

- We're talking about 150 miles where these discriminatory rules apply—It's all aimed at MN businesses.
- Ontario's rules are a case of unfair commercial discrimination. They have nothing to do with fisheries management. What does requiring American tourists to spend money on the Ontario tourism industry have to do with managing fish? There are many ways to manage fish resources without requiring foreign tourists to spend money on the local tourism industry. (For example, you can limit the number of fish, or size of fish—these types of regulations are used all over the world.)
- The border lakes in this area have been a shared resource between the U.S. and Canada for two hundred years. Both tourism industries and anglers would benefit from a cooperative approach to use of these resources.
- In 1995, Governor Carlson arranged for professional mediators from the U.S. and Canada to host a mediation between Ontario and MN to address the issue. Twelve MN resorts paid \$2000 each plus expenses to attend the mediation in Winnipeg. The Ontario resorts and natural resources ministry didn't even show up.
- MN's DNR Commissioner has repeatedly called Ontario's natural resources minister to discuss these issues. Last October, Commissioner Rod Sando tried to call the minister, John Snobolen. Snobolen refused to take or return the calls.
- MN businesses are being hurt by these discriminatory rules: when Ontario extended the rules to Lake of the Woods last year, it caused a 50% drop in revenues for those resorts in just one summer season.
- Ontario's attack on the Minnesota tourism industry, and its unwillingness to even consider addressing the problem has left us with no choice but to raise the matter in Washington as a trade issue.
- The NAFTA and WTO trade agreements do not allow for the type of commercial discrimination practiced by Ontario.
- We want the federal government to raise this matter with Canada as soon as possible and as forcefully as possible, to seek a solution to these unfair Ontario practices.