

# FISHING OPENER 2015



STAFF PHOTOS BY DANA HARTJE

## New and improved

After the dock at Ranier Beach was destroyed in last year's flood, a new and improved structure is in place and nearly ready for use.

According to Ranier City Clerk Sherril Gautreaux, the almost \$39,000 dock was paid for with grant money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

The 130-foot long dock was built by Ranier resident George Boyum.



## Lake Vermilion plays host to 68th Annual Governor's Fishing Opener

Dayton declared the 2015 fishing opener a day for invasive species awareness

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

As nearly 500,000 Minnesotans gear up to go fishing this weekend, Gov. Mark Dayton is getting ready to host Minnesota's 68th Annual Governor's Fishing Opener at Lake Vermilion in Tower.

Headquartered at Fortune Bay Casino, the weekend's events will feature fishing, family fun activities, and a community picnic in downtown Tower that is expected to draw a crowd of more than 2,000 Minnesotans.

"I thank the Lake Vermilion area communities, and Fortune Bay casino, for their tremendous work in hosting this year's Governor's Fishing Opener," said Dayton in a news release Thursay. "Lt. Governor Tina Smith and I are looking forward to this weekend's events. With help from my great fishing guide, Buck Lescaarbeau, and a little bit of luck, I hope to catch a fish this weekend."

The Governor's Fish-

ing Opener has been a tradition in Minnesota since 1948. The event was designed to promote the development of Minnesota's recreation industry, and in recent years, it has served as a kick-off celebration for the summer tourism season. Fishing generates an estimated \$2.4 billion in direct retail sales annually in Minnesota, supporting 35,000 jobs statewide. Minnesota has the second-highest angler participation rate — 32 percent — of any state in the nation.

"Minnesota has a proud fishing tradition. This weekend more than 500,000 anglers are expected to participate in the opener," said Smith. "Governor Dayton and I are looking forward to celebrating the season's start at Lake Vermilion, which is home to great fishing and recreational opportunities."

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages anglers to protect their waters on fishing opener and throughout season

The 2015 fishing opener is an important reminder



Gov. Mark Dayton

of every Minnesota angler's vital role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Following AIS laws helps protect waters from invasives while protecting anglers from citations, according to Maj. Greg Salo, DNR Enforcement Division operations manager.

The law requires anglers to clean weeds and debris from their boats, remove drain plugs and keep them out while traveling, and dispose of unused bait in the trash. "The good news is, if everyone taking part in the fishing opener follows this simple procedure throughout the season, it's possible to prevent new infestations caused by human activity," Salo said.

The issue is so important that Gov. Mark Dayton declared the 2015 fishing opener a day for invasive species awareness. Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny waterfleas can be easily carried from one lake to another if aquatic plants or water are left on a boat or trailer.

"Every angler has a stake in preventing the spread of AIS in the waters they fish and enjoy," said Ann Pierce, section manager, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division. "We continue to develop management strategies

to treat invasives, but the most important tool is prevention."

Specially marked clean-and-drain areas at public water accesses provide safe and convenient places for anglers to clean, drain and dispose. Anglers will see watercraft inspectors at some access sites. These inspectors will check to ensure anglers follow clean, drain, dispose laws and may deny access if necessary. At other landings, anglers will see volunteer educators who will provide information on what they need to do to protect Minnesota waters.

Some aquatic invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them before moving to another body of water, especially after leaving zebra mussel or spiny waterflea infested waters, the DNR recommends that anglers either:

- Spray boat with high-pressure water;
- Rinse boat with hot water (120 degrees for 2 minutes, or 140 degrees for 10 seconds); or
- Dry boat and equipment for at least five days.

More information, including a 30-second public service announcement about stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species, is available at [www.mndnr.gov/AIS](http://www.mndnr.gov/AIS).

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<div><div>Tisdale Wines</div><div>750 ml</div><div>2<sup>92</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Naked Grape</div><div>3 Liter Box</div><div>Sale \$ 12.97 Minus \$5.00 Main-In Rebate</div><div>7<sup>97</sup></div><div>FINAL COST AFTER REBATE</div></div>	<div><div>Modelo Especial</div><div>12 Pack Cans</div><div>9<sup>97</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Tecate</div><div>12 Pack Cans</div><div>9<sup>97</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Angry Orchard</div><div>12 Pack Bottles &amp; Cans</div><div>12<sup>97</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Smirnoff Vodka</div><div>1.75 Liter</div><div>Sale \$15.97 Minus \$6.25 Mail-in Rebate</div><div>9<sup>72</sup></div><div>FINAL COST AFTER REBATE</div></div>	<div><div>Black Velvet Canadian Whisky</div><div>1.75 Liter</div><div>Sale \$12.97 Minus \$3.00 Mail-in Rebate</div><div>9<sup>97</sup></div><div>FINAL COST AFTER REBATE</div></div>
<div><div>Seagram's Malt Beverages</div><div>4 Pack Bottles</div><div>3<sup>93</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Fetzer Crimson &amp; Quartz</div><div>750 ml</div><div>Sale \$6.96 Minus \$3.00 Mail-In Rebate</div><div>3<sup>96</sup></div><div>FINAL COST AFTER REBATE</div></div>	<div><div>Deschutes Brewery</div><div>6 Pack Bottles</div><div>8<sup>98</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Castle Danger</div><div>6 Pack Cans</div><div>8<sup>98</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Bent Paddle</div><div>6 Pack Cans</div><div>8<sup>98</sup></div></div>	<div><div>Irish Manor Irish Cream</div><div>750 ml</div><div>8<sup>98</sup></div></div>	<div><div>E&amp;J VSOP &amp; XO Brandy</div><div>1.75 Liter</div><div>17<sup>97</sup></div></div>