



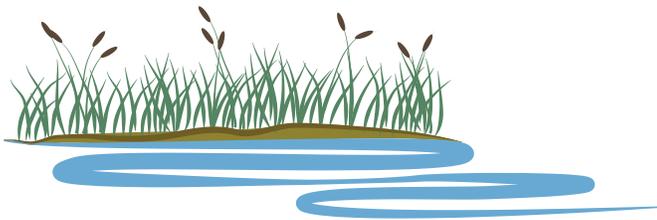
# WISCONSIN WATER FACTS:

## Water Division Highlights

### DNR WATER DIVISION:

#### STREAMLINED PERMITTING

- New online tools allow the public to submit permit applications for more than 70 water permit activities.
- Since 2012, the Water Division has added more than a dozen new general permit options for customers related to dredging in waterways, dam repairs and proposed alterations to wetlands with some commercial, industrial and recreation projects.
- Changes to the wastewater plan review include a new expedited review option for some projects. Projects eligible for expedited review are targeted for approval or an explanation of why the project is being turned down within 30 days.



### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, IMPROVING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

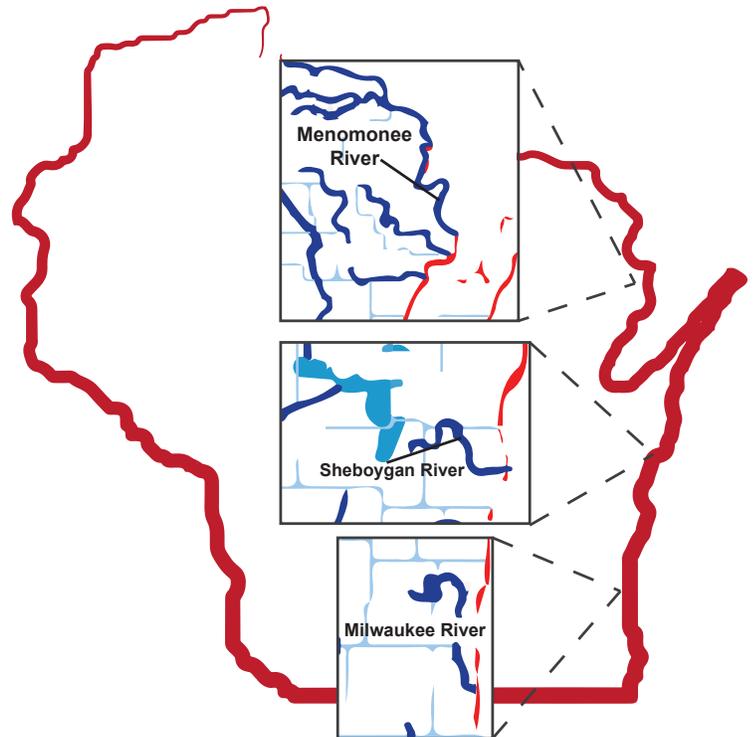
Efforts to remediate and restore key Wisconsin rivers support community revitalization and aids fish and wildlife recovery

#### SHEBOYGAN RIVER

- ↓ Designated as an area of concern but on a fast track for delisting.
- ↓ Collaboration with public and private partners has helped secure funds to remove of more than 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from river and harbor.
- ↓ Habitat improvement projects covering 34 acres and more than 18,000 feet of shoreline will be completed in 2015.

#### LOWER MEMONIEE RIVER

- ↓ This area of concern is benefiting from removal of more than 302,000 cubic yards of arsenic contaminated sediments.
- ↓ Some 15,000 cubic yards of coal tar waste also have been removed.
- ↓ A partnership between DNR and the city of Marinette has led to the removal of a failing seawall and 59,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from Menekaunee Harbor.



#### MILWAUKEE RIVER ESTUARY: THE KINNICKINIC RIVER

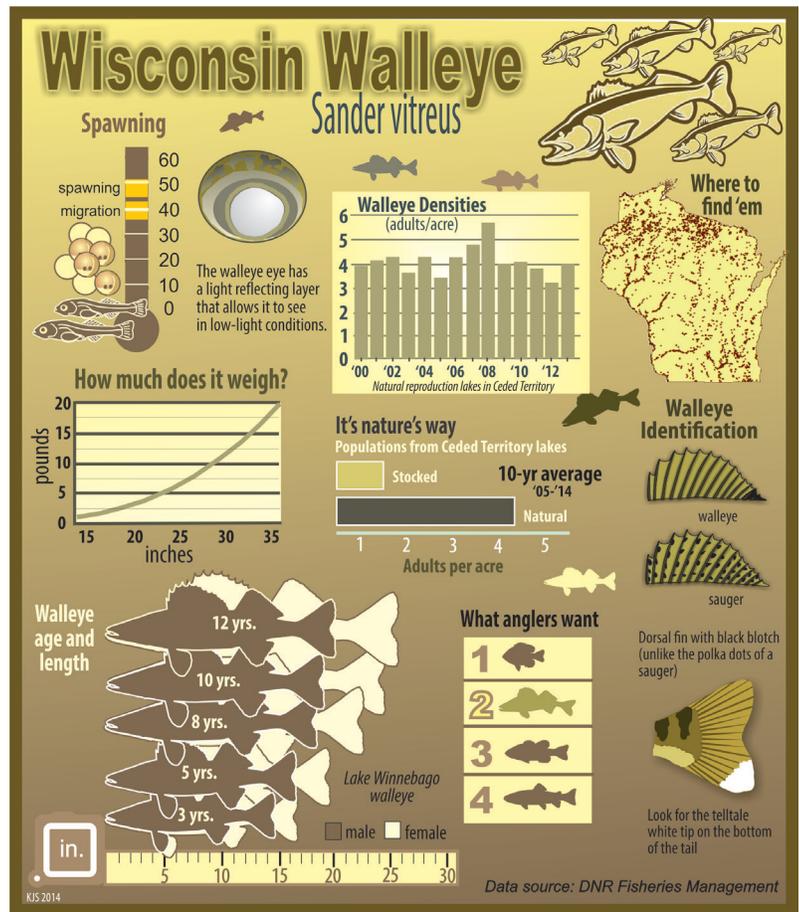
- ↓ Once named one of America's most endangered rivers, the Kinnickinic has benefited from the removal of nearly 170,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment containing some 1,200 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls and 13,000 pounds of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- ↓ Dredging resulted in a safer, deeper and more navigable river and helped jumpstart a local economic and commercial revitalization.
- ↓ DNR and other local partners continue work to remove concrete, reduce flooding, restore native plant buffers and improve in-stream habitat.

## WISCONSIN WALLEYE INITIATIVE

The Wisconsin Walleye Initiative represents a historic effort by the governor's office, Department of Natural Resources and partners statewide to maintain the strength of the state's wild walleye waters while developing a more productive sport fishery in lakes capable of sustaining this prized fish.

- 1. The effort involves collaboration with state, private and tribal fish hatcheries.
- 2. The initiative increases the number of large or "extended growth" walleye fingerlings released from 450,000 during 2013 to between 750,000 and 800,000 in 2015.
- 3. Previously, 40,000 large fingerlings were stocked annually.
- 4. In 2014 about 140 lakes were stocked and an additional 140 lakes will be stocked in 2015.
- 5. Under the initiative, DNR also will continue stocking 1 million smaller walleye in approximately 40 lakes each year where conditions allow for survival of the smaller fish.

The groundbreaking effort balances recreational and economic interests with the need to preserve our state's exceptional natural resources. The Wisconsin Walleye Initiative promises to bolster the great legacy of walleye fishing in Wisconsin while providing new opportunities for future generations of anglers.



## WATER DIVISION WORKS WITH COMMUNITIES

- 1. The new Healthy Lakes initiative encourages simple lakeshore projects and partnership with industry to boost healthy lakes.
- 2. The project aims to increase voluntary single-property participation in Healthy Lakes best practices by 100 percent from 2015 to 2017.
- 3. Grants will be awarded to lake groups, waterfront organizations and communities to take action at a local level to improve fish habitat, integrate native plantings, divert and clean runoff water and promote natural beauty.

## CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS

Harmful aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil and Zebra mussels can degrade lake ecosystems, reducing property values and diminishing recreational opportunities. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program hires seasonal employees to work with boat owners at local landings to encourage steps that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The result is a win-win that involves more local jobs and greater citizen involvement in protecting the environment.



## PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: CLEAN DRINKING WATER

- 1. The Drinking Water and Groundwater program partners with 44 county health departments to sample and inspect some 6,800 small non-community public water systems (motels, restaurants, parks, taverns, churches, and campgrounds).
- 2. Wisconsin has the highest number of public water systems in the country (more than 11,000). Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, each of these public water systems must be routinely monitored and inspected to assure that they are providing safe drinking water. The Department has been given primacy by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act in Wisconsin.

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