



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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CONTINUOUS OPEN SEASON FOR BASS IN MINNESOTA

This legislation is a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the MN-FISH Coalition.

Bill and Authors:

HF2824 primary author is Rep. Jim Nash

Co-authors: Reps. Peter Fischer, Leon Lillie, and Roger Skraba

SF3031 primary author is Sen. John Hoffman

Co-author: Sen. Andrew Lang



BASS POPULATIONS ARE CURRENTLY THRIVING IN MINNESOTA and throughout the upper Midwest. Longer growing seasons favor warmer water species such as bass and panfish.



IN 2014, CATCH AND RELEASE FOR BASS WAS ADDED from the walleye opener to traditional Memorial Day bass opener.



EARLY SEASON CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING WILL HAVE NO IMPACT on bass spawning in most years, as spawning generally peaks in late May.



AT PRESENT, ONLY MINNESOTA AND NORTHERN MAINE maintain closed seasons for black bass as a standard regulation.



NO TOURNAMENTS WOULD BE PERMITTED prior to the walleye opener.



INCREASING ANGLING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPRING will also increase interest in angling and angler retention.



PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAMS will increase if teams could recruit anglers before schools close for the summer.

— SUPPORTERS —

