



Hello All,

I hope that all of you are safe and healthy.

Note date change

Annual Meeting Re-scheduled to August 15th

The FILIA annual meeting has been re-scheduled to August 15th, with this date being dependent on the development of the Covid-19 virus in Minnesota. The location and time remain the same - at Hazelton Town Hall from 9:00 Am to 11:00 AM.

Fishing Opener May 9

Per Governor Tim Walz, people are asked to follow state outside guidelines for social distancing (see below). Both public accesses are open.

An article in the Star Tribune - Sales of Minnesota fishing licenses are exploding - published May 4, 2020. <https://www.startribune.com/sales-of-minnesota-fishing-licenses-are-exploding/570147241/>

New information will be released Monday, but sales of licenses two weeks ago were 41% ahead of last year's pace. The fastest-growing category was "resident youth," covering licenses sold to 16- and 17-year-olds. Those sales almost doubled to 8,770 licenses in the latest report. Total sales were up to 255,500.

Local bait shop owners have theorized that Minnesotans are turning to fishing to fill a void left by the closure of organized sports like baseball, softball, soccer and spring hockey.

The DNR ice-out date for Farm Island Lake is April 19.

Governor issues executive order opening outdoor recreational activities

Aitkin Independent Age article published Apr 17, 2020 https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/governor-issues-executive-order-opening-outdoor-recreational-activities/article_d7d9f548-80e9-11ea-a895-7f8fe74b726f.html

Governor Tim Walz today issued Executive Order 20-38, which expands allowable outdoor recreational activities. The changes will allow Minnesotans to continue to enjoy the outdoors close to home while following social distancing guidelines.

Executive Order 20-38 **allows Minnesotans to engage in a range of activities, including golfing, boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, as long as they follow new outdoor recreation guidelines.** These guidelines include maintaining 6-foot social distancing, avoiding crowded areas, and staying close to home.

Under Executive Order 20-38, **facilities that may reopen or remain open include:**

- Bait shops for live bait
- Outdoor shooting ranges and game farms
- Public and private parks and trails
- Golf courses and driving ranges
- Boating and off-highway vehicle services, including:
- Marina services
- Dock installation and other lake services
- Boat and off-highway vehicle sales and repair, by appointment only

To remain closed:

- Campgrounds and dispersed camping
- Outdoor recreational equipment retail store
- Recreational equipment rental
- Charter boats
- Launches
- Guided fishing

Minnesotans should continue to take part in outdoor activities close to their primary residence. Staying home helps protect Minnesotans from spreading COVID-19 and limits pressure on rural medical facilities and essential supplies.

These new provisions will go into effect on Saturday, April 18 at 5 a.m., and will have the full force and effect of law upon approval by the Executive Council. [Read more](#)

Minnesota DNR cancels fish egg take in 2020 due to COVID-19 social distancing protocols

I asked DNR's Rick Bruesewitz for his comments regarding the MN DNR "suspension of the 2020 egg take operations" and how it will affect Farm Island Lake. (On October 8, 2019 the DNR stocked a total of 425 lbs. of fingerlings, for a total of about 12,000 fish.) Here is Rick's reply along with the content of the DNR press release.

From: Bruesewitz, Rick (DNR) <rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:16 AM
To: cherylhmcdonough@gmail.com
Subject: RE: **Farm Island Lake - Minnesota DNR cancels fish egg take in 2020**

Hi Cheryl,

Hope all is well with you in this crazy time.

Yes, this will affect stocking of Farm Island. No fry or fingerlings will be stocked this year (if we don't collect eggs we have no fry, with no fry we can't grow to fingerling sizes). It was not a light decision by our leadership,

but it is important to keep our staff safe. It is not feasible to conduct egg take operations in the current climate while maintaining social distance. I am happy that we did find fingerlings to stock last fall on top of the modest year class created by the fry that were stocked a year ago. Missing one year is not too big of a deal and you/anglers would not likely notice anything in the fishing for probably 3-4 years. Even then, since there is some natural reproduction in Farm Island and the Ripple River, it is still possible to produce at least a moderate year class. We will likely still assess that natural reproduction in the fall with electrofishing.

There is no talk that I'm aware of to alter fishing opener.

Feel free to contact me if you have more questions.

Be safe,

Rick

DNR News Release

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2020/04/14/2020-egg-take-operations-suspended-canceled-due-covid-19-social-distancing-protocols>

2020 egg take operations canceled due to COVID-19 social distancing protocols

April 14, 2020

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will cancel its 2020 egg take operations for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and steelhead because the work cannot be done safely under COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

Collecting eggs and sperm from spawning fish in the wild is a labor intensive effort that requires teams of 6-8 people working in close proximity. After a careful examination of whether the egg take process could be re-engineered, the DNR determined that it was not possible to safely handle fish during the egg take and practice appropriate social distancing to protect staff from COVID-19.

The DNR collects eggs each spring to hatch, raise and then release either as fry or fingerlings to stock Minnesota waters that have low or no natural reproduction of these fish species. While this stocking is important to maintain fish populations and angling opportunities over time, missing one year will not cause long-term harm to the fish population of any waterbody.

"Fish populations naturally are made up of fish hatched in different years, so a missing or weak year class is not uncommon," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the DNR. "In fact, in lakes with natural reproduction, a strong year class often follows a weak year class, so not stocking for one year might actually benefit the following year's stocked fry."

Canceling egg take activities means walleye eggs and fry will not be available for the DNR's cooperative fish management programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and

White Earth Nation. In addition, the DNR will not be able to fulfill requests from private sector hatcheries to purchase eggs and fry in 2020.

Since hatchery rearing ponds will not be in use, the DNR will lower the water levels in many of these ponds to improve long-term productivity and future fish-rearing capacity. Other hatchery repairs, such as dike and pond improvements, also can be done when water levels drop.

Because this winter was relatively mild in southern Minnesota, there should be good numbers of walleye in natural rearing ponds that were not harvested last fall. Those fish will help replace some fingerlings for the 2020 season.

Minnesota joins some other Midwest states including South Dakota, Michigan and Indiana in suspending egg take operations. In addition, the USFWS canceled all planned lake sturgeon production for 2020.

*** End of DNR news release

Here is a video that shows how the fish egg are harvested

<https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-lifestyle/minnesota-dnr-cancels-fish-egg-take-in-2020>

Note: When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities on Farm Island Lake.

Membership Update

We have 85 paid members, with 36% using the online store payment process on the FILIA website at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia/online-store>. An application is included with this newsletter.

Financial Report for 2019

The 2019 FILIA financial report is available on your website <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia/financial-report>

Aitkin County has registered its first COVID-19 case.

- As of May 6 there has been one case in Aitkin County.
- April 16th the Aitkin Independent Age reported: The Minnesota Department of Health confirmed a positive case of COVID-19 Thursday. The complete Aitkin Independent Age news article can be read at https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/coronavirus/positive-case-in-aitkin-county/article_557a4e14-8034-11ea-9d6b-8b93c69f4eeb.html

4th of July Boat Parade

The boat parade will take place on July 4th at the south public access. Meet there by noon. The parade will head east. Per Governor Tim Walz, people are asked to follow state outside guidelines for social distancing.

Have fun decorating your watercraft! Please practice safe distancing between watercraft to prevent accidents.

Burning Permit Required

Campfires are allowed and any other burning requires a permit. Here is more information and Aitkin County contact.

https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/burning-permits/admin_areas

DNR COVID-19 Response: For the health and safety of all Minnesotans, DNR is proactively moving to burning restrictions immediately after snowmelt to reduce potential for wildfire and emergency response. DNR is working to reduce additional risks and stressors on the emergency response network to assure maximum availability for COVID-19 response. **Until further notice, Minnesota's Township Fire Wardens will no longer issue burning permits.** DNR will grant variance permits only for agricultural field and construction site preparation, and limited prescribed burning. Call your local DNR Forestry Office. Updated May 02, 2020

Contact: Glendon Nyberg at 218-429-3024, glendon.nyberg@state.mn.us

Bright lights at night?

In the past few weeks' lights after dark on the lake have created a few phone calls to the DNR asking if it is the work of the DNR (perhaps electroshock fishing?). Ends up the lights are used for bowfishing for rough fish at night. More information can be found at [2020 Minnesota Fishing Guide](#).

Lost:

A 4 ft x 5 ft wooden dock section on the southeast side of the lake around the Summer Breeze Resort area. If anyone knows of its whereabouts please call Earl at 218-678-2110.

FILIA Website

There is a lot of information on the FILIA website. This site map includes the links to the various pages on the website. <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

Site Map

- [Home](#) Mission statement, map of Farm Island Lake, etc.
- [Membership](#) Members lists, application form
- [Online Store](#) Pay dues online
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#)
- [Contact/Calendar](#) List of board members and shore captains, calendar of events
 - [Local Events](#)
- [Administrative](#) Financial reports (current & past), Bylaws,
 - [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)
- [Score Your Shore](#)

- [How to identify zebra mussels](#)
- [Useful Info](#) Boating and fishing regulations and other stuff
- [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
- [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)
- [History](#)

Be Well.

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
filialake@gmail.com

Your comments are welcome.

Visit your website at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

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