

MAKING FISHING BETTER 2014

Fisheries Management: What we do and why we do it



*Wisconsin Fishing
Get hooked for life*



Wisconsin's Fishes

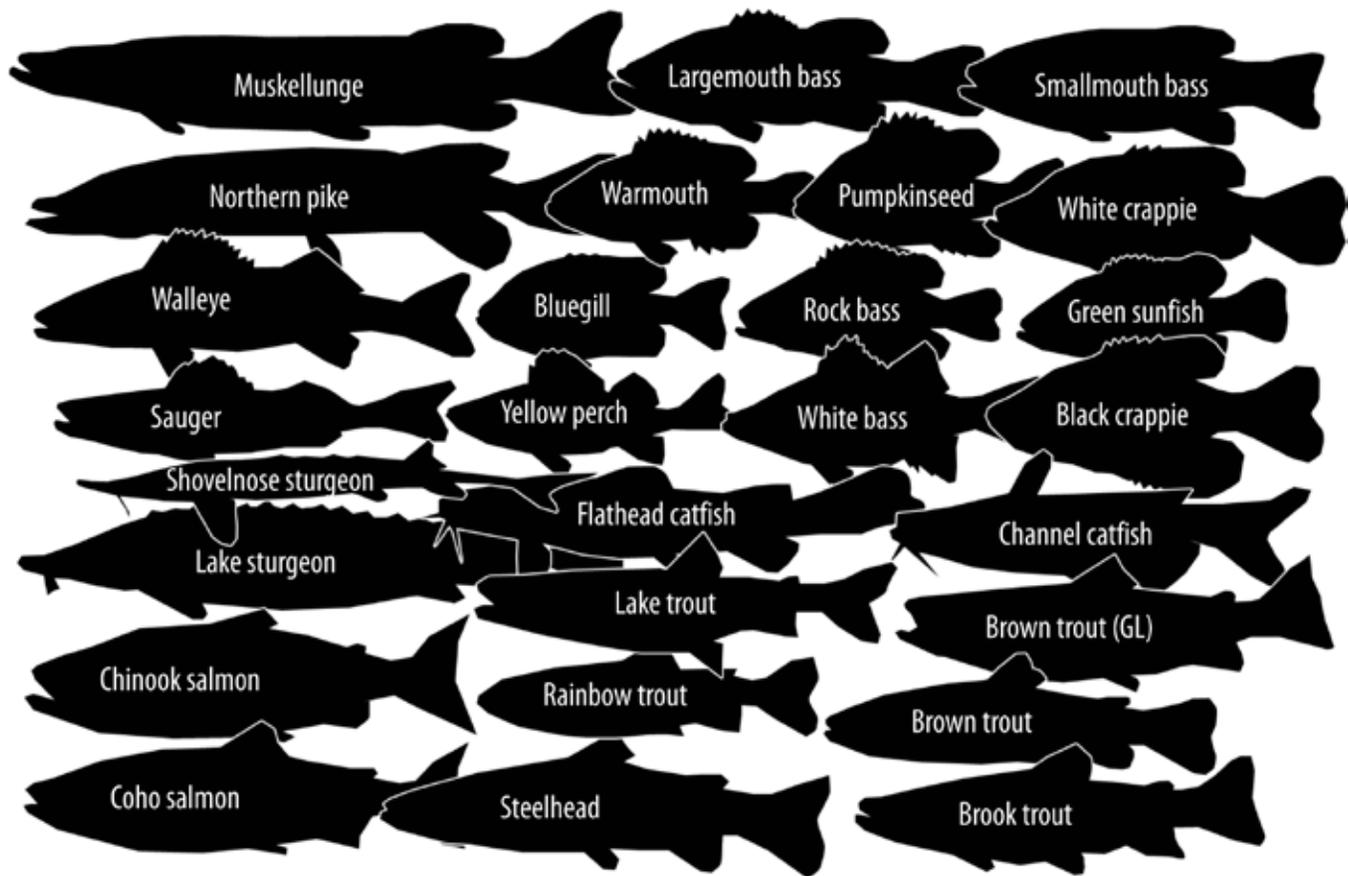
Wisconsin's waters are home to over 160 different fish species. However, most anglers will only encounter a small portion of this total during their fishing lifetime.

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.





Habitat Improvements Fish "Sticks"



Woody structure in near-shore areas of lakes and ponds protects lakeshores and has been shown to be an important and preferred habitat for many fish species.

JANUARY 2014

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

Fisheries Assessments Data Collection



Most fisheries work includes some kind of data collection. The information is important and helps describe fish populations and is often used to develop management recommendations.

FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
North America's largest spear fishery - Lake Winnebago system sturgeon spearing. The sturgeon population 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 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season opens
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/IA boundary waters	21 	22
23 Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season closes (unless harvest trigger already met)	24	25	26	27	28	

Fisheries Assessments Fyke Netting



Fyke nets are used in the spring to capture fish on the move. The gear is generally set perpendicular to shore where the fish run into an extension and follow it into the net. The nets are very effective on panfish, northern pike and muskellunge.

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	North America's largest spear fishery - Lake Winnebago system sturgeon spearing. The sturgeon population 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.					Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MN boundary waters 1 Early inland catch and release trout season opens (5:00 am)
General fishing season closes 2 Ice shanties must be removed from inland waters south of Hwy 64	3	4	5	New fishing licenses available for purchase 6	7	8 
9	10	11	12	13	14	Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MI boundary waters 15 Yellow perch season on Green Bay and Fox River closes
Ice shanties must be removed from Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior and inland waters north of Hwy 64 16 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 	2013-2014 Fishing license expires 31					

Fisheries Assessments Electrofishing



Electrofishing uses electricity to stun fish before they are caught. Electrofishing is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition.

APRIL 2014

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 WI/MI boundary water trout season opens
Early catch and release trout season closes 27	28 	29	Lake Michigan yellow perch season closes 30		End of ice fishing in northern Wisconsin. River fishing still an excellent opportunity. Sturgeon spawning run mid to late month.	

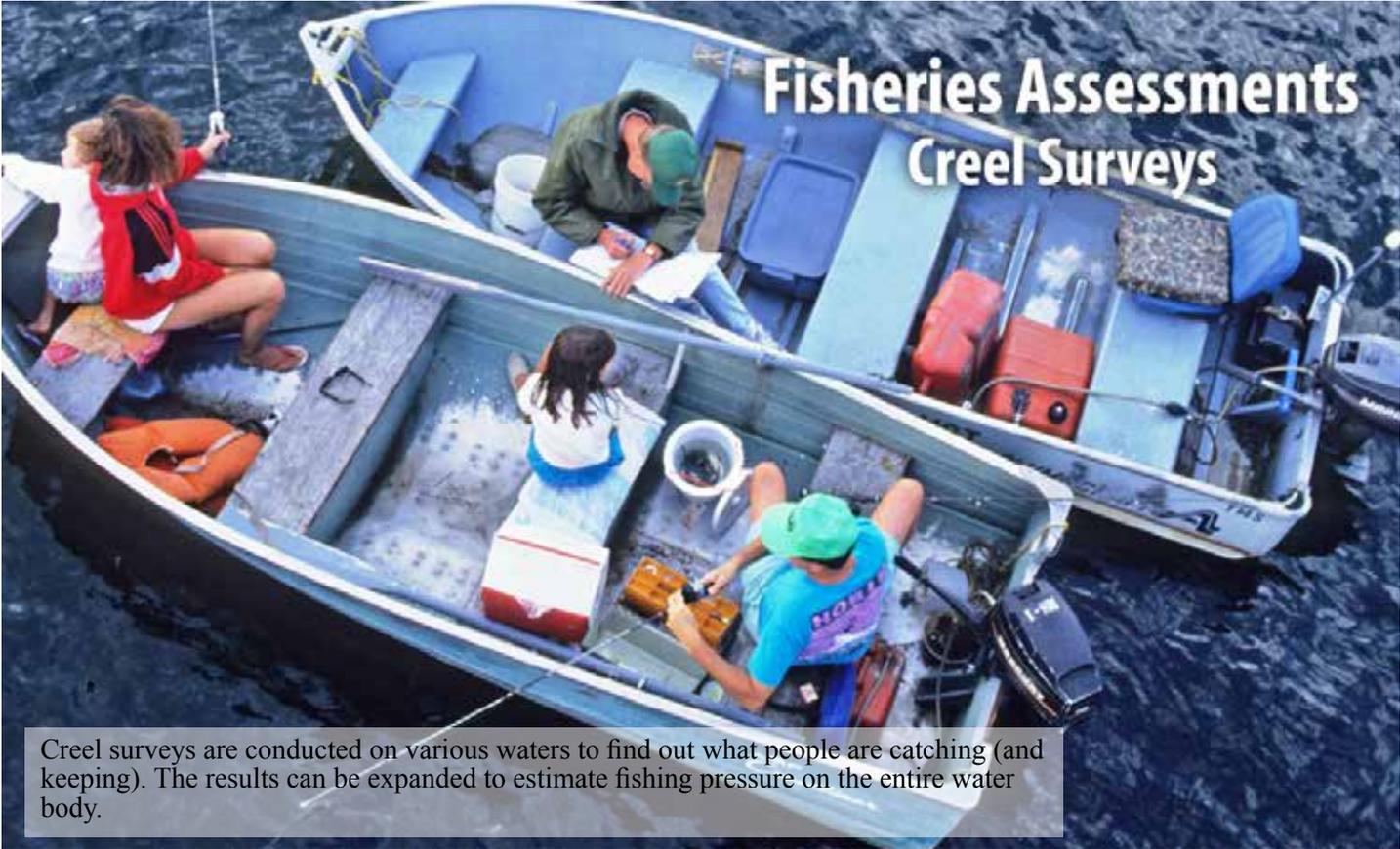
An aerial photograph of a wide river system, likely the Mississippi River, showing extensive habitat improvement projects. The river is filled with numerous constructed islands and sandbars of various shapes and sizes, some covered in green vegetation. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and brownish soil. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a hazy sky.

Habitat Improvement Constructing islands

Improving habitat can happen on a variety of scales. This Mississippi River Habitat Rehabilitation Enhancement Projects included constructing islands and dredging to increase water depths. It improved conditions for more than 45 fish species.

MAY 2014

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	General hook and line fishing season opens Northern pike and walleye season opens on the St. Croix River (downstream to Prescott) 3
4	5	6 	7	8	9	Northern pike and walleye season opens on the St. Louis River 10
11	12	13	14 	Muskellunge season opens on WI/MI boundary water 15	16	Winnebago system setline, set and bank-pole season opens 17
18	19	Yellow perch season opens on Green Bay and the Fox River 20	21 	22	23	Muskellunge season opens north of Hwy 10 Bass and muskellunge season opens on the WI/MN boundary waters 24
25	26	27	28 	29	30	31

An aerial photograph of two aluminum fishing boats on a body of water. The boat in the foreground has four people on board: a woman in a red life vest on the left, a man in a green jacket and cap in the middle, a woman in a white shirt and blue skirt in the center, and a man in a blue shirt and green cap on the right. The boat in the background has a man in a green jacket and cap. The water is dark blue with whitecaps. The text 'Fisheries Assessments Creel Surveys' is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Fisheries Assessments Creel Surveys

Creel surveys are conducted on various waters to find out what people are catching (and keeping). The results can be expanded to estimate fishing pressure on the entire water body.

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 	6	Free fishing weekend 7
Free fishing weekend 8	9	10	11	12 	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 	20	Smallmouth bass harvest season opens in the northern zone 21 Yellow perch season opens in Lake Michigan
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
29	30			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.		

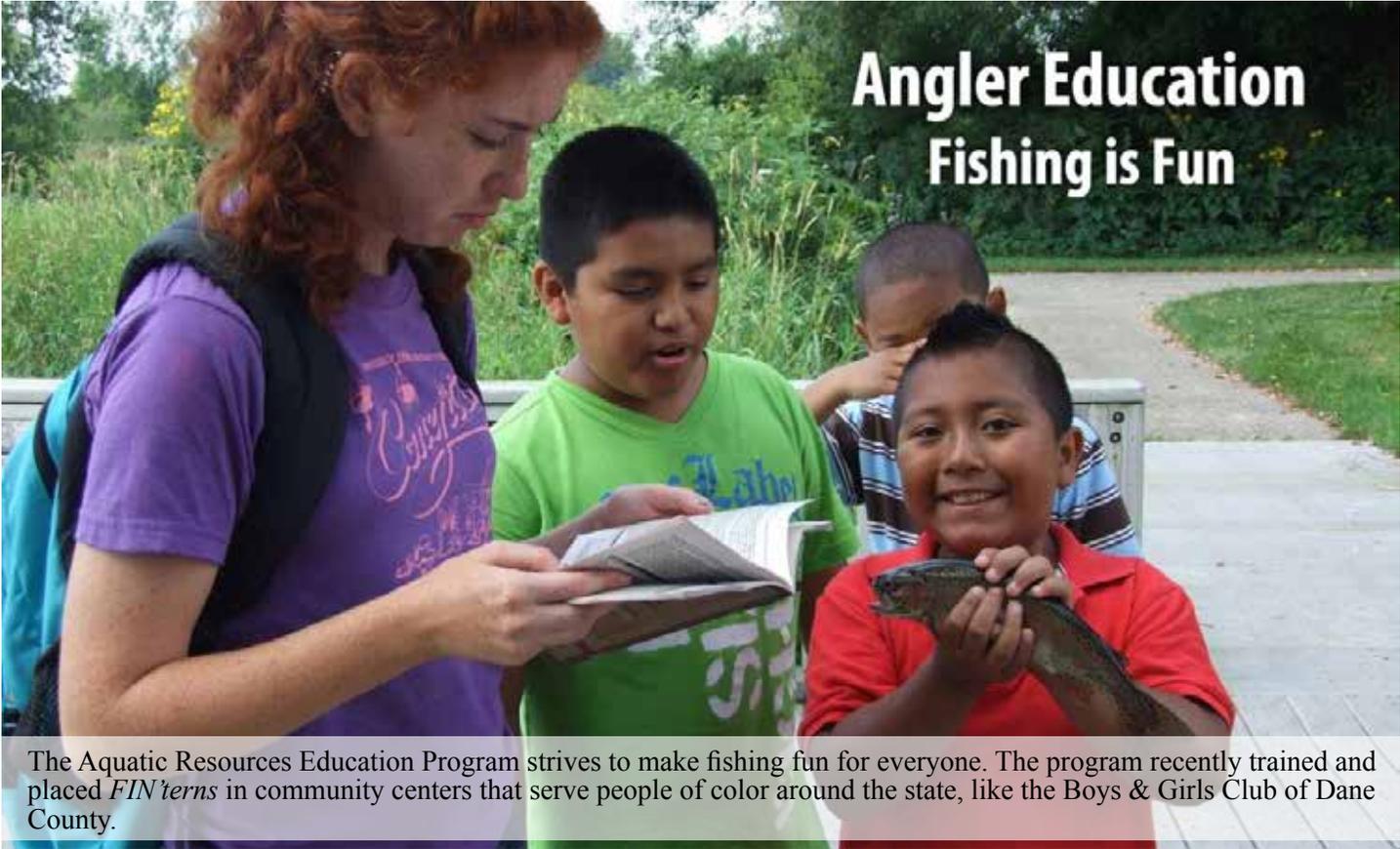
Habitat Improvement Lake restoration



Numerous lakes have been restored with the use of fish toxicants applied by a variety of methods (some more high tech than others). Sometimes waters need a little help in providing angling opportunities. Lake Tomah restoration, 2009.

JULY 2014

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

A woman with red hair, wearing a purple t-shirt and a black backpack, is looking down at an open book she is holding. Two young boys are looking at the book with her. The boy in the foreground is wearing a red shirt and is smiling while holding a small fish. The boy behind him is wearing a green shirt. They are outdoors, with a paved path and greenery in the background.

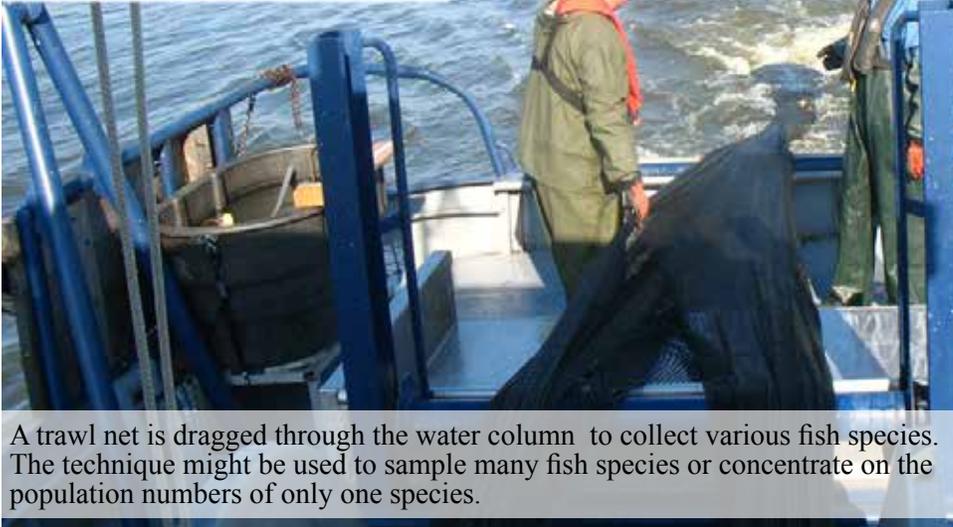
Angler Education Fishing is Fun

The Aquatic Resources Education Program strives to make fishing fun for everyone. The program recently trained and placed *FIN*terns in community centers that serve people of color around the state, like the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County.

AUGUST 2014

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						

Fisheries Assessments Trawling



A trawl net is dragged through the water column to collect various fish species. The technique might be used to sample many fish species or concentrate on the population numbers of only one species.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Lake sturgeon hook and line season opens inland waters, St. Croix River and WI/MI boundary waters
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		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.		



Lake sturgeon hook and line season closes
 Trout season closes on inland waters and Lake Superior
 Winnebago system settle, set and bankpole season closes

Fisheries Assessments

Stream shocking

Stream shocking is conducted all over the state for monitoring and research purposes on both warmwater and coldwater streams. Sampling may look at the fish population structure (size and age) or the diversity of the community and is very important in management decision making.



OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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.			Lake sturgeon hook and line catch and release season opens on the St. Croix River (downstream from St. Croix Falls)  1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12	13	14	Lake sturgeon hook and line catch and release season closes on the St. Croix River (downstream from St. Croix Falls)  15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29 	30	31	

Habitat Development Improving trout fishing



Various habitat improvement techniques are used on Wisconsin's trout streams. Bank cover increases water depth, provides spawning substrate, helps provide protection from predators and concentrates fish. Structures that concentrate fish are very popular with anglers!

NOVEMBER 2014

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
16	17	18	19	20		21
						22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
						29
						
Muskellunge season closes in the northern zone	30					

Fisheries Assessments Great Lakes Gill Netting



In December, Lake Michigan staff conduct gill net (large rectangular panels of mesh) assessments to determine the population status of yellow perch in southern lake Michigan.

DECEMBER 2014

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	Muskellunge season closes in the southern zone 31	Brave the December chill for musky fishing in southern Wisconsin. Ice fishing picks up in mid month in the north. Early ice brings good fishing, but anglers should be careful with ice conditions.		





Get Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing

Don't let the memories get away



Fish and Fishing Information

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

Catch us online at
www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing

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

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

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

Watch us on YouTube
www.youtube.com/user/WIDNRTV

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Identify your fish at
www.wiscfish.org/fishid

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