

Fishing

Whether you're fishing for slab-sized crappie or casting foot-long crankbaits for trophy musky, the lakes of St. Germain offer Wisconsin's finest angling.

Spring offers great fishing for crappie, bluegill and perch in St. Germain. Target the area's most shallow lakes and the protected bays of larger lakes where water is the warmest in spring. As spring progresses, the catch & release bass fishing really heats up on shallow, structure-rich lakes with stained waters and dark bottoms. Largemouth bass tend to hold tight to thick weed cover and structure, while smallmouth inhabit deeper water, generally around rocks and deep weedlines.

As spring turns to summer, panfishing action increases and muskies become active. For the best chances at a musky, target areas just off prominent points and mid-lake humps adjacent to deeper water. As water temperatures warm, increase the speed of your retrieves and the size of your baits.

Summer is also a great time for targeting St. Germain's abundant walleye. Wise walleye anglers keep an eye on light conditions, trying to be on the water during the low-light periods such as sunrise, sunset and under cloudy skies. Walleye move deeper during the day, and mid-lake humps and deep weedlines are top walleye attractors. Often when the walleye aren't cooperating, there's great bass fishing to be had.



Fall is the best time of year for catching behemoth trophy musky in St. Germain, with huge fish being caught right up until the lakes freeze over. Walleye action often increases as well, as does smallmouth fishing in the early part of fall.

For many anglers, the real fishing starts when the lakes freeze over. St. Germain is a top destination for ice fishing. Some of the best walleye, northern pike and panfish angling can be had through the ice. For winter walleyes, jig or use tip-ups with small to medium sized minnows. For northern pike, use tip-ups baited with large shiners or other live minnows. Crappies, bluegill and perch are also area ice-fishing favorites. A number of St. Germain resorts specially cater to ice anglers, with shanties and amenities ready when you arrive.



Are You Bringing A Boat to Vilas County?

Your boat may have been exposed to non-native invasive life forms that are not welcome in Vilas County. Animals such as Zebra Mussels or Spiny Water Fleas and plants such as Eurasian Water-Milfoil can easily be transported unintentionally from a contaminated lake to one that is not. Be a responsible boater. Properly clean and disinfect your boat, trailer and fishing equipment before leaving home.

Help Keep Vilas County Free of Aquatic Non-native Invasive Life Forms

