A Year of Fish
(and fishing)
2012
WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Cumane

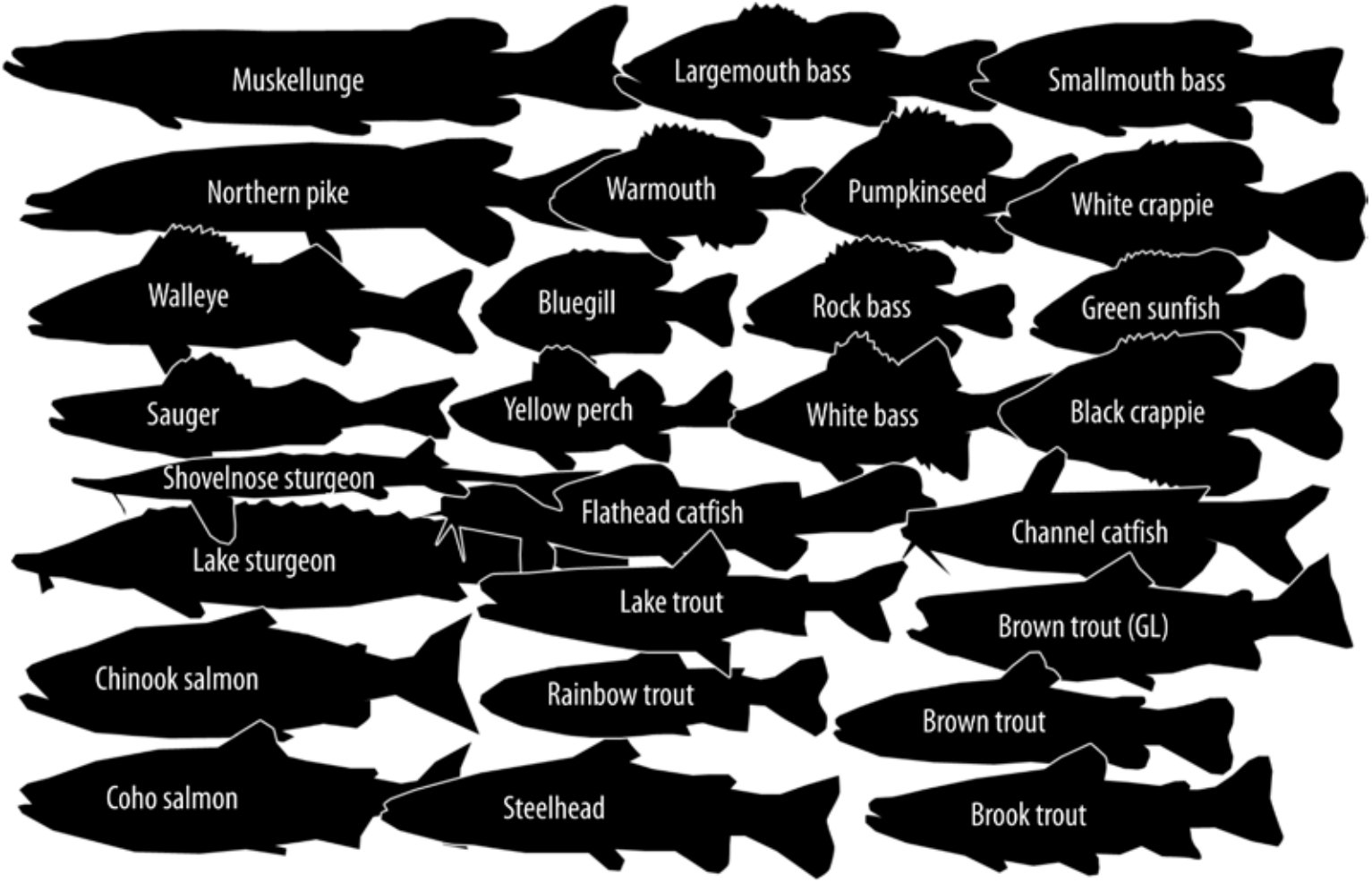
Wisconsin's Fishes

Wisconsin's waters are home to over 160 different fish species. However, most anglers will only encounter a small portion of this total during their fishing lifetime.

Wisconsin's fish range from the large, prehistoric lake sturgeon to the small, secretive least darter. There are 147 recognized native species and 14 established non-native species. And, while we must be concerned about non-native species, not all are bad; anglers enjoy fishing for coho salmon, rainbow trout, sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, and brown trout.

The term "game fish" in Wisconsin is defined as all fish that aren't rough fish (carp and suckers) or minnows (shiners and darters). These are the fish that are most often sought and most often caught.

Turn the page and test your game fish identification skills.


Muskellunge
Largemouth bass
Smallmouth bass
Northern pike
Warmouth
Pumpkinseed
White crappie
Walleye
Bluegill
Rock bass
Green sunfish
Sauger
Yellow perch
White bass
Black crappie
Shovelnose sturgeon
Flathead catfish
Channel catfish
Lake sturgeon
Lake trout
Brown trout (GL)
Chinook salmon
Rainbow trout
Brown trout
Coho salmon
Steelhead
Brook trout

Margenau

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Try your luck with the fantastic brown trout fishery in the open waters of Lake Michigan's tributaries and harbors. Brown trout tend to stay in areas with warmer water.

DNR Photo

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
North America's largest spear fishery - Lake Winnebago system sturgeon spearing. The sturgeon populations is the world's largest and reflects the DNR's successful century-old sturgeon management program and citizens' commitment to preserving this ancient, prehistoric species.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season opens
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/IA boundary	21	22	23	24	25
26 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season closes (unless harvest trigger already met)	27	28	29			

Harris

MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Ice fishing continues in northern Wisconsin. Fishing picks up on Lake Michigan tributaries. Try walleye and sauger fishing in rivers open to year-round fishing.			1 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MN boundary waters	2	3 Early inland catch and release trout season opens (5:00 am)
4 General fishing season closes Ice shanties must be removed from inland waters south of Hwy 64	5	6	7	8 New fishing licenses available for purchase	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MI boundary waters Yellow perch season on Green Bay and Fox River closes	16	17
18 Ice shanties must be removed from Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior and inland waters north of Hwy 64	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 2011-2012 Fishing license expires Lake Superior tributaries trout season opens

Rashid

APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters trout season opens St. Croix River (downstream to Prescott) northern pike and walleye season opens
29 Early catch and release trout season closes	30 Lake Michigan yellow perch season closes		End of ice fishing in northern Wisconsin River fishing continues to be an excellent opportunity Sturgeon spawning run mid to late month			

Hansen

MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Walleye fishing across the state usually good as walleye begin to feed after spawning. Get out on your favorite trout stream. Panfish become more active in shallow, warmer water.		1	2	3	4	5 General hook and line fishing season opens
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 St. Louis River northern pike and walleye season opens
13	14	15 Musky season on WI/MI boundary water opens	16	17	18	19 Set or bankpole and setlines on special Winnebago system waters open
20 Yellow perch season on Green Bay and Fox River opens	21	22	23	24	25	26 Musky season north of Hwy 10 opens Bass and musky on WI/MN boundary waters opens
27	28	29	30	31		

DNR Photo

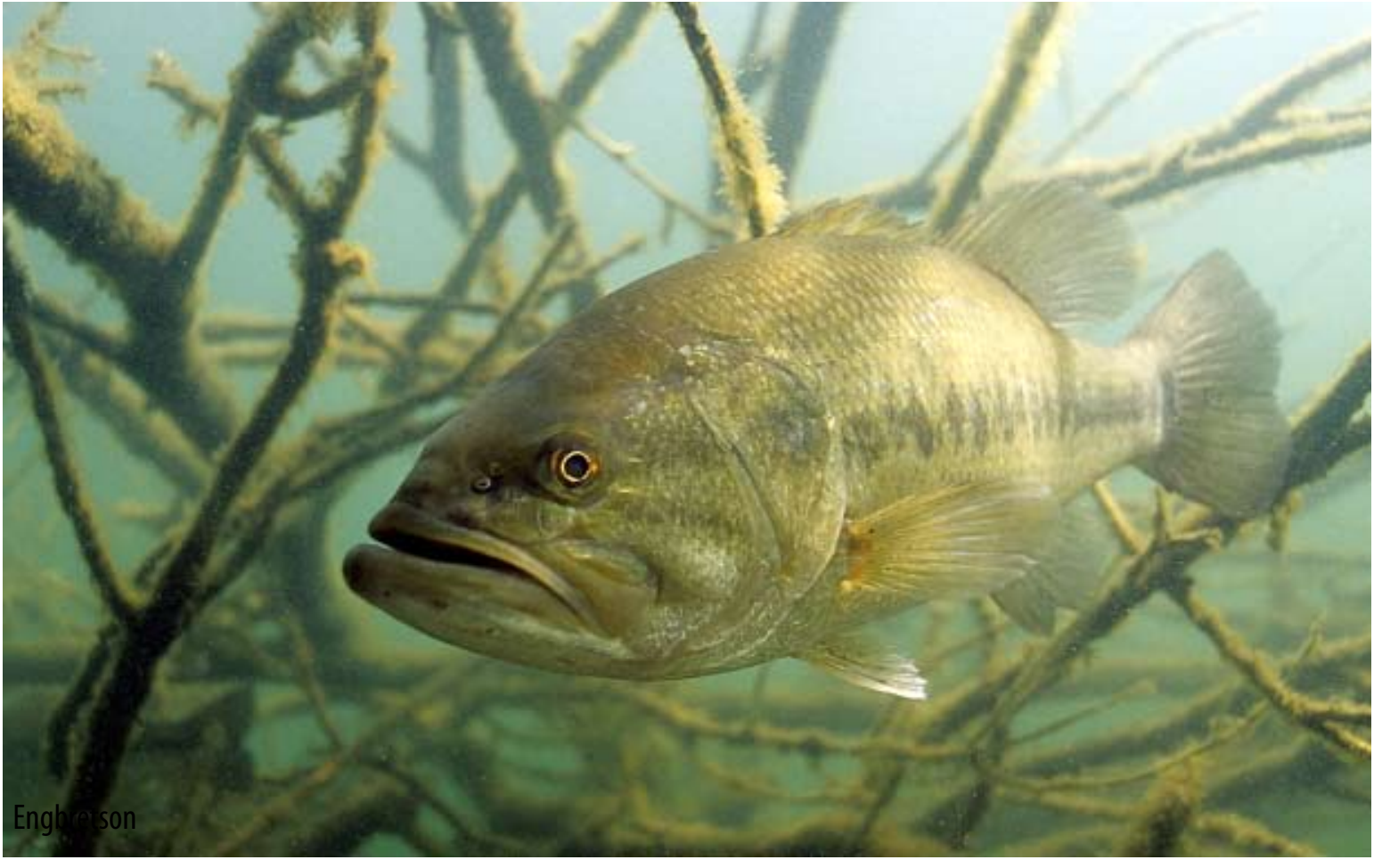
JUNE 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bass and panfish opportunities are plentiful across the state as they move into shallow water. Bass are usually spawning in northern WI. Northern pike action picks up with warming water temperatures.			1	2 Free fishing weekend
3 Free fishing weekend	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Bass harvest in northern zone opens Lake Michigan yellow perch season opens
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Scheidegger

JULY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Turtle season opens	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Try smallmouth bass fishing in streams and rivers, trolling in the Great Lakes for trout and salmon, and perch fishing on Green Bay and the Winnebago system.			


Engbretson

AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Bass fishing can be good in early morning or evening; usually a slow time for walleye. Musky fishing is popular in northern lakes. Trout and salmon available to pier anglers in Lake Michigan.		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DNR Photo

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Try your luck fishing for Wisconsin's prehistoric fish - hook and line sturgeon fishing. Bass fishing is still good, but will slow with the cooling of the lakes. Last chance for inland trout fishing - find a stream.				1 Inland sturgeon hook and line season opens
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sept 30 -Lake sturgeon hook and line season closes. Inland and Lake Superior trout season closes. Set and bankpole season closes. 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Engbretson

OCTOBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 St. Croix River (downstream from St. Croix Falls) catch and release sturgeon season opens	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 St. Croix River (downstream from St. Croix Falls) catch and release sturgeon season closes	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		Cooler weather, but great opportunities for musky and walleye. Fall movements of walleye up rivers can provide good fishing. Excellent fall shore fishing for trout in Lake Michigan tributaries.	

Engbretson

NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Musky fishing challenging, but rewarding, whether on inland lakes or the Fox River. Some very large muskies have been caught in November.		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Musky season in northern zone closes	

DNR Photo

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Brave the December chill for musky fishing in southern Wisconsin. Ice fishing picks up in mid month in the north. Early ice can bring good fishing, but anglers should be careful with ice conditions.				1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 Musky season in southern zone closes 31	25	26	27	28	29

FISH AND FISHING INFORMATION

There are a variety of resources that will help you stay in touch with Wisconsin fishing.

Online at
www.dnr.wi.gov/fish

Follow fish on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/fishwisconsin

Sign up for fisheries updates at
www.dnr.wi.gov/fish

Find fish on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WIDNR

Identify your fish at:
www.wiscfish.org/fishid/

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