



A Year of Fish (and fishing)

2012





Wisconsin's Fishes

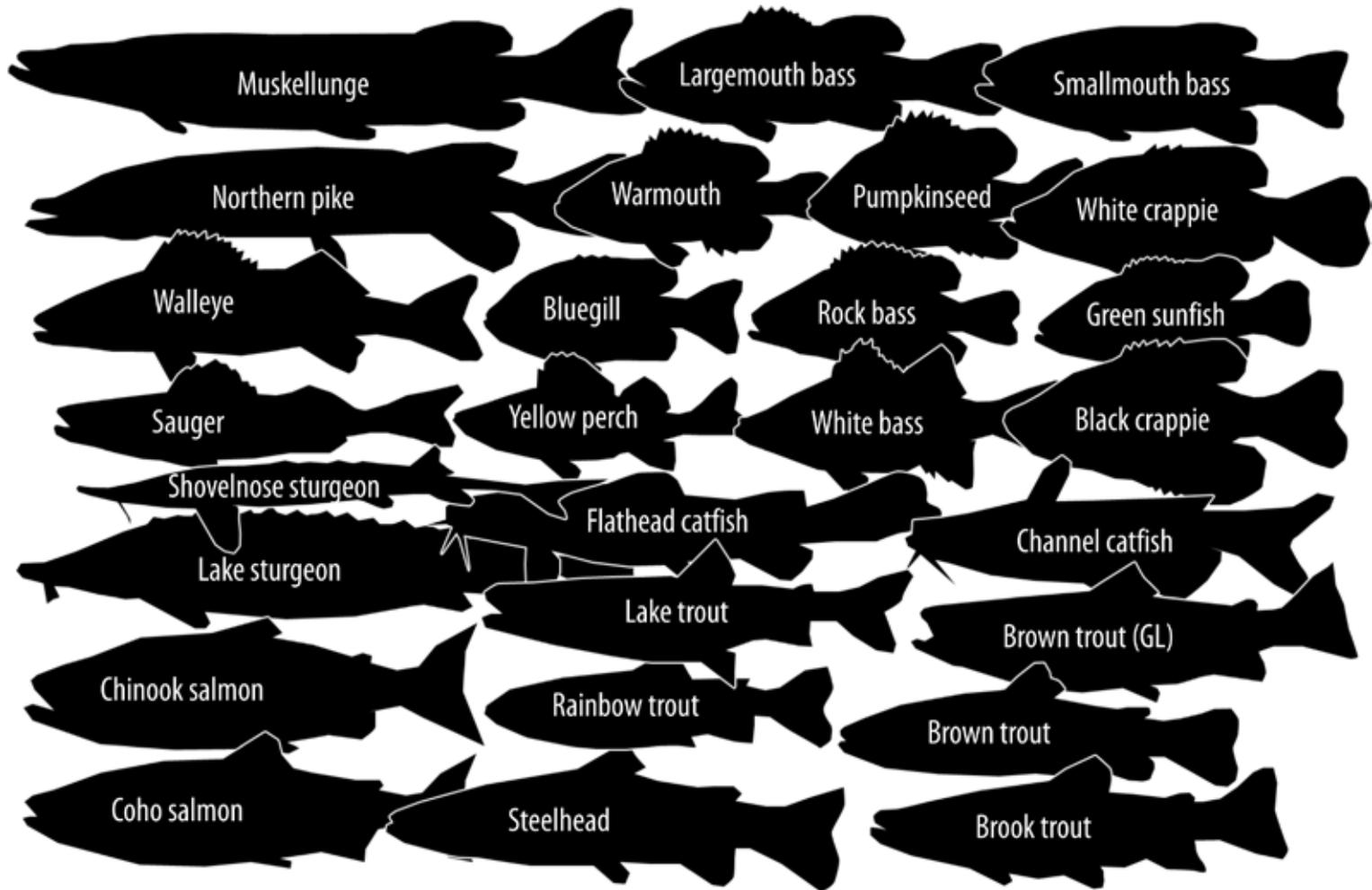
Wisconsin's waters are home to over 160 different fish species. However, most anglers will only encounter a small portion of this total during their fishing lifetime.

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



JANUARY

2012

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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

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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.

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11 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season opens

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20 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/IA boundary

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26 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season closes (unless harvest trigger already met)

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MARCH

2012

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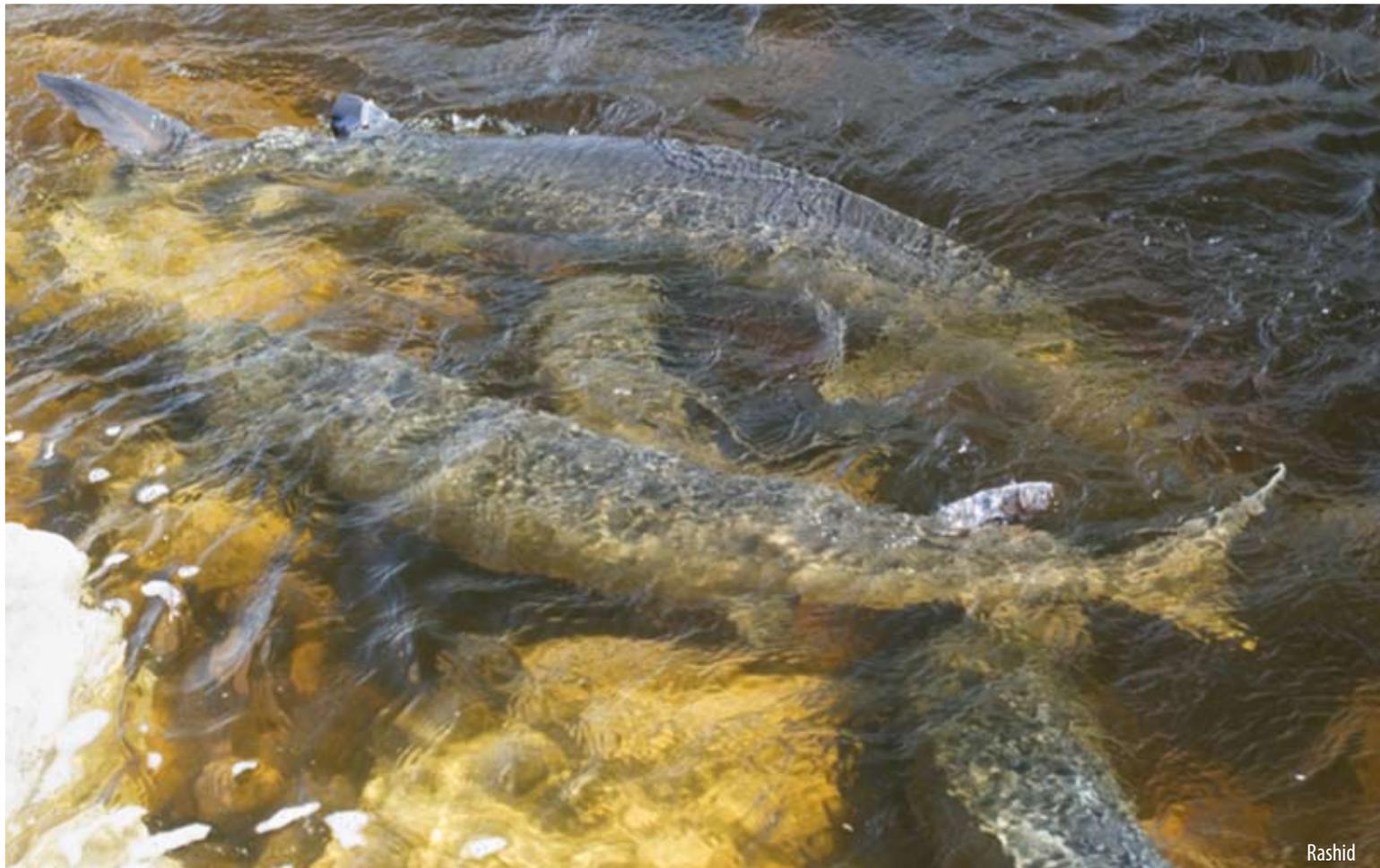
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

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	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



APRIL

2012

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						<p>Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters trout season opens</p> <p>St. Croix River (downstream to Prescott) northern pike and walleye season opens</p>
29	30		End of ice fishing in northern Wisconsin River fishing continues to be an excellent opportunity Sturgeon spawning run mid to late month			
<p>Early catch and release trout season closes</p> 	<p>Lake Michigan yellow perch season closes</p>					



MAY

2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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.</p>		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

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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.

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2 Free fishing weekend

3 Free fishing weekend

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16 Bass harvest in northern zone opens
Lake Michigan yellow perch season opens

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JULY

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15 Turtle season opens

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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.



AUGUST

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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.

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DNR photo

SEPTEMBER

2012

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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

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Sept 30 - Lake sturgeon hook and line season closes. Inland and Lake Superior trout season closes. Set and bankpole season closes.

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OCTOBER

2012

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1 St. Croix River
(downstream from St.
Croix Falls) catch and
release sturgeon
season opens

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St. Croix River
(downstream from St.
Croix Falls) catch and
release sturgeon
season closes



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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.



NOVEMBER

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Musky fishing challenging, but rewarding, whether on inland lakes or the Fox River. Some very large muskies have been caught in November.

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30 Musky season in northern zone closes





DECEMBER

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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.

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Musky season
in southern
zone
closes

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Get Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing

Don't let the memories get away



Take Me Fishing Photo

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/

Bureau of Fisheries Management
101 S. Webster Street
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921