra heavy rods, 100-pound line, and landing nets or cradles capable of holding a 6+ foot fish are a must.</p>	<p>MN Catch and Release Record: 73 inches, Rainy River</p> <p>MN State record: 94 lbs, 4 oz, Kettle River, Pine County</p>
WALLEYE + SAUGER	<p>Walleye are the most desired gamefish for Rainy Lake anglers. The sauger is very similar in appearance and behavior and is frequently caught by anglers targeting walleye. The self-sustaining populations of both species in Rainy Lake contain a wide range of sizes for anglers to eat or hang on the wall. The Rainy River also holds a popular early fishing season for walleye while the rest of Minnesota's waters are closed to walleye fishing.</p>	<p>The early spring season on the Rainy River is popular for anglers looking to catch trophy sized Walleye. Late summer fishing over mid-lake rock reefs is popular on Rainy Lake. A jig and a minnow is nearly always a good option, and if you find walleye it is quite likely that you will catch a few sauger as well.</p>	<p>MN State record: <i>Walleye</i> 17 lbs, 8 oz, Seagull River, Cook County</p> <p>MN State record: <i>Sauger</i> 6 lbs, 2 oz, Mississippi River, Goodhue County</p>
NORTHERN PIKE	<p>The Northern Pike is a toothy predator found in many Minnesota lakes. These fish grow to trophy sizes in large bodies of water with low-density populations, such as those found in Rainy Lake and Rainy River. The border water regulations offer a continuous season for extra fishing time in the spring when the rest of Minnesota's waters are closed to pike fishing.</p>	<p>Northern pike move to shallow water to stage for spawning in the spring as the ice is melting. This is a great time for fishing with tip-ups. Anglers commonly catch large pike on live suckers, frozen melt, and even hot dogs. During the summer they can be found near areas where there is heavy vegetation. Be sure to use tackle capable of landing 40+ inch fish.</p>	<p>MN Catch and release record: 45 ¼ inches, Rainy River</p> <p>MN State record: 45 lb, 12 oz, Basswood Lake, Lake County</p>



SMALLMOUTH BASS	Smallmouth are another aggressive predator in the Rainy Lake/Rainy River system. Known for their fighting ability, the smallmouth is a popular sportfish for tournament anglers. Rainy Lake is consistently in the top 100 bass lakes in the U.S. as ranked by Bassmaster magazine, making it a prime spot for targeting these fish.	Smallmouth are most often near rock, where they can easily forage for crayfish. Crankbaits or jigs with plastics usually work well. Anglers who would like to test their skills usually have a few opportunities to compete in tournaments on Rainy Lake each summer.	MN State record: 8 lbs, 0 oz, West Battle Lake, Ottertail County
CRAPPIE	In a lake full of large predators, the black crappie provides a great opportunity for Rainy Lake anglers who seek panfish. Rainy Lake crappies are known for their impressive size.	Crappie can be difficult to find much of the year. However, in the spring they tend to congregate in shallow bays to spawn. Anglers often use small jigs with a crappie minnow under a bobber, or troll with spinning rigs tipped with a small minnow.	MN State record: 5 lb, 0 oz, Vermillion River, Dakota County
PERCH	Yellow perch are typically viewed as an important forage fish for walleye and northern pike. However, perch reach large sizes in the more productive areas of Rainy Lake.	Perch can be caught through the ice with light jigs tipped with a small minnow or artificial grubs. Light lines are best but be ready for a fight when a 12+ inch perch bites.	MN State record: 3 lbs, 4 oz, Lake Plantagenet, Hubbard County

Did you catch a record-breaker? We want to hear about it! Send pictures to CVB@RAINYLAKE.ORG

	DATE	SIZE + DETAILS	ANGLER NAME
LAKE STURGEON			
WALLEYE			
NORTHERN PIKE			
SMALLMOUTH BASS			
CRAPPIE			
PERCH			