

2026 NETTING SEASON AT LAKE VERMILION

The Bois Forte Tribal Council through the 1854 Treaty Authority has adopted a set of regulations entitled “**The Bois Forte Code for Non-Commercial Netting of Game Fish in the Waters Adjacent to the Vermilion Reservation**” which will apply to all Non-Commercial game fish netting activities.

All band members participating in this activity are required to abide by the rules therein.

Regulations are available by contacting and/or stopping by:

1854 Treaty Authority Office
4428 Haines Road
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 722-8907 or 1-800-775-8799

1854 Conservation Officer - Leo Vidal
(218) 591-3256

Bois Forte Conservation Officer – Tony Mason
(218) 404-3955

Vermilion Community Center
1610 Farm Point Road
Tower, MN 55790
(218) 753-4542

Boise Forte Conservation Officer - Brian Whiteman
(218) 404-5761

Bois Forte DNR Office
5344 Lake Shore Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772
(218) 757-3261

SEASON DATES:

January 1 - December 31, 2026 (Excluding May 31 – September 15, 2026)

PERMITS/IDENTIFICATION CARDS REQUIRED:

No band member shall take fish by net without a valid netting permit AND an 1854 identification card in his/her possession. To be valid, a netting permit must be issued by an authorized agent of the BFDNR or the 1854 Treaty Authority to a band member who applies in person and signs the permit.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD):

No band member may set or remove a net under this code without wearing or having in their watercraft a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person.

PLEASE NOTE: Type IV PFD’s (throwable types) are no longer legal under the code.

NET RESTRICTIONS:

All nets shall be identified with the Band member's name and Ceded Territory Identification Card number plainly printed with an indelible marker on the first float on one end of the float line.

Each gillnet shall be marked with two buoys, one on each end of the gillnet. Each gillnet should have a highly visible marking device whether it be a flag, brightly colored buoy or both, to prevent damage by passing watercraft. “Highly visible” means that the marking device is a color that can be seen in low light conditions and is a size that is easily discerned with the naked eye.

*If you have any questions about the net marking requirement, please contact an 1854 or Bois Forte Conservation Officer (see contact numbers above).

Please see Bois Forte Netting Code for all other regulations.

Please see back for fine schedule.

1854 Treaty Authority – Vermilion Netting Fine Schedule

#	Violation	Code Reference	Fine (dollars)
01	Taking fish outside prescribed boundaries and/or seasons	Section 3.1	\$ 100.00
02	Taking without valid ID Card and/or permit	Section 3.2	\$ 100.00
03	Possession of invalid permit	Section 3.2 & 3.3	\$ 100.00
04	Violation of net marking restrictions	Section 3.4	\$ 100.00
05	Violation of net setting/tending restrictions	Section 3.5	\$ 100.00
06	Violation of net length and/or placement restrictions	Section 3.6	\$ 100.00
07	Violation of net mesh size restrictions	Section 3.7	\$ 100.00
08	Improper use of game fish	Section 3.8.1	\$ 100.00
09	Improper use of rough fish	Section 3.8.2	\$ 100.00
10	Violation of transportation restrictions	Section 3.9	\$ 100.00
11	Allowing or assisting another person to take, possess, or transport fish taken in violation of this code	Section 3.10.1	\$ 100.00
12	Allowing another to use or possess an identification card or netting permit issued to the band member	Section 3.10.2	\$ 100.00
13	Using or possessing an identification card or netting permit issued to another person	Section 3.10.3	\$ 100.00
14	Giving false information when applying for or obtaining a netting permit under this code	Section 3.10.4	\$ 100.00
15	Willfully failing or refusing to comply with any lawful order or directive of a law enforcement officer	Section 3.10.5	Mandatory Court
16	Obstructing the efforts of any law enforcement officer	Section 3.10.6	Mandatory Court
17	Taking fish by means or in a manner not in conformance with the code	Section 3.10.7	\$ 100.00
18	Possessing fish taken in violation of the code	Section 3.10.8	\$ 100.00
19	Waste of game fish	Section 3.11	\$ 25.00 per fish
20	Violation of PFD restrictions	Section 3.12	\$ 100.00
21	Violation of motor restrictions	Section 3.13	\$ 100.00