

First, the MNDNR has not followed their own Long Range Plan for muskie stocking. They have not done the required lake assessments and population estimates for muskie, and have neglected other sport fishing assessments and problems. Our local sport fishermen are seeing significant negative changes in sunfish and crappie fishing, as well as walleye fishing.

Second, The MNDNR has no recent scientific or technical data to support their contention that other sport fish are not being harmed. What little data they have was started with a different species of muskie, and when there was a 30 inch length size minimum, not the 54 inch minimum of today

Third, muskie are not native to the Red River Basin of Minnesota, recent research by the USGS has confirmed that muskie have been "introduced" to the RR Basin. For the MNDNR to continue to spread a non-native species into areas of the state where the clear majority of people do not want this fish, is contrary to the basic principles of the MNDNR.

Four, other sport fisherman and property owners also have rights and input into what is stocked in our lakes. MNCOLA, Otter Tail COLA, individual lake associations, and other counties have passed resolutions calling for the suspension of muskie stocking until the MNDNR can show the technical and scientific data to support their contention that muskie stocking does not hurt other sport fish. Further we ask that no muskie stocking resumes in lakes until there is an open and fair vote by the local affected sport fisherman and lake property owners.

Five, the small vocal minority of muskie fishermen, claim to represent up to 14% of the fishermen. In reality this number is more like 5 %. But they already have muskie in 35 % of the Minnesota surface water, not counting the dozens of upstream and downstream lakes. Recently the DNR has claimed that migration of muskie to other lakes is very limited. Why then does the local muskie club hold muskie tournaments on non-stocked Lake Sallie, downstream from stocked Detroit Lakes. A 55 inch muskie washed up on the shore of Lake Lizzie, downstream from stocked Pelican Lake, and Lake Lizzie residents report seeing and catching muskie on a regular basis. A 58.5 inch muskie was caught on non-stocked Crane Lake, 40 miles from muskie stocked Lake Vermillion.

Six, Property owners are not being included in these fish management decisions, and now are increasingly aware of the vicious and dangerous attacks that 54 inch (and larger) muskie make on anything in the water. People have reported human bites, attacks on caught fish, ducks etc. We have lake residences and kids afraid to use the water.

Seven, This is not a single person issue on Pelican Lake, or any of the dozens of other lakes now actively involved. And as we talk to fishing groups, they also do not favor muskie. The PLPOA ex-board, membership and full board, and Otter Tail County lake association board votes have overwhelming wanted to pursue an effort to stop muskie stocking.

Eight, we do not want to become another Mille Lacs Lake.