

Fisheries Professionals

2016

We handle fish...that's what we do.





Wisconsin's Fishes

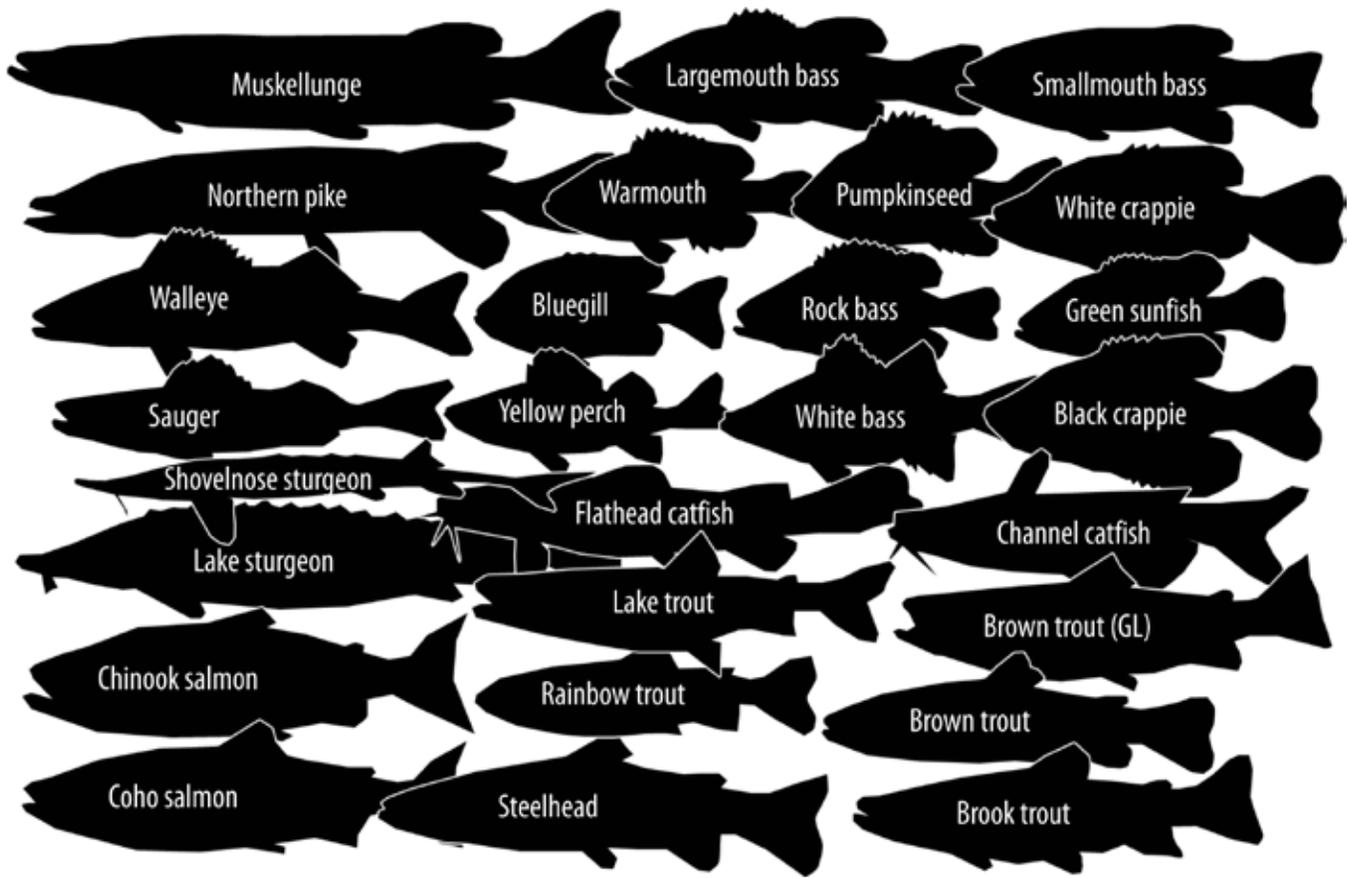
Wisconsin's waters are home to over 160 different fish species. However, most anglers will only encounter a small portion of this total during their fishing lifetime.

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.
(No looking at the answers, either.)***





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 2016

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 Early inland catch and release trout season opens (5:00 am) 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16 Free Fishing Weekend
Free Fishing Weekend 	17	18	19	20	21	22
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Lake sturgeon spearing season opens on the Lake Winnebago System
						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Ice shanties must be removed from WI/IA boundary waters
						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						
Lake Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season closes (unless harvest trigger already met) 28	29			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.		



MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MN boundary waters 1 	2	New fishing licenses available for purchase 3	4	5
General fishing season closes 6 Ice shanties must be removed from inland waters south of Hwy 64	7	8		9	10	Special season opens on urban fishing ponds 12
Ice shanties must be removed from Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior and inland waters north of Hwy 64 13	14	Ice shanties must be removed from WI/MI boundary waters 15 Yellow perch season on Green Bay and Fox River closes 	16	17	18	19
20	21	22		23	24	25
27	28	29	30	2015-2016 fishing license expires 31 	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.	



APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
End of ice fishing in northern Wisconsin. River fishing still an excellent opportunity. Sturgeon spawning run mid to late month.					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
					Special season closes on urban fishing ponds	Lake Michigan yellow perch season closes WI/MI boundary water trout season opens



MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Early catch and release trout season closes 	7 General hook and line fishing season opens
8	9	10	11	12	13 	14 Northern pike and walleye season opens on the St. Louis River
15 Muskellunge season opens on WI/MN boundary water	16	17	18	19	20 Yellow perch season opens on Green Bay and the Fox River	21 Winnebago system setline, set and bank-pole season opens 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Muskellunge season opens north of Hwy 10 Bass and muskellunge season opens on the WI/MN boundary waters
29 	30	31	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.			



JUNE 2016

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	3	Free fishing weekend 4
Free fishing weekend 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	Lake sturgeon catch and release season opens on Mississippi River, St. Croix River from Prescott to Gordon Flowage, St. Louis River and Nemadji River 16	17	Smallmouth bass harvest season opens in the northern zone 18
19	Yellow perch season opens in Lake Michigan 20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





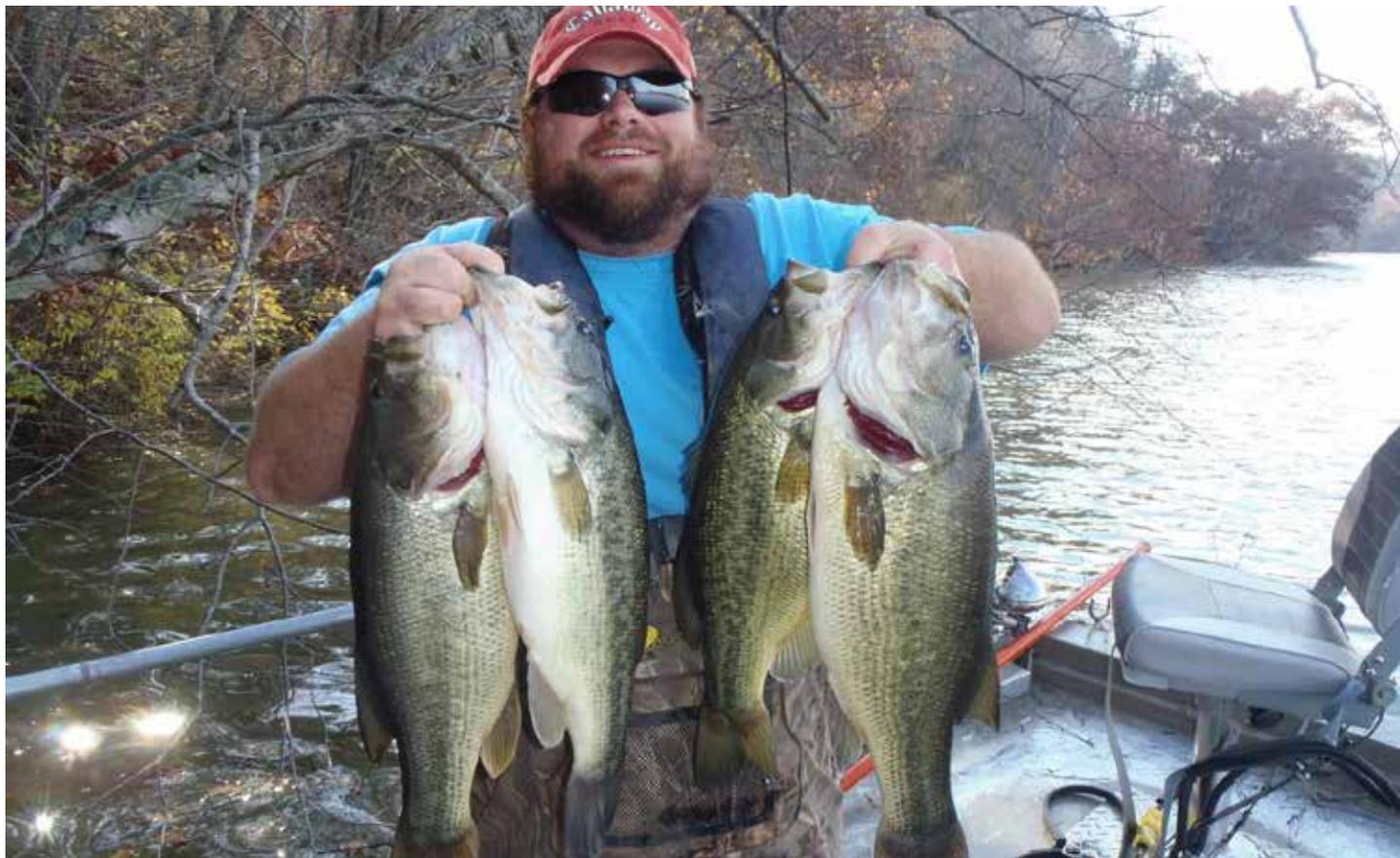
JULY 2016

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						



AUGUST 2016

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	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.		



SEPTEMBER 2016

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.				1	2	3 Lake sturgeon hook and line season opens inland waters, St. Croix River and WI/MI boundary waters
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 Lake sturgeon hook and line season closes Winnepago system setline, set and bankpole season closes	



OCTOBER 2016

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. Last chance for inland trout fishing - find a stream.						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	Trout season closes on inland waters and Lake Superior 15 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	30	31				
						



NOVEMBER 2016

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



Muskellunge season closes in the northern zone



DECEMBER 2016

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 brings 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	24
25	26	27	28 	29	30	31 Muskellunge season closes in the southern zone



Get Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing

Don't let the memories get away



The official Wisconsin
Fish and Wildlife App

<http://dnr.wi.gov/mobileapps/>

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

Pin us on Pinterest:

<http://www.pinterest.com/wdnr/>

Identify your fish at

www.wiscfish.org/fishid

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

