

## C'mon fishy fishy bite (someting NOT in the slot size)

By: [notpmsplease](#), 18 hours ago

Anyone who has been down towards the waterfront or any other beach along the North Bay shoreline has surely noticed the large amount of boats out on the lake. Surely this is a sign the pickeral are biting.

I decide to load up my boat and head out to try and catch a few for a fresh pickeral dinner. I would go and purchase some from the native fish market but I prefer my own catch over others.

As I drift in and out, I do catch on to a few decent size pickeral. Before I left, I researched the local regulations to see that the slot size for pickeral for zone 11 is 43 cm to 63 cm BUT...if you read the fine print, there as an exception for Lake Nipissing. When I finally find it I am suprised to see that the slot size for Lake Nipissing is 40 cm to 60 cm. How cruel that is right. Each angler is entitled to 4 pickeral outside the slot size with only one greater then 60 cm (ya right). I also read that there is also a possession limit of 1 limit per person...YES PEOPLE, one limit per person.

Here is my dilemma. My first fish was 41 cm so that one went back into the lake in hopes that it would get to grow to 60cm so I can catch the buggar again (Yeah right) The second pickeral I caught was the size of a perch so it went back into the lake again. After a few frustrating hours of catch and release, which is not all that bad, I finally catch a keeper. By the time the night was over, i caught 3 keepers.

While I am loading my boat, I notice a few other boaters talking about their catch for the day. WOW, one of them says, the fishing was awesome eh? Oh yes, the other responds, I caught my limit and my daughters limit as well. Did you catch many slot size pickeral he says? Oh hell yeah and I am glad the slot size is 43 cm too he replies? WHAT???? I think to myself. Did I misread the regulations? I went home, got on the computer and low and behold, it is 40-60cm.

The next morning I returned to see if the fishing was better in the morning then the afternoon. Its 730 am and I am unloading my boat. The same boat that I watched load up the night before with 2 full limits and some in the slot size is pulling out of the lake. Taking all the courage I could muster, I asked how the fishing was. It was awesome this morning but they have slowed down now. How many did you catch? Oh, I limited out again he says. Wow, has the fishing been real good this year i ask? It sure has and every time I go out, I come in with my limit. Just the other night, I brought my wife and 2 kids and we had our limit in 2 hours he also tells me. Knowing that anyone 16 and under does not need to purchase a fishing licence, that means they caught 16 more pickeral. He goes on to tell me that he catches as many as he can get as his family has a large fish fry in the summer and he supplies all the fish. Frustrated, I ask him if he has ever been checked by the game warden. He proceeds to tell me that the game warden has not been down to the waterfront yet this year and you can walk away with as many fish as you want. The game wardens dont even have any mone for gas for their trucks he tells me. I pulled up my boat and left. That was the most frustrated I have been in a while.

Here are the questions for the MNR. We all know the lake is down and from what I hear, the only place safe enough to launch a fishing boat is the marina. Why the heck are there no wardens parked at the marina morning till night? The fisherman in question not only has slot size fish, too many fish in possession and probably over limited. I even wonder if he has his boaters card or all the safety items needed for his boat. The pickeral season really only lasts 2-3 weeks untill the shad flys come out so geese louise, put yourself where you are for sure going to catch a load of illegal fishermen and woman. How may fishermen/women know the slot size is down to 40cm and not 43?

I often wonder why people complain about the native fishery when then non natives in our city are not only taking more fish then they are allowed, they are in possession of more fish then they are legally entitled to.

Here is a directive for the MNR to post to the wardens.

All wardens for the North Bay region will now report to the North Bay Marina where they will take down licence plates of boats coming off the lake. They will then execute a search warrant of their freezers and at that point they will lay the necessary charges under the fish and game act.

DO NOT check them at the marina as the real mother load is sitting at their homes.

Just so you all know, I ate the 3 pickeral that I caught and instead of going out to catch more, I went to the native fish store, purchased fresh pickeral all of which were surely in the slot size, and went home and put them in my freezer.

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