

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

# WHAT IS OUR MISSION...

To collect, preserve and display artifacts of freshwater fishing of Minnesota.

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

To provide recognition for persons clubs, organizations, and companies who have contributed to the growth, enjoyment, and preservation of the sport of fishing.

## WHAT WE DO

The Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame plays a vital role in preserving and celebrating the traditions, history, and cultural significance of fishing in our state.

It serves as an educational resource for residents and visitors alike, offering insights into the evolution of fishing practices, equipment, and the environmental importance of responsible fishing practices.

Additionally, it serves as a hub for fostering community engagement, providing educational programs, and promoting tourism in our region..



**MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME**

## 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**

# FUNDING PROGRAM CATEGORIES

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Expanding on the activity of developing educational programming focused on Minnesota's fishing heritage, we envision incorporating presentations and workshops by fishing legends who can share their stories and expertise with our audience.

## CREATE INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

Creating interactive displays for the Minnesota State Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame can enhance visitor engagement and provide memorable learning experiences.

## EXPAND ACCESS

Expand our programming to reach a diverse range of community members across different demographics, backgrounds, and interests.



**MINNESOTA FISHING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME**

## EDUCATION

Here's how this addition programming would enhance the overall educational experience:

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

Here are some ideas for interactive displays:

1. **Virtual Fishing Simulator:** Set up a virtual fishing simulator where visitors can experience the thrill of catching various fish species commonly found in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Incorporate realistic fishing rods, reels, and motion sensors to simulate the feeling of reeling in a big catch. Provide different difficulty levels to accommodate visitors of all ages and skill levels.
2. **Fish Identification Game:** Develop a touchscreen game where visitors can test their knowledge of fish species found in Minnesota. Include high-quality images and interesting facts about each species. Offer quizzes and challenges to make the experience interactive and educational.
3. **Fish Habitat Exploration:** Design a display that allows visitors to learn about the diverse habitats where fish thrive in Minnesota. Use dioramas, interactive maps, and multimedia presentations to highlight different ecosystems such as lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Include information about the importance of habitat conservation for sustaining fish populations.
4. **Fishing Knot Tying Station:** Set up a hands-on station where visitors can learn how to tie essential fishing knots used for various fishing techniques. Provide step-by-step instructions and practice materials such as ropes or cords. Incorporate video demonstrations or animated guides to assist visitors in mastering each knot.
5. **Hall of Fame Interactive Profiles:** Develop touchscreen displays featuring profiles of inducted members of the Minnesota State Fishing Hall of Fame. Include biographical information, photos, videos, and notable achievements of each honoree. Allow visitors to explore the stories behind the individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of fishing 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.



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# 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

Here are some of the events hosted by the MN 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.



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