

MINNESOTA
FISHING MUSEUM
AND **HALL OF FAME**
LITTLE FALLS



**PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MINNESOTA'S FISHING HERITAGE**



HONORING MINNESOTA'S FISHING GREATS

FISHING FACTS ABOUT MINNESOTA

Minnesota, often referred to as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," boasts a rich fishing heritage and plays a significant role in supporting the state's economy. Here are some fishing facts about Minnesota and its economic impact:

Abundant Fishing Opportunities: Minnesota is home to more than 11,800 lakes, 6,500 rivers, and streams, providing ample opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing activities. Popular game fish species include walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, bass, and panfish.

Tourism and Recreation: Fishing is a major driver of tourism in Minnesota, attracting anglers from across the country and around the world. Visitors flock to the state to enjoy its pristine waters, scenic landscapes, and world-class fishing experiences. The state's fishing resorts, lodges, and outfitters benefit from the influx of tourists, contributing to the local economy.

Economic Impact: The fishing industry has a substantial economic impact on Minnesota's economy. According to the American Sportfishing Association, **recreational fishing in Minnesota generates billions of dollars in economic activity annually**, supporting thousands of jobs in various sectors, including hospitality, retail, manufacturing, and transportation.

Supporting Local Businesses: Fishing-related expenditures, such as equipment purchases, boat rentals, bait and tackle sales, lodging, dining, and fuel, inject money into local economies across the state. Small businesses, including bait shops, marinas, restaurants, and hotels, rely on revenue generated from anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing operations in Minnesota harvest a variety of fish species for sale in domestic and international markets. Commercial fisheries contribute to the state's food supply chain and provide employment opportunities in fish processing, distribution, and marketing sectors.

Conservation and Management: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plays a crucial role in managing and conserving the state's fisheries resources. Sustainable management practices ensure the long-term viability of fish populations, supporting both recreational and commercial fishing industries while preserving the ecological balance of aquatic ecosystems.

Overall, fishing in Minnesota is more than just a recreational pastime; it's a vital component of the state's economy, culture, and natural heritage. By promoting responsible angling practices, conserving aquatic habitats, and supporting fishing-related businesses, Minnesota continues to reap the economic benefits of its thriving fishing industry.



MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

OVERVIEW:

The Minnesota State Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame, located in Little Falls where the Mississippi pauses, is a cornerstone of Minnesota's fishing heritage. Our mission is to preserve the heritage and history of freshwater fishing in Minnesota while educating the public about the fishing industry and promoting the sport of fishing for future generations. The museum offers a variety of educational programs that engage the community and provide valuable learning experiences for youth and families. Through partnerships with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), fishing legends, and local educators, the museum fosters a strong sense of environmental stewardship and cultural pride.

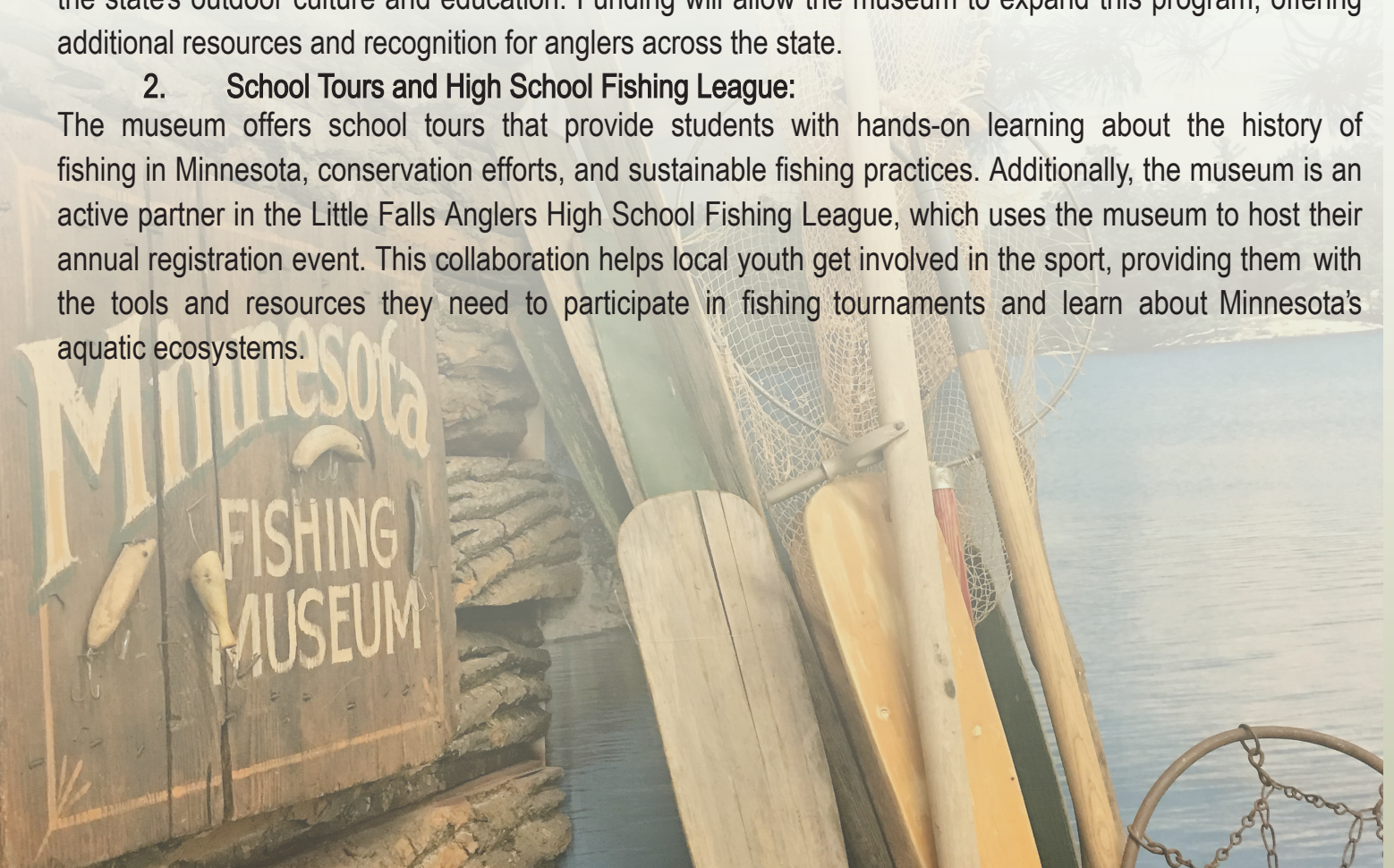
KEY PROGRAMS:

1. Master Angler Program:

For over 15 years, the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame has been administering the Master Angler Program on behalf of the Minnesota DNR, providing this important service. The program recognizes anglers for their achievements and encourages responsible fishing practices. This long-standing commitment to preserving Minnesota's fishing heritage underscores the museum's dedication to the state's outdoor culture and education. Funding will allow the museum to expand this program, offering additional resources and recognition for anglers across the state.

2. School Tours and High School Fishing League:

The museum offers school tours that provide students with hands-on learning about the history of fishing in Minnesota, conservation efforts, and sustainable fishing practices. Additionally, the museum is an active partner in the Little Falls Anglers High School Fishing League, which uses the museum to host their annual registration event. This collaboration helps local youth get involved in the sport, providing them with the tools and resources they need to participate in fishing tournaments and learn about Minnesota's aquatic ecosystems.



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OVERVIEW CONTINUED: KEY PROGRAMS

3. Scouts Program “Fishing for All”:

The Fishing for All program, in collaboration with local scout groups, provides children with the tools and skills they need to fish, regardless of their socio-economic status. Scouts participate in making fishing kits, refurbishing rods and reels, and donating them to local community programs. This initiative ensures that children who may not have the financial means to access fishing equipment can still enjoy the outdoors. One scout even earned the rank of Eagle through this program, demonstrating its lasting impact on both the community and individual participants.

4. Carving Decoys and Youth Contest:

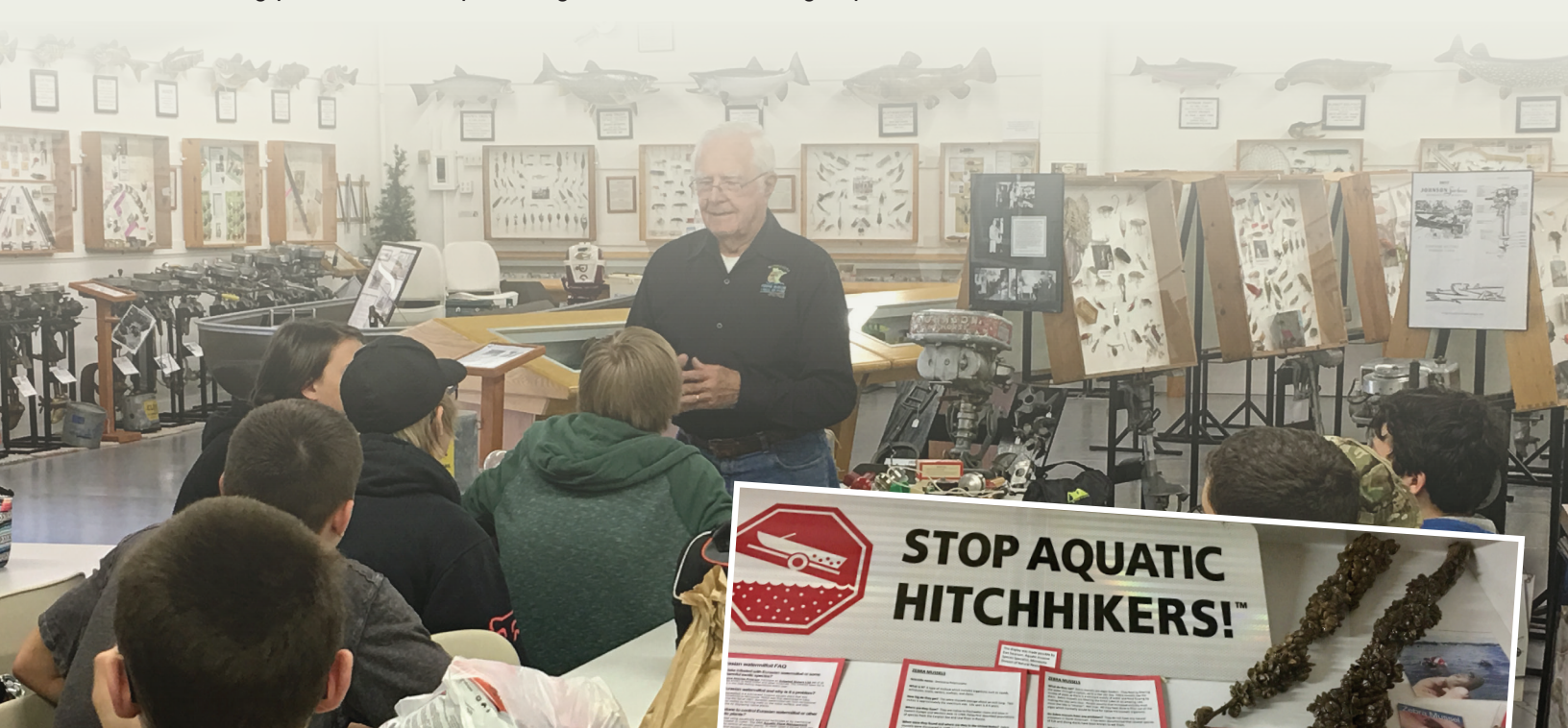
The museum also preserves the art of decoy carving, a key tradition in Minnesota’s outdoor culture. Led by retired teachers and past board members, the museum offers workshops where youth learn to carve decoys. The museum holds a youth decoy carving contest at its Decoy Show, providing young people with the opportunity to showcase their creativity and connect with local artists.

5. Night with the Fishing Pros Fundraiser:

The Night with the Fishing Pros fundraiser is an exciting event that allows the community to interact with fishing legends and professional anglers. This event serves not only as a learning experience but also as a critical fundraiser that supports the museum’s educational programs and operations.

6. Aquarium Collaboration with the DNR:

The museum collaborates with the Minnesota DNR to stock and maintain its 270-gallon aquarium, which showcases native Minnesota fish species. This interactive exhibit allows visitors to learn about the state’s aquatic ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices while providing a hands-on learning experience for students and tourists.



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WHY THE MINNESOTA STATE FISHING MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME MATTERS:

- **Preserving Heritage:** The Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame is a vital institution in preserving and sharing Minnesota's fishing heritage. Supporting this appropriation will help maintain this essential cultural resource.
- **Educational Impact:** Through its programs, the museum provides invaluable educational opportunities for students, scouts, and the public. Partnerships with DNR, Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame Legends, fishing pros, and local educators ensure that these programs are of the highest quality.
- **Community Engagement:** The Fishing for All program and other initiatives ensure that all children, regardless of background, have access to fishing opportunities, fostering inclusivity and participation in outdoor activities. Additionally, the museum's role in supporting the Little Falls Anglers High School Fishing League helps nurture the next generation of anglers.
- **Economic and Tourism Benefits:** The museum's programs and events, such as Night with the Fishing Pros, Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame Legend Induction and Christmas Tree Lane draw visitors to Little Falls, benefiting local businesses and the regional economy. The museum is also a significant contributor to Minnesota's outdoor tourism industry.
- **Community Involvement:** The museum is deeply embedded in the local community and plays an active role in promoting outdoor education through civic and community organizations. We serve as guest speakers for a variety of local civic groups, including:
 - Dandee Lions
 - Little Falls Exchange Club
 - Sertoma
 - Rotary Clubs
 - Little Falls Lions Club

Additionally, we are honored to be scheduled as a speaker at this year's Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener in Cross Lake, where we will share our knowledge of fishing traditions and conservation efforts with a broader audience. These engagements are vital in spreading awareness of the museum's mission and educating the community about the importance of preserving Minnesota's outdoor culture.

EDUCATION

Throughout the year, the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame welcomes numerous visitors, including school groups from across the state eager to explore our rich fishing heritage. When schools schedule tours, we offer a diverse range of activities and presentations tailored to enhance their educational experience. Our knowledgeable staff provides personal tours, offering detailed insights into the fascinating history behind some of the 20,000 artifacts on display. Students have the opportunity to learn the basics of carving from professional decoy carvers or engage with volunteers who share expertise on various fishing reels, rods, and motors manufactured over the years. Many visitors and students enjoy participating in our scavenger hunt, which encourages exploration of all areas of the museum.

All visitors enjoy viewing replicas of the Minnesota State Record Fish on display. These replicas allow us to showcase the size and beauty of numerous species of fish found in Minnesota. Additionally, they serve as inspiration for our guests, encouraging them to aspire to catch their own 'big one'.



MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

EDUCATION

Enhancing the Educational Experience with Expert-Led Programming:

Expanding our educational programming by incorporating renowned fishing legends will provide visitors with unique learning experiences, deeper insights into Minnesota's fishing heritage, and hands-on skill development.

1. **Inviting Fishing Legends:** We would reach out to renowned anglers and fishing experts with deep roots in Minnesota's fishing community. These individuals may include professional anglers, fishing guides, tournament champions, and conservation advocates who have made significant contributions to the sport of fishing in our state.
2. **Storytelling Sessions:** The fishing legends would be invited to participate in storytelling sessions where they can share their personal experiences, adventures, and insights gained from a lifetime of fishing. These sessions would provide attendees with a unique opportunity to learn from the firsthand experiences of these esteemed individuals and gain valuable knowledge about Minnesota's fishing heritage.
3. **Techniques and Tips Workshops:** In addition to storytelling sessions, the fishing legends could lead workshops focused on specific fishing techniques, strategies, and tips for success. These hands-on workshops may cover topics such as fly fishing, ice fishing, lure selection, casting techniques, and fish behavior, providing participants with practical skills and knowledge to enhance their fishing abilities.
4. **Interactive Q&A Sessions:** Each presentation or workshop would conclude with an interactive Q&A session where attendees can engage directly with the fishing legends, ask questions, and seek advice on specific fishing-related topics. This interactive format would foster dialogue, exchange of ideas, and community-building among participants.



MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

CREATE INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

Innovative Interactive Display Concepts

Virtual Fishing Simulator – A state-of-the-art simulator where visitors can experience the excitement of catching Minnesota's fish species. Using realistic fishing rods, reels, and motion sensors, guests can feel the thrill of reeling in a big catch with adjustable difficulty levels for all ages and skill levels.

Fish Identification Game – A touchscreen challenge that tests visitors' knowledge of Minnesota's fish species through high-quality images, fun facts, and quizzes. This engaging game encourages learning about fish characteristics, habitats, and conservation efforts.

Fish Habitat Exploration – An interactive exhibit showcasing Minnesota's diverse aquatic ecosystems through dioramas, interactive maps, and multimedia presentations. Visitors can explore lakes, rivers, and wetlands while learning about the role of habitat conservation in sustaining fish populations.

Fishing Knot Tying Station – A hands-on exhibit where visitors can learn essential fishing knots using step-by-step instructions and practice materials. Video demonstrations and animated guides will help visitors master various knots used in different fishing techniques.

Hall of Fame Interactive Profiles – A touchscreen archive highlighting the inductees of the Minnesota State Fishing Hall of Fame. Visitors can explore biographies, photos, videos, and achievements of legendary anglers, industry leaders, and conservationists who have shaped the sport in Minnesota.

By implementing these interactive displays, the Minnesota State Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame can create dynamic and engaging experiences that inspire visitors to learn, explore, and appreciate the rich heritage of fishing in Minnesota.



MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM

The MN Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame administers The Master Angler Program, which is promoted in the MN DNR regulation book and is open to all licensed anglers in Minnesota. Additionally, nonresident anglers with an appropriate Minnesota license are eligible to participate. The program features separate divisions for both adult and youth anglers. It's important to note that we are not paid to administer this program; it's a service we provide to promote angling in Minnesota and celebrate the achievements of anglers.



EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Signature Events hosted at the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame:

Decoy Show: A showcase of intricate decoy carvings by local and regional artisans, providing visitors with the opportunity to admire and purchase unique pieces of art.

Night with the Fishing Pros: An exclusive event where attendees can mingle with professional anglers, learn insider tips and tricks, and participate in Q&A sessions or demonstrations.

MN Fishing Hall of Fame Induction: An esteemed ceremony honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of fishing in Minnesota, celebrating their achievements and contributions to the angling community.

Christmas Tree Lane: A festive holiday event where the museum is adorned with beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each sponsored by local businesses or individuals, creating a magical ambiance for visitors to enjoy during the holiday season.



MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

QUOTES FROM THE MINNESOTA FISHING HALL OF FAME LEGENDS

"The Museum and Hall are a cultural example of Minnesota's fabric and fiber. As a member of the Hall, this establishment needs state support to keep the spirit of the outdoors alive! Many of us are Minnesota born and raised, caught our first fish here and have passed the thrill of fishing on to our children and grandchildren."

Mark Fisher, Chief Rapala Lure Designer

"The Minnesota Fishing Museum & Hall of Fame is so important to our state. The legacy of fishing in Minnesota is engrained into all Minnesotans. The Museum and Hall of Fame is our way to document this legacy so our next generations can see how the sport has grown and those that the innovations are recognized to inspire future growth within the sport."

Kristen Merwin, President, Women Anglers of Minnesota

"It's a must for all Fishermen to see! It shows the History of Fishing in the country! Vote for the Right People, Fishing People!"

"Mr. Walleye" Gary Roach, Multi-Media Specialist, Tackle and Boat Enhancement Designer, Fishing Guide

"The Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum holds the history of what Minnesota tourism promotes - great times. A lot of the great times and lots of the people who live here today is because of all the great fishing guides helping to sell new homes here in Minnesota. We can't afford to lose this history! Support of money to help this project is very important to Minnesota. The next generations of fishing people are here now."

JR Cooper, Fishing Guide, Promoter, and Lure Developer

"I have a passion for fishing and the Minnesota Fishing Museum provides a place to view the history of fishing in Minnesota. The story is great and they tell it well."

"Doc" Bruce Samson

"Minnesota's family tree is rooted in its lakes, rivers, and forests - natural resources. The people of Minnesota are, above all, people of the outdoors. In documenting the history of our great state, it is critical to preserve our fishing industry. Particularly, the events, products, and people that were/are essential to growing and maintaining our priceless fishing resource. The Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame fulfills this junction perfectly. Remember, we are the State of Fishing - Preserve our legacy!"

Dan Sura, Multi-Media Specialist

"The Minnesota Hall of Fame is more than a museum. It is a core of what fishing is in the State of Minnesota. What a great destination for all Minnesota anglers. I am honored to be an inductee."

"Tackle Terry" Tuma, Multi-Media Specialist, Writer for Outdoor News, and TV & Radio Personality

"Please help save our fishing heritage and keep it alive for younger generations. Thank you."

Ron Hunter, Fishing Guide

"Minnesota was and is at the center of the modern fishing revolution and it was my good fortune to grow up here. Through my work in outdoor media I've met and fished with the legends of our sport. The land of lakes, rivers, and streams needs a museum celebrating its rich fishing history!"

Mark Strand, Outdoor Media Specialist

"The Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame houses some of Minnesota's best fishing stories, artifacts, and legends. The importance of preserving and continuing this great history is of utmost concern and priority. The museum and hall is the best way to pass fishing tradition and education to the next generation of anglers and I can't imagine a life without this place. Amazing!"

Erin Murray, Vice-President, Women Anglers of Minnesota



OUR MISSION

To collect, preserve and display the artifacts of fresh-water fishing in Minnesota.

To provide classrooms and educational curriculum for individuals of all ages.

The recognition of persons, clubs, organizations and companies that have contributed to the growth, enjoyment and preservation of the sport of fishing.