

Press Release – January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **Sheriff Approves Ice Conditions For Brainerd Fishing Extravaganza**

Crow Wing County Sheriff, Todd Dahl met with organizers of the Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza this afternoon to evaluate ice conditions on Gull Lake where more than 10,000 anglers are expected to be on hand this Saturday, January 20th.

Finding ice thickness ranging from 15 ¾ inches to 17 inches, Sheriff Dahl gave his approval for the 17th annual event, which has raised nearly two million dollars for MN charities.

Jaycee Chairman Taylor Fitterer says, “We have safe ice and everyone is looking for something to do outdoors. This could be a big year for our charities. With the mild winter we’ve had, our community needs this event to boost the economy. We are all excited that it will take place as planned.”

More than 11,000 anglers took part in last year’s event, which raised nearly \$200,000 for charities. Confidence Learning Center, an outdoor education and recreation facility for persons with developmental disabilities will receive 70% of this year’s proceeds with the remaining dollars being distributed to a variety of non-profit organizations.

Anglers will have a choice of more than 20,000 holes within a 250 acre area of Gull Lake’s Hole in the Day Bay when they take to the ice this Saturday in hopes of landing a fish that will get their name on the leader board. Well over \$150,000 in cash and prizes will be up for grabs including a new Ford truck for the largest fish, \$10,000 cash for the 100th place fish and a Suzuki ATV for 150th place. Any size and species caught will be accepted at the centrally located weigh in tent.

Starting the weekend off is the Extravaganza Kick off Party taking place at Grandview Lodge this Friday before the tournament. Pro anglers and leading industry sponsors will be on hand to share fishing tips and help develop winning strategies. A complete appetizer buffet and beverage tasting along with prizes and a silent auction will add to the festivities. Tickets will be on sale at the door, with proceeds benefiting year around Jaycee sponsored community programs.

For complete Extravaganza information, eager anglers are encouraged to visit the contest’s web site, [www.icefishing.org](http://www.icefishing.org). Fishing entry tickets will remain on sale at Brainerd area retailers and on the ice up to the start of the contest.