



Report to  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Policy and Finance Committee  
of the 2001 Legislature

# Assessing Gross Game & Fish Violations

A Review and  
Assessment of  
Gross Violations  
of Takings of  
Game and Fish  
Resources  
and  
Recommendations  
for  
Increased  
Penalties

Prepared by  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Enforcement  
January, 2001

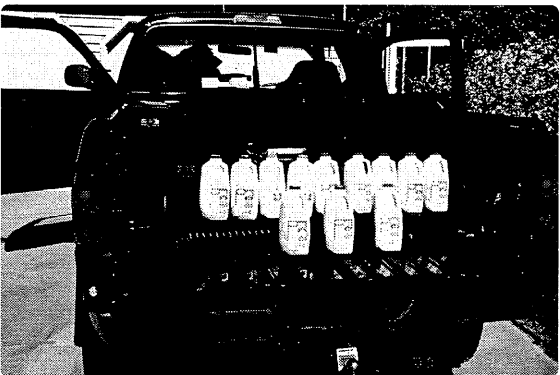




Twelve deer taken by three hunters.  
Three of the deer were tagged.



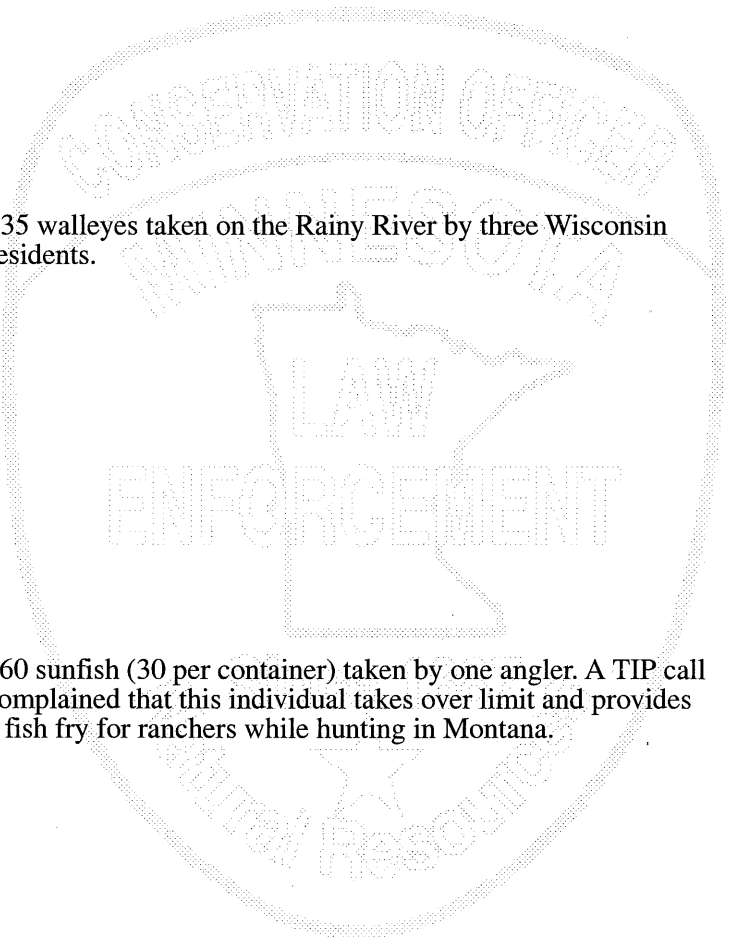
135 walleyes taken on the Rainy River by three Wisconsin residents.



360 sunfish (30 per container) taken by one angler. A TIP call complained that this individual takes over limit and provides a fish fry for ranchers while hunting in Montana.



Large over limit take of walleye and northern pike, an under-size muskie, and several illegally taken furbearers. All of this illegally taken game and fish was wanton waste, found discarded in lakeside weeds.



## **Introduction**

This report was prepared in response to 2000 Minnesota Session Law Chapter 466, Section 6, directing the Commissioner of Natural Resources to review and assess gross violations of taking game and fish resources, and to report on increased penalties to the House and Senate committees on Natural Resources policy and finance by February 1, 2001.

Report prepared by:

Major Charles Schwartz  
I & E Section Manager  
MnDNR - Enforcement  
January, 2001

## **Abstract**

Overlimit violations are among the most difficult and time consuming of violations for conservation officers to detect and enforce. Gross violations of overlimits can have drastic effects on at risk wildlife populations and complicate or render ineffective management efforts by professional wildlife and fisheries managers.

One of the most widely recognized deterrents against violation of natural resource laws is the likelihood of the revocation of license privileges. This, when coupled with developing Wildlife Violator Compacts providing for reciprocal license revocation agreements between signatory states, has the potential to greatly deter even the most habitual and flagrant of natural resource law violators.

A presentation by Minnesota Conservation Officer Tom Chapin to the 2000 Fishing Roundtable meeting prompted calls for enhanced penalties for "gross violations" of regulations. This received legislative support by the passage of 2000 Minnesota Session Law Chapter 466, Section 6, directing the Commissioner of Natural Resources to review and assess gross violations of taking game and fish resources, and to report on increased penalties to the House and Senate committees on Natural Resources policy and finance by February 1, 2001.

The other 49 states were surveyed regarding their approaches to and judicial remedies for such violations; 23 responded. Elements of commonality were identified with some of the other states

and from those recommendations were developed<sup>1</sup>. Key elements of the recommendations for enhanced penalties include:

- ◆ Treating egregious violations as theft from the people of the state;
- ◆ Basing enhanced penalties on established restitution values;
- ◆ Establishing three distinct levels of enhanced penalties;
  - ◆ Third degree, with gross misdemeanor provisions and three year revocation of the license being exercised at the time of the violation;
  - ◆ Second degree, a gross misdemeanor with five year revocation of all hunting and fishing license privileges, and;
  - ◆ First degree, a felony level offense with attendant ten year revocation of all hunting and fishing license privileges.

In addition, provision would be made for immediate seizure of the license being exercised and suspension of that license privilege prior to court appearance (provision also could be made for administrative review and bonding out of seized licenses).

Other provisions relating to repeat offenses are recommended as well as minor changes to laws affecting seizure of some types of equipment used in conjunction with gross illegal takings.

The recommendations were reviewed by Department of Natural Resources personnel from the Divisions of Fisheries, Wildlife, Ecological Services, and Enforcement. In addition, the recommendations were provided to participants of the 2001 Hunting and Fishing Roundtables prior to them meeting in St. Cloud, Minnesota on January 5 - 6, 2001. Comments and input were solicited from Roundtable participants at that time and are reflected in this final report.

<sup>1</sup> Information provided from individual state surveys is available upon request.

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<i>i</i>
<b>Abstract</b>	<i>ii</i>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<i>iv</i>
<b>Background</b>	
<b>Impetus for this Report</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Resource and Social Implications of Gross Overlimits</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Assessment</b>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Findings</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Classification of the Criminal Penalties</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>License Seizure</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Revocation of Licenses Upon Conviction</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Seizure and Confiscation of Wild Animals and Equipment</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Additional Considerations and Recommendations</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Examples and Scenarios of Penalties</b>	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Appendices</i></b>	
<b>Restitution Values of Game and Fish</b>	
<b>Survey to Solicit Input from Department Personnel and Roundtable Participants</b>	

## **Background**

### **Impetus for this Report**

In January, 2000, Minnesota Conservation Officer Tom Chapin made a presentation to the 2000 Fishing Roundtable meeting in St. Cloud, Minnesota. In attendance at this meeting were members of stakeholder groups concerned with various aspects of the state's fisheries resources, as well as several members of the Minnesota Legislature and staff of the Department of Natural Resources.

Officer Chapin's presentation included slides and accompanying commentary chronicling some of the more egregious violations of game and fish law he had encountered in his more than 20 years as a conservation officer. Most incidents represented depicted serious overlimit violations, and were presented to illustrate the difficulty in detecting many of these violations, the lengths to which some individuals will go to circumvent natural resource regulations in general and limit regulations in particular, and to shed light on apparent inadequacies of current penalties to serve as effective deterrents to the most determined of violators.

Of particular concern to Roundtable attendees was the revelation that many violators come fully prepared to pay fines if caught in violation, and that once cited, they can usually proceed with the very activity that they had been participating in when apprehended. That is, license privileges are, for the most part, not affected by even the most serious of overlimit violations. In general, small game and fishing license privileges are currently only revoked for one year following a second violation within a three year period (MS 97A.421).

This legislatively mandated report was born out of that Fishing Roundtable discussion.

## **Resource and Social Implications of Gross Overlimits**

Gross overlimit violations of hunting and angling laws often generate strong negative public reaction and tend to cast all participants in these activities in a negative light. The majority of law abiding sportspersons are frequently painted with the same broad brush as the few serious offenders by non-consumptive users of our natural resources.

Takings of gross overlimits can have negative consequences to the management of fish and wildlife resources, to the fair distribution of resource harvest among hunters and anglers, and to public perceptions and support for hunting and angling activities.

Fishing, hunting, and trapping limits are designed to equitably distribute harvest among hunters and anglers, so that all participants in these seasons have a chance at a 'fair share' of the harvest. In gross overlimit situations, violators take away from the fair share harvest available to law abiding hunters and anglers.

The ability to use regulations effectively to manage fish or wildlife resources, to ensure that a quality resource is maintained, and to prevent over harvest or to prevent depletion of such stocks hinges upon angler and hunter compliance with the regulations. Fisheries studies have shown that a 10-15 percent noncompliance rate by anglers (depending on the species) can negate any benefits that can be derived from the regulation in managing that fishery.

Taking rare fish and wildlife species or overlimits of vulnerable, recovering, or uncommon species can be particularly detrimental to the populations of these species as well as management efforts.

Shooting of rare trumpeter swans or illegal harvest of sturgeon that are part of an expensive



restoration effort are examples of management programs which can be negatively affected. Taking overlimits of uncommon species such as some species of ducks and fur bearers can also have detrimental population effects.

## **The Assessment**

### **Procedure**

Natural Resource management agencies in all 50 states were contacted and asked the following four questions:

- (1) "Does your state have increased penalties for 'gross overlimits'?"
- (2) "What is your statutory definition of 'gross overlimit'?"
- (3) "If known, what criteria or rationale was used in determining the definition?"
- (4) "Do your penalties include license revocation? For what duration? Including licensed activities other than that in which the violation occurred? (i.e., if convicted of a large fishing overlimit, are privileges other than fishing affected?)"

Replies were received from 22 states and varied from "no special provisions or definition" (Wyoming, Rhode Island, Arizona, others) to some with felony provisions (Montana, New York, others). Nearly all states responding noted license revocation provisions of some sort; these ranged from only court-assessed (problems with consistent application from jurisdiction to jurisdiction) to some with lifetime license revocation provisions (Arkansas, Tennessee, Montana, others).

Penalties were structured after "point system" approaches (Arkansas, others), restitution or replacement values (Montana, Virginia, Illinois, Texas, New York, others) or general definitions

of gross overlimits as either two or three times the lawful limits. Some states (Washington, Wisconsin, others) mentioned they are currently proposing or considering legislation to enhance existing penalties in response to concerns about serious violations or repeat offenders.

After some commonalities between Minnesota and other states were identified and potential remedies developed, a draft document was created for review. Several meetings of Department of Natural Resources staff from the Divisions of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Enforcement were held to discuss these recommendations, resulting in several revisions and refinements. Each Division in turn surveyed field and area personnel for comments and feedback.

The same document was sent to participants of the January, 2001 Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecological Services Roundtable in advance of that event to solicit their input as well. Presentations of the preliminary recommendations were made to the 2001 Fisheries and Wildlife Roundtables on January 5 and 6, 2001. Verbal comments received were universally supportive of the concept which had been developed, with questions centering around requests for clarification of some details. In addition, written comments were received from 29 participants (comments available upon request) and, again, support for the recommendations was universal. A common comment was "long overdue". Most suggestions favored even stronger penalties than those which the document proposed.

## **Findings**

Some returns of states' surveys have been enumerated above. Consistent comments were received from both inside and outside the State of Minnesota, that significant fines and restitution should be one piece of an effective penalty package, but revocation and suspension of license privileges was by far the most effective penalty. The expectation of license revocation has long been recognized as an effective deterrent to natural resource violators. "Another factor commonly present in the willful violation of wildlife law is the opportunity to do so." (Sigler, William F., *Wildlife Law Enforcement*, Wm. C. Brown Company, 1956, p. 71.) Seizure and

confiscation of animals and equipment were a close second. Both concepts are reinforced by a more recent and comprehensive study conducted by Jackson et al ("Duck Hunter Compliance Study," paper presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Washington, D.C., March 1989). The most effective penalty package would need to include all of these components.

Escalating/sliding scales of penalties such as first, second, and third degree violations is an appropriate way to deal with gross overlimits. This is not a unique approach in the various property and theft laws, and is generally based on monetary value of the property in question. Restitution values for wildlife have already been established under the game and fish laws, and are located in Minnesota Rules (MR 6133). These established values could serve as the basis of values for overlimits of wildlife.

Fisheries and Wildlife personnel felt that current restitution values remain generally appropriate, even though established approximately ten years ago. Exceptions noted were:

- ◆ Perch, which have in recent years become more of a species of choice and subject to numerous instances of overlimiting, even with fairly liberal limits. Perch currently have a restitution value of \$5; it is felt that \$10 would be more appropriate.
- ◆ Canvasback ducks. When restitution values were established, canvasbacks were a species of concern to the extent that no canvasbacks were allowed to be included in the daily bags of hunters. In recent years, canvasback populations have recovered to the point where they can again be hunted. Consequently, it is recommended that the restitution value for canvasback ducks be decreased from \$200 to \$100.
- ◆ Trumpeter swans. When restitution values were established, trumpeter swans were of particular concern and expensive restoration efforts were in their early stages. Since then, trumpeter swan populations have rebounded to an extent where it is felt that restitution values can be reduced from the current \$3,000 to

\$1,200.

Any 'gross overlimit' legislative remedies should be consistently applied for any wild animals taken in closed season and without a license, as well as overlimits.



*Violations of hunting and angling laws impact fish and wildlife management efforts as well as public perceptions and support for hunting and angling activities.*

## Recommendations

### Classification of the Criminal Penalty

Establish a range of criminal penalty levels, that would be in addition to penalties already provided for by law. Each level would carry increased administrative, monetary, and criminal penalties. Mandatory custodial arrest should be included for first and second degree violations.

Third Degree	Gross misdemeanor* penalty; violations where the restitution value is more than \$500 but less than \$1,500.
Second Degree	Gross misdemeanor* penalty; violations where the restitution value is at least \$1,500 but less than \$5,000.
First Degree	Felony penalty**; violations where the restitution value is \$5,000 or more.

\* Gross misdemeanors are defined by MS 609.02 as being punishable by up to a year in jail and \$3,000 in fines.

\*\* Felonies are defined by MS 609.02 as punishable by more than one year in jail.

### License Seizure

First, second, and third degree violations would be subject to immediate license suspension and seizure of the license being exercised, with immediate seizure of all game and fish licenses for first and second degree violations. The person would not be eligible to obtain duplicate licenses during this time. This would provide an immediate consequence for the violation, and would not allow the person to continue taking even more fish or wildlife under the license. Precedent exists for suspension of privileges in the DWI laws, wherein a suspect's operating privileges are suspended prior to conviction, with typically a limited operator's license issued for

employment purposes.

In order to provide due process for the seizure of the license or permit, administrative review through the Department (similar to hunting while intoxicated processes) could be included in the legislation. Generally, administrative review can be initiated at any time during a suspension.

Provision should be made for an individual to temporarily 'bond' out a seized license until criminal processes are completed through the courts (similar to motor vehicle seizures in the game and fish laws), perhaps by posting \$1,000 to the commissioner or to the court.

### **Revocation of Licenses Upon Conviction**

Revocation of the license would be imposed upon conviction for the violation. Revocation should start from the date of conviction, and would not include credit for the seizure period. Again, escalating/sliding revocations as a penalty seems both effective and appropriate.

Third Degree	Three year revocation of the license privilege being exercised.
Second Degree	Five year revocation of <u>all</u> game and fish license privileges.
First Degree	Ten year revocation of <u>all</u> game and fish license privileges.

As more states enter into the Wildlife Violator Compact, natural resource license revocations imposed by Minnesota can extend to other signatory states of the compact in much the same manner as reciprocal agreements between states now provide for revocation of Driver's Licenses. Currently there are ten states which have entered into the compact: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Reciprocal agreements promise to dramatically increase the deterrent effect of license revocations.

## **Seizure and Confiscation of Wild Animals and Equipment**

Current law specifies that the ownership of wild animals is with the state for the benefit of all people of the state, and that individuals may not obtain a property right to a wild animal unless allowed under the game and fish laws, and that the ownership of a wild animal reverts to the state upon violation of the game and fish laws. (MS 97A.025) These principles remain in place, and all wild animals could be seized and confiscated for any violation under this new legislation.

Current law allows equipment to be seized and confiscated when used to unlawfully take, transport, or possess wild animals. These sections of law should continue to be used. Strengthen the mandatory seizure sections to include first and second degree violations, specifying that the officer must seize all equipment and vehicles, and including boats/trailers, motor homes, etc. Bonding out, complaint, and other court processes are already provided for in the game and fish laws.

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that yellow perch restitution values be increased to \$10 (from \$5) for each fish. The popularity of yellow perch fishing has increased dramatically since 1979. This resulted in substantially higher fishing pressure and a need to reduce the current 100 perch bag limit. Reduction of the perch bag limits created intense debate by the legislature and the public over how much the economic value of this species has increased and the impacts to tourism. This was not the case at the time the values were established in rule. This change in value would reflect the changing importance of this species to Minnesota anglers and the economic impacts that it has made on winter fisheries activities in particular.

Propose to reduce canvasback duck restitution values from \$200 to \$100. At the time the restitution rules were promulgated, the higher value was justified because canvasback populations were very low and they were totally protected by closing the seasons for this species.

Populations have since improved and open seasons have been offered with restrictive limits.

Propose to reduce trumpeter swan restitution values from \$3,000 to \$1,200. At the time restitution values were promulgated, the higher value was justified due to the extremely low population levels and expensive population restoration efforts. These population levels have responded well to protection and restoration efforts and a lower restitution value is felt to be appropriate.

Possession is jointly and severally. If two people jointly possess an overlimit, each person is individually liable for the overlimit as well as jointly liable for the overlimit.

License revocations for repeat offenders should run consecutively to the previously imposed revocation (added to the end of the previously imposed revocation).

Should a person convicted of a gross overlimit provision be convicted of a second offense within a ten year period, the second offense shall be considered aggravated and be elevated to the next highest level (i.e., if a third degree violation, elevated to second degree, etc.).



## EXAMPLES/SCENARIOS OF PENALTIES

(First, second, and third degree violations would include immediate seizure of license being exercised.)

10 perch overlimit:  $10 \times \$10^* = \$100$  restitution value

*(Below the threshold of enhanced penalties for gross overlimits: current provisions of law specify misdemeanor violation, set the fines according to established bail/fine schedules, govern seizure and confiscation of equipment and animals, do not provide for loss of licenses based on a single violation or conviction) (\*using an increased restitution value of \$10 per fish.)*

60 perch overlimit:  $60 \times \$10^* = \$600$  restitution value

Third degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of fishing license, three year revocation of fishing license upon conviction

*(\*Using an increased restitution value for perch of \$10, the total value would be \$600. Otherwise, at the current restitution value of \$5 per fish, the total of \$300 would fall below the threshold for a gross overlimit.)*

300 perch overlimit:  $300 \times \$10^* = \$3,000$  restitution value

Second degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of all game and fish licenses, five year revocation of all game and fish licenses upon conviction, mandatory seizure of vehicles and other equipment, mandatory custodial arrest (\*using an

*increased restitution value of \$10 per fish.)*

1 deer overlimit: 1 x \$500 = \$500 restitution value

*(**Below** the threshold of enhanced penalties for gross overlimits.*

*Current provisions of law specify misdemeanor violation, set the fines according to established bail/fine schedules, govern seizure and confiscation of equipment and animals, provides for a three year revocation of big game hunting privileges upon conviction.)*

1 deer overlimit: 1 x \$1,000 = \$1,000 restitution value

(trophy)

Third degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate

seizure/suspension of deer licenses, three year revocation of big game licenses upon conviction

3 deer overlimit: 3 x \$500 = \$1,500 restitution value

Second degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate

seizure/suspension of all game and fish licenses, five year revocation of all game and fish licenses upon conviction, mandatory seizure of vehicles and other equipment, mandatory custodial arrest

5 ducks overlimit: 5 x \$50 = \$250 restitution value

*(**Below** the threshold of enhanced penalties for gross overlimits.*

*Current provisions of law specify misdemeanor violation, set the fines according to established bail/fine schedules, govern seizure and confiscation of equipment and animals, do not provide for loss of licenses based on a single violation or conviction.)*

2 canvasback ducks 2 x \$100\*\* = \$200 restitution value

overlimit: *(**Below** the threshold of enhanced penalties for gross overlimits.*

*Current provisions of law specify misdemeanor violation, set the fines according to established bail/fine schedules, govern seizure and confiscation of equipment and animals, do not provide for loss of licenses based on a single violation or conviction.) (\*\*using a reduced restitution value of \$100 per duck)*

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 6 canvasback ducks  | 6 x \$100** = \$600 restitution value   |
| overlimit:          | Third degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of small game license, three year revocation of small game license upon conviction ( <i>**using a reduced restitution value of \$100 per duck</i> )                               |
| 12 ducks overlimit: | 12 x \$50 = \$600 restitution value   |
|                     | Third degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of small game license, three year revocation of small game license upon conviction  |
| 30 ducks overlimit: | 30 x \$50 = \$1,500 restitution value   |
|                     | Second degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of all game and fish licenses, five year revocation of all game and fish licenses upon conviction, mandatory seizure of vehicles and other equipment, mandatory custodial arrest |
| 1 trumpeter swan:   | 1 x \$1,200*** = \$1,200 restitution value  |
|                     | Third degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of all small game license, three year revocation of small game license upon conviction ( <i>***using a reduced restitution value of \$1,200 per trumpeter swan</i> ).             |

2 trumpeter swans:       $2 \times \$1,200 = \$2,400$  restitution value  
Second degree violation, gross misdemeanor, immediate seizure/suspension of all game and fish licenses, five year revocation of all licenses, mandatory seizure of vehicles and other equipment, mandatory custodial arrest (*\*\*\*using a reduced restitution value of \$1,200 per trumpeter swan*).

5 trumpeter swans:       $5 \times \$1,200 = \$6,000$  restitution value  
First degree violation, felony, immediate seizure/suspension of all game and fish licenses, ten year revocation of all licenses, mandatory seizure of vehicles and other equipment, mandatory custodial arrest (*\*\*\*using a reduced restitution value of \$1,200 per trumpeter swan*).

# 

(Established in MR 6133)

### 

Deer \$ 500

\*Trophy T135 BC; NT 160 BC\* \$ 1000

Elk \$ 1000

\*Trophy 260 BC\* \$ 2000

Moose \$ 1000

\*Trophy 145 BC\* \$ 2000

Black Bear \$ 400

\*Trophy 20 BC\* \$ 800

Caribou \$ 1000

Pronghorn Antelope \$ 500

### 

Cottontail Rabbit \$ 20

Jack Rabbit \$ 20

Snowshoe Hare \$ 20

Gray and Fox Squirrel \$ 20

Red and Gray Fox \$ 30

Wolverine \$ 1000

Badger \$ 100

Otter \$ 100

Pine Marten \$ 100

Fisher \$ 100

Mink \$ 30

Raccoon \$ 30

Beaver \$ 30

Muskrat \$ 30

Opossum \$ 30

Bobcat \$ 100

Lynx \$ 500

Cougar \$ 1000

### 

Wild Turkey \$ 400

Pheasant \$ 50

Quail \$ 50

Chukar Partridge \$ 50

Gray Partridge \$ 50

Ruffed Grouse \$ 50

Sharp-Tailed Grouse \$ 50

Spruce Grouse \$ 50

Greater Prairie Chicken \$ 500

American Woodcock \$ 50

Common Snipe \$ 50

Sora and Virginia Rails \$ 50

Gallinules \$ 50

Coot \$ 25

Ducks and Mergansers \$ 50

(except Canvasback)

Canvasback \$ 200

Geese \$ 50

Tundra Swan \$ 200

Trumpeter Swan \$ 3000

### 

(MR 6133.0060)

Mammals and Birds \$ 4000

All Other Animals \$ 2000

### 

(MR 6133.0070)

Mammals and Birds \$ 2000

All Other Animals \$ 500

### 

Gray Wolves \$ 2000

\*Trophy animal adjustment based on BC score. May be increased to twice the amount listed if animal is a trophy animal.\*

## 

(Established in MR 6133)

### 

\*\*Quality Size\*\*

Walleye \$ 30 22\*\*

Sauger \$ 30 15\*\*

Northern Pike \$ 30 32\*\*

Black Bass (Largemouth and

Smallmouth) \$ 30 16\*\*

Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed,

Green Sunfish, Orange Spotted

Sunfish, Longear Sunfish,

Warmouth, hybrid Sunfish) \$ 5 8\*\*

White and Black Crappie \$ 5 11\*\*

Yellow Perch \$ 5 12\*\*

Rock Bass \$ 5 8\*\*

White Bass and Yellow Bass \$ 5 9\*\*

Channel Catfish \$ 10 26\*\*

Flathead Catfish \$ 25 28\*\*

Chinook Salmon \$ 50 28\*\*

Coho and Atlantic Salmon \$ 30 20\*\*

Kokanee, Pink, and other

Salmon \$ 30 17\*\*

Lake Trout	\$ 50	22**
Splake	\$ 50	15**
Brook Trout	\$ 30	17**
Brown Trout	\$ 30	21**
Rainbow ( <i>Steelhead</i> ) Trout	\$ 30	23**
Paddlefish	\$ 500	
Lake Sturgeon	\$ 500	
Shovelnose Sturgeon	\$ 200	
Sturgeon hybrids	\$ <i>same value as</i> <i>morphologically nearest</i> <i>parent</i>	
Muskellunge		
0" to less than 30"	\$ 40	
30" to less than 40"	\$ 200	
40" to less than 50"	\$ 500	
50" and over	\$ 1000, <i>plus \$100 for</i> <i>each inch over 50"</i>	
<u>MINNOWS</u> (MR 6133.0090)		
Cyprinidae	\$	<i>fair market value</i>
Umbridae	\$	.50 <i>per pound</i>
Catostomidae	\$	.50 <i>per pound</i>
Bullhead ( <i>7" or less</i> )	\$	.50 <i>per pound</i>
Cisco ( <i>7" or less</i> )	\$	.50 <i>per pound</i>
Lake Whitefish ( <i>7" or less</i> )	\$	1.00 <i>per pound</i>
Goldeyes and Mooneyes		
( <i>7" or less</i> )	\$	.50 <i>per pound</i>
Leeches	\$	<i>fair market value</i>

**\*\*Quality size value; \$10 for every inch over quality size.**

## COMMENTS ON 'ASSESSING GROSS VIOLATIONS' DRAFT DOCUMENT

The Department of Natural Resources will be reporting to the 2001 Legislature on recommendations for increased penalties for gross violations of taking game and fish resources. The attached draft includes our initial recommendations for an effective penalty package. We would appreciate your reaction to the initial recommendation, as a participant in the January 2000 fish and game roundtable discussions, or as a Conservation Officer or other Department employee. Please record your reactions to this package below, and include any additional ideas or recommendations you may have. *Thank you* for your continued interest and commitment to Minnesota's natural resources!  
(Please feel free to continue any comments on the back of this sheet!)

- ① WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HAVING THREE VIOLATION THRESHOLDS (*first degree, second degree, and third degree violations*), *THAT IS SIMILAR TO OTHER PROPERTY LAWS*?  
(listed under "① Classification of the Criminal Penalty")


- ② DO THE LICENSE SEIZURE AND LICENSE REVOCATION PENALTIES MAKE SENSE? WOULD YOU CHANGE ANYTHING? (listed under "② License Seizure and Revocation")


- ③ DOES THE SEIZURE AND CONFISCATION OF ANIMALS AND EQUIPMENT MAKE SENSE TO YOU?  
(listed under "③ Seizure and Confiscation of Wild Animals and Equipment")


DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR IDEAS?


OPTIONAL INFORMATION, please provide us with as much of the following information as you are comfortable providing:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Are you interested in follow-up information? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	May we contact you if we have questions for you? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

