Fishing Wisconsin...Easy...Fun. Get hooked for life.
First-time buyer license (dnr.wi.gov search "first-time buyer")

THE WISCONSIN
FISHING REPORT

Spring 2013 An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Management program fishingwisconsin.org

Angler education program celebrates 25 years

A quarter century of teaching Wisconsin fishing reaches many

MADISON - The Angler Education Program celebrated its 25th Anniversary in late 2012. Since 1987, instructors have reached nearly 100,000 youngsters in the Junior Angler program and countless more at informal clinics.

Angler Education instructors introduce people of all ages to Wisconsin's fishing tradition, so they can make it their own. From classroom programs, to afterschool activities, to women's fly fishing classes or outings for veterans that help them find solace at the water's edge, anglers are helping to spark a love affair with our rich and varied fishery.

Join in by attending an angler education instructor certification workshop and bring the love of fishing to your school or community center. As an instructor, you will have access to classroom materials and opportunities to share your ideas for successful fishing programs. A growing list of workshops is found on at *dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/index.html*

Adopt a Tackle Loaner Program Site
Many of our loaner site managers need help maintaining the gear at their sites. This would be a great service project for high school students, scouts, fishing clubs or civic organizations. Please review the list to find a site near you and lend a hand *dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/loanerContacts.html.*

Free Fishing Weekend – Not just for kids!
June 1 & 2, 2013 and January 18 & 19, 2014
Include adults who may have missed the boat as youngsters, in your Free Fishing Weekend plans! More information and a planning form can be found at dnr.wi.gov. Search for "free fishing weekend".

Thanks for stepping up! We appreciate the help - *Theresa Stabo, Fisheries Educator*

Dear WISCONSIN ANGLER

There's no other way to say it...Wisconsin offers some fantastic fishing! Our fisheries staff work hard to keep it that way for the 1.4 million anglers - residents and nonresidents, alike - that routinely fish our waters.

We realize that there is competition for everyone's time. Recent research on angler preferences and behavior suggests that there are too many activities which make it difficult to find time for a great fishing experience. Wouldn't it be nice to have more than 24 hours in a day? Especially if the majority of those hours could be spent relaxing at your favorite fishing spot (whether the fish are biting or not).

Consequently, we've been trying to make fishing easier so that you don't have to work real hard to enjoy Wisconsin's great fishing:

Take someone fishing who's never been fishing before, or hasn't been fishing in a long time and they'll be able to take advantage of our First-Time Buyers license ($5 for residents - nonresidents get a break, too). As a recruiter, you might be eligible for recruiter points and a reduced-price license for your next fishing license purchase. **It's that easy.**

If you don't have a lot of time, why not try our one-day fishing license? Have a great time and upgrade to an annual license. **It's that easy.**

For our technologically savy anglers, we now have an on-line searchable regulations database. Don't have your regulation pamphlet with you? No problem. Just go to the DNR website (dnr.wi.gov), search for "fishing regulations" and you'll have access to the on-line regulation database for Wisconsin's inland lakes. We will be working on bringing the same tool to our trout anglers in the future. **It's that easy.**

The 2013 Wisconsin Fishing Report can only hint at the great fishing opportunities awaiting you. You'll find that the forecasts have been slightly modified this year. They've been categorized by the fish species for which you might be interested in fishing. Our biologists have identified waters based on fish surveys and management actions where you might have success in 2013. **It's that easy.**

Sit back, read up, and then hit the water to enjoy great fishing and the memories of a lifetime.

See you on the water!

Director, Fisheries Management

2013 SEASON DATES

Early Inland Trout
March 2 (5 a.m.) to April 28

General Hook and Line Inland
May 4 to March 2, 2014

General Inland Trout
May 4 (5 a.m.) to Sept. 30

Large and Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Catch-and-Release
May 4 to June 14

Large and Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Harvest
June 15 to March 2, 2014

Large and Smallmouth Bass
Southern Zone
May 4 to March 2, 2014

Musky – Northern Zone
May 25 to Nov. 30

Musky – Southern Zone
May 4 to Dec. 31

Northern Pike
May 4 to March 2, 2014

Walleye
May 4 to March 2, 2014

Lake Sturgeon (hook and line)
Sept. 7 to Sept. 30

Free Fishing Weekend
June 1 - 2, 2013 summer
January 18-19, 2014 winter

Fish are Photogenic

Catch some smiles --- Plan those special days on the water with the 2013 Fish are Photogenic calendar.

Calendar includes: Important fishing dates, moon phases, game fish identification, monthly forecasts, and resources to keep you in touch with Wisconsin fishing.

FYI

Find links to fishing licenses, season dates, regulations, where to fish and more at: ***fishingwisconsin.org***

Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/WIDNR)
Watch us on YouTube (youtube.com/user/ WIDNRTV)

SIGN UP for Fisheries Updates. Go to ***fishingwisconsin. org*** to sign up and stay informed on fisheries issues.

Follow "fishwisconsin" on Twitter. Subscribe at ***fishingwisconsin.org***

Fabulous Fisheries Projects

Yellowstone Lake fishery transformed

BLANCHARDVILLE - Fourteen years after a fisheries management plan was started to transform a fishery dominated by carp, bullheads and stunted crappie, the Yellowstone Lake fishery is better than ever and shows no signs of slowing down. Recent surveys collected walleye ranging from 10.5 to 27 inches, largemouth bass 6.5 to 22.5 inches, channel catfish 20 to 27 inches, bluegill 2.5 to 8.9 inches and black crappies from 7 to 10.7 inches. Walleye are abundant with over five adult fish per acre, and over 20 adult channel catfish per acre. Of the largemouth bass sampled, 56 percent were greater than 16 inches while 24 percent were over 18 inches. Yellowstone Lake also supports a low density quality musky fishery as well that in 2006 produced a catch and release world record musky of 57 inches.

What was once unoccupied territory, the ice at Yellowstone Lake is filled with anglers again thanks to restoration efforts.

That's a far cry from the 1980s, when Yellowstone Lake was again turning into a fishery dominated by carp, bullheads, and stunted crappie. Instead of using rotenone to kill off the rough fish, as had been done in 1968 and 1983, DNR and partners created a management plan that included removal of carp, stocking of predator species, sediment reduction, habitat improvement, and protective regulations. From 1998 to 2012 the Lafayette County Sportsman Alliance, DNR, private individuals, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Lafayette County Land & Conservation Department, implemented the plan of restoring the Yellowstone Lake sport fishery. The diversity, abundance and size of fish is one sign of success; another? The cars, trucks and ice shanties that can be seen on the lake during the winter. – *Bradd Sims, fisheries biologist, Dodgeville*

Diary yields fishery secrets

HAYWARD – DNR and fishing guides are teaming up to help shed light on fish populations and angler catch rates where such information is challenging to collect. The project enlists guides to keep diaries of what their clients catch. It will provide useful data and will get guides and anglers involved in the management of our fisheries. The medium and large rivers that these guides cover cannot be efficiently sampled with traditional fisheries gear. Having an almost daily account of angler catch rates on many different stretches of several rivers will give us a better idea of where fish concentrate and their sizes. Data on smallmouth, muskellunge, northern pike, walleye, and largemouth bass are being collected. DNR partnered with the Hayward Fly Fishing Company and Muskie Country Outfitters in the first year of this program. We are finding interesting trends in the catch rates. We will also be able to use this dataset to track patterns in relative abundance from year to year and measure the impacts of different regulations.- *Max Wolter, fisheries biologist, Hayward*

Wendy Williamson of the Hayward Fly Fishing Company with a nice river smallie from a northwestern Wisconsin River.

Wisconsin River sturgeon project successful

Wausau - Work over the past two decades to restore lake sturgeon to the Wisconsin River from Merrill Dam downstream to Castle Rock Lake have been very successful, with hundreds of thousands of the fish stocked and many of those females soon spawning for the first time. Historically, populations of this slow-growing, late maturing fish were important to the system. Due to destruction of habitat, numbers declined to levels that no longer supported a fishery. From 1997 until present, DNR has collected eggs and milt from adult sturgeon below the Kilburn Dam in Wisconsin Dells. Eggs are hatched and raised at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery. Over 250,000 sturgeon have been stocked, about 2,800 of these fish were stocked as yearlings and tagged with uniquely numbered PIT tags which will provide valuable age validation and movement information. In 2006, a monitoring program was started to track the progress of restoring the population. The project has been very successful and would not be possible without the cooperation and generous assistance from Alliant Energy, staff at the dam, and DNR staff from multiple regions. - *Tom Meronek and Jennifer Bergman, fisheries biologists, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids, respectively*

Dale Kufalk, DNR fisheries technician, holding a lake sturgeon caught during fall 2012 sturgeon survey on Petenwell Lake.

Sturgeon return to a nation

KESHENA FALLS – A cooperative effort to restore lake sturgeon to the Wolf River within the Menominee Nation after more than a century is seeing some early and promising results. Sturgeon historically spawned at Keshena Falls and other rapids on the Wolf River and are culturally important to the Menominee Indian Tribe. Construction of dams on the Wolf River cut off these spawning routes. So in 2011, DNR signed a 10-year memorandum of understanding with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to restore lake sturgeon to the Wolf River within the Menominee Indian Reservation. To accomplish this, 100 sturgeon each year are being captured from the Wolf River below the Shawano Dam and transferred upstream to the Wolf River within the Menominee Reservation. All sturgeon are marked with 10-year acoustic tags to monitor their movement. Those tags are showing promising preliminary results: 78 percent of the females and 64 percent of the males spawned at Keshena Falls in 2012, and almost half of the fish remained above the first downstream dam as of July 2012. – *Ryan Koenigs, senior fisheries biologist, Oshkosh*

Rehabilitation of lake trout in Lake Superior

BAYFIELD - Lake trout are back thanks to some creative thinking by DNR fisheries staff. By the 1950s Lake Superior lake trout were hit with one too many punches and populations collapsed as a result of overfishing and predation by sea lamprey. Traditional methods of stocking hatchery-reared lake trout did not restore self-sustaining populations. Fisheries managers devised a plan to help young lake trout imprint to traditional spawning reefs by placing fertilized eggs in bundles of artificial turf. Series of bundles were set on Devils Island Shoal, which, before the population collapse, was one of the most important spawning areas in the Apostle Islands region of Lake Superior. The tireless efforts of many DNR crew members paid off as naturally reproduced spawning lake trout return, once again, to Devils Island Shoal each and every fall.

Clever ideas and long days helped fisheries managers realize their goal of a self-sustaining lake trout population at Devils Island Shoal in Lake Superior.

Spawning reef built in Peshtigo Flowage

PESHTIGO – Generous funding from several partners and a window of opportunity during a dam repair allowed DNR and partners to build a walleye spawning reef in the Peshtigo Flowage below Potato Rapids Dam. The project involved adding 300 tons of glacial stone to create a walleye spawning reef to promote natural reproduction of walleye. The project became a possibility when water levels were drawn down on the Pestigo Flowage between May and October 2012 to replace the Highway 41 bridge and complete maintenance to the dam in Peshtigo. The drawdown not only made building the spawning reef possible, but greatly reduced the cost. Construction took place during the first weeks of August. A majority of funding was provided by Walleyes for Tomorrow ($7,000), Wisconsin Public Service ($4,000), and the Porterfield Sportsman's Club ($3,000). Significant natural reproduction of walleye is expected once the adult population has been re-established. – *Chip Long, senior fisheries biologist, Peshtigo*

Margin of walleye spawning reef along islands in the Peshtigo Flowage.

Bullhead removal aids walleye

FLORENCE - A project to remove overabundant black bullheads aims to return Patten Lake to its historical status as Florence County's best walleye lake. Since 1993, the walleye population has continually declined to its lowest level of less than 1 adult per acre in 2011. At the same time, the abundance of black bullheads increased drastically. The poor walleye recruitment led to a reasonable assumption that the abundant bullhead population might be having a negative effect on walleye recruitment. So DNR's Florence fisheries management team set nets during 2011 and 2012 to catch and remove adult bullheads. They netted a total of 5,999 black bullheads. Patten Lake Association members also were permitted through DNR to remove young-of-the-year bullheads via net and resulted in the removal of 6,500-7,500 young bullheads. - *Greg Matzke, senior fisheries biologist, Florence*

Fisheries technican, Brad Shucha, poses with a single net's catch (254 black bullheads) on Patten lake, Florence County. Photo by: Greg Matzke.

Upgrade improves popular Fox River fishing area

GRAND RIVER - Access to the Upper Fox River and lock channel at Grand River has been improved to allow better habitat and more fishing at this popular location under a cooperative project by DNR crews, private contractors and Wisconsin Department of Transportation staff. The project redirected the "main" flow of the Fox River from the old lock channel back to the river channel. The old lock channel was closed with two small culverts installed to allow some river water to flow into the lock channel. The old lock channel will function as a slack water system, providing habitat for northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish species. Rip rap was placed and large woody debris was incorporated into the banks. Habitat improvement, an angler walking path, improved boat access and handicap accessible fishing piers were also added. Anglers and fish will benefit from this project, funded by DOT as a mitigation project. – *David Bartz, fisheries biologist, Wautoma*

Electrofishing delivers eggscellent results

RACINE - The future remains bright for brown trout fishing on Lake Michigan after a successful fall collection of Seeforellen stain brown trout. DNR's Southern Lake Michigan work unit and Eagle operations crew. The crews used electofishing boats to collect a total of more than 170 seeforellen brown trout on four occasions in the Root River. Electrofishing boats have probes that generate an electrical current in the water that temporarily stuns the fish so they can be scooped up by nets. The fish were transferred to the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility located on the Kewaunee River and propagation crews from Wild Rose spawned those fish over 4 dates and collected more than 2.2 million eggs. Feral or wild salmon and trout are needed every year to maintain our stocking quotas on Lake Michigan for chinook and coho salmon and rainbow and brown trout. Without the capture and artificial spawning of these fish the stocking program on Lake Michigan would come to an end. – *Brad Eggold, fisheries supervisor, Milwaukee*

WDNR fisheries supervisor Brad Eggold holds up an example of a large seeforellen brown trout caught on the Root River in Racine, Wisconsin.

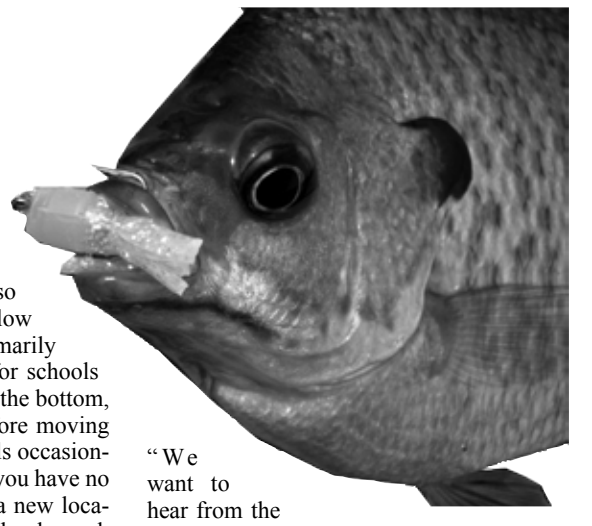
Culvert removal aids Mukwonago River

EAGLE – A project underway to remove seven culverts from one of southeastern Wisconsin's most biologically diverse streams aims to improve habitat, water quality and navigability. DNR's Southeast Inland Fish Team and partners removed two culverts in 2012 from the Mukwonago River and plan to remove the remaining five this summer. The river is home to 58 different fish species and is a Class II trout stream, so the culvert removals will benefit fish and anglers alike. Partners contributing to this effort include local municipalities, the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission, friends groups, Trout Unlimited, educational institutions and the Kettle Moraine Natural History Association. DNR, along with volunteers, will monitor the changes in fish community, mussel populations, habitat and water quality. – *Ben Heussner, fisheries biologist, Waukesha*

Fisheries technican, Steve Gospodarek and an improved stretch of the Mukwonago River. Photo: Ben Heussner.

PANFISH

Somtimes pesky, extremely prolific and always popular



We love panfish fishing for many reasons. They fight like crazy for their size. They're excellent on the dinner table. Bazillion swim in nearly every lake, river, creek and pond in Wisconsin. When we want to catch lots of fish, regardless of size, panfish are the answer. Nowhere in the state are you more than a short drive away from a body of water well populated with panfish.

Panfish fishing is an excellent way to introduce youngsters to fishing. Some might call them the "kids' fish", but catching them is a wonderful pastime everybody can enjoy. There is no need for a fancy boat, expensive rods and reels and large tackle boxes full of expensive lures. Just the opposite.

Worms, crickets, small minnows and tiny lures can entice a panfish bite. Cane poles and johnboats can replace the expensive gear. It's not very glamarous, but panfish fishing provides a great alternative to "serious" fishing. Without really trying, panfish can lead you back to what fishing is supposed to be -- relaxing, easy, and just plain fun.

Let's take a look at some of fishing tips for panfish in Wisconsin:

Bluegill. - No matter where you are in Wisconsin, you don't have to travel far to fish bluegill. Nor do you need special equipment or bait. With the exception of fast-moving streams, most bodies of water that support fish will contain bluegills. And bluegills are curious fish that seem to want to taste anything in front of them; they have even been known to nibble on swimmers toes. At one time, cane poles long enough to reach the shallow spawning beds from shore were popular for bluegill fishing. Today, most anglers fish with light-weight rods and reels. During the summer, anglers will likely have the best luck fishing from a boat in water between 5 and 15 feet deep. Although worms are probably the most common bait, bluegills are not fussy and will bite at almost any small bait like insects, insect larvae or other invertebrates. Because of their small mouths, anglers should use small hooks. Bluegills suck in their prey rather than striking at it, so a bobber helps signal a bite. Setting the hook at the first sign of a bite is usually successful as long as the bait and hook are small. Be prepared for a fight, though, as soon as the bluegill realizes it is hooked.

State record bluegill:
2 lbs. 9.8 oz. caught on 08/02/95
Green Bay, Brown County

Crappies. - Crappie fishing is very popular in the spring, when aggressive males will strike at almost anything that comes near their nests. Crappie fishing during the summer and fall is more difficult, as crappies seek out deep holes or deep submerged brush for shelter. Ice fishing for crappies is also very popular on some lakes, as crappies remain active all winter.

Anglers are almost certain to have their best success near submerged structures. During spring spawning, fish near emergent vegetation close to shore. In summer try deep holes or river channels, especially if you find one with sunken logs or brush piles. Some anglers even refer to these spots as "crappie holes," because of the tendancy for crappies to congregate in them. If you have no success in one area, try another spot because crappies move around freely. They can be found at almost any depth from the surface to the bottom, depending upon season and weather. Crappies feed throughout the day with peaks in the evening and early morning. Light tackle is almost universally preferred for fishing crappies, which rarely grow larger than 2 pounds. Anglers also use light tackle because of the paper- thin membrane surrounding the crappie mouth; it is easier to rip the hook out of the mouth with heavy tackle. The more sensitive the rod the easier it is to detect a crappie's light bite.

Crappies don't strike baits hard; they sort of gently suck the bait into their mouths. Small minnows, sometimes called "crappie minnows," are the most popular crappie bait, often used in combination with a light jig. Crappies will also hit on worms, insect larvae and a wide variety of artificial lures such as spinners and spoons. Wet and dry flies are popular when crappies are on their spawning beds. Small, tearshaped hooks make good winter bait used alone or in combination with grubs.

State record black crappie:
4 lbs. 8 oz. caught on 08/12/67
Gile Flowage, Iron County

State record white crappie:
3 lbs. 13.1 oz. caught on 05/04/03
Cranberry Marsh, Monroe County

Yellow perch. - Some anglers claim yellow perch are so willing to be caught that they will bite at a bare hook. Of course, you're much more likely to be successful with worms on the hook. Other common baits include small minnows, insect larvae, crayfish tails, shrimp and pieces of fish. Although most anglers agree yellow perch are a reliable catch, there is a trick to consistently bringing in large perch. Like the yellow perch moving around in schools searching for food, the successful angler must also move around in search of yellow perch. Because perch feed primarily near the bottom, start looking for schools there. If you have no success on the bottom, pull your bait up a few feet before moving to a new location because schools occasionally swim at different depths. If you have no strikes after a few minutes, try a new location. Once you've located a school, mark the depth of the school with a bobber on the line. Since schools usually contain fish of about the same size, if only small perch are biting, look for a school of larger fish. Yellow perch feed during the day, especially early morning and late afternoon, and become inactive at night.

Once you've found a school, it can be tricky to hook a yellow perch. Because they don't have canines, yellow perch nibble at food rather than hitting with a solid strike. With such a light bite, most anglers set the hook with a swift jerk at even the slightest indication of a nibble, or they may end up pulling up a bare hook. Perch are notorious bait thieves.

Tackle may be as simple as a cane pole or as complex as a graphite rod with an ultra-light, open faced spinning reel—as long as it is sensitive. Use a small, fine wire hook with live bait; and a small bobber with just enough buoyancy to break water will signal even the lightest bites.

Yellow perch remain active during the winter, making them a particular favorite with many ice anglers. In winter, perch often move down to the lake depths, feeding exclusively off the bottom. On some lakes, anglers fish in 40 to 60 feet of water to catch yellow perch in the winter. Ice anglers fish for perch with short jig poles, some with specialized spools large enough to accommodate 50 to 60 feet of line. Small, colorful, tear-shaped jigs, baited with different types of grubs, such as wax worms or mousies are the bait of choice among many Wisconsin ice anglers

State record yellow perch:
3 lbs. 4 oz. caught in 1954
Lake Winnebago, Winnebago County

2013: A year for panfish

Anglers and others are invited to share their expectations for fishing for panfish in Wisconsin at more than two dozen meetings across the state in February and March.

"We want to hear from the public on what they want from their panfishing experience to help guide us in developing a statewide plan for managing panfish populations," says Joanna Griffin, the Department of Natural Resources fisheries specialist coordinating the effort.

The public meetings mark the opening phases of statewide outreach efforts by Department of Natural Resources' fisheries management to better connect with anglers in Wisconsin. These first meetings will focus on panfish management although other local fishery concerns may be covered at the meetings, she says.

Attendees at the meetings will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire to help DNR understand their concerns, issues and priorities for panfish. The questionnaire and background materials presented at the meeting will be available online throughout March and April. DNR has long had management plans in place for game fish species such as walleye, bass, musky and northern pike, and biologists and some anglers believe such attention is necessary for panfish.

"We know there have been proposals in recent years and again this year to reduce the daily 25 fish limit on panfish on select lakes. Concerns, along with our data analyses and modeling efforts, lead us to believe we need to take the next step and develop a management plan."

As a category, panfish are by far the most common fish caught by anglers in Wisconsin. Wisconsin anglers reported catching 88 million fish in the 2006-7 license year, of which 57.7 million were panfish, according to a statewide mail survey done that year. About 25.7 million of those panfish were kept.

"We hope the feedback we get from anglers can help us understand whether to stay the course, or if they want changes in their panfishing experience that could require us to do something different, depending on the particular waterbody and its capabilities."

To keep abreast of panfish issues, go to *dnr.wi.gov* and search for "panfish plan".

Fisheries program at-a-glance (2011-2012)

27.7¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar; $28 million total; 237 staff
32.4% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Provided technical support for science-based management of muskellunge, walleye, bass, trout, lake sturgeon, catfish and panfish
- Conducted collaborative research to understand factors that would favor bass or walleye dominance in Wisconsin lakes
- Studied coldwater stream fisheries adaptation to Wisconsin's changing climate and developed best trout management strategies and strategic approaches for land management and acquisition in the Driftless Area
- Researched the genetics of walleye and musky, and used findings to develop guidelines for maximizing healthy fisheries
- Sampled almost 900 lakes, rivers and stream sites to assess fish population, habitat health and angler harvest
- Completed renovation of the research vessel RV Hack Noyes, which is used for survey work on Lake Superior
- Raised and stocked over 7.6 million fish
- Improved and maintained habitat on 76 trout streams
- Implemented five bilingual summer youth fishing outreach programs
- Introduced fishing skills and aquatic ecology concepts to 28,000 youth and their families
- Hired 14 fisheries biologists
- Completed more than 3,000 acres of habitat restoration at Pool 8 Island (Phase 3), Mississippi River
- Completed a pilot partnership lake habitat development project installing more than 600 trees along the shore on four Bayfield County lakes

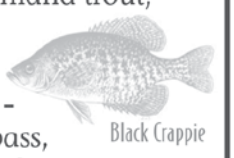
Safe-eating guidelines – for most of Wisconsin's inland (non-great lakes) waters

Women of childbearing years, nursing mothers and all children under 15 may eat:

1 meal per week – Bluegill, crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads and inland trout;

and

1 meal per month – Walleye, pike, bass, catfish and all other species.



Do not eat – Muskies.

Women beyond their childbearing years and men may eat:

Unrestricted* - Bluegill, crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads and inland trout;

1 meal per week – Walleye, pike, bass, catfish and all other species;

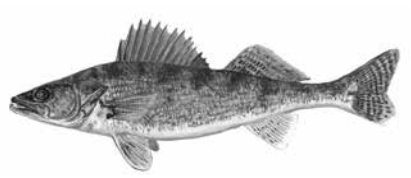
and

1 meal per month – Muskies.

What do you want to fish for in 2013?

Forecasts by species. Make your choice and read on!

WALLEYE



Cranberry Lake, Price County

512-acre impoundment at the source of the North Fork Jump River. The catch rate of 17 walleye ≥ 10 inches per net night indicates moderate to high adult population abundance. 76% of the walleyes are 15 inches or longer. 3% of the walleyes are 20 inches or longer. 15 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 5 in total. Motor trolling is permitted. Public boat launch off of West Hackett Road. Gravel area for parking. The only development on the lake is an operating cranberry marsh on the west side. Panfish, largemouth bass, and northern pike also offer excellent fishing opportunity. Size structure of bluegill and black crappie populations looks good—probably because walleye are controlling the abundance by predation.

Mercer Fisheries Biologist, Lawrence Eslinger, with a 30.3-inch, 11 pound plus walleye sampled during a 2012 netting survey on the Gile Flowage. Photograph Jim Zarzycki

Sherman Lake, Vilas County

123 acres. A spring 2012 survey estimated the adult walleye population at 233 fish or 1.9 fish/acre. No minimum length limit, daily bag limit or closed season. Access to the landing is by a single lane dirt road off of Hwy 47. There is an improved public boat launch with parking on the northeast side of the lake. The special regulations on this lake are part of a study to evaluate the effects of high exploitation rates on walleye populations.

Delavan Lake, Walworth County

2072 acres. The walleye population in Delavan Lake is so robust that WDNR hatchery crews collect eggs from the lake every year to raise fingerlings that are stocked into other lakes throughout southern Wisconsin. Size structure is excellent as indicated by fyke net and electrofishing surveys in 2012 that confirmed the presence of good numbers of 18-inch female walleyes and 17-inch male walleyes. 74% of the females and 35% of the males were larger than the minimum length limit of 18 inches. The largest walleye in the sample was 27 inches. The minimum length limit is 18 inches and the daily bag limit is 3. Access information: Public boating access is provided at the Town of Delavan launch ramp off highway 50. Boat launching fees are enforced. Fish management on Delavan Lake includes special fishing regulations that are designed to produce quality size gamefish and panfish. 72,000 fingerling walleye are stocked into the lake every other year.

Geneva Lake, Walworth County

5262 acres. Walleyes in Geneva Lake exhibit exceptional size structure as indicated by recent fish surveys where most of the walleyes were between 20 and 28 inches long, and the largest walleye was 30 inches and 13 pounds. 96% of the walleyes were 15 inches or larger. Adult walleye density is relatively low at about 1 per 2 acres of water. The minimum length limit is 15 inches, and the daily bag limit is 5. Access Information: Public boating access is provided at municipally owned and operated facilities in the city of Lake Geneva, the village of Fontana, and Linn Township. Boat launching fees are enforced. Geneva Lake is a large, deep, cold lake with exceptional water quality. The walleye population is maintained primarily by stocking, and 185,000 walleye fingerlings are stocked in alternate years. Walleyes For Tomorrow raised and stocked an additional 1.8 million walleye fry for the first time in 2012.

Silver Lake, Kenosha County

464 acres. Recent fish surveys on Silver Lake confirm the presence of a relatively low density but good quality walleye population. Walleye density is 1 adult walleye for every 1.5 acres of water. Size structure is excellent with most walleyes between 16.6 and 18.5 inches and up to 23.5 inches. 100% of the walleyes collected in fish surveys were 15 inches or larger. Minimum length limit is 15 inches and the daily bag limit is 5. Public boating access is provided at a WDNR boat launch facility off of County Highway B on the west side of the lake. No launching fees. The walleye population in Silver Lake is maintaned by stocking 16,000 fingerlings every other year. Other waters to try for walleye in Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha Counties include lakes Beulah, Lauderdale, Pleasant, Turtle, Whitewater, Wind, Browns, Tichigan, Waubeesee, Center, Camp, Elizabeth, Hooker, Mary, Powers, Rock, and the Fox River. All these waters are stocked with walleyes in alternating years.

Caldron Falls, Marinette County

1,018 acres. Overall density (fish / acre) was low but the average size of walleye was over 20 inches. The largest fish collected during the 2012 survey was almost 30 inches long. 15 inch minimum / 3 fish per day There are 4 boat landings on Caldron Falls. The newest ramp is located in Governor Thompson State Park. Almost all of the 21 miles of shoreline is undeveloped and there are plenty of larger bays and coves to get out of the wind.

Enterprise Lake, Langlade County

505 acres Good naturally reproducing population; 14”-18” protected slot; 2005 adult population estimate of 0.8 per acre was lower than we hoped for and resulted in a change to the current slot regulation. Angler reports have been good and suggest the walleye population is improving

Sawyer Lake , Langlade County

149 acres. Good naturally reproducing population; 2010 adult population estimate of 2.6 per acre. Only 1 walleye over 14” allowed.

Butternut Lake, Forest County

There is no better walleye lake in Forest County than Butternut Lake. Butternut Lake is 1,292 acres and carries an adult walleye population between 4 and 8 adults/acre consistently. There is a special regulation for walleye on this lake, that being a protected slot between 14 and 18 inches. This regulation protects some of the adult spawning stock.

Lakes Alice, Mohawksin, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the connecting riverine portions, Lincoln County

– 5,000 acres of prime, naturally reproducing walleye water; Seasons, length limits, and bag limits vary on this system, Adult population estimates range from 2-5 per acre.

Rice Reservoir (Lake Nokomis System), Lincoln County

2,274 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2012 adult population estimate of 3.0 per acre at full pool.

Spirit Reservoir, Lincoln County

– 1,667 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2005 adult population estimate of 2.9 per acre.

Gile Flowage, Iron County

– 3,384 acres. No minimum length limit, but only one over 14 inches, Near Hurley, WI, the Gile Flowage supports a quality walleye fishery within a Canadian shield-type landscape (punctuated by bedrock outcroppings). Recent angler reports, along with results from a 2012 spring netting survey, indicate that the Gile’s walleye population is doing quite well. Like the nearby Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, the Gile Flowage walleye population is sustained solely through natural reproduction. As a result of many young fish being present in the population, anglers should expect to catch proportionally higher numbers of smaller-sized fish. Despite this, larger fish are available; Of all walleyes captured during the 2012 spring survey (targeting mature adult fish), 59% were 15 inches or larger, and 10 fish sampled were 27 inches or larger. There are 4 public boat landings.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage, Iron County

13,545 acres. No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 3 fish. Walleye anglers seeking some good fishing, in a primarily undeveloped northwoods setting, should try the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (TFF). Although a bit overwhelming at first (by nature of its sheer size), persistent anglers will likely understand why many successful TFF fishermen don’t stray too far away. Adult walleye densities have consistently been estimated at over 4 fish per acre (above Ceded Territory averages), which is supported solely through phenomenal levels of natural reproduction. With the high levels of reproduction, anglers should typically expect to catch walleye between 12 and 16 inches, with the occasional bigger fish. There are 6 public boat landings, with camping available

Mary Feranec from the Price County Tourism Department, holding a walleye caught in the spring 2012 fyke netting survey. Photo - Kendal Patrie

Mead Lake, Clark County

320 acres, based on spring 2012 netting results. Most fish captured (80%) were 15” or larger. However, total catch rate and catch rate of 15” and larger fish were 3 times lower than that of the last survey conducted in 2008. Mead relies heavily on stocking to support the population and variable survival and recruitment rates were found throughout the history of Mead Lake fish surveys.

Upper Black River, Clark and Jackson Counties, Lower Black River, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties.

Data based on electrofishing results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed (#/mile). Upper river total catch rate was up at 42/mile in 2012 as compared to 16.5/mile in 2011, and was up for legal size (15”) and larger fish at 5/mile in 2012 over 4.3/mile in 2011. Lower river total catch rate was up at 12.7/mile compared to 11.2/mile in 2011, and was similar for legal (15”) and larger fish in 2011 and 2012 at 3/mile. Other Information: A tagging study was initiated for lower Black River walleyes in 2008 and continued into 2012. Please report catching any tagged walleyes. More tag returns will improve results and guide future management of the lower Black River. Two walleyes over 30” were captured in 2012, one by DNR survey crews and the other by an angler. Both fish were released.

Lake Puckaway and the Fox River, Green Lake and Marquette counties

5,039 acres. Recent surveys showed average abundance, with good growth rates and average size of adult fish at 19.2”. 91% of the adult fish sampled in spring spawning survey were above the 15” length limit. Although Lake Puckaway is connected to the Winnebago system, via the Fox River, the actual boundary for the system is the Princeton dam some 6 miles downstream. Therefore the length limit for walleye is 15” and the bag is 5. Adequate access sites are located around the lake. Two developed boat launches are located in the town of Mecan on the north shore and there are three good access points on the south shore in the town of Marquette.

Florence County waters

Anglers seeking walleye should target the impoundments of the Menominee River. The Brule River Flowage has the highest walleye density in Florence County, estimated at 3.4 adults/acre in 2010.

Beaver Dam Lake, Dodge County

Beaver Dam Lake should continue to produce walleye opportunities in 2013. The lake has an 18-inch minimum, 3-fish daily bag limit. In 2012, DNR hatcheries stocked 14,768 small fingerling walleye into Beaver Dam Lake, and the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association stocked 700 (7-inch) walleye.

Fox Lake, Dodge County

Fox Lake continues to be a productive walleye lake and has an 18-inch minimum, 3-fish daily bag limit. Walleye catch rates for 2012 fall electrofishing were 78 per hour, compared to 116/hour in 2011, a high of 160/hour in 2010 and above the 10-year average of 77/hour. Walleye ranged in size from 5.6 to 27.1 inches, with the majority between 12 and 14-inches and 9% of the fish sampled were over the legal minimum of 18 inches. The number of young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye under 10 inches was 11/hour, compared to 4/hour in 2011, 21/hour in 2010 and a record high of 78/hour in 2009.

Mississippi River, Pierce to Grant counties

Fisheries surveys conducted since 1980 in the main channel showed good populations of sauger and walleye. Over the years, walleye outnumbered the closely related and smaller sauger 1.2 to 1. We've seen walleye up to 29.5 inches and Mississippi River sauger can reach 21 inches. The annual index of spring reproduction varies wildly from near zero to 600 with spring and summer water conditions apparently accounting for much of this variation. These two species can be caught year round. The most intensely fished time is early spring when fish congregate downstream of the 11 navigational dams. Most anglers use a large jig or

A group of happy anglers with a nice catch of walleye, a couple smallmouth bass, and a few perch from the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. Photograph – Jeff Robl

jig tipped with a minnow. During summer, look for walleye and sauger around rocky wing dams bordering the main channel. Fall fishing can be the best, particularly in October and November. Many anglers will fish during the winter, usually downstream of the dams. Bag limit for both species combined is 6. There is no minimum length limit on sauger, but walleye must be at least 15 inches. The Great River Road follows the winding path of the river as it flows through Mississippi Valley. If you travel along this scenic route, stop at one of the many scenic overlooks along the way. Places such as Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin and Pikes Peak State Park in Iowa provide a unique aerial view of the river valley. There are also many interpretative centers along the river that provide educational opportunities and a greater understanding of the historic legacy of the region.

Green Bay, Door and Kewaunee counties

Although the 2012 creel estimates are not yet available, walleye fishing in the area is expected to continue to be very good as walleye catch rates through 2011 were well above the 10 year average in Green Bay waters along Door and Kewaunee counties. This is largely due to recent outstanding walleye natural reproduction in southern and western portions of Green Bay. The most recent local spawning population survey (2010) indicates the Sturgeon Bay/Little Sturgeon Bay area population that is supported by stocking was in very good condition in both numbers and size at age. This should continue to support a good early open water fishery in this area in 2013, at least around the spawning period. The strong 2003 year-class still has a presence in the area both from stocked and naturally recruited fish and most of these fish are well into the mid 20-inch range. Walleye fingerlings were stocked in Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay in 2012 at full quota. Recent young-of-the-year surveys indicate some local natural reproduction may be supporting the population as well. All this suggests the forecast for walleye fishing in this area looks very good in the near future.

Fox River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay, Brown Oconto and Marinette counties

Strong spring walleye runs are common on the Fox, Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers providing anglers ample opportunities to catch large numbers of migrating walleye. Anglers fishing in the rivers usually jig or cast for walleye. Those anglers willing to fish on Green Bay should try trolling near Geano Beach, off the Menominee River and along reefs on the east shore of Green Bay for the best fishing. The size of these walleye can be impressive with the largest fish over 30 inches and weighing in at over 10 pounds. Results from our 2012 fall electrofishing index surveys on the Fox River and Green Bay show that the relative abundance of young of the year (YOY) walleye were below average and indicates a poor year class in 2012. The 2012 age 0 catch per unit effort (CPUE) from the Fox River was 3.6 YOY/hour of electrofishing which is well below the 1994-2010 average of 12.9 YOY/hour. Despite poor recruitment in 2012, walleye fishing should be good in future years because of strong year classes from 2008 through 2011.

Rock Lake, Jefferson County

Walleye catch rates were at 6/hour, compared to 4/hour in 2011 and 1/hour in 2010 with fish ranging from 7.8 to 20.4-inches.

Rock River and Lake Koshkonong, Jefferson County

Seasons are open year-round on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all gamefish except muskellunge. The river system takes in tributaries such as the Bark and Crawfish Rivers. While overall walleye and young-of-the-year (YOY) catch rates were lower than in previous years, fall 2012 surveys showed the majority of walleye to be 11 to 14 inches, with legal fish in the 15 to 17.9-inch range also present. Through the assistance of local cooperative groups, the Bark River Hatchery stocked 200,000 walleye fry into Lake Koshkonong in 2012, the first hatched at the facility since 2007. Motor trolling is allowed on Lake Koshkonong as far downstream as the Highway 59 bridge at Newville.

Mason Lake and Evergreen Lake, Sawyer County

390 acres. Survey results from spring netting 2012 Catch rates of walleye greater than 10 inches in early spring 2012 fyke nets indicate low population abundance. Persistent anglers should have an opportunity to catch a large walleye of memorable size. 74% of the walleye greater than 10 inches were 15 inches or longer (quality size). 68% of the walleyes greater than 10 inches were 20 inches or longer (preferred size). 34% of the walleyes greater than 10 inches were 25 inches or longer (memorable size). Minimum length for walleye is 15 inches and the daily bag limit for walleye is 5 in total.

Rainbow Flowage, McCormick Lake, Oneida County

A spring survey estimated an adult walleye population of 3.3 per acre on Rainbow Flowage (based on a full pool of 2,035 acres). Most fish are between 14 and 18 inches. Low water levels in recent years have concentrated walleye and resulted in high angler harvest, but recruitment has responded with very good natural yearclasses on the flowage. A single night of electrofishing on 118-acre McCormick Lake found good numbers of 16 to 19-inch walleye.

Lake Pepin, Pepin County

25,000 acres. Forty-two percent of saugers surveyed during 2012 were greater than 14 inches. Sauger averaged 13.6 inches and ranged to 22.5 inches. Current regulation: No length limit. Daily limit is six in total with walleye. Access information: Deer Island Landing, Sportsman's Landing, Stockholm Municipal Park. The state record sauger was caught a few miles upstream from Lake Pepin and weighed nearly 6.5 pounds! It's likely this fish swam Lake Pepin a time or two.

Eau Claire River, Eau Claire County

Big Falls downstream to Lake Altoona.
Good spring run of walleye from Lake Altoona moving upstream to spawn near Big Falls. Walleye should be in a post spawn mode in the Eau Claire River when gamefish season opens. 15 inch minimum length limit, daily bag of 5. Boat landing on north side of river just upstream of Lake Altoona near the power line off North Shore Drive and Court St. County Park at Big Falls also provides access for shore anglers. Nice smallmouth bass fishery and a few musky are present in this section of river.

Lake Redstone, Sauk County

612 acres. A spring 2010 survey estimated the adult walleye population at 2,627 fish, a density of 4.3 fish/acre. The majority of the fish sampled were between 16 – 19 inches with an average length of 17.7 inches.15 inch minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 5 fish. Three public boat access points exist on the lake, which are controlled by the township and county. Each site has a paved launch and trailer parking available. There are shore fishing opportunities at the Fox Court boat landing on the northern part of the lake, and off of the Sauk County Park land at the southern end of the lake. The 4.3/acre adult density is well above the state average for both a stocked fishery (which Lake Redstone is) and a naturally reproduced fishery.

Lake Wisconsin/Wisconsin River below Kilbourn Dam, Columbia/Sauk counties

9,000 acre Lake Wisconsin, and 27 river miles to Kilbourn Dam in Wisconsin Dells. A spring 2012 survey below the Wisconsin Dells (Kilbourn) Dam showed an excellent size structure. Of the 1,456 walleyes captured, 5.5% were 28 inches or larger. The average size of fish sampled was 19.6 inches. Upstream from the Prairie du Sac Dam, the minimum length limit on walleye and sauger is 15", but fish from 20" through 28" may not be kept and only one fish over 28" is allowed. There are more than 20 public boat landings on Lake Wisconsin and several on the river upstream to the Kilbourn Dam. There are also three shore fishing areas on the lake (The Grade, Moon Valley, and Memorial Park in Merrimac) and one at the new boat landing in Wisconsin Dells (Newport Park). Newport Park is a new public access site on the Wisconsin River in 2012, and it has excellent amenities. The park has a beach, picnic pavilions, restroom, two-lane boat landing, and an ADA accessible fishing pier.

Lower Turtle Lake, Barron County

276 acres. The most recent survey estimated the density of adult walleye to be 5.3 adult fish/acre. Of the adult walleye population, 64% of the fish ranged from 15 to 25 inches. 18-inch minimum length limit; daily bag limit varies based on tribal declarations There are two public boat landings. The landing on the east side is off 12 ½ Avenue, and the other landing is off 3 3/4 -4th Street on the southwest side of the lake. The walleye population in Lower Turtle Lake has increased in recent years, following multiple years of stocking extended-growth walleye.

Pike Lake Chain (Pike, Round, Turner, and Amik Lakes), Price and Vilas counties

1905 combined acres. WDNR's spring 2012 netting survey points toward a low to moderate population abundance consistent with the Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's spring 2012 estimate of 2.3 and 1.6 adults per acre in Round and Pike lakes. Though population density fell short of the target (4 – 6 adults per acre) that stakeholders recently helped to define for the Chain, walleye size structure exceeded our objective to have 20 – 40 percent at least 15 inches long. 51 % of the walleyes greater than 10 inches were 15 inches or longer 15% of the walleyes greater than 10 inches were 20 inches or longer. 2% of the walleyes greater than 10 inches were 25 inches or longer. There is no minimum length limit on walleyes. Motor trolling is permitted on Pike, Round, and Turner lakes only (permitted county-wide in Price County). Trolling is not permitted on Amik Lake. A radio telemetry study in the late 1980s revealed that in early spring adult walleye from the other three lakes migrate to spawn on the shoreline gravel in Round Lake, then shortly afterward they disperse throughout the Chain. Walleye population is adequately sustained by natural reproduction, so stocking was discontinued after the last small fingerlings were planted in 2002. Predation by walleye is the probable cause for low black crappie abundance in Round Lake and excellent black crappie size structure throughout the Chain of Lakes.

Lake Wausau, Marathon County

The walleye population in Lake Wausau was surveyed in 2012. The average size was 18.5 inches, and the maximum length was 29 inches. Of the fish caught 65% were greater than 15 inches, 45% were over 20 inches, and 3% reached 28 inches or greater. About 20% of the catch was within the harvest slot of 15 to 19.9 inches. No closed season, harvest slot 15"-19.9", fish 20" to 28" may not be kept and only one fish over 28" is allowed, bag limit is 5 fish total. Angler access to Lake Wausau is excellent with boat launches at three city parks (Oak Island, Schofield, and Memorial Parks) and Bluegill Bay County Park. Additional Information: The walleye harvest slot regulation for the Lake Wausau will expire in 2014 if not extended. A proposal to convert this rule to permanent will be voted on at the 2013 spring hearings.

Wisconsin River, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams and Juneau counties

The walleye population surveyed in recent years on the Wisconsin River from Merrill to Castlerock Flowage has an impressive size structure. From 2005 to 2011 on average 46% of the walleye were greater than 15 inches, 19% were over 20 inches, and 1% reached 28 inches. Anglers reported excellent catches of harvestable fish in 2012 and we expect that trend to continue. Walleye abundance during summer electrofishing has remained stable and comprised 17% of the total catch in 2012. No closed season, harvest slot 15"-19.9", fish 20" to 28" may not be kept and only one fish over 28" is allowed, bag limit is 5 fish total. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. The walleye harvest slot regulation for the Wisconsin River will expire in 2014 if not extended. A proposal to convert this rule to permanent will be voted on at the 2013 spring hearings.

Round and Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO), Sawyer County

3,294 acres and 5,139 acres, respectively. 70% of the walleye in the 2012 LCO survey were of keeper size. Round Lake consistently produces strong walleye year classes and walleye of all sizes are present.15-inch minimum length limit. Round (Launch off Linden Rd. or launch on Penninsula Rd.), Lac Courte Oreilles (Launch off of Cty. hwy. K). Both of these lakes are deep and extremely clear (greater than 20 feet visibility) making for a cool fishing environment. In addition, both lakes have big forage bases that grow large walleye.

Lower Wisconsin River (LWR)

The LWR starts at the confluence with the Mississippi River and ends upstream at the Prairie du Sac Dam and is 92.3 miles in length. There are no dams or migration blocks on the LWR. The LWR has a 18" minimum length limit, a 3 bag limit and a year-round season. Fishing pressure at the dam is extremely heavy during the spring walleye run. Before the 18" length limit went into effect, the harvest of walleye during this time frame was so high that there were very few fish 16" and longer after the spring fishery both in the vicinity of the dam and on downstream for the remainder of the fishing season. Since the 18" length limit,

Andrew Notbohm, WDNR fisheries technician with a 52" Pewaukee Lake Muskellunge captured in spring fyke netting survey.
Photo - Steve Gospodarek

the number of 16" to 18" fish has dramatically increased and there has been as surprising increase in the number of 18"+ fish downstream during the summer. While expert LWR walleye anglers can on occasion catch a limit of legal walleye on the LWR during the summer, most anglers targeting walleye on the LWR may catch a number of 16" and 17" and have a reasonable expectation of catching a legal walleye and perhaps on a special occasion a 24" to 27" fish. There is no stocking of walleye in the LWR. Public boat landings on the LWR are spaced about 7 miles apart. As a rule, the LWR is shallow with frequent areas of little to no channel. Flat bottom boats are basically a necessity other than during periods of high water. Canoes are frequently used. During low water, it is often necessary to pull the boat over a sand bar. Larger boats and bass boats in particular are a bad idea unless the operator really knows the river. Generally, the water is high in the spring and it allows larger boats to get from the landing below the dam upstream to the dam if using caution and avoiding the rock bars.

Clam River Flowage, Burnett County

359 acres. A spring 2012 survey estimated the adult walleye population at 883 fish or 2.5 fish/acre. Over half of the adult population was larger than 15 inches. 15 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit varies based on tribal declarations There is a public boat launch on the southeast side of the lake. The walleye population on the Clam River Flowage is self-sustaining, with the last documented stocking occurring in the 1950's.

MUSKELLUNGE

Snipe Lake, Vilas County

239 acres. A spring 2012 netting survey captured 17 musky. 40-inch minimum length limit, 1 fish bag limit. Access to the lake is by the county boat landing on the west shore of the lake off Wilderness Trail Road. This lake is one of the smallest in the state that has a musky fishery sustained completely through natural reproduction.

Emma and Julia lakes, Oneida County

We found high muskellunge numbers during netting surveys on Emma (223 acres) and Julia (238 acres) near Rhinelander. Both lakes have been stocked by Muskellunge Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin since 2003, and fish up to about 40 inches are fairly common. Julia had a few more 40+ inch fish, from DNR stocking prior to 2003.

Pewaukee Lake, Waukesha County

2437 surface acres. Average Length – 34 inches. Population estimate – 0.35 adults per acre. 40-inch minimum length with a daily bag limit of 1. There are two boat launches found on Pewaukee Lake; the county park launch on the west side and Smoky's bait shop on the east side. Pewaukee Lake is home to the largest musky density in southeastern Wisconsin. Not only do the muskies in Pewaukee boast an average size of 34 inches, anglers annually catch a few fish over 50 inches. Abundant yellow perch, black crappie and bluegills make up an excellent forage base for this thriving musky population. The WDNR propagation program provides an excellent muskellunge product that is stocked annually.

Okauchee Lake, Waukesha County

1210 surface acres. Average Length – 34 inches. Population estimate – 0.2 adults per acre. 40-inch minimum length with a daily bag limit of 1. There are two boat launches found on Okauchee Lake; the WDNR boat launch on upper Oconomowoc Lake and The Golden Mast Restaurant on the west basin of Okauchee. Okauchee Lake has a maximum depth of 94 feet which results in above average growth potential for top end predators like musky. Okauchee Lake also has a cisco population which provides an additional forage base making this lake a great option for catching a giant.

Caldron Falls and High Falls, Marinette County

(1,018 and 1,498 acres, respectively). Both fisheries are maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The density (fish / acre) of musky is higher in Caldron Falls but fish in the upper 40-inch range are not uncommon. 40-inch minimum length / 1 fish per day. There are 4 boat landings on Caldron Falls and 5 on High Falls. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Most of the shoreline lies within the Peshtigo River State Forest.

Jason Spaeth, DNR Fisheries Technician, with a 42.5" musky caught during our 2012 sturgeon survey on the Biron Flowage, Wood County.

Florence County waters

The Menominee River system is the only place in Florence County that you can find fully developed musky populations. Along with having the highest walleye density, the Brule River Flowage also is your best chance to catch a muskellunge in Florence County. This flowage has also been known to produce trophy sized muskellunge in the 50-inch class.

Enterprise Lake, Langlade County

505 acres. Stocked at 0.5 fish per acre in alternate years; 2006 adult population estimate of 0.48 per acre with very good size quality as shown by fish up to 46" captured.

Summit Lake, Langlade County

282 acres. Stocked at 0.5 fish per acre in alternate years; 2010 adult population estimate of 0.43 per acre; Consider this more of an action lake with fish up to 42" common.

Wabikon and Riley lakes, Forest County

We are currently in the middle of a two year survey to assess the musky population in Wabikon and Riley Lakes. During the first year of netting we handled 56 different muskies ranging from 18.4 to 49.7 inches. The average length of musky captured in 2012 from these waters was 35.7 inches. Consider these two lakes action water, making it a good place to take beginners musky fishing.

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawksin, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the connecting riverine portions)

5,000 acres of prime, naturally reproducing muskellunge water; No stocking takes place on these waters; Adult population estimates range from 0.1 to about 0.3 per acre; Parts of this system may be considered more action type waters (Lake Mohawksin) but the whole system has true trophy potential that these lower adult densities help to maintain

Rice Reservoir (Lake Nokomis System)

2,274 acres of naturally reproducing muskellunge water; No stocking takes place; The adult population estimate is in the range of about 0.25 per acre at full pool; Consider this more of a lower density, high size quality water with true trophy potential; Our nets routinely catch big, fat, and healthy fish in the upper 40" range on this system.

Day Lake Flowage, Ashland County

625 acres. 28-inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1 fish. 1 public boat landing, camping available. This 625-acre, stained-water impoundment within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in western Ashland County (near the Village of Clam Lake) presents musky anglers with a couple unique opportunities. With very high numbers of musky cruising Day Lake's waters, anglers have a realistic chance of catching a fish each time out. However, the key to catching musky here is to use smaller, bass-sized lures. In addition to experiencing high catch rates, anglers also have the opportunity to harvest a smaller-sized musky (if they so desire) because of a 28-inch minimum length limit. This regulation is applied in situations where increased harvest will likely be beneficial for the musky population in question as well as the overall fish community.

Moose Lake, Iron County

269 acres. 40-inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1 fish. 1 public boat landing, 1 campsite. Anglers seeking some musky action on a quiet, undeveloped northwoods lake should venture over to Moose Lake in central Iron County. Moose Lake is not for all, however; About 4 miles of gravel road and a boat landing best suited for smaller rigs stands between those willing and Moose's muskies. During a 2012 spring netting survey, 44 muskies, ranging in size between 27.1 and 39.8 inches, were captured and fin-clipped for a potential population estimate. Past population estimates of Moose Lake musky have resulted in over 0.4 adult fish (≥ 30 inches) per acre, which is above the statewide average amongst musky populations. With the relatively-high netting catch rates experienced during this past spring's survey, it is anticipated that the population estimate will again be up around that level. Anglers will likely want to throw shallow-running and/or surface lures in Moose Lake's dark, shallow water, which may make for some exciting action!

Chad Leanna caught and released this 38 inch muskellunge in Mason Lake. Photo submitted by: Chad Leanna

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Iron County

13,545 acres. 40-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1 fish. 6 public boat landings, camping available.. At 13,545 acres, and with a forage base consisting of redhorse, white sucker, cisco (in some areas), etc., the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage has the potential to produce some big muskies. A recent 2011 spring netting survey captured 66 musky with less than expected effort. Of those fish, 45% were 38 inches or better and 20% were 42 inches or better. In addition, during the 2012 open-water season, there were at least two 50-inch plus fish caught, and our Mercer DNR fish team captured a 49.9-inch musky while sampling panfish! Anglers trying to locate these monsters may want to come prepared with a lure retriever to avoid loses to the many submerged stumps residing in the Flowage's stained water.

Upper Eau Claire, Bayfield County

996 acres. Upper EC had a low density musky population in 2012 of 0.09/acre or about 1 musky over 30 inches for every 10 acres. Size structure was excellent in 2012, average length = 41.0 inches, range = 32.0 to 48.0, % ≥ 40" = 50%. 40-inch minimum length limit. Public boat launch. Upper Eau Claire is a clear deep lake and many guides choose to fish for musky at night. In 2010 an angler caught a 55 inch musky in August.

Mead Lake, Clark County

320 acres, Results based on spring 2012 netting. Total catch rate and catch rate of legal fish (40") and larger dropped slightly over rates from the last survey conducted in 2008.

Upper Black River, Clark and Jackson Counties, and lower Black River, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse and Trempealeau counties.

Results based on electrofishing surveys and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed (#/mile). Upper river total catch rate of muskellunge was up in 2012 at 4/mile over 1.7/mile in 2011. No muskellunge larger than 40" were captured in 2012 or 2011. Lower river total catch rate of muskellunge was lower in 2012 (0.9/mile) than 2011 (1.4/mile). Catch rate of muskellunge larger than 40" was similar between the two years at 0.1/mile.

Beaver Dam and Fox Lake, Dodge County

While not actively managed as musky lakes, recent surveys on Beaver Dam and Fox Lake show a low number of 35+ inch fish present in both lakes.

Fox River and Green Bay, Brown, Door, Oconto and Marinette counties

Since 2003, nearly annual assessments to determine the status of the Green Bay muskellunge population have been conducted on the Fox River using fyke nets. Fyke nets set in the Fox River this past May were filled with many large musky with the largest being just over 40 pounds. Many other captured fish were in the 20 to 30-pound range. Male fish appear to recruit to the population at a younger age, but female fish attain larger ultimate size. Currently this population depends on stocking to maintain the population since natural recruitment has been extremely limited. Since 2010 we have spawned ripe musky from the Fox River, raised the eggs at the Besadny Fisheries Facility and stocked over 13,000 fall fingerlings back into the river and bay to enhance the population. Most of the musky fishing occurs on the Fox River, the east side of lower Green Bay, in Little Sturgeon Bay and in the Menominee River from August through the end of November. Successful anglers cover as much water as possible while concentrating on structure of any kind. Some anglers troll exclusively, while others will cast when likely habitat is located.One fish, 50-inch minimum length limit, First Saturday in May through November 30 Most musky anglers launch their boat from the Fox Point Landing or the Metro Ramp on the Fox River, Carmody Ramp on Little Sturgeon Bay, or the Menominee River Ramp. For the first time since 2006, four fyke nets were set in the Lower Menominee River in 2012. 44 spotted musky were captured during the two weeks the nets were fished. The captured musky ranged in length from 37 inches to 55 inches with an average length of 46 inches. Approximately one-third of the captured musky were over 50 inches. The majority of muskellunge were ripe with eggs or milt. Despite the early spring of 2012, females continued to be ripe with eggs to end of the survey on May 17. All but five muskellunge were fin clipped, with almost five times as many yearling stocked muskellunge captured compared to those stocked as fingerlings.

Mason and Evergreen lakes, Sawyer County in the Flambeau River State Forest

390 acres combined. Mason 190 acres + Evergreen 200 acres. Evergreen Lake had greater muskellunge abundance and higher proportions of preferred- and memorable-size muskellunge than Mason Lake. Catch rate of muskellunge ≥ 20 inches in fyke nets was 3x higher in Evergreen than in Mason and identical to the statewide average rate

in lakes with muskellunge populations sustained by natural reproduction. In both lakes combined. 87% of musky greater than 20 inches were 30 inches or longer. 20 % of musky greater than 20 inches are 38 inches or longer. 7 % of musky greater then 20 inches are 42 inches or longer. Statewide regulation. Musky minimum length 40 inches and the daily bag is 1 Unimproved, shallow-water access to Mason Lake at the end of Snuss Boulevard. Limited maneuvering and parking area at the undeveloped landing. Boat access to Evergreen Lake by water only; no boat landing. Natural variation in water level dictates the ease of launching boats from trailers and navigating through the shallow channel between Mason and Evergreen lakes. Not recommended for large boats. WDNR's purchase of 563 shoreland acres within the Flambeau River State Forest was approved by NRB in June 2012. Designated as a "Scenic Lake" in Master Plan—managed with few and modest improvements to provide a recreational experience in a natural setting. Fishery sustained solely by natural reproduction with no stocking. Anglers should exercise extra care when handling live bait to avoid introducing non-native fish that would certainly disrupt the delicate balance in this fish community. Remote location to fish in a scenic setting. Great spot to introduce youth to musky fishing.

Shell Lake, Washburn County

2,580 acres. In a spring 2012 netting survey, 38% of the muskellunge captured were over 40 inches in length. 40 inch minimum length limit, one fish daily bag limit. There is a large public boat launch operated by the

DNR fisheries technician Garrett Drach proudly displays a Lake Wausau musky Photo: Tom Meronek.

city of Shell Lake on the west end of the lake off of State Highway 63. Though one of the largest lakes in Washburn County, Shell Lake only has 10.2 miles of shoreline.

Bone Lake, Polk County

1,781 acres The Bone lake muskellunge population was estimated to be 0.42 fish per acre during the 2011-2012 survey. Although the population appeared to have decreased since the 2005 survey, the lake still offers quality musky angling in terms of numbers and size. 50-inch minimum length limit; 1 fish daily bag limit There are two public boat landings. South boat landing is off Dueholm Drive. The landing on the north end is off 250th Avenue and down Bone Lake Park Lane. Muskellunge were initially stocked into Bone Lake in 1935, and the lake has been managed for muskellunge since then.

Round Lake, Chippewa County

216 acres. Modest number of 40 inch and larger muskellunge. 40-inch minimum length limit, daily bag of 1. County boat landing is present on the east shore. Consistent stocking of the past several decades has created a good action lake with some 40 inch and larger fish present. Lake can get busy on the weekends anglers may want to target the lake during the week for best chance of success.

Lake Redstone, Sauk County

612 acres. A survey started in the spring of 2010 and completed in the spring of 2011, estimated the adult muskellunge population at 200 with a density of 0.33/acre. Average length was 35.7 inches with a range from 12.3 – 46.7 inches. 50-inch minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 1 fish. Three public boat access points exist on the lake, which are controlled by the township and county. Each site has a paved launch and trailer parking available. There are shore fishing opportunities at the Fox Court boat landing on the northern part of the lake, and off of the Sauk County Park land at the southern end of the lake. The new 50-inch minimum length limit, enacted in 2012, will help create the potential for a trophy fishery.

Pike Lake Chain (Pike, Round, Turner, and Amik lakes), Price and Vilas counties

1905 combined acres. Pike Lake Chain- results from our spring netting 2012 survey 87% of musky greater than 20 inches are 30 inches or longer (quality size) 36% of musky greater than 20 inches are 38 inches or longer (preferred size) 15% of musky greater than 20 inches are 42 inches or longer (memorable size) Our measures suggest low to moderate adult population density throughout the Chain and, as expected, musky were more abundant in the two larger lakes than in Turner and Amik Lakes. Size structure was similar among Amik, Pike and Round lakes, but our surveys revealed no musky of preferred size in Turner Lake. The minimum length of muskellunge is 40 inches. Motor trolling is permitted on Pike, Round, and Turner lakes only (permitted county-wide in Price County). Trolling is not permitted on Amik Lake. Public boat access to the Chain from two public boat landings on Round Lake. USDA Forest Service Landing off of Forest Road 144—suitable for most boats; parking in federal fee area requires annual or daily permit. State landing off of Thorofare Road near connecting channel between Pike and Round Lakes—shallow water boat access; no fees. Slow-no wake restrictions in connecting waters. In the Anishinaabe language, amik means "beaver." WDNR stocks musky as large fingerlings into Pike, Round, and Turner lakes in alternate years. Numerous log fish cribs placed throughout Pike and Round Lake about 15 years ago. A portage trail at the north end of Round Lake provides walk-in shorefishing and carry-in boat access to Tucker Lake.

Wisconsin River, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams and Juneau counties

The muskellunge population in the Wisconsin River has been surveyed in recent years in various flowages from Merrill downstream to Castle Rock Lake. These surveys show that muskies have great growth and the system is capable and is in fact producing trophy size (50 inch) fish. In the 2010 fish survey of Petenwell Lake, 232 muskies were caught. Based on this survey data, most age classes are growing faster than or the same as the average growth observed for musky in Wisconsin. Of the muskies that were at least stock length (20 inches), 99% were at least of quality length size (30 inches), 39% were at least of preferred size (38 inches), and 17% were at least of memorable size (42 inches). During our 2012 fall sturgeon survey on the Biron Flowage, five muskies were caught and all were greater than 40 inches and were very thick fish. The minimum length limit for muskellunge is 45 inches with a daily bag limit of one. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. Multiple waterbodies on the Wisconsin River system are Class A1 waters, these waters are best known as "trophy waters" for their ability to consistently produce a number of large fish, but overall the abundance of muskies may be relatively low. These waterbodies include: Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Lake Dubay, Mosinee Flowage, Lake Wausau, Stevens Point Flowage, Wisconsin River sections in Stevens Point and Whiting, Biron Flowage, Petenwell Lake, and Castle Rock Lake. All other sections of the river are Class B waters, meaning these waters provide good fishing. A large number of muskies in the river are tagged with orange internal anchor tags, placed on their belly between their pectoral and pelvic fins. Anglers should report this valuable recapture information by calling the telephone number on the tag. The information reported should be the tag number, fish length, and as much information as they want to give about the location where the fish was caught.

Spider and Tiger Cat , Sawyer County

(1,454 and 1,012 acres, respectively). Both of these lakes have a really low hours/catch for muskellunge (12 and 19 hours respectively). Muskies are caught in Spider at over twice the rate of the statewide average (27 hours/catch) 28 inch minimum length limit. Spider (state launch off of Murphy blvd.), Tigercat (boat access off of Twin Lakes Rd., some fishing areas above and below the dam) Both of these lakes have high density muskellunge populations. Great places for an angler to come and try to catch their first musky. Also a good place to take kids musky fishing because of the high likelihood of action.

Little Green Lake Green Lake County

466 acres. Little Green is one of the few lakes in this part of the State to provide a musky fishery. It is a stocked fishery and receives an annual quota of fall fingerlings from the DNR and also gets some supplemental stocking by local lake groups. Angler caught fish typically average around 38", but fish upwards of 50" have been caught in recent years. Little Green falls under the standard statewide regulation for musky; opening on the first Saturday in May and ending on December 31st. The minimum length limit is 40" with a bag of one. There are three public access points around the lake and one private landing located at Todd's Landing.

Twin Valley Lake, Iowa County

140 acres. Twin Valley Lake located in Gov. Dodge State Park. The lake has a good boat access and parking. A park sticker is required. The lake is extremely heavily fished for musky. The lake is electric motor only. Twin Valley Lake has quite possibly the highest density of 30" to 40" muskies in the state. There are very few fish over the 40" length limit. Twin Valley Lake was the first lake in the state to have the 40" length limit which has now become the statewide limit. The length limit will not be raised as the food base in this lake is not suitable for really large fish. It will continue to be managed as a high density, medium-sized fish fishery. The fishery is the result of WDNR stocking.

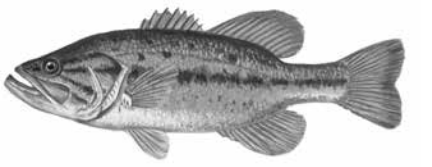
Big Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County

286 acres. An adult population estimate from 2011 and 2012 surveys yielded an estimate of 83 adult fish, or 1 muskellunge per ~3 acres in Big Elkhart Lake. This density coupled with an excellent forage base which includes cisco allows for very good growth. Lengths ranged from 30 - 49.4 inches and averaged 36.4 inches. Minimum length limit is 50 inches, with a daily bag of 1. A public boat launch can be found on CTH P Since 2009 the DNR has stocked the "Great Lakes Spotted" (GLS) muskellunge strain into the lake. Prior to their release, the GLS muskellunge are rigorously tested for diseases and micro-tagged to aid in identification later in life. The goal of the 50-inch length limit and stocking is to develop a population of adult fish that can be spawned to aid in the restoration of GLS muskellunge into Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Elkhart Lake was selected as a brood water because of its nearness to Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery and the lakes' proven ability to grow large muskies.

Lake Monona, Dane County

One of the premier musky lakes without the drive is Madison's Lake Monona . Lying in the heart of Dane county's urban environment, 3274 acre lake Monona has gained quite a reputation for big, heavy fish. DNR survey crews completed a population estimate in 2012, netting 114 fish to recapture marked fish from the previous spring. The final density estimate was .49 adult (greater than 30") musky /acre, well with in the upper crust of muskellunge waters statewide. The largest fish was 47.8" and tipped scales at over 27 pounds. The musky season runs to December 31 with a 1 fish over 45" length limit, 5 inches longer than the current statewide 40" regulation. The City of Madison provides launches on the west shore at Olin park, and the east shore at Olbrich launch. A daily fee of $8 (seasonal $45 for non-county residents) is charged. Monona has had several fish over 50" caught and released in the past few years

LARGEMOUTH BASS



Big Arbor Vitae Lake, Vilas County

1.090 acres. A spring 2011 electrofishing survey found 37.7 bass per mile. In a creel survey conducted that same year anglers caught an estimated 10,017 largemouth bass during the game fish season. 14 inch minimum length limit, 5 fish bag limit (located within the northern catch and release season zone) Access to the lake is by one of two state boat landings. One is located on the south shore of the lake off of State Hwy 70. The other is located on the north shore off Buckhorn Road. This lake also has a low density but quality smallmouth bass fishery.

Minocqua Chain of Lakes, Shishebogama and Gunlock lakes, Oneida County.

Beginning in 2012, there is no minimum length limit on bass in the 5,841-acre Minocqua Chain of lakes. A fall, 2012 survey of 11 shoreline miles on Minocqua Lake turned up a catch of 102 largemouth bass, with most of the fish running 8 to 15 inches. Shishebogama and Gunlock Lake also boasted high largemouth numbers, with size centered on about 12 inches. Shishebogama (716 acres, Oneida and Vilas Counties) has a 14-inch minimum length limit for bass, while Gunlock (250 acres, Vilas County) has an 18-inch minimum. A rule change to exempt both lakes from bass length limits has been initiated, and if supported it can take effect as early as 2016. Gunlock has the only public boat landing for both lakes, which are connected by a channel.

Delavan Lake, Walworth County

2072 acres. The largemouth bass population in Delavan Lake is maintained by natural reproduction, and several year classes are present. An electrofishing survey in 2012 sampled bass at the rate of 49 per mile and the population estimate was 3 adults per acre. Bass size structure is excellent with most bass in the 16-inch to 17.9-inch range. The largest bass in the sample was 20.4 inches. 14% of the bass are over 18 inches. The minimum length limit is 18 inches and the daily bag limit is 1. Public boating access is provided at the Town of Delavan boat launch facility off highway

Fisheries technician Brad Shucha and Wildlife technician Nick Neuens with some solid largemouth bass captured in Pickerel Lake. Photo by Greg Matzke

50. Boat launching fees are enforced by the Town. Fish management on Delavan Lake includes special fishing regulations that are designed to produce quality size gamefish and panfish. Delavan Lake also supports a relatively low density population of quality size smallmouth bass.

Geneva Lake, Walworth County.

5262 acres. Geneva Lake produces plenty of big largemouth bass for the angler. Fish surveys in 2011-2012 sampled bass up to 20

inches and over 5 pounds. Average length of the bass in the 2012 survey was 16.1 inches. Most of the bass were between 17 and 18 inches, and 87% were larger than 14 inches. The minimum length limit is 14 inches and the daily bag limit is 5. Public boating access is available at municipal boat launch facilities located in the city of Lake Geneva, Village of Fontana, and Town of Linn. Boat launching fees are enforced. Geneva Lake also supports a moderately dense population of quality size smallmouth bass.

Browns Lake, Racine County

396 acres. Electrofishing surveys in 2011 and 2012 confirmed the presence of a healthy bass population with very good size structure. Largemouth bass averaged 14.1 inches and most of the bass were between 15 and 16 inches. The largest bass was 17.6 inches. 14% of the bass were larger than 16 inches. The minimum length limit is 16 inches and the daily bag limit is 5. Public boating access is located on the southeast side of the lake in Fischer County Park off highway 11. Boat launching fees are enforced by Racine County.

Eagle Lake, Racine County

515 acres. Anglers who like to practice catch and release on a fast growing bass population with good size structure will want to try Eagle Lake. Spring electrofishing surveys in 2011 and 2012 sampled largemouth bass at the rate of 22 per mile. Lengths ranged between 3.2 and 17.1 inches and the average length was 14.3 inches. Most of the bass were 15 to 16 inches. Bass are in excellent condition as indicated by an average relative weight value of 114. The minimum length limit is 22 inches and the daily bag limit is 1. Public boating access is provided at Eagle Lake County Park on the north side of the lake off of Church Road, and at the Town of Dover boat launch facility on the west side of the lake at the end of Minnetonka Road. Boat Launching fees are enforced. Eagle Lake is in its fourth year of a Biomanipulation project with special fishing regulations designed to produce larger than average gamefish and panfish for the angler. The lake has been stocked with largemouth bass each of the last 4 years.

George Lake, Kenosha County

59 acres. This small lake supports an impressive population of largemouth bass. An electrofishing survey in 2012 collected 79 bass per mile, and the 2012 year class is strong. Lengths ranged between 6.3 and 20.2 inches and 33 % of the bass were 14 inches or larger. The minimum length limit is 14 inches and the daily bag limit is 5. Public boating access is provided by a gravel launch ramp off of 106th Street on the south side of the lake.

Big Muskego Lake, Waukesha County

2200 surface acres Average length – 14 inches. 18-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1. There are three public launches located on the lakes' east, south and southeast sides found on Boxhorn and Durham Drive. This shallow system has heavy aquatic plants and big bass. Restrictive regulations provide exciting action for bass and pike.

Eagle Spring Lake, Waukesha County

270 surface acres Average length – 9 inches. No minimum length limit - largemouth bass and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches may not be kept, and only 1 fish over 18 inches is allowed. The daily bag limit is 3. The public launch is located on the lakes' east side off of county Highway E, near Eagle Spring Pub. Looking for a nice meal? This lake has an abundant population of largemouth so anglers are encouraged to harvest bass less than 14" to help thin the population and balance the predator prey relationship.

Florence County waters

Florence County offers some fantastic largemouth bass fishing. The Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes boasts a very high density (7.4 adults/acre) along with Keyes Lake (5.0/acre). If you are up for a challenge try Patten Lake, it has a low largemouth density (1.1/acre) but is home to some of the best trophy bass in northern Wisconsin. Sea Lion Lake has the best of both worlds, with a moderate density (3.4/acre) and a good number of large fish, with some fish well over six pounds!

Rabe Lake, Langlade County

Help us eradicate largemouth bass from this 6-acre, naturally reproducing brook trout spring pond; No length limit and daily bag of 5 fish; It is south of STH 64 so it is available for harvest the first Saturday in May; Please take your 5 home today!

Small lakes in Langlade County

Langlade County has hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes; Many of these are on county forest land; Get out your maps or GPS's and explore, you just might find your new honey hole!

Rolling Stone Lake, Langlade County

672 acres; Naturally reproducing largemouth bass population; High density and high size quality fishery

Retired fisheries biologist Ron Theis with a characteristic "chunky" Turtle Flambeau Flowage smallmouth bass. Photo - Lawrence Eslinger.

Pickerel-Crane Chain of Lakes, Forest County

The Pickerel-Crane Chain of Lakes should be high on any bass fisherman's list. The two lakes that make up this chain of lakes could not be more different! Pickerel is a large, shallow lake that contains a lower density of largemouth (1.8/acre); while Crane Lake is a smaller, deeper lake that contains a high density of largemouth (6.2/acre). Pickerel Lake has incredible largemouth bass size structure, with 61% greater than 14 inches and 7% greater than 18 inches. The size structure in Crane is not nearly as good with 23% greater than 14 inches and 1.5% greater than 18 inches. Since these lakes are connected it offers the best of both worlds, anglers looking to catch a lot of bass can fish Crane and then if they decide they want to try to catch a big bass can take a short drive over to Pickerel. These two lakes do have a 18-inch minimum length limit for bass, which is put in place to improve panfish size structure…it has also created this great bass fishery!

Lakes in Lincoln County

Hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes; Many of these are on county forest land; Get out your maps or GPS's and explore, you just might find that secret hot spot!

Caroline Lake, Ashland County

130 acres. 14-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish. 1 public boat landing. Largemouth bass anglers looking for some nice-sized fish in a remote, wilderness setting should consider making a trek to Caroline Lake near Mellen, WI. Roads getting to Caroline can be quite rough, and a sand boat landing area awaits, but Caroline's bucketmouths are worth the effort. A 2012 electrofishing survey captured good numbers of quality-size largemouth bass (≥ 12 inches) at 18.1 per mile of shoreline surveyed (above the 80th percentile amongst statewide populations). However, what really stands out about these largemouth are their size; half of the fish captured were 15 inches or larger, and one fish was measured at over 20 inches. Anglers fortunate enough to experience the good fishing Caroline has to offer are asked to use discretion if choosing to harvest bass. In a small lake such as Caroline, excessive harvest could quickly reduce the number of larger fish present in the population.

Wilson Lake, Iron County

162 acres. No minimum length limit, but bass from 12 through 16 inches may not be kept, daily bag limit of 5 fish. 1 public boat landing. Largemouth bass anglers looking for an opportunity to catch a lot of fish, while keeping some for the frying pan, should head to Wilson Lake near Mercer, WI. Optimal bass habitat, along with a robust population of largemouth, continues to produce strong year-classes of young fish coming up in the population. For this reason, anglers should not be shy about keeping smaller bass; those under the protected slot (less than 12 inches). However, it is encouraged that bass above the protected slot (greater than 16 inches), are released, to help improve the quality of the fishery.

Mead Lake, Clark County

320 acres. Results are based on electrofishing survey of spring 2012 and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of shoreline surveyed (#/mile). Largemouth is the dominant bass species in Mead Lake. Total catch rate was up at 12/mile in 2012 as compared to 4.8/mile in the last survey conducted in 2008. Catch rate of legal (14") and larger fish was also up to 3.4/mile over 2.4/mile in 2008. Mead largemouth bass population experienced a decrease between 2004 and 2008 surveys. Good news is the 2012 survey indicated the bass population is recovering.

Fox Lake, Dodge County

2012 largemouth bass catch rates for fall electrofishing were 79/hour, compared to 67/hour in 2011, a high of 123/hour in 2010 and above the 10-year average of 53/hour. In 2012, largemouth bass ranged in size from 2.3 to 17.6 inches. Fox Lake has an 18-inch minimum length, 1-fish daily bag limit.

Lake Emily, Dodge County

Lake Emily is a small, fertile lake in Dodge County offering largemouth bass fishing opportunities. 2012 largemouth bass catch rates for fall electrofishing were 54/hour, compared to 24/hour in 2006 and 58/hour in 2003. The number of largemouth bass over 14-inches (current legal harvestable size) was 20% in 2012, compared to 14% in 2006 and 29% in 2003. A large number of young-of-the-year (YOY) bass were sampled 2012 indicating good natural reproduction. In 2012, the majority of bass (35%) were between 11 and 13.9 inches.

Rock Lake, Jefferson County

Largemouth bass catch rates for 2012 fall electrofishing were 31/hour, compared to 50/hour in 2011, 51/hour in 2010 and the 10-year average of 50/hour. Largemouth bass ranged from 2.1 to 17-inches with 11% over the legal minimum of 14-inches.

Lake Ripley, Jefferson County

Largemouth bass catch rates for 2012 fall electrofishing were 66/hour, compared to 114/hour in 2011 and 67/hour in 2010, with fish ranging from 1.8-17.7 inches.

Little Falls Flowage, St. Croix County

172 acres. Our 2012 fisheries survey found largemouth bass to be abundant in Little Falls with exceptional size structure. A one night electrofishing survey produced 320 bass ranging up to 20 inches. Fourteen to 17-inch fish were common. Fifty-three percent of the sample were over 14 inches and seven percent were 18 inches and larger. This lake truly produces trophy size largemouth bass with several fish approaching 6 pounds. Smallmouth bass are also present in low densities. 14-inch length limit, bag limit is 5 bass in total. It has one boat ramp found within Willow River State Park near Hudson, Wisconsin. In addition, there are a series of handicapped shore fishing platforms available to anglers. The flowage lies within a scenic wooded valley with an undeveloped shoreline. Gas or electric motors are prohibited on the lake. Camping and trout fishing is also available in the park.

Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County

450 acres. Anglers looking to catch trophy-size largemouth bass should give Yellowstone Lake a try. Electrofishing surveys in 2012 revealed an excellent bass fishery. Two hundred and eighteen largemouth bass were sampled. The size ranged from 6.5 to 22.5 inches with an average size of 15.2 inches. Fifty-six percent of the largemouth bass sampled were greater than 16 inches while 24% were over 18 inches. Only bass between 12" and 15" may be harvested. Daily bag limit is 2 game fish in total. There are two boat launches available and one canoe launch. There are multiple fishing pads for disabled anglers. Shore fishing opportunities are ample. Yellowstone Lake is located in Yellowstone Lake State Park. Camping, swimming beach, pet area and picnic areas are all available. There is also a bait shop with boat rental located lakeside.

Fish Lake, Dane County

199 acres. A spring survey in 2012 sampled bass over 12 inches at the rate of 29.6 per mile which ranks it in the 94th percentile statewide. The largest two bass in the sample were 20.6 and 21.0 inches long. Additionally, 16% of the bass sampled were over 18 inches. 18-inch minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of one. An unimproved, shallow, gravel boat landing maintained by Dane Co. exists on the west end of the lake. The park adjacent to the boat ramp has picnic benches, trailer parking, and a restroom. Fish Lake has a maximum depth of 62 feet which has historically helped support a native cisco population.

Half Moon Lake, Polk County

579 acres The catch rate of largemouth bass during the 2012 spring electrofishing survey was 50 fish per mile, of those 89% were between 9-14 inches. Half Moon Lake is a good lake for the "harvest-oriented" bass angler, or anyone interested in fast angling

Two sizable smallmouth bass captured during a survey in Chequamegon Bay, handled by fisheries technician Scott Sapper, Bayfield. Photo - Randy Besonen

action. No minimum length limit; 5 fish daily bag limit There are two public boat landings on the lake. The landing on the north end of the lake is off 200th Ave., and the landing on the south end of the lake is

off 190th Ave. Half Moon Lake is one of four largemouth bass-walleye study lakes in Polk County that does not have a minimum length limit for largemouth bass.

Pokegama Lake, Washburn County

453 acres In a 2012 survey, 82 largemouth bass over 15 inches were captured over 5.5 miles of shoreline, better than 99% of surveys from similar waterbodies. No minimum length limit, 5-fish bag limit, Early catch and release season. Township Access at south end of lake. Pokegama Lake has a healthy, self-sustaining fishery with no documented fish stocking since 1954.

Swan Lake, Columbia County

407 acres. A spring survey in 2009 sampled largemouth bass over 12 inches at the rate of 22.6 per mile of shoreline, which ranks it in the 88th percentile statewide. There were 2 largemouth bass in the sample that were 20.0 inches long. 14-inch minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 5. A public boat ramp and trailer parking lot exists on the south shore, equidistant from the east and west ends of the lake. Swan Lake is a naturally occurring lake on the Fox River system with a maximum depth of 82 feet.

Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties

Under 140 acres. Recent surveys have shown most lakes in Manitowoc County are largemouth bass lakes. Larger lakes such as Long, Cedar, Pigeon and Wilke Lakes have bass populations that feature a mixture of sizes that will provide anglers some good angling. Bass are present in smaller lakes but in lower number. Lakes in Kewaunee County are also bass lakes and populations are fair. Manitowoc and southern Kewaunee County (south of Highway 29) are in the southern Bass Zone while lakes in northern Kewaunee County (north of Highway 29 are in the Northern Bass Zone). Access is good for most Manitowoc and Kewaunee County boat ramps with good signage and ramps.

Mississippi River – Pool 5, Buffalo County

Good numbers above and below the 14-inch length limit. 14-inch minimum length; 5 in total with smallmouth bass. Dairyland Power Landing, Belvidere Slough Landing, 10th Street Landing, Upper and Lower Spring Lake Landings. Great reproduction continues for largemouth bass signaling good fishing into the foreseeable future.

Mason Lake, Adams County

Mason Lake was surveyed in May 2012. The average size was 12.5 inches and the largest fish was 20 inches. Of the fish caught 22% were greater than 14 inches. Largemouth catch rate from spring electrofishing was high at 31fish/hour. Season is the 1st Saturday in May to the 1st Sunday in March, bag limit of 5 bass total, minimum length 14 inches. Angler access is excellent with three boat landings. One launch is located on the east side of the lake off of County Hwy A, another is found near the end of 1st Drive and Grouse Court, and a boat launch is located off of Golden Drive.

Stevens Point Flowage, Portage County

The Stevens Point Flowage was surveyed in 2009. The average size was 14.0 inches and the largest fish was 20 inches. Of the fish caught, 39% were greater than 14 inches. Largemouth bass numbers have been increasing since 2009, catch rate from summer electrofishing has increased from 3 to10 fish/hour. Largemouth bass recruitment in 2011 and 2012 as determined from summer electrofishing has been excellent. About 90% of the catch has been comprised of young-of -year and age-2 fish, which indicates fishing will continue to improve. No closed season, minimum length limit 14 inches, bag limit 5 bass in total. Bukolt Park and Franklin Street boat landings in the City of Stevens Point. On The west side of the flowage is the County Hwy HH boat landing, River Road boat landing, and Dubay Dam boat landing off Dam Road. The Stevens Point Flowage provides very good backwater habitat both for fish and for anglers. An extensive network of channels and bays offer good spawning grounds and angling opportunities.

Chetac and Nelson lakes, Sawyer County

(2,716 acres). Chetac 14-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 5. Southern bass zone, Nelson no minimum length limit 5 daily bag and northern bass zone. Nelson Lake (boat launches off of Tag

Catching fish and smiles. A young angler shows a nice smallmouth bass caught on a recent fishing trip. Photo - Al Niebur.

Alder Rd., Gerlachs Rd., shore fishing opportunities around dam and at county park near dam). Both of these lakes have a high density of largemouth bass. Chetac currently has more potential for size. In Nelson new regulations are in place to allow some harvest of small bass which is a management action that will promote faster growth rates.

Cox Hollow, Twin Valley and Blackhawk lakes, Iowa County

Cox Hollow Lake (85 A.) & Twin Valley Lake (140 A.) are located in Gov. Dodge State Park. Both lakes have a good boat access and parking. A park sticker is required. Both lakes are very heavily fished. Both lakes are electric motors only. Cox Hollow Lake currently has a no length limit and 5 bag limit regulation on largemouth bass (LMB). It has a good population of largemouth bass in the 10" to 13" range with a fair population of larger fish up to 20" Twin Valley Lake currently has a 14" length limit and 5 daily bag limit regulation on LMB. It has a fair population of LMB in the 10" to 13" range with a fair population of larger fish up to 20". Blackhawk Lake (210 acres.) has a good boat access and parking in the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. A local park sticker is required and priced the same as the State Parks. The lake has a slow-no-wake regulation. Blackhawk Lake currently has a no length limit & 5 bag limit regulation on largemouth bass but a recommended voluntary "harvest slot" of 9" to 13". It has an outstanding population of largemouth bass including a large number of 14" to 20" fish.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Big Lake (Hwy K), Vilas County

850 acres. A recent survey found that 815 of the bass were greater than 15 inches in length. Catch and release only. Access to the lake is by one of two state boat landings. One is located on the south shore of the lake off of County Hwy K. The other is located in the state forest campground in the NW corner off Hwy P. This lake is the largest in the state that is catch and release for bass during the entire game fish season.

Hodstradt and Lone Stone lakes, Oneida County

We found good numbers and moderate to good size of smallmouth in 126-acre Hodstradt and 172-acre Lone Stone Lake during spring electrofishing surveys. Both are clear-water lakes with mostly sand and gravel shorelines.

Nagawicka Lake, Waukesha County

970 surface acres Average length – 14 inches. 14" minimum length, daily bag limit of 1 The public launch is located on the lakes' east side off of Mariner Drive. Rocky substrate and woody structure provides awesome habitat for smallmouth bass. White suckers and panfish is the primary forage base. Trophy size northern pike are also present as well as a decent walleye population.

Enterprise, Sawyer and Rose lakes, Langlade County

All of these are now naturally reproducing populations following introductory stockings by the lake associations; The Sawyer and Rose populations are still expanding and growing and are made up of mostly small fish in the 12" to 16" range; Enterprise Lake has a low density, high quality smallie population.

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawksin, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the connecting riverine portions),

Lincoln County – about 5,000 acres of high density and high quality smallmouth bass populations

Gile Flowage, Iron County

3,384 acres. No minimum length limit, but bass from 14 to 18 inches may not be kept, and only one fish over 18 inches is allowed, daily bag limit of 3 fish. 4 public boat landings. The Gile Flowage contains one of the most robust smallmouth bass fisheries in the northern part of the state. A 2011 bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 18.5 smallmouth (greater than 7 inches) per mile of shoreline surveyed, which falls above the upper 90th percentile amongst statewide populations. Of the 185 bass sampled of at least 7 inches during the 2011 survey, a striking 48% were 14 inches or larger. Anglers seeking some rod-bending, bronzeback action should head to the Gile!

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Iron County

13,545 acres. 15-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 2 fish. 6 public boat landings, camping available. A combination of favorable habitat, restrictive harvest regulations, and angler catch-and-release practices has developed a quality smallmouth bass fishery on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. A 2012 bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 13.8 smallmouth (greater than 7 inches) per mile of shoreline surveyed, which falls above the upper 85th percentile for smallmouth bass populations statewide. Of the 237 bass sampled of at least 7 inches during the 2012 survey, an impressive 46% were 14 inches or larger. With the help of a healthy, native crayfish population, the smallmouth bass in the flowage are typically very heavy for their length.

Upper Black River, Clark and Jackson counties, Lower Black River, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau counties.

Black River, upper and lower: Smallmouth is dominant bass species in the upper and lower river. Results based on electrofishing surveys and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed (#/mile). Upper river total catch rate was up at 122/mile in 2012 over 102/mile in 2011. Catch rate for legal (14") and larger fish was down slightly to 13/mile compared to 14/mile in 2011. Lower river total catch rate was up at 7.7/mile in 2012 over 5.4/mile in 2011. Catch rate for legal (14") and larger fish was up to 2.9/mile in 2012 over 1/mile in 2011. Smallmouth bass up to 20 inches were captured by DNR survey crews in both the upper and lower Black River in 2012.

Middle Eau Claire, Bayfield County Lower Eau Claire Lake and Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County

(880, 784 and 986 acres respectively) Middle Eau Claire average length = 15.2 inches, range = 6 to 20.5, % greater than 16 in = 46%. Lower Eau Claire average length = 11.7 inches, range = 3.7 to 19.2, % greater than 16 in = 26%. Lake Nebagamon average length = 14.7 inches, range = 7.2 to 19.0, % greater than 16 in = 28%. 14-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 5. Northern bass zone regulations.All lakes have public boat launches. All lakes have potential for 20"+ fish. All very clear and have rocky structure to fish. Crayfish are a popular diet item in these lakes.

Chequamegon Bay - Lake Superior, Bayfield and Ashland counties

Chequamegon Bay deserves its reputation as a trophy smallmouth fishery. Spring surveys have shown the average length of smallmouth to be around 18 inches. Many year-classes contribute to the population and we consistently see fish older than 20 years. May 4 through June 14 is catch and release only. From June 15 to March 2 one fish over 22 inches can be kept. Prior to the current regulation, the average length of Chequamegon Bay smallmouth was only 14 inches and most fish were less than 10 years old. The current fishery gives anglers a greater opportunity to tangle with trophy fish!

Florence County waters

Good smallmouth bass fishing can be found throughout the Menominee River (and it's flowages) and lower sections of the Pine River. If you want to fish inland lakes, try Ellwood for action (4.4/acre) or test yourself for trophy smallmouth in Patten Lake (0.9/acre).

Green Bay waters of Door County

The smallmouth bass fishery continues to be exceptional along portions of Door County's shoreline and the trend is expected to continue in 2013. Smallmouth size at age has been steadily increasing within the past decade and the size of the fish in the harvest continues to impress. The most recent spawning survey (2009 Sturgeon Bay/Little Sturgeon Bay areas) indicated younger age classes (4 - 6 yrs) were well represented; suggesting that by 2013 there should be a good number of fish in the range of 18" – 20" in the population. Fish in excess of 7 pounds have been reported from tournaments in recent years so the chance to catch a true trophy in these waters exists. Future smallmouth fishing opportunities continue to look optimistic as sub-adult fish are well

Held with kids' gloves...albeit two pair. A large northern pike is displayed from a recent fisheries survey on Bear Lake, Oconto County.

represented in the population and continue to show up in surveys and angler reports. The rules vary by location and date, anglers should check for smallmouth fishing rules in the Tributary Stream to Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for season and harvest rules. There are many boat launches in the area including several in Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay; Peninsula State Park is one of the sites that provide access to areas in northern Door County. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to: *http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess* for a listing of some of the launches in the area. However, anglers are advised to check ahead as low water levels in Lake Michigan have made use of some boat launches difficult to impossible so use caution. One of the better shore fishing sites is the Olde Stone Quarry

County Park that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay. Survey data have demonstrated increasing numbers of smallmouth bass in this area in recent years.

Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Branch and Fox rivers, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Brown Counties

These rivers see good smallmouth bass runs each year during May and continuing through early July while water temperatures remain below 70F. On the Kewaunee River, anglers fish along state and county owned shoreline seeking out pools and large boulders that hold many fish. On the Manitowoc and Branch Rivers, pool habitat is limited so wading anglers should look for boulders and large woody debris. Bass captured bass during a 2009 survey of the Branch River ranged in size from 6 inches

Mercer Fisheries Biologist, Lawrence Eslinger, with a 38-inch pike sampled during a recent netting survey on the Gile Flowage. Photo - Jim Zarzycki.

to 16 inches with many over 10 inches. Boat anglers seeking smallmouth bass on the Fox River fish the rocks on the edge of the current near the DePere Dam or other structures found in downtown Green Bay. 14-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 5. The Kewaunee River is in the northern Bass zone. The other rivers are in the southern bass zone. Kewaunee River- State and County land between Footbridge and County Highway F. Manitowoc and Branch Rivers- road crossing. Fox River- launch at Fox Point or the Metro Launch. Habitat work in the Kewaunee River that was done in 1995 to improve adult habitat for migrating trout and salmon by narrowing the river channel to increase velocity and by placing large boulders as current breaks has provided smallmouth bass abundant clean rock for spawning and provides adult holding locations. Surveys conducted to monitor the out migration of stocked trout and salmon in 2004-2008 have documented increased usage of this area by smallmouth bass since completion of the habitat work.

Rock Lake, Jefferson County

2012 smallmouth bass catch rates were 21/hour, compared to a high of 55/hour in 2011 and the 10-year average of 32/hour. Smallmouth bass ranged in size from 2.8 to 15.1 inches.

Wisconsin River, Marathon and Portage County

The smallmouth bass population is surveyed each year on the Wisconsin River through summer electrofishing. From 2010 to 2012, average catch rate of smallmouth bass was 18 fish per hour and on average 28% of the fish were greater than 14 inches. The Wisconsin River from Merrill to Wausau, and from Rothschild to Mosinee had the largest fish. The number of young-of-year fish caught over the last two years has been excellent throughout the river and the fishery should remain good in the future. No closed season; 14 inch minimum length; bag limit is 5 bass in total. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. There is one special regulation on the Wisconsin River in Portage County, an 18-inch minimum length limit (bag of 1) below the Stevens Point Flowage Dam to Al-Tech Park Spillway. This river section also has the highest 3 year average catch rate, at 35 fish per hour, making this river section an outstanding catch and release fishery. Access is excellent as well, with many small parking spots along West River Drive and one boat landing, and a fishing pier at the end of Wisconsin Street in Stevens Point.

Grindstone, Round, Lac Courte Oreilles, Sawyer County

Smallmouth in Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone range from 10 to over 20 inches with most adults in the 14-17-inch range.14-inch minimum length limit with a 5 daily bag limit in the northern bass zone Grindstone (access off of Cty. Hwy. K). All lakes have potential for 20"+ fish. All very clear and have tons of rocky structure to fish. Crayfish are a popular diet item in these lakes.

Lower Red River (Weed Dam downstream to Wolf River Confluence), Shawano County

Approx. 12 miles of river. Recent surveys of the Red River indicate moderate densities of smallmouth bass with over 30% of bass over 14 inches and several bass attaining 18 inches. 14-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5. Red River canoe/kayak accesses are found at the Weed Dam near Gresham or County Land off Butternut Rd. with takeouts at downstream road crossings (CTH A in Red River and Maple Rd). If floating the river, be cautious of several rapids which should be portaged around. Two large and very scenic waterfalls are located on the Red River between the Weed Dam and CTH A.

Menominee River, Grant County

5.3 miles. The Menominee River of Grant County supports a good smallmouth bass fishery. Surveys in 2012 sampled 237 smallmouth bass ranging in size from 2.4 to 12.4 inches. Minimum length limit of 14 inches. Daily bag limit of 5. The Menominee River does not have any public fishing easements. If you do go, stay in the stream or ask permission before walking along the banks. Hidden in far southwest Wisconsin, the Menominee River offers anglers a unique opportunity to fish a small rocky stream. The Menominee River is a tributary to the Mississippi River flowing south out of Wisconsin through northwest Illinois. The 2012 smallmouth bass spawning season was excellent for the small streams in southwest Wisconsin. Anglers should see an increase in smallmouth bass success over the next few years.

Long Lake, Chippewa County

1052 acres. Excellent size structure of top end smallmouth bass with many fish over 18 inches. 18-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1 bass. County boat landing on west side off lake off of HWY 40. This lake is in the southern bass zone. Target smallmouth near submerged woody structure in mid-May in pre-spawning conditions.

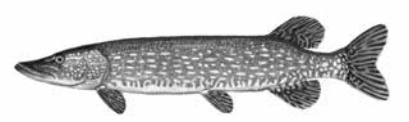
Narrows Creek, Sauk County

18.5 miles. In 2009 survey data showed smallmouth bass densities within the habitat improvement areas averaged 261 fish per mile, with 57 smallmouth bass over 10 inches per mile. There was a huge year class of smallmouth bass from 2007 that have now reached legal size and should provide excellent fishing for 2013. 14-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit is 5 fish. The general state fishing season dates for the southern bass zone apply. There are twelve bridge crossings over Narrows Creek along with over 4 miles of public fishing easements. There has been intensive habitat improvement work completed on most of the public easement areas. The name Narrows Creek comes from an area where the stream cuts its way through the Baraboo Bluffs creating a very scenic narrow quartzite lined valley.

Lake Mendota, Dane County

In the shadow of the state capital, lake Mendota is becoming one of the state's smallmouth destinations. Fall 2012 samples captured strong numbers of bass, with average size being 12.5". Crews handled many fish exceeding 18". Locating fish in the 9842 acre lake may sound difficult but find rock and you'll find smallmouth . The east shore is excellent habitat, as are the north shorelines along second point and the University of Wisconsin campus. A restrictive 18" minimum length limit pushes fish out beyond 20" with fish over 5 lbs fairly commonplace. Excellent boat launches exist around the lake with Warner park on the city's east side and Marshall park on the west shore being popular. Smallmouth are not stocked in the big lake but have become well established due to favorable habitat, forage, and harvest regulation.

NORTHERN PIKE



Indian Lake, Oneida County

397 acres. The lake has an abundant pike population. In 2012 we saw high numbers of fish under 20 inches, with a few larger fish up to 27.4 inches in length.

Delavan Lake, Walworth County

2072 acres. Northern pike in Delavan Lake are doing very well, and stocking is not required. A 2012 fyke net survey confirmed good overall size structure. Most of the females were between 26 and 29 inches and the largest was 37 inches. Most of the males were between 20 and 22 and the largest was 32 inches. 12% of the females were larger than the minimum length limit of 32 inches. The minimum length limit is 32 inches and the daily bag limit is 1. Public boating access is provided at the Town of Delavan boat launch facility off highway 50. Boat launching fees are enforced. Delavan Lake is managed with special fishing regulations that are designed to produce quality size gamefish and panfish.

Eagle Lake, Racine County

515 acres. Eagle Lake is a good choice for anglers interested in plenty of action on northern pike. 1,085 northern pike were collected during a fyke net survey in 2012. Lengths ranged between 12.0 and 33.9 inches. Most of the northerns were 17 to 18 inches. The fish were in excellent condition as indicated by average relative weight values of 104 for males, and 123 for females. The minimum length limit is 40 inches and the daily bag limit is 1. Public boating access is provided on the north side of the lake in Eagle Lake County Park off Church Road, and on the west side of the lake at the Town of Dover launch ramp at the end of Minnetonka Road. Boat launching fees are enforced. Eagle Lake is in its fourth year of a biomanipulation project with special fishing regulations designed to produce quality size gamefish. The lake has been stocked with northern pike each of the last 4 years.

Other waters stocked with northern pike in Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha Counties include lakes Beulah, Comus, Whitewater, Cravath, Como, Lauderdale, Pleasant, Potters, Rice, Tripp, Turtle, Elizabeth, George, Hooker, Mary, Powers, Rock, Andrea, Lilly, Paddock, Vern Wolf, Wind, Tichigan, Bohners, Waubeesee, and the Fox River.

Bear, Munger and Lake John, Oconto County

Bear and Munger Lakes - Northern pike averaged 18.8 inches and ranged in length from 8.6 to 29.8 inches during the last survey. The adult density of northern pike was 6.0 / acre and above average compared to other lakes in northeast Wisconsin. 26 inch minimum length / 2 fish per day. A boat landing is located on Munger Lake off of Lake John Road. Bear Lake can be accessed through the channel connecting the lakes.

Lake John - Northern pike accounted for 8% of the fish collected during the last survey. Pike ranged in length from 5.6 to 31.5 inches and averaged 19.8 inches. The last population estimate was conducted in 2009 and showed an adult density of approximately 3.1 pike per acre. 26 inch minimum length / 2 fish per day. A single boat landing is located off of Hatchery Lane on the south side of the lake.

Rolling Stone Lake, Langlade County

672 acres. Naturally reproducing pike population; We did a survey out there in 2012 and even though the numbers have not been completely crunched yet, I feel confident in saying that there is a high density pike population present; The size quality is not the greatest since a big portion of the population is made up of young fish, but if these fish continue to grow and get thinned out some, which usually isn't a problem on this popular ice-fishing destination, good pike fishing should continue for years to come!

Florence County waters

I like to refer to Florence County as "the northern pike capital of Wisconsin". Northern pike populations exist in nearly every lake in Florence County, and I have been pleasantly surprised by the presence of trophy pike in nearly every lake that I have surveyed. If you are looking for action, the highest density pike populations are in Patten and Sea Lion Lakes. If you are looking for trophy pike, start by trying lake…..well I can't make it that easy….start in Florence County.

Spirit Reservoir, Lincoln County

1,667 acres. Naturally reproducing pike population; 2005 adult population estimate of 2.8 per acre signaling a high density population; At that time most pike were in the 15-22" range

Gile Flowage, Iron County

3,384 acres. No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5. 4 public boat landings. The Gile Flowage has a long history of being known to produce high numbers of northern pike, as well as the ability to grow the occasional 40-incher. As anticipated, a 2012 spring netting survey resulted in high catch rates of pickler-size pike (20 inches and smaller), along with the presence of a few fish at or above 34 inches, including one heavy 38-incher.

Lake Six, Iron County

148 acres. 26-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 2. 1 public boat landing-Pike anglers looking for a remote adventure, with the possibility of chasing tip-ups all day, should consider trying Lake Six located deep within central Iron County. A 2010 spring netting survey, documented a high catch rate of pike, with 22% of the 208 sampled fish being 21 inches or better. At the present, Lake Six pike are managed under a restrictive 26-inch minimum length limit. However, due to what now appears to be a very high density of pike, their growth rates have plummeted, and only a very small proportion of pike grow to exceed 26 inches (less than 1% during the 2010 survey). A rule change proposal is in place to revert the Lake Six pike regulation back to the statewide no minimum length limit with the objective of lowering pike numbers. If approved, the new regulation should be implemented in 2014. In the meantime, Lake Six pike should provide anglers with a lot of action.

Manawa Millpond, Waupaca County

192 acres. Surveys conducted in 2012 indicate moderate densities (4.6 per acre) of northern pike. Size structure was very good with 54% of net catch over 21.0 inches and 16% over 26.0 inches. 5 daily bag limit, No length limit There are shore fishing opportunities off Manawa City land on the west shoreline and the County Boat Access/Park on the southeast shore off County Hwy

N. Manawa Millpond is an impoundment on the Little Wolf River. Dense growth of aquatic vegetation can make it difficult to fish during mid-summer but it is a very popular ice fishing lake.

Upper Black River, Clark and Jackson counties, and lower Black River, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse and Trempealeau counties.

Black River, upper and lower: Results based on electrofishing surveys and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed (#/mile). Upper river total catch rate of pike dropped to 1.3/mile in 2012 compared to 3/mile in 2011. However, catch rate of larger fish (26"+) was up slightly to 0.4/mile over 0/mile in 2011. Lower river total catch rate of pike was lower in 2012 (2.4/mile) than 2011 (3.7/mile). Catch rate of larger pike (26"+) was slightly lower in 2012 (0.5/mile) than 2011 (0.6/mile).

Lake Emily, Dodge County

Northern pike abundance is high on this small fertile lake, with the adult northern pike population size at an estimated 4 fish per acre with fish up to 37.5 inches present. Northern pike catch rates for 2012 spring fyke netting were 12/net night, compared to 34/net night in 2006 and 7/net night in 1999. In 2012, 9% of the northern pike sampled were greater than 26-inches in length (current legal harvestable size), compared to 15% in 2006 and 4% in 1999. The largest northern pike sampled in 2012 was a 37.5-inch female weighing 11.5 pounds. Small size and heavy aquatic vegetation make this lake challenging to anglers, but good growth rates and the presence of multiple year classes should provide for abundant angling opportunities.

Lake Puckaway, Green Lake and Marquette counties

5,039 acres. The 32" minimum length limit and bag of one continues to keep densities of pike high. Recent surveys continue to show high catch rates (16 fish/net night). Average length of adult pike was 25.7" with the largest fish handled at 38.5" 88% of fish sampled were above quality size (21") with good numbers in the 28-30" range. Anglers can expect plenty of action when the forage base of gizzard shad is down. Adequate access sites are located around the lake. Two developed boat launches are located in the town of Mecan on the north shore and there are three good access points on the south shore in the town of Marquette

Tainter Lake, Dunn County

1,752 acres Since spring of 2006 water levels have been stabilized on Tainter Lake with modifications to the hydro dam. We currently are seeing some beneficial changes in northern pike populations. During the 2012 fisheries fyke net survey, a sub-sample of the Hay River Bay produced 139 northern pike. There were some pretty impressive pike in the bay with extreme length and girth ranging upward to 40 inches. The most abundant size range was 15-25 inches with 15% of the population 26 inches or greater and 7% greater than 32 inches. No length limit with a bag limit of 5. There are four public boat landings on Tainter Lake: Kleist, Lamb's Creek, Northwest and Champney Park. A private landing is also available at Elk Point. Tainter Lake also contains a remnant musky population, a by- product of stocking upstream in the watershed. Don't be surprised if one over 40 inches shows up on the end of your line.

Big Mckenzie Lake, Burnett County

1,185 acres. In a spring 2012 netting survey, 65% of the catchable size northern pike were over 21 inches, with the largest fish measuring 37.5 inches. No minimum length limit, 5 daily bag limit. There is a public access on the north end of the lake, off of County Highway E. Big Mckenzie is a deep, clear water lake with a maximum depth of 71 feet. Deep lakes such as this provide cool water refuge that large northern pike seek during summer.

Nancy Lake, Washburn County

772 acres. In a spring 2012 netting survey, 11% of the catchable size northern pike were over 28 inches, with the largest fish measuring 36 inches. No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish. The primary access is in the southeast side of the lake. There is also an access on the southwest side of the lake. Approximately 23% of Nancy Lake is less than 3 feet in depth, providing good early season northern pike fishing for anglers.

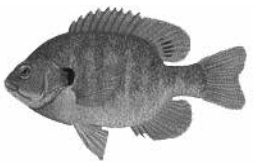
Lake Wausau, Marathon County

The northern pike population in Lake Wausau was surveyed in 2012, catch rate from fyke nets was high and fishing should be outstanding in the next year. The average size was 25.5 inches and the largest fish was 38 inches. Of the fish caught 80% were greater than 21 inches, and 20% were 32 inches or larger. No closed season, no minimum length limit, 5 fish bag limit. Angler access to Lake Wausau is excellent with boat launches at three city parks (Oak Island, Schofield, and Memorial Parks) and Bluegill Bay County Park. Of all the Wisconsin River flowages surveyed in the last 5 years, Lake Wausau has the best size structure for northern pike. The lake also offers access to the Rib River on its upper end, and a network of islands and bays on the lower portions.

Blackhawk Lake, Iowa County

210 acres. Blackhawk Lake has a good boat access and parking in the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. A local park sticker is required and priced the same as the State Parks. The lake has a slow-no-wake regulation. The length limit on northern pike in this lake is 26" with a bag limit of 2. This lake currently has a good population of 20" to 26" fish. There are some fish over the 26" length limit including some 30"+ fish with a few fish in the 40" range. Winter fishing pressure and harvest on northern pike is extremely high. The fishery is the result of WDNR stocking.

PANFISH



Lac Vieux Desert, Vilas County

4,300 acres. A spring 2012 survey found 6.2 crappies per net lift. Fish up to 12.5 inches in length were captured. 25 daily bag limit Access to the lake is by several very good public landing located around the lake. This lake is boundary water with Michigan and is the headwaters of the Wisconsin River.

Panfish lakes in Oneida County

Margaret (88 acres) and Mars (41 acres) are both dark-stained lakes with good numbers of 6-8 inch crappies coming up in spring of 2012. With average growth, these fish will put on about 2 inches a year, providing good fishing down the road. Rainbow Flowage had respectable crappie and perch size, while Gunlock, Julia, McCormick and Shishebogama had good numbers of bluegill over 7 inches.

Middle and Lower Genesee Lakes, Waukesha County

98 and 63 surface acres. Bluegill average length – 7.5 inches. No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. The public launch for both lakes are located on Genesee Lake Road across the street from each others. These smaller kettle lakes can provide a nice creel of bluegills. Lower Genesee Lake is stocked annually with trout in spring.

Silver Lake, Waukesha County

217 surface acres. Species population information: Bluegill average length – 7 inches. No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. The public launch is located on the lakes' east side off of county Hwy B, just south of the city of Oconomowoc. Silver lake has a nice size structure of bluegills.

Moose Lake, Waukesha County

80 surface acres. Bluegill average length – 7 inches. No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. The public launch is located on the lakes' west side off of Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive. This small lake has excellent habitat and a nice size structure of bluegills.

Green Bay, Marinette, Oconto, Door and Brown counties

Good news for perch anglers: The 2010 year class of yellow perch was the 3rd largest in 30 years of surveys. In 2013, those fish should range in size from approximately 8 to 10 inches. The key for anglers will be finding schools of perch as they follow food sources or water temperature changes. Open water harvest estimates of yellow perch in 2011 was 254,942 fish, compared to 225,995 in 2010. The majority of the 2011 open water harvest (41%) was by boat anglers launching at ramps at Door and Kewaunee Counties, followed by boat anglers launching in Brown (20%) and Oconto County (19%). The remaining 20% of harvest was by pier, shore, or stream anglers. The 2012 open water harvest estimates will be available by spring of 2013. The January to March 2012 ice fishing harvest estimate (9,767 fish) was dramatically lower than that of winter 2011 (62,829 fish). This low harvest is largely due to poor ice conditions during the mild winter of 2012. Open May 20 to March 15. Daily limit is 15 yellow perch. No minimum length. There are dozens of boat and shore access locations to fish for yellow perch on Green Bay. Although the majority of yellow perch harvested from Green Bay are 2 and 3 years old, there are a few old perch that still survive. The oldest yellow perch from Green Bay that we've seen in recent years was a 15-¼ inch fish that was aged at 12 years old.

Rolling Stone Lake, Langlade County

672 acres; Year in and year out this lake just keeps producing numbers of quality bluegill, crappie, and perch; It is no secret to anglers as evidenced by the hundreds of ice anglers out there year after year; It probably benefits from partial winterkills, almost on an annual basis, due to the abundance of aquatic plants in this shallow lake burning up the oxygen under the ice; These winterkills probably help to maintain balance of predators and prey and keep the abundant young panfish thinned out enough to allow fast growth to occur.

Small lakes in Langlade County

Hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes; Many of these are on county forest land; Get out your maps or GPS's and explore, you just might find that spot you don't want your neighbor to know about!

Lake Alice, Lincoln County

1,369 acres Bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, and perch; Good habitat + good water quality = good fishing, enough said

Small lakes in Lincoln County

Hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes; Many of these are on county forest land; Get out your maps or GPS's and explore, you just might find a spot you'd never tell your relatives about!

Lake Noquebay, Marinette County

2,409 acres. Ten-inch bluegill and 12-inch crappie can be found in Marinette County's largest lake, Lake Noquebay. The last survey of the lake showed 10% of the bluegill were over 8 inches and 40% of the crappie were greater than 10 inches. Noquebay has good weed growth around the entire lake and the water is relatively clear. 25 in total (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, crappie). Lake Noquebay can be accessed from a county park on the south side of the lake or the DNR boat ramp on the northwest side of the lake.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Iron County

13,545 acres. Daily bag limit of 10 panfish, minimum length limit on crappie of 10 inches. 6 public boat landings, camping available. By nature of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage's predator-dominated fish community, panfish in the Flowage have typically been found in low numbers but at a very good average size. During the most recent angler creel survey conducted on the Flowage (2009-2010), harvested crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch averaged 11.3, 7.8, and 9.5 inches, respectively. A 2012 panfish netting survey (primarily targeting bluegill) captured bluegill at a rate of 16 per net-lift, with 64% of the fish measuring at least 7 inches and 34% at 8 inches or better. Despite the fact that panfish numbers appear to have increased some over the past years, anglers should be aware that they're still in relatively low abundances, and that it will take a little effort to find concentrations of fish.

White Lake, Waupaca County

1026 acres. Surveys conducted in 2012 indicate moderate to high densities of bluegill with over 89% over 6.0 inches and 50% over 7.0 inches. 25 daily bag limit. Three boat launches are located on the South Shore. White Lake is shallow highly vegetated lake with an average depth of 8 feet. A local conservation group operates an aerator during winter months to minimize winterkill.

Tainter Lake, Dunn County

1,752 acres. The black crappie population in Tainter Lake is exceptional at the moment. Our spring 2012 fishery survey found plenty of fish in the 9 to 12-inch range. Of 433 crappie sampled in the Hay River Bay, 40% were over 10 inches, so get out this spring and give it a try. No length limit, Bag limit - 10 panfish in total. There are four public boat landings on Tainter Lake: Kleist, Lamb's Creek, Northwest and Champney Park. A private landing is also available at Elk Point. Due to the nature of this fertile flowage, summer algal blooms are common. Boat anglers are encouraged to get out early in the season. Crappie move into the shallows at ice-out and to spawn when water temperatures reach 60 F. Use an ultra-light rod and reel and tube jigs in yellow or red colors. The Hay River Bay would be a great place to start. Bluegills should be a bonus. Our short survey produced 381bluegill up to 10 inches with 69% over 6 inches.

The Mississippi River means panfish. DNR river biologists use all their might to lift a net full of bluegills, perch, crappies and bass.

Lake Delton, Sauk County

249 Acres. Black crappie are abundant, and in three consecutive spring surveys from 2010-2012, average crappie lengths have increased from 4.2 to 6.0, and from 6.0 to 7.5 inches, respectively. This single age class of crappies should have reached 8.5 - 9.0 inches by fall 2012, providing an excellent fishery for the 2013 season. No minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 25. There are two boat access points on the lake, both of which were redone since 2008. The main landing is located at the intersection of Adams Street and Canyon Road and has two ramps, a restroom, a fishing pier, and 10-12 trailer parking stalls. The other access point is off of Hiawatha Drive, and

has limited parking. A new fishing pier and parking area also exists at the breach site on County Highway A. On June 9, 2008 heavy rains washed out County Highway A, which drained the entire lake. In December of that year, the lake was chemically treated to remove nuisance fish, and was refilled and usable by Memorial Day, 2009.

Lake Nancy, Washburn County

772 acres. In a spring 2012 netting survey, 19% of catchable size black crappie were over 10 inches. No minimum length limit, 25 fish daily bag The primary access is in the southeast side of the lake. There is also an access on the southwest side of the lake. With Eurasian water milfoil present in Lake Nancy, anglers should take extra care to remove all aquatic vegetation from their boats and trailers.

Park Lake, Columbia County

330 acres. In a spring 2011 netting survey, over 3,000 black crappies were captured with an average length of 9.1 inches. Additionally, 67% of the crappies measured were 9 inches or larger. No minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 25. There are three boat access points on the lake. The access points off of Lintner Road and Island Drive are single land ramps with limited parking and are either unimproved or gravel. The main access point is on the east side of the lake off of State Highway 44. This access has two paved ramps, a portable restroom, 21-25 trailer parking stalls, and is ADA accessible. Chandler Park in Pardeeville offers shore fishing opportunities around the entire park, as well as a restroom, and a pier on the north end of the park. If you are looking for a more serene setting away from boat traffic, Spring Lake directly downstream of the Park Lake Dam is an option. Spring Lake is 27 acres, and has a local ordinance which doesn't allow gas powered motors.

Big Round Lake, Polk County

1,015 acres. The average length of bluegill during the 2012 spring survey was 7 inches, and 75% of the bluegills collected were 7 inches or greater. There were also numerous pumpkinseeds over 7 inches. 25 fish daily bag limit. There is one public access on the northwest side of the lake off 220th Avenue. The maximum depth of Big Round is only 17 feet, although it is one of the largest lakes in Polk County. The current state record pumpkinseed was caught from Big Round Lake.

Mead Lake, Clark County

320 acres. Black crappies: Most fish captured (70%) were 7 – 8.9" with 1% of catch 10" and larger. Total catch rate and that of 10" and larger fish were double that of the last survey conducted in 2008. Bluegills: Most fish captured (79%) were 6 – 6.9" with 8% of catch 8" and larger. Total catch rate was 7 times greater than that of the last survey conducted in 2008. Catch rate of 8" and larger fish was twice that of 2008.

Arbutus Lake, Clark and Jackson counties,

840 acres. Black crappies: Most fish captured (84%) were 8 – 9.9" with 11% of catch 10" and larger. Total catch rate was almost double that of the last survey conducted in 2010. However, catch rate of 10" and larger fish was lower than 2010. Bluegills: Most fish captured (74%) were 7 – 7.9" with 6% of catch 8" and larger. Total catch was 3.5 times that of the last survey conducted in 2010. Catch rate of 8" and larger fish was similar between the two years. Arbutus experienced a fish kill in 2011. Adult black crappies were the dominant species killed. Follow up surveys in fall of 2011 found evidence of natural reproduction of black crappies and surveys in spring 2012 found adult crappie catch rates rebounding. Although lower than 2010, catch rates of 10" and larger fish in 2012 were 8 times higher than rates found in 2000 and 2006 surveys. Accessible fish facilities in our area are available at Lake Wazee, Black River Flowage, and Teal Flowage in Jackson County, Mead and Arbutus Lakes in Clark County, and Second Lake, Arctic Springs Pond and Lake Henry in Trempealeau County.

Fox Lake, Dodge County

2012 bluegill catch rates for fall electrofishing were 767/hour, compared to 423/hour in 2011, 449/hour in 2010 and above the 10-year average of 224/hour. In 2012, 16% of the bluegill sampled were greater than 6-inches in length, compared to 33% in 2011, 17% in 2010 and 22% in 2009. A large year class of young-of-the-year bluegill was produced in 2012.

Lake Emily, Dodge County

2012 bluegill catch rates for fall electrofishing were 1432/hour, compared to 530/hour in 2006 and 5741/hour in 2003. In 2012, 19% of the bluegill sampled were over 6-inches in length.

Rock Lake, Jefferson County

2012 bluegill catch rates for fall electrofishing were 468/hour compared to 664/hour in 2011. Bluegill ranged in size from 1.8 to 8.7-inches.

Lake Ripley, Jefferson County

2012 bluegill catch rates for fall electrofishing were 565/hour, compared to 425/hour in 2011. Bluegill ranged in size from 1.1 to 8.5 inches.

Inland lakes in Manitowoc County offer fishing opportunities for both experienced anglers and for families. Lakes are small and easy to fish with small boats under most weather conditions. Panfish, mainly bluegill, yellow perch and rock bass are popular with local anglers. Most lakes have abundant panfish although in some lakes they average less than 6" in length. Best bets for shore fishing include Long Lake and Silver Lake. Other lakes have good boat launches.

Lakes in Kewaunee County are also small in size. East Alaska, West Alaska, Heidemann, Krohns, and Shea Lakes all have public access and are great places for family fishing because they can be fished from small boats under almost any weather condition. Panfish are abundant in these lakes so the fishing action can be very good, however large panfish may be hard to find.

Lakes in Door County are much larger than lakes in the other counties. Kangaroo Lake has good numbers of yellow perch, bluegill and large rock bass. Spring yellow perch fishing is very popular off of the causeway (Highway E). Clark Lake has seen increasing numbers of bluegill and rock bass. The Forestville Flowage provides shore fishing opportunities and has good numbers of black crappie in it. Anglers may also find some nice bluegill and yellow perch.

Lake Pepin, Pepin County

25,000 acres. During the last four survey years, perch catch rates have been above the long-term average. Perch averaged near 9.0 inches and ranged to 12.5 inches during 2012. Daily bag limit is 25. Deer Island Landing, Sportsman's Landing and Stockholm Municipal Park provide access points. Lake Pepin is part of the Mississippi River that forms the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Mississippi River – Pool 5, Buffalo County

Bluegill in good numbers and greater than seven inches; great numbers of smaller fish growing into the fishery. Daily limit 25 in total for bluegill and pumpkinseed (sunfish). Dairyland Power Landing, Belvidere Slough Landing, 10th Street Landing and Upper and Lower Spring Lake Landings provide access. Recent surveys have measured nearly 25,000 bluegill, and only one exceeded the 10-inch mark. If you catch a ten-incher, enjoy its uniqueness. It's a special fish!

Mississippi River - Pool 9 & 10, Crawford, Grant and Vernon counties

Approximately 63 river miles, from Lock & Dam 10 at Guttenburg, IA upstream to Lock and Dam 8 near Genoa, WI. This stretch of river encompasses over 33,000 acres of water including the main channel, flowing sloughs, and backwater lake habitats. Fisheries surveys conducted in 2012 in backwater lakes of Pools 9 & 10 showed good populations of black and white crappie 9 to 12 inches, bluegill 5 to 9 inches, and yellow perch 6 to 12 inches. These species can be caught by targeting backwater lakes from December to early March using ice fishing equipment. During the open water months from June to September target flowing backwater sloughs or the main river channel. The best tackle to use for panfish is light line small jigs tipped with bait during the winter months and night crawlers, worms, or minnows either close to during the summer months. Bag limit for each species is: 25 Sunfish (bluegill & pumpkinseed), 25 Crappie (black or white), 25 yellow perch, and 25 rock bass. There is no minimum length limit on any of these species. The main boat access points on the WI side of the river running north to south are located at Town of Glen Haven, Village of Bagley, Village of Wyalusing, Wyalusing State Park, City of Prairie du Chien, Gremore Lake, Gordons Bay Landing, Town of Lynxville landing, Winneshiek Landing, Blackhawk Park Landing, Genoa Power Plant Landing. The Great River Road follows the winding path of the river as it flows through Mississippi Valley. If you travel along this scenic route, stop at one of the many scenic overlooks along the way. Places such as Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin and Pikes Peak State Park in Iowa provide a unique aerial view of the river valley. There are also many interpretative centers along the river that provide educational opportunities and a greater understanding of the historic legacy of the region.

Lake Michigan and tributaries, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties

In 2011, the bulk of the sport catch was composed of ages 4, 5, 6 and 8 year-old yellow perch. The average sizes of these perch ranged from 9 to 11.9 inches. Age-6 yellow perch was the dominant group (2005 year-class), which composed 34% of the harvest. Very few age samples were obtained from anglers in the 2012 creel survey to determine age composition of sport caught yellow perch. Based on the limited sample size, it appeared that the catch was made up of 3-7 year-old yellow perch in 2012. The Lake Michigan yellow perch harvest in 2011 was the lowest since 2000, which was 66% below the 10 year average. If this is any indication of the population size of yellow perch in Lake Michigan, the harvest may go down further in 2013, unless the 2010 year-class grow to support the fishery. The majority of perch harvest in the southern end of the lake comes from Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties. Open from June 16 – April 30. Daily bag limit is 5 yellow perch. No minimum length.

Winnebago System, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Shawano, Waushara, Waupaca and Winnebago counties

The system includes all waters upstream of the dams at Neenah and Menasha, WI.
165,246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 river miles
Fyke nets were set in three different locations in spring 2012 to assess the yellow perch population. A total of 1622 perch were captured in four net-nights. A total of 1020 males were caught, ranging in size from 5 to 10.5 inches. However, 84% of these were in the 6 to 7.5-inch range! Aging data shows these to be 2-3 year old fish. Females showed the same pattern. 602 female perch were captured and ranged in size from 6 to 11.9 inches. Of these, 475 (79%) were 6 to 8 inches, again 2-3 year olds.

During trawling surveys in October 2012 277 yellow perch were captured, composed mostly of what appears to be 2 and 3 year old fish, along with the 2012 hatch of young-of-year. The 2 and 3 year old perch grew an average of an inch since the spring netting. Just 12.5% of the 277 were 9 inches or larger. It appears that there are good numbers of perch in the Winnebago system but few fish are present in the population that are larger than 9 inches. However, in 2012 anglers seemed satisfied with the sizes of their fish, commenting that they were larger than in the previous year.

Bluegill and crappie numbers have also improved in the last several years as well. Both had record year-classes in 2010. Crappies from that year-class were seen all over the lake during trawling surveys and averaged 9.1 inches in October 2012. If anglers can find them, many should be nearing 11-plus inches later this year. Bluegills were seen less frequently on the trawler, but that's not surprising since they relate more to the shallow weedier bays and channels rather than the open water areas of the lake. However, anecdotal information from panfish specialists (read "retired guys"!) suggests that there are also good numbers of bluegill in the 6-8 inch range for anglers who want to do a little searching for them.

The season is open year round for panfish on the system. The daily bag limit is 25 fish in total, with no minimum length limit on any panfish species.

There are numerous accesses around the Winnebago system. They range from multi-lane launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town accesses at road ends. Many of the larger, more developed sites require a daily or seasonal launch fee. Consult a map of the system to see what access is near where you want to launch, or go to the DNR's Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess).

During July-September 2012 we collected creel information at major landings around Lake Winnebago to assess angler harvest. Seven groups of major landings around the lake were chosen. Creel clerks worked at one landing group one weekend day and two weekdays each week. Days were randomly selected. Clerks stayed at each landing group for six hours to interview anglers. Clerks worked a total of 35 days during the survey; 14 weekend and 21 weekdays.

During that time, the creel clerks interviewed 1669 anglers in 897 boats. Interviewed anglers spent a total of 7400 hours fishing. The busiest area of the lake was definitely the south half. Angler catch rates at southern landings were also the highest around the lake, ranging from 9.4-15.0 perch per angler. Northern half landing had catch rates of 4.4-8.5 per angler. Over all, the mean number of perch kept per angler was 10.0 fish.

Anglers that clerks interviewed during their 6 hour shifts harvested a total of 353 walleye, 203 crappie, 937 bluegill and 16,685 yellow perch. Think about that: 16,685 perch documented at only 1 of 7 landing groups, only 3 days a week for just 6 hours a day. Keep in mind that we only "intercepted" anglers trailering their boats at higher traffic landings. These numbers don't include property owners who come and go from their own dock, anglers on the upper lakes or the rivers or anglers who were using other landings . How many perch in total were harvested off the lake in 2012? You do the math, but however you figure, there was a tremendous harvest of 2 and 3 year old perch from Lake Winnebago in 2012!

Mason Lake, Adams County

882 acres. This lake was surveyed in 2012. The average size of black crappie in this population was 9 inches. Size structure of the population is great, where 66% of the fish that were at least of stock length size (5 inches) were greater than quality length (8 inches) and 38% were greater than preferred length (10 inches). No length limit, no closed season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Angler access is excellent with three boat landings. One launch is located on the east side of the lake off of County Hwy A, another is found near the end of 1st Drive and Grouse Court, and a boat launch is located off of Golden Drive.

Mosinee Flowage, Marathon County

This flowage was last surveyed in 2010. The average size of black crappie in this population was 9 inches and 30% of the

fish were greater than 10 inches. Given the 2010 catch statistics, this flowage should continue to produce fish in the 11 to 12-inch range and could be one of the best crappie producers on the central portion of the Wisconsin River. No length limit, no season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Angler access is excellent with boat landings off of River Road, County Hwy K, and in River Park in the City of Mosinee.

Wisconsin River, Marathon and Portage County

Most flowages on the Central Wisconsin River have been surveyed in the past 5 years and information suggested continued success for the bluegill populations. Strong year-classes and high stock density indices indicate many of the flowages are capable

Fisheries biologist Nick Legler is proud to show off his fishing skills with a Chinook salmon he caught from Lake Michigan. Angler submitted.

of producing bluegill averaging 8-9 inches during the coming year. No length limit, no closed season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site.

Chippewa Flowage and Lake Chetac, Sawyer County

(15,300 and 2,400 acres, respectively)
Crappie in the 8 to 11-inch range are abundant in both lakes. Bluegill in the 6.5 to 8-inch range are also abundant and bluegill over 8 inches are frequently caught as well. 25 daily bag on both, only 10 bluegill/day in Chetac. Chippewa Flowage (2 launches on Cty. Hwy. CC, one off of Cty. Hwy. B, one near Winter Dam, some public access off of CC and tons of island camping opportunities) Chetac (State launch off of East Shore rd.) These lakes have a good mix of numbers and size. Both produce tons of crappie in the 8 to 11-inch range and bluegill in the 6 to 8-inch range. Yellow perch are also present in good numbers and 8 to 10-inch fish can be found.

Silver Lake, Columbia County

70 Acres. General regulations for Wisconsin inland waters, except walleye has an 18 inch minimum length limit, with a daily bag limit of 3. A single boat landing located on Silver Lake Drive has a single paved ramp, 6-10 trailer stalls, and a restroom. A new ADA accessible fishing pier near the boat landing has already seen consistent use throughout the summer of 2012. Despite its small size, Silver Lake contains several different fish species including muskellunge, walleye, largemouth bass, northern pike, and panfish.

Cox Hollow Lake) and Twin Valley Lake, Iowa County

(85 and 140 acres, respectively) The lakes are located in Gov. Dodge State Park. Both lakes have a good boat access and parking. A park sticker is required. Both lakes are very heavily fished. Both lakes are electric motors only. Cox Hollow Lake currently has a 10 bag limit regulation on panfish. It has a good population of bluegill with a significant number of 8" and 9" fish. Summer fishing for these fish is good but the winter bite is very tough. The lake has some good size black crappie and yellow perch. Twin Valley Lake currently has a no bag limit regulation on panfish. It has large numbers of both bluegill and black crappie. Currently the bluegill average 6.75" but very few if any fish over 7.5". The black crappie average 7.75" with some fish in the 8" range but very few large fish. An occasional yellow perch is a bonus.

Blackhawk Lake, Iowa County

210 acres. The lake has a good boat access and parking in the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. A local park sticker is required and priced the same as the State Parks. The lake has a slow-no-wake regulation. Both lakes are very heavily fished. Blackhawk Lake currently has the standard statewide regulation on panfish. The current population of bluegill is very good with large numbers of 7" fish. Larger bluegill are in the lake but often hard to find. The lake contains a very good population of varied size crappies including some 10" to 12" fish. The lake contains a large number of small yellow perch but there are some larger fish.

CATFISH

Illinois Fox River, Waukesha County

The 12 mile reach from I-43 downstream to Denoon Road. Average Length – 19 inches with fish up to 29 inches. No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Public boat launch is found in Big Bend River Park on Riverside drive. A 2012 WDNR hoop net catfish survey revealed excellent abundance and a quality size structure.

Lower St. Croix River, St. Croix/ Polk County

The St. Croix River from St. Croix Falls to Stillwater, Minnesota is free flowing for 29 miles. While the St. Croix may not have the highest densities of catfish there certainly is a desirable fishery present for both channel and flathead catfish. During 2011-12 we sampled 240 channel catfish with baited hoop nets. The channel cats ranged upward to 34.4 inches. The average channel cat was 17-18 inches. Only 20 flathead catfish were sampled, however 25% exceeded 40 inches and most weighed over 40 pounds. Bag limit is10 in total, There is no minimum length limit. Boat access available in Wisconsin includes Interstate Park Landing in St. Croix Falls, two National Park Service Landings, Osceola and Somerset and Two Springs landing near Houlton. The St. Croix River lies within The St. Croix River National Scenic Riverway. Upstream travel beyond the High Bridge near the Arcola sand bar is prohibited to prevent the spread of exotic species.

Lower Wisconsin River, Sauk, Dane, Iowa, Richland, Grant and Crawford counties

92 miles. Three hoop net surveys were conducted during the summers of 2011 and 2012 covering river segments from Sauk City to Gotham. The number of channel catfish sampled was 2058. Channel catfish ranged in size from 7.2 to 33.4 inches with an average size of 17.3 inches. Sixty-four percent of the channel catfish were over 16 inches while 5.7% were over 24 inches. No minimum length limit, The daily bag limit is 10 in total. Numerous access points are located along the lower Wisconsin River. Most access points are located near a city or town. Access is available for both carry in and trailered watercraft. The Lower Wisconsin River is managed as a scenic waterway. Flat bottom boats and canoes are preferred. The lower river has a shallow sand braided channel and water depth changes rapidly. Care should be taken when navigating the lower Wisconsin River.

Beaver Dam Lake, Dodge County

Channel catfish are abundant in Beaver Dam Lake, with catfish in the 20+ inch range offering angling opportunities in 2013.

Rock River System, Dodge County

The Rock River in Dodge County has been producing impressive catches of flathead and channel catfish, with reports of flatheads over 40+ inches present. Stretches of the Crawfish River can also be productive for catfish. While fishing the rivers, look for tagged fish and report them to the address on the tag, or (920) 387-7876.

Rock River System, Jefferson County

Boat launches in Fort Atkinson and Jefferson and shore fishing spots in between offer good access to the Rock and Crawfish Rivers. The river systems support channel and flathead catfish, with flatheads over 40+ inches present. While fishing the rivers, look for tagged fish and report them to the address on the tag, or (920) 387-7876. Zebra mussels are present in Lake Koshkonong, please take care to properly remove all exotics and invasives from your boat prior to leaving the lake.

Centralia Flowage, Wood County

231 acres. Catfish populations are surveyed regularly on the Wisconsin River with summer hoop netting. In 2012, we surveyed Centralia Flowage in Wisconsin Rapids. Approximately 93% of the fish were greater than 16 inches and 25% of the fish were greater than 24 inches. The largest channel catfish caught was 27.5 inches. No closed season; no minimum length limit; bag limit is 10. There are plenty of opportunities to fish Centralia Flowage from shore via parks and a bike trail. A boat launch is located off of 2nd Avenue S (Hwy 54/73) at Hanson Park. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Safe eating guidelines for catfish on Centralia Flowage are 1 meal per month for women of childbearing years, nursing mothers, and all children under 15. For women beyond childbearing years and men, they may eat 1 meal per week. Safe eating guidelines change downstream of Centralia Flowage, from Nekoosa to the Petenwell Lake no more than 1 meal a month is recommended and catfish consumed should be less than 25 inches. For more information see the Choose wisely – 2012 guide for eating fish in Wisconsin, which is available online and at DNR Service Centers.

Fox River, Marquette, Green Lake and Waushara counties

Channel Catfish numbers remain high and are one of the most sought after species on the river. The river is full of habitat that is ideal for this species. Recruitment is typically very high and it is not uncommon to see several hundred fingerlings in our annual fall shocker surveys. Fish in the 2 to 5 lb. range are common. Flathead populations continue to remain stable and are also becoming more popular on the river. Catch rates in our recent hoop net surveys have remained fairly stable after a slight increase over the last three years. Since the implementation of the new regulation in 2009; the number of fish over 36" has increased 2 fold. Close to half of the fish sampled in 2012 were in the harvest slot size of 30-36". Length and Bag limits for each species follow the Winnebago Waters regulation; Channel Catfish – open all year, bag of 25, but only 24 if one Flathead is possessed, with no minimum length limit. Flathead – open first Saturday in May until September 30, daily bag of one, 30" minimum but fish from 36-42" may not be kept. Plenty of developed access areas are located along the river from Montello to Berlin including areas around Princeton.

Wisconsin River, Marathon and Portage counties

Catfish populations are surveyed regularly on the Wisconsin River with summer hoop netting. Since 2010 we have 3 surveys from these counties including Lake Wausau, Mosinee Flowage, and Whiting Flowage. For each of these surveys over 90% of the fish were greater than 16 inches. In Lake Wausau and Mosinee Flowage 45% of the fish were greater than 24 inches, each had fish larger than 30 inches. The catch from the Whiting Flowage was very good, with the largest fish 28 inches, but only 1% of the

Channel catfish in good numbers await anglers who want to give Wisconsin River fishing a try. Photo: Bradd Sims.

catch was greater than 24 inches. No closed season; no minimum length limit; bag limit is 10. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. Anglers catch catfish year round on the Wisconsin River, even while ice fishing. Catfish are most active in the summer months where they can be caught on the bottom, or even by casting shallow running lures.

COMMON CARP

Wisconsin River, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams and Juneau counties

Carp are plentiful in the Central Wisconsin River System making this a great destination for bow fishing. In general, numbers decline the farther north you travel. Our nets were full of carp during our recent fish surveys in Petenwell Lake, Castle Rock Lake, and the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. There are no bag limits for rough fish. The season is continuous for waters in Marathon, Portage, and Adams Counties. The season is from April 21 to March 6 for Juneau County waters and shorelines. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. Look for a question on a questionnaire at the 2013 spring hearings to simplify the rough fish regulations. Simplifying the regulations would change regulations in Juneau County to a continuous open season as in Adams County.

Long Lake, Fond du Lac County

417 acres
A boat launch can be found on the eastern shore at the Long Lake State Recreational Area which is part of Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit. In May of 2012 the new state record common carp caught by alternative methods (bow and arrow) came out of Long Lake. The fish tipped the scales at 59 pounds and measured 46 inches.

LAKE STURGEON

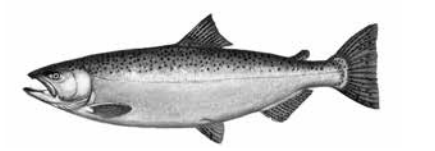
Lake Wisconsin/Wisconsin River, Columbia, Sauk and Dane counties

9,000 acre Lake Wisconsin, 27 river miles to Kilbourn Dam, and 4 mile stretch below the Prairie du Sac Dam Fall population estimates of adult sturgeon below the Prairie du Sac Dam show an increase in numbers over the last three years which is hopeful after a 5 year decline. In a 2008 survey on Lake Wisconsin, the adult population of lake sturgeon was estimated at 1,597 which was a slight increase when compared to an estimate done from 1979-1981. 60-inch minimum length, 1 per season (1st Saturday in Sept – Sept. 30) with a valid harvest tag. There are more than 20 public boat landings on Lake Wisconsin and several from on the river upstream to the Kilbourn Dam. Below the Prairie du Sac Dam there are 2 boat landings (VFW Park and west south of Hwy 12 bridge). There are also three shore fishing areas on the lake (The Grade, Moon Valley, and Memorial Park in Merrimac), one at the

new boat landing in Wisconsin Dells (Newport Park), and two below the Prairie du Sac Dam (Dam Road and VFW Park). The majority of lake sturgeon harvested over the last 20 years were caught below the Prairie du Sac Dam.

Joe Rosnow, DNR Fisheries Technician, with a lake sturgeon caught during a 2012 lake sturgeon survey of Petenwell Lake, Adams & Juneau Counties.

GREAT LAKES TROUT AND SALMON



Lake Michigan and tributaries, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties

Brown trout. - The brown trout fishery in Lake Michigan is supported through annual stocking. Brown trout fishing in 2011 was the worst since 1973 producing only 9,936 fish harvested. However, in 2012 the fishery rebounded and stayed strong all through the fall and into months of January through March. Anglers caught their limits of brown trout in the winter months in many ports, especially the Milwaukee River and harbor. Some fish were over 20lbs. 2012 was a good year for brown trout fishing in all the ports from Kenosha to Port Washington. We hope the trend continues in 2013 with great success.

Steelhead. - Steelhead fishing was great for boat and shore anglers in 2011 producing 75,447 fish, 45% above the ten year average. In 2012, both stream and boat anglers had great success with all three strains of rainbow trout – chambers creek, ganaraska and arlee, particularly in late winter and early spring spawning run. Wisconsin stocks about 500,000 rainbow trout annually into Lake Michigan. If the temperature and stream flows remain in good condition, we may see a good steelhead runs in 2013, in addition to the open water fishery.

Chinook salmon. - Although 2011 had the lowest Chinook salmon harvest since 2000, Chinook salmon fishing was excellent in 2012. In 2011, Chinook salmon harvest was 46% lower than the ten year average. Wisconsin stocks approximately 1.1 million Chinook salmon smolts annually. However, there is a significant proportion of the catch that consists of naturally reproduced Chinook salmon from Lake Michigan tributaries in the state of Michigan. In 2012, early warming of March and April months kept bait fish nearshore, thus salmon fishing started earlier than the past years. Chinook salmon in spring of 2012 appeared to be larger, ranging from 10 to 15 lbs, with many as big as 20 lbs. The total Chinook harvest in Lake Michigan in 2011 was 169,752, which was the lowest since 2000. But, the 2012 harvest appears to be better based on the good catches reported in all the ports. The fall shore and stream anglers had a tough time due to the extended drought conditions and higher water temperatures. Due to extremely low water in the streams, the fall spawning run was greatly affected. Most tributary fishing was sporadic which depended on the occasional rain event. If the weather holds better and sufficient food is available in the lake, we can expect as good if not better Chinook fishing in 2013. Because of the increase in the natural reproduction of Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan combined with declined prey availability, fish mangers around Lake Michigan are working together along with the stake holders to reduce stocking of Chinook salmon by 50% starting in 2013. The impact of reduced stocking will be evaluated in the coming years.

Coho salmon. - Coho fishing in 2012 was on par with 2011 when 157,367 fish were harvested. The harvest in 2011 was the highest since 1982. The coho fishing season starts off in the warmer southern waters of Lake Michigan and then progress northward all the way to Sheboygan waters. In 2012, coho fishing started 3 to 4 weeks earlier than the previous years. Anglers started catching cohos as far north as Milwaukee in early to mid-April, with limit catches by May in all southeastern ports. Overall size was smaller compared to the previous years, yet greater abundance made up for the smaller size. Fishing stayed hot for coho thorough out late spring and into the summer months. Both coho and Chinook fishing did well in 2012, which may continue in 2013 with suitable weather conditions.

Green Bay, Marinette and Door counties

Brown trout stocked into the productive waters of Green Bay have plentiful forage to grow quickly. Most of the brown trout harvested by anglers are 2 or 3 years old. By autumn, a 2-year old brown would be around 23 inches, while a 3-year old brown would be around 29 inches. Open all year. Daily limit is 5 trout/salmon in total. Minimum length is 10 inches. Anglers can troll for browns in the spring and summer months. There are numerous boat access locations along the bay shore. Brown trout make fall migratory runs into the Menominee, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers. From late September into the winter months, shore anglers may have luck catching browns in these major tributaries. Check the DNR website to find detailed tributary access information. DNR stocks around 126,000 brown trout yearlings into Green Bay. Since the early 2000's, brown trout harvest was down considerably from the previous few decades. In an attempt to revitalize that fishery, DNR began stocking brown trout offshore in 2010 to move them away from nearshore predators at the stocking sites. Another big change is that we no longer stock fall fingerling brown trout into Green Bay because of suspected low survival of those small fish going into the winter months. We are seeing early indications that stocking less fish but doing it smarter is reaping major benefits. Harvest rates improved from 42 hours per fish in 2010 to 25 hours per fish in 2011. The 2012 creel survey data is not yet analyzed but anglers have reported very good success in catching browns in the mid-teen to low 20-inch range this past season, and I would expect 2013 to be even better.

Lake Superior, Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties

The Apostle Islands region supports populations of naturally reproducing lake trout, while the western end still needs stocking to maintain high catch rates. The average lake trout caught throughout the year is about 22 inches, but fish exceeding 40 inches are caught each year, demonstrating true trophy potential. In addition to lake trout, trolling in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior produces coho salmon, brown trout, and walleye. Trout (rainbow, brown, brook, splake, lake) = 5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brook trout, and only 3 may be lake trout with only 1 lake trout longer than 25 inches. Rainbow trout must be greater than 26 inches, brook trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other trout must be greater than 15 inches. The lake trout season is open from December 1 through September 30 while the season for other trout is all year. Salmon (coho, Chinook, pink, Atlantic) = 5 in total with no minimum length limit and no closed season. Brown trout seem to be getting bigger in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior. Several fish in excess of 34 inches were caught during 2012 assessments.

Lake Michigan Tributary Streams, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Door counties

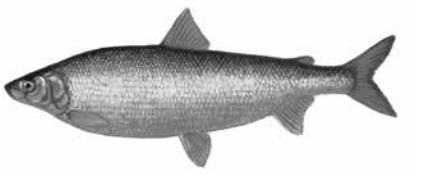
Lake Michigan tributary stream fishing in 2013 will again offer anglers a wide variety of fishing opportunities. Anglers looking for ice fishing opportunities for steelhead and brown trout could try fishing the lower reaches of the larger rivers such as the Manitowoc, Kewaunee and West Twin Rivers. Because ice conditions can vary greatly in these areas, check conditions before walking on the ice. If weather conditions are on the warmer side, anglers could try fishing open water below the dams in Mishicot and Shoto that can be very productive for steelhead and brown trout. Following the spring melt, tributary fishing can provide a variety of fishing opportunities along the lakeshore. At this time of year, anglers can hook steelhead, brown trout or northern pike in many tributaries. In years with normal flow anglers should try fishing farther upstream in large rivers or in smaller tributaries to avoid the crowds. Suggested locations include the upper Manitowoc River, Branch River, Stony Creek or Whitefish Bay Creek. If 2013 is a low water year, the best bets will be fishing the lower sections of the larger rivers, including the Manitowoc River, East and West Twin Rivers, Ahnapee River and the Kewaunee River. With the onset of fall spawning migrations in mid-September, tributary fishing can be fantastic! If lake level and stream flows are good, fishing should be excellent in most streams. For a little more solitude, try fishing smaller streams such as Hibbards Creek, Stony Creek, Silver Creek or Fischer Creek. If the water is low this fall, the larger rivers will be the best bet for good fishing action. During September and early October, Chinook salmon can be found in streams in large numbers. Wild Rose brown trout can be caught in streams during October. Late October and November brings coho salmon and seeforellen brown trout into streams. Finally as the year comes to a close, early running Chambers Creek steelhead can be found in the lower sections of the larger rivers. Check the Lake Michigan page for access information including maps at *dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html*

Lake Michigan

Chinook salmon fishing on Lake Michigan was exceptional during 2012, and many anglers anticipate another good season for 2013. The best months to catch Chinooks are generally May-August, for open water trolling, and September-October for near-shore and stream fishing. For bait, anglers commonly use flasher/fly combos and spoons, trolled over 50-200 feet of water (total depth), with baits set at various depths below the surface depending on water temperatures, currents, and winds. Chinooks can also be caught near-shore from boats, piers and harbors, and these near-shore opportunities are generally best during spring and fall when near-shore waters are cool, or during west winds when cool water is blown near-shore. Chinook fishing near-shore can also be good during the fall when mature Chinooks migrate into rivers for spawning. For bait, shore anglers commonly use spawn sacs, live bait, spoons, and stickbaits. Many opportunities are available for Chinook anglers along Lake Michigan's entire shoreline, including many public boat launches, shore fishing areas, harbors, piers, and charters. In addition to Chinooks, other species including steelhead, lake trout, and brown trout are also targeted and caught by Lake Michigan anglers, and mixed bags are common!

Natalie Chernetski shows off her first ever brown trout caught on April 7, 2012 on Green Bay waters off of Marinette. Both browns were caught on a No. 8 black and silver Rapala while fishing with her husband.

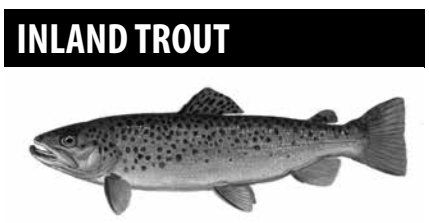
LAKE WHITEFISH



Green Bay waters of Door, Kewaunee and Brown counties

The lake whitefish ice fishery in Green Bay that emerged several years ago continues to provide great action for ice anglers. Although ice conditions on Green Bay were poor for the 2012 season, catch rates were the second highest in the six-year time series. Barring any change in lake whitefish feeding and/or distribution patterns in Green Bay, the 2013 ice fishery should once again be very good. Much of the action takes place at various locations along the east shore between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Population index surveys completed in 2012 suggest the whitefish spawning stock(s) in the area continue to maintain solid numbers thanks to good recruitment within the last decade. Young-of-the-year indices suggest the 2012 hatch was fair though average size was excellent which bodes well for survival through the first year. Spring juvenile surveys in 2012 indicate that several modest year classes are present and should contribute to the fishery for the next several years. The bag limit for lake whitefish is 10 fish with no length limit. There are a number of access points between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to: *dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess* for a listing of some of the launches in the area. Anglers are advised to check ahead for ice conditions before venturing out. Lake whitefish were extirpated from the Menominee River, Green Bay, over a century ago. However, fish began to return to this river during the 1990s and the spawning population has since grown to a robust level. Fish from this "recolonization" event are likely a major contributor to the whitefish ice fishery in Green Bay that emerged several years ago. Approximately 2,500 whitefish were tagged in the Menominee River in 2010 and anglers are reminded this winter to keep an eye out for tagged fish.

INLAND TROUT



Trout streams in Oneida County

Look for stocked brown trout in Dorothy Lake and Bearskin River; rainbows are planned for Perch, Hawk and Little Bass Lake, and brook trout for Mercer Springs. We removed alder brush from several reaches on Noisy Creek, which should improve trout habitat over time, as the banks convert to grasses and the stream channel narrows.

Bluff Creek, Walworth County

Two miles. Habitat improvement work by WDNR and Trout Unlimited over the last 20 years has significantly improved conditions for trout, and as a result Bluff Creek supports an excellent population of wild brown trout. Fish surveys between 2006 and 2011

produced an average catch rate of 1,200 trout per mile. These surveys consistently confirmed the presence of trout between 2 and 20 inches with an average length of 11 inches. 23% of the trout were 12 inches or larger. The minimum length limit on brown trout is 12 inches and the daily bag limit is 3. The stream is located south of the city of Whitewater. Public access is available at County Highway P and downstream at Millis Road.

Genesee Creek, Waukesha County

2-mile reach. Average length – 9 inches. A recent stream shocking survey revealed brown trout up to 17 inches. 9-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 3. Access can be found at the Old Village Road, Hwy 59 and Hwy D road crossings. This small coldwater stream has consistent natural reproduction of brown trout providing good action.

Streams in Langlade County

Brook trout. - East Branch Eau Claire River downstream from STH 45; Spring Brook immediately upstream from Antigo and downstream of Antigo; McGee Lake; South Branch Oconto River, *Brown trout* – Evergreen River; Wolf River; Hunting River; Prairie River; Saul Spring; South Branch Oconto River Spring Ponds – Langlade County has hundreds of spring ponds that are naturally reproducing trout waters; Most of them are brook trout waters but a fair number also have browns and a few even have rainbows; Fishing can vary in these from year to year, so don't give up on them if your last experience was nothing to write home about!

Streams in Lincoln County

Brook trout – Prairie River; North Branch Prairie River; Big Pine Creek; New Wood River. *Brown trout* – Prairie River; North Branch Prairie River; Big Pine Creek; Big Rib River

Thunder Lake , South Branch Pembonwon, Upper Middle Inlet, KC Creek, North Fork Thunder River, Marinette County

Thunder Lake is an opening day hot spot for trout anglers. Annually, 5,000 rainbow trout are stocked before the opener. For anglers wanting to target brook trout, the South Branch Pembonwon, Upper Middle Inlet, KC Creek, and the North Fork Thunder River all have good brook trout populations. These streams can all be accessed from various road/stream crossings.

Marengo River, Ashland County

20.6 river miles. Upstream from STH 13 – Category 2, Downstream from STH 13 – Category 5 (see special regulations). Public access available at road crossings. For inland trout anglers looking for an enjoyable experience, the Marengo River has a lot to offer. Easy walking along a sandy bottom, favorable casting conditions suited for both fly or spin-casting gear and some beautiful trout can be found throughout this larger, coolwater system in northern Ashland County. Brown trout (all from natural reproduction, no stocking occurs) dominate the salmonid community in the Marengo, but populations of rainbow trout and brook trout are also present (at much lower numbers). 2012 surveys on the Marengo resulted in catch rates of 114 brown trout (greater than 6 inches) per mile, which falls above the upper 80th percentile for brown trout populations in larger streams within the northern part of the state. The brown trout size structure was most impressive, with 26% of the fish over 6 inches also measuring 9 inches or larger. Several trophy-size browns (greater than 18 inches) were also captured during the survey. Migratory spawning runs of brown and rainbow trout from Lake Superior also occur annually. The rainbows that were captured in the 2012 survey were mostly young fish (known as parr), produced from natural reproduction of Lake Superior "steelhead" (i.e. rainbow trout) occurring within the Marengo and its tributary streams.

Waupaca River, Waupaca County

In the special regulation section of the Waupaca River, recent surveys indicate wild trout populations have been holding steady with electrofishing catch rates of large (over 15-inch trout) above 25 per mile. Anglers fishing this section of water have a very good chance of catching a trophy-sized brown trout. Category 5 (18-inch minimum length for brown trout and 12-inch minimum length for brook trout and rainbow trout; 1 daily bag; artificial lures only) from River Rd upstream to Durant Road in Portage County. Category 2 (7-inch minimum length,, 5 daily bag limit) for all water downstream of River Rd. Riverview and Riverside Park in the City of Waupaca have great access. A fishing trail for physically challenged anglers is located upstream of the Water Street bridge that has a hard service for easy access and several spurs to access the stream. The Waupaca River Fishery Area is comprised of DNR managed lands off County Hwy Q and Foley Rd. The downstream reach of trout water on the Waupaca River is managed primarily as a put and take fishery with annual plantings of harvestable sized brown and rainbow trout. Anglers looking for good action early in the season may want to try this water.

Area Trout Streams, Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, and Trempealeau counties.

Based on trends derived from annual surveys for the past 3 years. Slight decrease in brook trout and stable brown trout reproduction. Despite decreased reproduction, survival to adult size remained stable for brook trout and brown trout adult densities increased. Brook trout increased and brown trout remained relatively stable. Drought conditions in 2012 may affect reproduction leading into 2013 season. Future monitoring will gauge impact to our trout populations. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries may bolster negative effects of last year's drought. Habitat restoration projects in 2011 and 2012 improved stream conditions and angler access in Waumandee and Eagle Creeks (Buffalo County), Borst and Traverse Valley Creeks (Trempealeau County), and Pigeon Creek and North Fork Trempealeau River (Jackson County).

South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River, Pierce County

4.5 miles of Class II trout water. 2012 electrofishing surveys found the South Fork to contain some of the highest brook trout densities in the state. Adult brook trout from 5-10 inches are abundant and fish 10 to 14 inches are present. Past surveys show a few brook trout can reach 18 inches in this system. Anglers looking to catch a brook trout greater than 12 inches should give this stream a try. The length limit is 8 inches for brook trout and 12 inches for brown trout. The bag limit is 3 trout in total. Public parking is available at the headwaters of the South Fork within the Kinnickinnic River Fishery Area on STH 29 and 900th Street. Access is also available along public roads in the City of River Falls. The headwaters of the South Fork has recently been restored using Trout Stamp funding and is scheduled to be reclassified as Class I trout water. There is a natural water fall in the City of River Falls that prevents brown trout from accessing the stream. Brown trout can be found at the mouth of the South Fork.

Steiner Branch, Lafayette County

3.2 miles. The Steiner Branch supports a population of brook trout. Recent surveys sampled 329 adult brook trout ranging from 5.9 to 14.9 inches with an average size of 8.4 inches. Ten percent of the brook trout sampled were 10 inches or greater. Catch and release, artificial only. Access is walk in only. The Steiner Branch fishery is located within public land. There is a parking area available along English Hollow Road. In recent history the Steiner Branch did not support trout. After land use changes, implementation of best management practices, stocking, and an extensive stream restoration effort, the Steiner Branch now supports a healthy brook trout population.

Manley Creek, Sauk County

3.1 miles of stream. In the 2012 fishery survey, the brook trout population estimate was over 2,500 per mile with over 50% between 5 to 9 inches. All trout must be less than 9 inches, daily bag limit of 5. The entire length of Manley Creek is open to public fishing and is split between Devil's Lake State Park upstream (west) of State Hwy. 113, and Riverland Conservancy property downstream (east) of State Hwy. 113. There is a Riverland Conservancy parking lot on Hwy. 113 for angler access. From 1997 to 2002, 1.4 miles of trout habitat improvement work was completed on Manley Creek, transforming a small population of remnant native brook trout into the excellent recreational fishery it is today without the aid of stocking.

Rowan Creek, Columbia County

4 miles of Class I and 8 miles of Class II brown trout water. The Class I portion of Rowan Creek has high densities of brown trout with over 2,100 per mile and about 5% of the population greater than 12 inches. The Class II portion has 629 brown trout per mile with 17% of the trout over 12 inches. 9-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 3 trout. There are numerous public access points including DNR parking lots on Loveland Road, East Road, Hwy 51, CTH CS, and CTH J. There is over 7.5 miles of public stream frontage through public fishing easements and state owned land. In 2011, approximately 1,500 feet of instream habitat work and another 1,000 feet of stream corridor brushing was completed off of East Road on the east side of the Village of Poynette.

A brown trout caught during a 2012 fish survey of Neenah Creek, Adams County.

Brule River, Bayfield County

15 miles. 4,672 steelhead ascended the Brule River lamprey barrier/fishway during the 2011-2012 season: 2,933 in the fall and 1,739 in the spring. The peak of the spring run had the highest number of steelhead in any given individual week on record, quite possibly triggered by dramatic, early spring 2012 warm air and water temperatures. Nearly 75% of all steelhead in the run measured from 18.5 to 25.5 inches, but approximately one-half of the run ranged from 22.5 to 25.5 inches long. Downstream from U.S. Highway 2 - Open March 31 through November 15; 26-inch minimum length; daily limit is one fish. Easy access at most points, especially from U.S. Highway 2, Carlson Road, Copper Range Campground, State Highway 13, or off Loveland Road at the Brule River lamprey barrier/fishway. The Bois Brule River is a nationally known coldwater fishery, and it has and continues to boast numerous steelhead age classes. During the 2011-2012 migration season, four, five, and six-year-old steelhead were the most common age groups in the run; the three-year-olds outnumbered the seven-year-olds, which indicates a slightly younger wild population during 2011-2012.

Fordham Creek, Adams County

The trout populations in Fordham Creek were surveyed in 2012. This stream supports brown, brook and rainbow trout. Brown trout were the most abundant of the three species and density was calculated to be 427 fish/mile. Densities of brook and rainbow trout were 195 and 130 fish/mile, respectively. The average size of brown, brook and rainbow trout were 8.3, 7.5 and 7.7 inches, respectively. The largest brown trout caught was 21.5 inches and 51% of the fish caught were less than 8 inches and 19% were above 12 inches. The largest brook trout caught was 10.5 inches and 71% of the fish caught were less than 8 inches. The largest rainbow trout caught was 11.6 inches and 53% of the fish caught were less than 8 inches. Inland trout season; Daily bag and length limit: 5 trout under 8 inches, or 4 trout under 8 inches and 1 over 12 inches. Anglers have access to Fordham Creek through State owned land along County Hwy J and 8th Drive, and access with a fishing easement where the creek crosses County Hwy J.. Fordham Creek is one of the few fisheries in Central Wisconsin that contains brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Trout habitat work was completed in the summer of 2009.

Tomorrow River, Portage County

Each fall the trout in the Tomorrow River are surveyed. Surveys for 2012 indicate brown trout numbers below Nelsonville are the highest they have been since 2005. We estimated the population at 1000 trout/mile, an increase over the previous 3 years when the average was 800 trout/mile. Above Nelsonville brown trout averaged 600 trout/mile. Brook trout in the river have generally been stable at about 100 trout/mile below Nelsonville, and 200 trout/mile above Nelsonville. In general, 80-90% of the brown trout in this entire reach that were greater than 10 inches, were also within the harvest slot (10 to 13inches). While brook trout were less plentiful, harvestable fish were recorded in each section. Regular inland trout season; Poncho Creek to the Amherst Dam has a special regulation for brook and brown trout; artificial lures only; fish may be harvested between 10 and 13 inches; 1 fish may be harvested over 20 inches; the bag limit is 3 fish in total. The Tomorrow River can be accessed from numerous road crossings and from parking areas along the Richard Hemp Fishery Area. In 2012 two habitat projects were completed on the Richard Hemp Fishery Area: Project one was the addition of 800 feet of improvements accessible from the Rolling Hills Road parking area which is located about one mile north of Hwy 161. This project included 300 feet of overhead covers, and about 500 feet of stream narrowing which included one plunge pool. The second project, located upstream of Lake Meyers Road, was a 1000 foot reach upstream of the farm machinery crossing. This was the third section completed in a multiyear project funded by Natural Resource Conservation Service. It included another 700 feet of wing deflectors, installed to narrow and deepen the channel along with 180 feet of overhead cover, one island was lengthened and 75 boulders were installed.

Clam River and McKenzie Creek, Polk County

Clam River 2 mile stretch; McKenzie Creek 4 mile stretch. These streams have healthy populations of brook trout and brown trout. During the 2012 stream surveys, the Clam River had nearly 500 brook trout per mile and McKenzie Creek had 300 brown trout per mile. 7-inch minimum length limit; 5 fish daily bag limit. Anglers can access McKenzie Creek off Highway W, and access the Clam River from 60th Street. The majority of these two streams designated as trout water lie within the state-owned McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area. As such, anglers have near-endless opportunities in a pristine area. Extensive trout habitat was conducted in recent years on McKenzie Creek downstream of Highway W, and also on the Clam River upstream of 60th Street.

North Fork of the Clam River, Burnett County

19 miles from the headwaters to Spencer Lake. During summer 2012 surveys, 32% of the catchable size brown trout were larger than 9 inches, with the largest fish measuring 17 inches. No minimum length limit but all trout kept must be less than 12 inches. The daily bag limit is 5 trout. Numerous access sites exist along the Clam River Fishery Area. DNR crews have been actively removing tag alder brush along much of the North Fork of the Clam River. This work will hopefully improve stream habitat and angler access.

A satisfied trout angler and his catch from Rowan Creek, Columbia County. Photo - Nate Nye.

Trout Fisheries in SW Wisconsin

The trout populations of SW Wisconsin have been on a historic high for the past several years now – increased precipitation in recent years and more environmentally friendly land use in the watersheds which has led to increased ground water and subsequent increased spring flow and stream base flows resulting in more trout streams, more miles of trout water per stream, and better trout water quality for more miles of trout streams. At the same time, better trout habitat as a result of numerous trout habitat improvement projects undertaken in recent years, effective targeted regulations, increased C&R practices of large numbers of anglers, conversion from stocking "Domestic" trout to wild trout, dramatic increase in natural reproduction has resulted in end of season trout populations being tenfold or greater than historically. In fact, the trout populations at the end of the season are basically the same both for numbers and size structure as they are at the start of the season. In other words, great trout fishing from the start of the season and throughout the season to the end of the season.

As a result of this spectacular fishing opportunity, there has been a dramatic increase in trout angling effort in the area. In fact, the most frequent question asked regarding trout fishing in the area is "Where can I go to get away from the other trout anglers". The answer is that at least on the weekends, "There is nowhere. You just have to deal with it." While we have a significant amount of public access on our most important trout streams, we need to have a lot more. We have for some time had an aggressive program to procure public fishing access on our trout streams and this effort continues today. It is the single most important thing that we can currently do for trout anglers utilizing this part of the state.

There is a current dark cloud on the horizon over which we have no control which has the potential to have a significant short term negative impact on our trout fishery – DROUGHT. Because of the high ground water levels of recent years, we were able to get thru the first year of tis current drought with little to no negative impact on our trout populations. However, as we noted in previous droughts, if we have a second significant drought year in a row we will have a significant negative impact on our trout fisheries. There's really nothing that we can do to reduce these impacts. Fortunately, when the drought ends and our ground water returns, our trout populations will rapidly recover – a couple of years to regain overall numbers. It will take a little longer to regain the complete larger size structure as the fish will have to grow into it.

CONTACT A BIOLOGIST
dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/people/fisheriesbiologist.html

2013 Wisconsin Fishing Report
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Onion River, Sheboygan County

10 miles of Class I brown trout waters
2012 surveys yielded an average length of 9 inches, with a maximum length of 18 inches. We saw catch rates of 628 fish per mile which puts it around the 80th percentile when compared with other all other brown trout waters statewide. Upstream of CTH E – Category 5: daily bag limit 1, length limit 15 inches, artificial lures only. Downstream of CTH E – Category 3: daily bag limit 3, length limit 9 inches, no gear restrictions The best access is from the bridge at CTH E and a number of points along CTH U. Upstream of CTH E anglers will find extensive habitat work in a number of stretches and this is generally were we find the larger fish in our surveys.

Trout streams in Dane County

Welcome to the best trout fishing in the last 2 decades ! Despite drought conditions that made summer 2012 fishing difficult, 2013 promises to be outstanding for trout anglers within driving distance to Dane county. Boosted by recent instream habitat projects, easement maintenance, and excellent water quality, Dane county trout populations are robust and characterized by handsome, heavy fish. Work in 2012 occurred on Kittleson Valley Creek, the upper reaches of Big Spring Creek and lower Black Earth Creek near Mazomanie. Excellent access by both DNR and Dane county provide opportunities on small brook trout systems as well as the larger, well known waters such as Mt. Vernon Creek. With few exceptions, virtually all Dane county waters are under a 9" minimum length and 3 fish daily bag harvest regulation. Additionally, 4 area ponds get first time trout fisherman into the action with stockings for young anglers to enjoy.

Big Green Lake, Green County

7,346 acres. Wisconsin's deepest inland lake and one of only three that contain lake trout, contains a healthy, stocked lake trout fishery. These fish are slow growing, but long lived. Fish from recent surveys measured 11.5 to 33.5" in length with an average length of 19.8". 59% of fish sampled were of quality size (20") or better. Lake trout season opens the first Saturday in January and runs through September 30th. Daily bag limit is 2 and the length limit is 17". There are a number of developed landings around the lake and in the City of Green Lake. Some of these landings do require a fee.

Florence County waters

This part of Wisconsin has many options for stream trout fishing. Lamon Tangue, Woods and Wisconsin Creeks tend to have some of the highest brook trout abundance and are good places to look for action. The larger rivers (Brule, Pine and Popple) run too warm to hold high numbers, but certain areas can surprise you. The larger rivers are a great place to go for a paddle and look for a trophy brown or brook trout. Stop in at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center (corner of US2 and HWY 70) to plan your next trip.

Elvoy and Brule creeks, Forest County

Forest County has a number of great trout streams. Some of the most popular are Elvoy and Brule Creeks near the town of Alvin. The upstream sections of these streams tend to support high numbers of brook trout. Both of these streams have had a lot of habitat improvement work over the past few decades, including a long stretch downstream of where these two streams meet. This stretch holds predominantly brown trout, with fish captured up to 23 inches during a 2012 survey.

Joe Rosnow, DNR Fisheries Technician, with a brown trout caught during a 2012 fish survey in Little Roche-a-Cri Creek, Adams County.

INLAND LAKES FISHING REGULATIONS - ON-LINE

What are the fishing regulations on War Eagle Lake? Let's see... where did I put that regulation pamphlet? I know it's around here somewhere. Hmmmm. Sound familiar? No worries.

You can now access regulations in several ways: 1) find another pamphlet, 2) Go to *dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing* and click on the "Regulations" button, 3) Access the searchable regulation database at *http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=wdnr_fishing_regulations:home:2374312734026447* or 4) or use your smartphone and scan the QR Code below:

URBAN FISHING

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has placed an added emphasis on promoting Urban Fishing in recent years. We are trying to get more young people involved in the sport of fishing. There are currently about 60 ponds or lagoons classified as Urban Waters. These water bodies have special regulations geared towards improving the fishing experience for young anglers. If you live in Southeast Wisconsin, there is an Urban Fishing water near by, for a list of designated waters refer to the Hook and Line Fishing Regulations. The DNR annually stocks thousands of rainbow trout in these waters. In addition the Milwaukee County House of Correction Fish Hatchery stocks various species in the Urban Waters located in Milwaukee County.

The tradition of fishing is not being passed on from one generation to the next as readily as it once was. There are many parents that would like to take their kids fishing but don't really know how to get started. To accommodate those folks the DNR works with volunteers from local fishing clubs to conduct instructional kids fishing clinics each winter and spring. Thanks to the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers, thousands of kids are taught the basics of fishing each year. I highly recommend the kids fishing clinics whether you are just getting started or have been at it for a few seasons. The clinics are free, highly informative and an all around good time. The volunteers teach the kids about fishing techniques, how to use the equipment, knot tying, safety, fish identification and much more.

The DNR also offers Angler Education instruction workshops. This program trains adult volunteers how to better incorporate fishing programs in their community. Instructors are provided guidance and given ideas to help them introduce children to basic fishing skills and connect them with WI waters.

To accommodate teachers, scout leaders, church groups or anyone else that is interested in having a fishing outing with a bunch of kids, the DNR also runs a tackle loaner program. Rods, reels and terminal tackle is available free of charge at DNR outlets located throughout the state.

It's now easier than ever to get kids started in fishing. Make it a family outing and have fun.

For more information contact:
Matt Coffaro
Statewide Urban Fisheries Biologist
414-263-8614

Get the lead out!

Please consider using non-lead tackle.

dnr.wi.gov
for more information

FISH ON... WISCONSIN

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