



STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2020 President's Newsletter Message

I have had the honor of serving as your SLPOA President during one of the most unusual periods of the last one hundred years. The COVID-19 virus disrupted our social events, ability to share ideas face to face, and to conduct our lives as "normal." But, it did not disrupt the work of your Board of Directors to advance the mission of SLPOA and improve the lake.

Thanks to our volunteer Board members, we were able to:

- We began work **with the Minnesota DOT** on the possible installation of digital speed signs on HWY 108 and HWY 41 as well as the possible creation of a walking/bike path along HWY 108's north side.
 - The spread of **zebra mussels** in the lake is being monitored.
 - **Lake levels** continue to be reported bi-weekly.
- Summer 2020 was not normal but it was busy!
- As I look to the future, much remains to be determined. It ranges from the control of an entirely new strain of respiratory virus, to a national election for President and Congressional representation, to what the long term impact of invasive species like zebra mussels will be on the lake, to how and when the Hwy 41 bridge that was damaged by an arson fire will be repaired or replaced. What I am certain about is that my run as your SLPOA President will end in June of 2021.
- As I look forward, I ask for not only your membership but your INVOLVEMENT. Please consider joining the Board and becoming an active member. (The one thing that has bothered me the most during my time as President is when I hear a ...
- Conduct the first **"Swamp Shark" tournament**. The tournament removed 464 small northerners from the lake and improve the fishery.
 - Print and distribute our **2020 lake directories** at minimal expense with support from 14 business advertisers.
 - We completed a **sunfish limit reduction survey** and learned several things we can build on to improve the fishery.
 - We approved a **lakescaping grant application** that restored another section of shoreline to a more natural state.
 - The association continues to benefit from member use of the **Amazon Smile** program with quarterly rebates.
 - We **thanked the SLCCG group** for their major donation to our Lake Protection Fund.

Continued on page 2

President's Letter continued

property owner say they will not support or join the SLPOA due to some event/action that happened in 1994, 2002, 2014 or whenever).

We need to learn from our past, work to improve our present, and plan for the future. Star Lake itself does not really change that much. The water goes up and goes down. The weeds grow and die. The fish population increases and declines. But, Star Lake (the lake) has been a great resource for centuries. What does change are the property owners and users of the lake. The people change. Their values and actions will determine whether the next generations will find a lake that remains a cherished resource or not.

Like all organizations and governments, SLPOA is people. My personal thanks to all the members that make this association successful in fulfilling its mission!

My hope is that more dedicated people will step forward and take on the challenge of helping preserve the tremendous resource that is STAR LAKE!

Enjoy Fall 2020! Stay safe. May God truly continue to send his blessings upon us, our families, and the tremendous resource that is STAR LAKE.

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

Treasurer's Report

SLPOA Membership: Currently SLPOA has 201 members.

Checking Account Balance to date: \$ 7,822.04
(*\$2,035.00 of this amount is Lake Protection Fund*)

Money Market Account Balance to date: \$26,087.78 *

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$33,909.82

**SLPOA received a check in May 2020 from SLCCG (Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group) designated by them to go into our Lake Protection Fund. The amount of said check was \$16,053.95 and as good stewards of SLPOA's monies we, as your board, deposited those monies into the Money Market account as it yields a higher interest rate.*

And lastly, as your treasurer, I encourage our members who use Amazon to sign up for the Amazon Smile Program. With times as they are I know Amazon is a convenience most of us have discovered and those dollars spent can benefit our precious Star Lake! AND IT'S A FREE PROGRAM! Just select STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION - id #80-0594188!

Thank You for your support!

-JoLene Jean Kerr, SLPOA Treasurer



Article: SLCCG Group Dissolved

Reprinted from Pelican Rapids Press June 25, 2020

Star Lake casino opposition group disbands; donates to lake conservation

From Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG)

At a meeting of the board of the SLCCG on November 17, 2019 it was decided that mission was completed, and time to dissolve the Star Lake Concerned Citizens.

That is, the White Earth Band tribal council voted and approved an action at an August 31, 2018 meeting to rescind the prior council's resolution to expand gaming operations on the proposed Star Lake casino site, located east of Pelican Rapids. The proposed development was shelved.

The purpose of this last communication from the SLCCG is one of thanks and to advise that the remaining funds of the SLCCG will be donated to the Star Lake Property Owners Association and restricted specifically to further the mission of their Star Lake Protection Fund (LPF). This dedicated fund was recently formalized by the SLPOA board. The mission of the LPF mirrors the mission of the SLCCG and we are confident the funds will be used in the spirit in which they were donated.

How we came together as a community of people with diverse interests and concerns stirs a deep-seated sense of pride and gratitude. We unified as one and defended an environmentally significant wetland on Star Lake, protecting its valuable ecosystem and the wildlife that call it home.

With your support the initiative to expand the Shooting Star gaming operations on the shores of Star Lake's South Arm was delayed for a deeper, more thoughtful look at the potential environmental, societal and financial consequences. Area residents and visitors wrote letters and spoke of their concerns to county, state and federal government representatives.

With the Otter Tail County Commissioners thoughtful decision to require an Environmental Impact Statement, the developer put the project on indefinite hold, and the tribal council subsequently rescinded the planned gaming expansion.

Hats off to Star Lake POA, Dead Lake POA, OTC COLA, Star Lake Township and Dead Lake Township area residents and members of White Earth for your support in the review process that concluded with the rescission of the proposed Star Lake Casino and Resort.

- The Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group



Lakes Area Speed Limits and Traffic

With the cancellation of all SLPOA events that involved group assemblies, the annual meeting and the annual lake picnic, the Board decided to hold a drive-in directory pick up and membership renewal at Bell's Resort in June. It is always good to meet and talk with other members and hear their concerns.

A consistent concern voiced by members was the volume and speed of traffic along State Hwy 108 along the north shore and also county hwy 41 along the western shore of the north arm from Bell's Resort to DuCharmes store.

In July the Board requested that I investigate the possibility of installing radar speed signs on these two segments of roadway (already in place on 108 at Lake Lida and south of Dent on County 35) and also investigate the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Hwy 108 along the segment of 108 from DuCharmes' corner eastward, increasing the reduced speed zone to 1.9 miles (currently .9 miles) to East Rosewood to include the state boat ramp entrance.

I contacted MnDOT traffic engineer Trudy Kordosky in this regard. In brief,

- Installation of the radar signs was not a service of MnDOT, they would have to be purchased by someone else, although MnDOT would install them;
- The install would require a permit which would have to be obtained by a government entity (County or Township), a lake association could not apply;
- The sign would have to come from an approved list of providers;
- Reducing the current speed limits would entail a traffic speed study which was not in the scope at this time. Ms. Kordosky did indicate that MnDOT is beginning the process of a resurfacing and rebuilding of Mn 108 and that

those items of concern would be forwarded to the engineer in charge for consideration, with the increasing of the reduced speed zone could be considered during this renovation. It will probably be five years in the future.

With this information, I pursued the manufacturers on the approved list and solicited bids. Two responded with bids, one at \$3000 per sign, the other at \$6000 per sign. The lower bid was for signs as installed in the mentioned locations on 108 and 35. It should be noted that the City of Erhard has four signs installed from this supplier.

Currently we are in communication with the involved townships (Star Lake and Dora) as to their applying for the install permits as required by MnDOT, as well as Otter Tail County. While no formal action has been taken by the Board of SLPOA, we are moving forward with the exploration of this effort. It would be a large investment in safety for our members and we are following thru with discovery so we can have solid costs and are assured we can install these signs for the benefit of all who live and travel to Star Lake.

As this issue moves forward we will keep you informed of developments and progress in this effort. The Board certainly wants your input and we welcome your comments about the installation of these proposed signs, as well as any issues that may arise.

- Dick Fultz, SLPOA Vice-President



Swamp Shark Tournament Recap

On Saturday, June 20th, 2020 the SLPOA held its first small northern tournament. It was titled the “Swamp Shark” Tournament. Our thanks to Rhonda Bell and Bell’s Resort Bar & Grill for serving as the host site for the event. Based on the number of small northern removed and feedback from the fishing teams, we deemed it to be highly successful.

The idea for a small northern tournament grew from three main pieces of information:

- 1) The test netting results from 2018 and prior years that show Star Lake has a significant amount of northern pike under 22 inches. The amount is significantly more than what is considered reasonable for a balanced fishery.
- 2) While the MN DNR stocks walleye fry every other year, the DNR feels the survival rate for walleye fry in Star Lake is lower due to the predation by the large number of small northern.
- 3) Feedback from fishermen on the number of the smaller northern taken during their time on the lake during summer and winter.

The SLPOA Board felt that one way to move the fishery towards more of a balance was to reduce the number of northern under 22 inches. Such action would serve to increase both the forage base (perch, sunfish, whitefish) and the walleye population. Obviously, the removal of 464 small northern will not accomplish that goal immediately. But, if we do it over several years AND encourage anglers to keep the smaller fish, we will move further towards the goal.

Due to Minnesota DNR regulations, we were limited to a total of 25 teams without a permit. We actually did have over 30 team requests for the event. We were not able to accommodate everyone that wanted to take part (a good indicator for future tournaments). The SLPOA Board will discuss expanding the number of teams for next year. The T Shirts designed through the efforts of JoLene Kerr were a big hit! We will also review the prize structure for next year.

For our second year, we do want to encourage more children to take part. The Gorr girls, Avery and Aaron, the Salberg boys, Austin and Asher, and Ingrid Thune were awesome! We will figure out a way to make it even more attractive for our young fishermen!

While the tournament did cost the association approximately one dollar per fish caught (prizes/expenses offset by donations), your Board feels it was a good investment in helping to improve the fishery and providing a fun activity for members. Year two planning is already underway. Our congratulations to the 18 teams that caught their 20 fish limits! Swamp Sharks no longer rule! Good fishing to everyone during the fall and winter. Remember to respect established limits especially for sunfish!!!

Tournament Results and Photos can be seen on the News and Events page of our website:
starlakeassociation.com/images/docs/2020_results_photos.pdf

-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President



Fishery Improvement Survey 2020

Just a recap on the **Sunfish Limit Reduction Survey** we conducted this summer. The goal was to seek member feedback on such a change with the ultimate goal of improving the Star Lake fishery.

There were 52 responses received. There were 34 in favor of the proposal and 18 in opposition. It was close to a 2 to 1 in favor response. Unfortunately, the 52 responses received only represent 23% of the members receiving a survey. Statistical research shows that for a survey of this type, a 50% response rate is very good and a 35% response rate is average. With our response rate well below average, the Board of Directors decided to not pursue this directly with the MN DNR.

The Board did decide there were some actions it could take given the surveys and comments received.

- 1) **Promote the use of barbless hooks for pan fishing.** While you may lose a fish or two, barbless hooks reduce the kill rate for deeply hooked panfish. Pinching the barb makes hook removal easier and serves to save more of the panfish resource. SLPOA will begin to promote the use of barbless hooks on Star Lake.
- 2) **Request increased conservation officer checks and enforcement,** especially on the south arm during the winter to discourage overharvesting and limit compliance.
- 3) **Request a MN DNR official to meet with us to discuss the Department's position on the use of "slot size" regulations for sunfish and walleyes on the lake.** Once we have more information on the subject, it will be communicated to all members. We will seek more education on slot size utilization and its success in other fisheries in the state.

Again, our thanks to those members that responded to the survey!

Fishery - Discussion with MN DNR

Discussion with Howard Fullhart, MN DNR Area Fisheries Assistant Director / Biologist

Mr. Fullhart attended the 9-10-2020 SLPOA Board of Directors meeting to review and discuss the results of our 2020 sunfish limit reduction survey as well as the effectiveness of other approaches to fishery improvement. Although our association sunfish limit reduction survey favored a limit reduction by a 2 to 1 margin, only 54 responses were recorded. Therefore, the SLPOA Board decided to pend a final decision on support for a limit reduction until spring of 2021. More feedback will be attempted to be gathered during this period.

Based on data gathered around the state, Mr. Fullhart shared that the department's position favors a limit

reduction as the best way to increase the number of large bull male sunfish in a population over a period of time. A size restriction (like requiring any over 9 inches to be returned) is difficult to monitor and enforce. The test netting results for Star Lake indicate the overall number and size of the sunfish population in the lake is good. The limit reduction to ten has helped the overall population number. To increase the number of large sunfish, the department would favor the reduction of the limit to five. This has proven successful on other lakes that have put it into effect. Based on research data, that would be the recommended change if the goal is to restore the number of large male bull sunfish to the population.

Discussion was also held on the crappie fishery. Crappie numbers are good. But, there is a life

Fishery continued

expectancy difference between the crappie and sunfish. Sunfish live longer. Once a crappie reaches seven years, it is approaching the end of its life. Therefore, returning the large crappie's to the lake may not significantly improve the population of large fish. While practicing "catch and release" is good conservation, it does not have the same impact for every species. There is a mix of factors that enter into the panfish harvest discussion. The SLPOA Board will revisit the sunfish discussion in the spring.

Mr. Fullhart responded to other related items. He noted that our request for more conservation officer checks on the south arm in the winter has been passed on to enforcement. The topic of "slot size" for walleyes was discussed at length. The DNR has had mixed results on the effectiveness of a slot size restriction in Minnesota waters. When the state regulations were changed to include the taking of only one walleye over 20 inches, it effectively became a slot size type of action. At this time, the DNR does not support a specific lake slot size restriction. A statewide walleye limit reduction is under review. There may be more changes in this area in 2021. We will stay in touch with COLA and the MN DNR fisheries group on those discussions. The good news for Star Lake is based on our test netting results, natural walleye production has been strong. There is a balance in the age class distribution. While the creation of rock/sand reefs has been done in some lakes, their actual impact on natural spawning has been mixed. There definitely appears to be sufficient natural spawning areas in Star Lake to support a healthy walleye population.

More discussion was held on the stocking of walleyes. Star Lake is stocked by the DNR every even year (every other year) with millions of walleye fry. The greatest early threat to the fry are the panfish (until about one inch). Later, our large small northern population becomes the main threat. It is possible for lake associations to buy fingerlings or fry from commercial hatcheries. The survival rate for fingerlings is greater, but they cost approximately \$1.00 per fish to stock. The survival rate is impacted by many factors. The health of the forage base, the

number of other predators, water quality, fishing pressure, etc. all play a role in the survival of stocked fish. The possibility of buying additional fry to add to those stocked by the DNR was discussed. Mr. Fullhart will explore that idea with Jim Wolters. The SLPOA Board is trying to pursue projects that are supported by fisheries biologists and underpinned by existing research. We will continue to work closely with the DNR in that regard.

Finally, the impact of zebra mussels on fishing was reviewed. Existing research is mixed and more research data needs to be compiled. As examples, Pelican Lake has a large infestation of zebra mussels. The lake's fish population for walleyes has actually improved. North Lida also has a large infestation. That lake's walleye population has declined. More study is needed, as there are multiple variables involved in managing a specific lake's fish population. Mr. Fullhart shared that based on current experience, it may take several years to see a large spread of the mussels in Star Lake. The DNR continues to study and research the impact of the zebra mussel on fish populations.

Our thanks to Mr. Fullhart for sharing his time, knowledge, and passion with the Board! It was a great evening of discussion. The SLPOA Board of Directors will continue to work closely with the MN DNR and local fisheries office on the best ways to improve our tremendous fishing resource.

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President



Going Barbless

Article reprinted from the TAKEMEFISHING.org website

During our sunfish limit reduction survey, we received some feedback that reminded us of another simple way to practice conservation and improve our fishery. It is especially true for panfish. It involves the topic of using barbless hooks. What follows is a reprint of an article on the use of barbless hooks.

“For experienced anglers, this may seem to be an obvious topic. However, plenty of people have never come across a barbless hook or considered going barbless before.

Barbless hooks are essentially “normal” fishing hooks. That have a small backward-facing point near the tip of the hook. The barb is meant to provide resistance when the hook is pulled out of whatever material it’s in.

The purpose of the barbless hook is simple: to keep the fish hooked more securely. But, is this extra grip detrimental to the fish?

In response to the concern that barbed hooks are harmful, hook manufacturer’s began offering barbless hook options. Barbless hooks are exactly like regular hooks, but simply without the barb. Barbless hooks can be created by using a pair of pliers or hemostats or file to pinch or file off the barb on a regular hook.

While barbed hooks do offer a huge advantage in many angler’s minds due to their ability to keep fish hooked more securely, more and more people are switching over to barbless hooks.

This is for a variety of reasons, and some of the upsides of barbless hooks may even be an afterthought, or a welcome side effect.

For example, barbless hooks are much nicer to the fisherman’s skin. There are many anglers out there

who have gotten a hook in a hand or leg at some point, and the hooks were barbed. Removal is never pleasant. When using a barbless hook, though, an angler can easily slide the hook out with only a small mark and the loss of some pride.

But, the real reason people switch to barbless is that it is much nicer to the fish. It’s an easy assumption to make. The less jagged the metal you are embedding in a fish’s face, the better for the fish. It is less physically traumatic to have a barbless hook in its lips. The hook makes a smaller opening as it enters the skin, and won’t rip as much skin as it’s pulled out. But, the biggest reason to switch to barbless hooks is the speed with which they can be removed.

It is well documented that when fish are handled excessively or kept out of the water for a long period of time, their survival rate plummets, even when released “unharmful.” While most anglers do their best to get fish back in the water as soon as possible, a stubborn hook can derail the best of intentions. Sometimes the hook is deep in the mouth. A difficult hook can turn a 10-second release into a five-minute release. This can be the difference between a healthy fish and a dead fish. (my personal comment: with a wind that blows onto my shoreline from the north, I typically pick up 3-5 dead sunfish, northerns, bullheads, etc. every week that appear to have been too deeply hooked to survive). Barbless hooks are much easier to remove. A quick pop and the hook is free. This simple trait makes barbless hooks worth a try. In order to cover all sides, it is important to acknowledge the argument against barbless hooks. The biggest one that comes from anglers is that when using barbless hooks, you tend to baby the fish too much during the fight. Because they know the hook could dislodge more easily than usual, they overplay the fish during the fight, fighting it to exhaustion. That is just as bad as fondling it in front of a camera for five minutes before returning it to the water.

Unfortunately, the one thing that could fix this problem is what causes it in the first place: the angler. When people take a fight lightly, they're more likely to introduce slack into the line. And slack is the worst thing when trying to keep a fish hooked. If they simply fight the fish normally, they would have fewer lost fish. So, to the common argument that barbless hooks cause anglers to exhaust more fish, and therefore should not be used, it really sounds more like an angler skill issue, not a hook problem. Don't blame a useful tool for user error.

Barbed hooks are not the devil. But, whenever you pinch a barb while fishing, your skin and the fish are better for it.

You can also find treble hooks without barbs to replace the treble hooks that come attached to almost all lures. It does not matter if you want to use a topwater hard bait, crankbait, spoon, or bucktail spinner, most barbed treble hooks can easily be replaced with a pair of split ring pliers. Whether you fish with a barbless hook or a barbless treble hook, both are good choices the next time you are looking at that panfish that inhaled your worm or the small northern that has both treble hooks stuck in his mouth and head. Keep learning and good fishing!"



Dock/Lift Removal: Check for Invasive Species

Dock and lift removal is important time to check for invasive species

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds lake property owners to check boats and trailers, docks and boat lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

While it's always important to look for invasive species on boats, docks and other equipment, it is especially important at this time of year. Several new zebra mussel confirmations in recent years were initially reported by people removing docks, boats and boat lifts.

The DNR recommends these steps for lake property owners:

- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period.
- Hire DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses to remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. They have been trained on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws and have experience identifying and removing invasive species.
- Contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist if an invasive species is discovered in a waterbody that has not already been confirmed in that water.

Source: dnr.state.mn.us/news/2020/09/17/dock-and-lift-removal-important-time-check-invasive-species

Drop Offs Fall 2020

A few items to remind members about:

- 1) When you are ordering from Amazon, please order through the **Amazon Smile program** with SLPOA as your designated charity organization. The program rebates help your association carry out its mission.
- 2) Pictures from the **Swamp Shark Tournament** are posted on our website ([link to PDF](#)).
- 3) **Lake water level readings** are posted bi-weekly on our association website from ice out until ice over (see About Star Lake > Lake Info button ... [link to readings](#).)
- 4) Don't forget to use the **SLPOA Classified Ads** Section on our website. It is free to members and can be used for sale items as well as any lost/found items you come across ([link to Classifieds](#)).
- 5) Our **lakescaping grant program** outline can also be found on our website. We work in conjunction with the Otter Tail County Soil & Water Conservation District to promote shoreline restoration. See News and Events page ([link to PDF for process](#)).
- 6) Be an example and follow the **Minnesota DNR fishing and boating regulations/limits**.
- 7) **Make it a goal to cleanup** and get rid of old lifts, vehicles, trash piles, old boats, etc. on your property. Not only will your neighbors appreciate it, it will improve the environment.
- 8) Want to help? **We have Board of Director positions to fill**. Become part of advancing the mission of SLPOA!
- 9) **Hwy 41 Bridge Update**: OTC indicated that in the short-term the bridge will re-open to light traffic; in summer of 2021 the bridge will be rebuilt ([link to OTC website page](#)).

May the remainder of 2020 be kind to us all. Take good care.

Directory Advertisers 2020

The SLPOA Board of Directors would like to again thank the sponsor/advertisers for our 2020 Lake Directory. Please note the support and return the favor by thanking them with your business!

Barry Excavating, Inc.

Bell's Resort Bar & Grill

Billy's Corner Bar & Grill

Central Market – Perham

Lake Region Electric Cooperative

Larry's Super Market – Pelican Rapids

Lida Greens Golf Course

Lynn Thompson Insurance Agency

Otter Tail Power Company

Pelican Drug

Service Food Market – Perham

Spanky's Stone Hearth

Steve's Sanitation

Winkel's Carpet Center

THANK YOU!

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION



Non-native

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Forms dense mats that interfere with recreation. Long spaghetti-like stems and 3-5 feathery leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on stems. Each leaf has 12-21 leaflet pairs. Northern watermilfoil, a native look-alike, has 5-10 leaflet pairs.



STARRY STONEWORT

A large non native algae. Has whorls of 4-6 long brachlets. Can grow over 6' high. Spread by fragments attached to boats and other water equipment. Readily identified by its very small white star shaped bulbils.



ZEBRA MUSSEL

Adults are 1/2" to 1 1/2" long, D-shaped shell with alternating yellow to brownish stripes. Damages ecosystems. Uses byssal threads to attach to all hard surfaces.



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

3-7' spike with small purple flowers. Downy, smooth-edged leaves usually paired, opposite. Mature plants have main stems that grow from a root crown.

PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES: includes silver and bighead carp, Eurasian watermilfoil, faucet snail, New Zealand mudsnail, round goby, ruffe, and zebra mussels. A complete list of prohibited invasive species can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html prohibited or by calling the DNR information line at (651)-296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367

Invasive Species Laws

It is **UNLAWFUL** to:

- Transport water-related equipment without draining all water (including livewells, bilges and bait containers.)
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species.
- Place or attempt to place into waters of the state a boat, seaplane or trailer that has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species attached

Reminders:

- Check for and remove plants before you leave
- Take out drain plug



Funding provided by an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature



<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 155
Dent, MN 56528-0155

Star Lake Property Owners' Association 2020 FALL NEWSLETTER



An infographic showing a cross-section of ice thickness levels. From left to right, it depicts a person ice skating, a person using a snowblower, a snowmobile, a red sedan, and a black pickup truck. Below these icons, a dark blue bar contains the following text:

4" 5-7" 8-12" 12-15"
MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE

Ice is never 100% safe!

For more info on ice safety, see MN DNR website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html>