2026 Fall Netting Season

Gill netting period

Gill Nets may be set beginning October 17, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Lakes open to gill netting

1. Bad Medicine **2. Big Bass** (Mahnomen County**)** **3. Big Elbow** **4. Green Water** **5. Ice Cracking** **6. Island** (Mahnomen County) **7. Little Bemidji** **8. Lone** **9. *McCraney** **10. Net** **11. *North Twin**	**12. Pike** **13. Roy** **14. Big Rush** **15. Snider** **16. Strawberry** **17. *South Twin** **18. *Tulaby** **19. Additional Lakes (Many Point, Round and *White Earth) can be found under the special seasons located on page 3.**

*** North Twin, South Twin, McCranney, Tulaby and White Earth Lake will have a special regulation permit requirement due to zebra mussel and faucet snail infestations.**
Please see page 4.

Gill net dimensions

1. Gill nets cannot exceed 200 feet in length.
2. Gill nets cannot exceed 6 feet in depth.
3. Mesh size cannot be less than four inch stretched, two-inch bar.

General

1. The sale of game fish is prohibited.
2. No more than two hundred feet of gill net per tribal member fishing at any given time.
3. It is prohibited to disturb, move, obstruct or interfere with any gill net of any tribal member, unless that tribal member is present.
4. Tribal members must have in their possession a White Earth Tribal Identification Card and Harvest Permit.
5. Watercraft Regulations will be enforced (C. C. 800.01 Boats and Watercraft).
6. **Gill nets must be checked every 48 Hours.**

7. **<u>Note: Please reference special regulation lakes on page 3 for additional checking times.</u>**

Location

1. Gill nets must be set such that one end is in water less than ten feet deep, as measured from the lake bottom to the surface of the water or ice.
2. Gill nets shall not be placed in, or within three hundred feet of a river channel, stream, inlet or outlet of a lake.
3. Gill nets shall not be set within fifty feet of a previously set net.

Markings

1. Gill nets must be clearly visible from the surface of the water or ice and marked with a float, buoy, pole or flag at both ends.
2. The enrollment number and or harvest permit number of the tribal member must appear or be attached to both ends of the gill net.

Limits

1. No limit on the amount of tullibee, whitefish or rough fish.
2. Incidental game fish may be kept.
    a. Musky caught in gill nets do not need to follow length limits and may be kept.
    b. Live Lake Sturgeon must be released.
    c. Lake Sturgeon that have expired can be kept.

Early Elder Netting Season and Permits

1. **<u>Early Elder Season Netting</u> October 3 – October 16, 2026.**
2. **An elder special use permit must be filed with the Natural Resources Department for elders 55 years of age or older for early season netting.**
3. **Elder's may have a helper(s) present under the age of 55 while setting and checking. However, the helper(s) may not set a net of their own until the regular netting season opens on October 17, 2026.**
4. **Nets need to be checked every 12 hours during the early Elder's Season.**
5. **The permitted parties must submit the request to Natural Resources prior to net placement.**
6. **The permitted parties must be enrolled members of White Earth and provide enrollment information at the time of application.**
7. **Information regarding dates and lakes to be netted will be filled out at the time of application.**
8. **The permitted Elder(s) must be present in the boat while setting and checking when helpers are used. Each elder may not have more than 200 feet of net fishing at any given time.**
9. **The remaining netting regulations for the 2026 netting season apply.**
10. **<u>Early Season Elder Use Permits</u> can be acquired by contacting will.bement@whiteearth-nsn.gov or at the Mahnomen Natural Resources Office.**
11. **Elder Season Permits are non-transferable.**
12. **Watercraft Regulations will be enforced (C.C. 800.01 Boat and Watercraft).**
13. **Lakes with AIS classification(s) will have to follow special regulation seasons.**

Lakes open to gill netting under Special Seasons

1. **Many Point**
2. **Round**
3. **White Earth**
   (Note: White Earth Lake carries an AIS Designation, See Page 4).

Special Season Gill Netting Period

Gill Nets may be set beginning November 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 on Many Point, Round and White Earth Lake.

Special Seasons netting restrictions for Many Point, Round and White Earth Lakes.

1. **Gill Nets must be checked at least once every 24 hours on Many Point, Round and White Earth Lake.**
2. **Gill Nets must be set such that both ends are in water less than ten feet deep as measured from the lake bottom to the surface of the water or ice. Gill nets shall not be placed in, or within three hundred feet of a river channel, stream, inlet or outlet of a lake. Gill nets shall not be set within fifty feet of a previously set net.**
3. **Gill net dimensions, Markings and Limits are the same as listed above,**
4. **General rules are the same as the regular season with the exception that nets must be checked every 24 hours.**
5. **Live sturgeon must be returned to the water immediately after removal from nets.**
6. **Lake Sturgeon that have expired can be kept.**

Note:

Efforts to restore Lake Sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake have included dam alterations to allow fish passage and the stocking of fingerlings.

South Twin, North Twin, McCranney, Tulaby and White Earth Lake

Special Regulation Gill Net Use and Permitting

within AIS Waters to prevent the spread of AIS Species

Gill Nets may be set beginning November 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 on North Twin, South Twin, Tulaby, White Earth and McCranney Lake.

Special Regulation netting restrictions

1. **A Special Regulation Permit must be filed with the Natural Resources department prior to setting net in North Twin, South Twin, Tulaby, White Earth and McCranney lake.**
2. **Nets used in one AIS designated lake may not be moved to another AIS designated lake without required drying/cleaning and may not be placed into another water body until they are cleaned and dried for a minimum of 21 days.**
3. **Nets used in North Twin, South Twin, Tulaby, White Earth and McCranney may be reset into that same lake on the same or next day (ie: Tulaby to Tulaby).**
4. **Watercraft launched and used for day use on North Twin, South Twin, Tulaby, White Earth and McCranney Lake may not be used on another waterbody until they have been removed from the water and dried for a minimum of 5 days.**
5. **Watercraft which have been moored to a dock or lift on North Twin, South Twin, White Earth, Tulaby or McCranney may not be used outside of these lakes until they have been cleaned and dried a minimum of 21 days.**
6. **All applicable clean, drain, and dry AIS preventions must be in place.**
7. **All other general netting regulations apply.**
8. **Special Regulation Permits can be acquired by contacting will.bement@whiteearth-nsn.gov or at the Mahnomen Natural Resources Office.**
9. **Special Regulation permits are non-transferable.**