Bringing more walleye to Wisconsin’s waters

Walleye have long been part of the fabric of life for the people who have lived in Wisconsin and a lure bringing visitors to the shores of its lakes and rivers. Musky may be the state’s official state fish, but angler surveys show that walleye own anglers’ hearts.

Now, a $13 million, two-year funding package spearheaded by the Governor’s office and the Department of Natural Resources and unanimously approved in June 2013 by legislators aims to put more walleye on people’s plates and more money in local businesses’ cash registers.

The plan, called the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative, is stocking more large fingerling walleye in waters where walleye populations have decreased in recent years. A growing body of research looking at declines in walleye populations in the Upper Midwest is finding a bunch of contributing factors, but points to drought and long-term environmental changes unfavorable to walleye as the main culprits. The belief is that stocking larger walleye, and more of them, will increase their chance of surviving and one day successfully reproducing in the wild before winding up on the end of a line.

The heart of the plan is to significantly increase stockings of the larger walleye that research shows can survive better, often at rates up to 30 times that of their smaller brethren, says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin’s outgoing fisheries director (see Dear Wisconsin Angler column on page 3).

To do that, the $13 million includes more operating money for DNR hatcheries to raise more of the larger fish, and invests in upgrading infrastructure at state fish hatcheries so they can increase their production capacity for the larger walleye. The initiative also delivers a one-time $2 million competitive grant program aimed at helping tribal, municipal and private fish hatcheries increase their capacity to produce more fish and provides money for DNR to contract with these hatcheries to stock the larger walleye.

“I think people are going to notice that there’s better walleye fishing if we’re able to stock over several years.”

As soon as the ink dried on the state budget June 31, 2013, DNR hatcheries, biologists and propagation staff mobilized to ramp up production of the larger walleyes. Rather than shipping fish out of the hatcheries after a few months as what are known as “small fingerlings,” fish 1-1/2- to 2-inches long, the hatcheries now had the operating funds to keep the fish at the hatchery longer.

Growing fish to the larger size, 6 to 8 inches, a size often referred to as “extended growth, EG” or “large fingerlings,” is significantly more expensive because the food is more expensive. After hatching, the younger walleye live in ponds that are fertilized and feed on the plankton and other organisms that grow in the pond. Walleye destined for EG are fed minnows purchased from private fish farmers and are kept at lower densities in more ponds, which makes them more labor intensive.

By the time the last state stocking truck delivered its load of walleye, DNR hatcheries had produced a record 416,506 extended growth walleye for stocking. The department bought another 23,975 from private fish farmers using initiative funds. Altogether, 100 lakes were stocked, up from 35 in a typical year.

The plan was so well received that last year’s state budget included an additional $1.8 million to purchase fish from private hatcheries. Wisconsin’s walleye populations in the Upper Midwest are finding a bunch of contributing factors, but points to drought and long-term environmental changes unfavorable to walleye as the main culprits. The belief is that stocking larger walleye, and more of them, will increase their chance of surviving and one day successfully reproducing in the wild before winding up on the end of a line.

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Welcome to Wisconsin — home of the best and most diverse fishing in the country. We offer more waters than dedicated anglers could fish in several lifetimes...an incredible array of fish to catch...and some rare ones just to appreciate.

Fishing is a cornerstone of Wisconsin’s culture and economy. We rank second in the country in the number of days nonresident spend fishing here, and if we had Florida’s weather and year-round open water, we’d probably be number one. We are extremely proud to help you provide with outstanding fishing, great memories and a break from your daily stresses.

Fishing is a great way to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Give yourself that license to relax; it can make you forget about your day-to-day worries. That’s a big part of fishing — it’s the cheapest form of therapy you can get.

If you’re looking for ways to save some money this year — take your family and friends fishing! There’s good fishing close to where you live, and the cost of basic tackle, bait and a license is a bargain compared to restaurants, movies or video games. And the fish you keep are a tasty, healthy and a great addition to your dinner menu!

We work hard to improve fishing in Wisconsin. This year we are embarking on a wall-eye initiative that should put more walleye in your live well and on your dinner table in the coming years.

Please take a few minutes to read more about how we put your fishing license dollars to work. We’re committed to make fishing even better in Wisconsin, and we hope your time on the water reflects that in 2014. I hope the forecasts provided by many of our biologists help you understand how your favorite fishing spot is faring or where you might want to cast your line, next.

The fishing licenses and stamps you buy, your vocal and financial support of our program, and your time and labor are critical to conserving and enhancing Wisconsin fish populations and fishing opportunities for now and in the future. Sit back, read up, and then hit the water to enjoy great fishing and the memories of a lifetime.

I hope to see you on the water!
Woody habitat transforms Cedar Lake

Baldwin - A large scale woody habitat infusion project was completed in Cedar Lake, St. Croix and Polk counties during the winters of 2004 through 2013. The project consisted of constructing and installing approximately 15 to 40 fish cribs per year in colonies throughout suitable areas in the lake, to mimic an aquatic plant bed. Overall, 12 colonies and 361 fish cribs were installed.

Cedar Lake was often referred to as the “Dead Sea.” Poor water quality from excessive algal blooms during summer blocked sun light which limited aquatic plant growth. Bass and panfish species and habitat were scarce. The woody habitat helped replace the loss of aquatic plant beds until long term water quality issues can be resolved.

This project was a cooperative project with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The project was sponsored, funded and implemented in cooperation with the Star Prairie Fish and Game Club and the Cedar Lake Management and Rehabilitation District. Numerous volunteers helped secure funds, collect, cut and haul materials, and build and place structures. Special sleds were constructed to haul individual cribs over the ice to their final destinations.

Results were phenomenal. Bluegill and crappie populations have blossomed. Bass, walleye and musky fishing have also been enhanced. Angler activity and success has steadily risen. The Department has been recognized by several partnership groups for exceptional achievements in fisheries management, creating excellent fishing opportunities and working cooperatively with the citizens of Wisconsin. Our hope is to formally document fishing success through a future creel survey! Marty Engle, Baldwin

Muskies by the numbers

Hayward - In conjunction with DNR Science Services in Spooner the Hayward Field Unit is using PIT tags (Passive Integrated Transponder) to obtain critical information about our muskie populations. PIT tags are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted into the body of the fish. When scanned with a reader the tags transmit a number and recapture information is starting to come back yielding interesting results.

This project will provide important information on growth and survival of stocked fish as well as naturally born fish. Having tagged fish in these lakes will make it easier to determine population size and will allow us to track the fish used for broodstock in our hatchery operations. The information gained from these PIT tags will feed into decisions on stocking and regulations.

Recapture information is being collected by DNR fisheries crews, local guides, and avid musky anglers using hand held PIT tag readers. Funds to purchase tags and readers came from the Chippewa Flowage Property Owners Association, the Chippewa Flowage Resort Association, and regulations.

Helping fish move on the Mukwonago River

Eagle - The DNR – Southeast Inland Fish Team has removed the seven culverts from the Mukwonago River. The Mukwonago River is host to 58 different fish species and is a Class II trout stream. Removing the culverts has improved navigability, fisheries habitat, and water quality. Many partners have contributed to this effort including: local municipalities, Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission, South Eastern Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited, Nature’s Classroom Institute, East Troy High School, and the Kettle Moraine Natural History Association. During the fall of 2013, the remaining culverts were removed and the river was opened for navigation for the first time since the 1950s. This coming June, fish habitat will be enhanced within the project area using cobble fiber roles, boulders, brush bundles and course woody structure. The WDNR along with volunteer groups will continue to monitor the improvements in the biological diversity, habitat, and water quality. Benjamin Heussner, Eagle.

Walleye looking up on the Wisconsin River

Wisconsin Rapids - Spring 2014 marks the 12th year that the temporary walleye slot regulation has been in effect on the Wisconsin River from Grandfather Dam in Lincoln County to the Prairie Du Sac Dam in Sauk County. As of spring 2014 this rule will be permanent instead of temporary. The rule reads; only walleye and sauger from 15 but less than 20 inches may be kept except one fish may be over 28 inches, and it has been popular with anglers. The public have voted on this rule 3 times (2001, 2006, and 2013) and have strongly supported the rule. The new regulation has maintained the harvest rate of fish 15 to 20 inches while providing catch-and-release as well as trophy opportunities.

A tradition worth passing on

MADISON - Angler Education instructors introduce people of all ages to Wisconsin’s fishing tradition, so they can make it their own. 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 at dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/angler-education/index.html.

All about Fish

The Aquatic Resources Education Program has a bevy load of information and teaching materials to help you learn and teach about fish, fishing, and fish habitat. Check it out at dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/AnglerEducation/TeachingMaterials.html.

Fishing in the Neighborhood (FIN) This past summer 10 interns were stationed at non-profit organizations around the state to offer fishing opportunities to children in low-income neighborhoods, particularly in communities of color – Hmong, Hispanic, Native American, and African American.

Family members were encouraged to participate at special events. The length of sessions varied from 1 to 8 weeks, depending on format and needs of the community. Look for news about summer FIN programs in Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, and other communities to be determined, this spring.

Adopt a Tackle Loaner Program Site Many of our loaner site managers need help maintaining the loaner site. 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/angler-education/loanerContacts.html.

Free Fishing Weekend – Not just for kids! June 7 & 8, 2014 and January 17 & 18, 2015 Please remember to include adults who may have missed the boat as youngsters, in your Free Fishing Weekend plans! Schedule an introductory fishing clinic for community members or just invite a neighbor along on an outing. More information and a planning form are found at dnr.wi.gov. Search for “free fishing weekend.”

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**WALLEYE**

**BARRON COUNTY**
Red Cedar Lake - 1,897 acres. Red Cedar Lake is the best of the very few lakes in Barron County and is maintained through good natural reproduction. Current regulation: The walleye fishery is managed with an 18- to 20-inch length limit and 3 fish daily bag limit as the base regulation, but is subject to change based on tribal declarations. Access information: There are three main access points to Red Cedar Lake. Balsam Lake and Remlock Lake are connected to Red Cedar Lake via a navigable channel allows boat passage through all of the lakes.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY**
Namakagon Lake - 3,227 acres. A 2011 survey found a moderately dense adult walleye population. Twenty percent of the walleye surveyed were between 15 and 20 inches in length. Strong natural reproduction continues to provide walleye angling opportunities. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, but only one fish over 14 inches may be kept. Daily bag limit subject to ceded territory adjustments. Access information: There are four public boat launches on the lake. The most popular launches are at the Chequamegon National Forest Campground and a state-owned landing off Hwy M. Walleye population has been maintained through natural reproduction since 1993 and has the highest walleye density of surveyed lakes in Bayfield County. The 2013 Governor’s fishing opener was held on Namakagon Lake during a late spring the fishing occurred on the ice.

**BROWN COUNTY**
Fox River, Occonal River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay - Strong spring fishing runs are typical to this region. The Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers provide anglers unique 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 Genuich Beach, off the Wisconsin DNR hatchery on the east shore of Green Bay, or boat fishing in the Yahara chain.

**CLARK/JACKSON COUNTIES**
Upper Mississippi River Pool 6 & 10, Crawford, Grant and Jackson counties - 20,561 acres of open water and backwater lakes and approximately 85 miles in length. Walleye and sauger continue to be highly sought after recreational fisheries on the Mississippi River. Electrofishing surveys conducted in the fall of 2013 showed good numbers of walleye ranging from 15 to 22 inches as well as many small walleye below 15 inches. Anglers also have a good chance of catching a trophic walleye in the upper mouth. This year’s fall average age for young of the year wall- eye production with average size fish being approximately 15 inches. Sauger is just as plentiful with many fish in the 12 to 17-inch range. Full fall electrofishing surveys on the Crawford, Grant and Jackson County tributaries for sauger with average size greater than 6.5 inches. Predictable fishing patterns for both walleye and sauger include fishing deep water near the lock & dam dam in fall, winter, and early spring. Walleye tend to congregate below the lock and dam in the spring, in flowing sluggish to early summer, and near wing dams during late summer and fall. The Mississippi River is open year round for both walleye and sauger. The combined daily bag limit is 6 fish in total with a 15-inch minimum length limit; daily limit is two fish. Anglers fishing in the river usually jig or cast for walleye.

**DOANE COUNTY**
Lake Monona - 3,274 acres. Monona is the largest and deepest lake in the Yahara chain. Both spring and fall electrofishing surveys had well-represented catches of legal (15”) and larger fish with some true trophy fish exceeding 25 inches coming off the north shore. Current regulation: Monona is under the default regulation of 3 fish bag, 15” minimum length limit. Access Information: There are many boat launches in the area. Good shore fishing opportunities exist on the Fox, Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers. Check the Lake Monona page for access information. For more information visit fishing/ladona/bigpond/TributaryAccess.html.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**
St. Louis River Estuary - 12,000 acres. The spring 2012 index survey of adult walleye showed a good population with plenty of fish well above the legal size. 76% of all walleye captured and released during the survey ranged from 18-27 inches. The average length of all walleye was 20.5 inches, and female walleye were generally larger than male walleye. Current regulation: Open May 10 through March 31; 15-inch minimum length, daily limit is two fish. Access information: Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier. Located in the City of Superior or where Belknap Street joins the river. The landing features paved parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, and portable restrooms. Go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/ for complete information. Olver Landing: Located in the Village of Olver, just south of Superior, at or east of Detroit Street. The city’s walleye population is surveyed and managed collaboratively with Minnesota DNR. From 1989 through 1993, Wisconsin DNR and Minnesota DNR stocked over 450,000 fingerling walleye. Wisconsin DNR continued stocking fry annually until 2006.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**
Lake Eau Claire and Eau Claire River - 460 acres. Spring 2013 survey revealed a strong walleye population of 6.7 fish/acre. Well above the average for northern Wisconsin waters. Lake Eau Claire and Eau Claire River have been managed by the Minnesota DNR since the late 1980’s. Current regulation: 15 inch minimum length limit. The main boat landing is on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire and county owned. A small user fee is required to use this landing.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**
Patten Lake - 255 acres. Patten Lake is the best walleye lake in Florence County. However, the walleye population plummeted to a record low in 2011, estimated at 0.97 adults/acre. A walleye rehabilitation project by the DNR and Patten Lake Association has been underway since 2011 and the population is now on the rebound with many young fish present. Current regulation: 15-inch minimum bullhead length Limit Access Information: 1 public boat landing on the SW corner of the lake. This lake became overrun with black bullheads, which halted any significant walleye reproduction (which is what caused the walleye population to drop). The walleye population is stocked once a year at around 1-2 adults/acre, but expect this population to take off in the upcoming years into the 4-5 adults/acre range as the abundant young walleye mature!
Lake Matona - 2,157 acres. This lake boats a very strong walleye population, esti-
mated at 4.9 adults/acres during 2013. Cur-
rent regulation: 18-inch minimum length limit, 3 fish daily bag limit. Motor trolling is per-
mitted. Access information: There is good walleye fishing in the North & east end of this lake, boat landings are all available. A bait shop with rental boats is located.

Lake Koshkonong/Rock Fish - 10,000 acres plus 27’ river miles 2013 was a co-
sozial walleye recruitment year for Lake Koshkonong/Rock Fish system. Fall 2013 sam-
ppling yielded 159 young-of-year (YOW) walleye per hour (104 per mile), beating 2004’s 70 YOW per hour. The 2004 year class will create even better fishing when it reaches the current 15-inch minimum length limit in 4 to 5 years. Current regulation: Seasons are open year-round on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all game fish except muskellunge. 15-inch minimum length / 3 fish daily per angler. Motor trolling is allowed on Lake Koshkonong as far downstream as the Highway 59 bridge at Newville. Access information: Dalman Royce County Park, Groueller Road, Klemont Park, City of Jefferson below Jefferson Dam, and its adjacent lake opportunities. Large flathead catfish exist, so current regulation: 15” length limit / 3 fish daily per angler. Anglers to keep only one walleye over 14 inch and any size northern pike. millfoil, an invasive aquatic plant that had reduced the abundance of Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive aquatic plant that had reduced the abundance of Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive aquatic plant that had

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DNR Crest Clark, Donna Sorensen with a walleye from Connors Lake during 2013 spring fish net-
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off State Hwy 12/67 on Sterlingworth Drive. One is located on West Shore Drive, and one is located on the North Shore of the Round Shore Drive at Springs Drive and County Hwy H. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and privately stocked fish include walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass.

Delavan Lake - 2072 acres. Delavan Lake community aquifer stock assessments. DNR crews handled fish. This year class (age-5) constituted 55% of the adult male population, correlating to high populations in the state and the future is very promising. The walleye population is one of the healthiest in the state. Currently, no minimum length limit for muskie caught in 2012 was 40" and in 2013 was 40". Spring 2005 total catch rate of all sized muskellunge was 0.5 per net lift and 40" was 0.03 per net lift. Fish captured in 2013 averaged 20.4 inches. 40% of the spring and fall samples included 18 inch or longer. Current regulation: Minimum length limit is 18 inches. Current regulation: Minimum length limit is 180 inches. Adult female population, reaching maturity and spawned for the first time back to when surveys began in 1989. This year class (age-5) constituted 55% of the natural reproduction indicated by fry. In early spring, 2013 fish survey sampled males in the 20 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1 fish. Access in Delavan launch ramp on the northwest end of the lake. The dock is located at the west end of the lake. Rock Dam Lake - 118 acres. Total catch rate of muskie caught in 2012 was up slightly over rates from the last survey conducted in 2005. Spring net catch of all size muskellunge was 0.5 per net lift and 40" was 0.05 per net lift. Spring 2005 total catch rate of all sized muskellunge was 0.4 per net lift and 40" was 0.04 per net lift. The most musky caught in 2012 was 40" and in 2013 was 54". The public boat launch is located on the northwest end of the lake.
Twin Valley Lake -

Brule River Flowage -

perch fishing is also present. Larger fish present. The minimum length for has created a desirable fishery with some

The forage base is good in this section of river and consistent stocking by the DNR has created a desirable fishery with some larger fish present. The minimum length for muskellunge is 40 inches and the daily bag limit is 1 fish. Quality smallmouth bass and perch fishing is also present.

FLORENCE COUNTY

Brule River Flowage - 500-600 acres. This flowage has trophy potential with fish over 50 inches present. The population is in the 0.25-0.30 fish per acre range providing a good possibility of action. Current regulation: 40-inch minimum length limit. Daily bag limit. Information: One public boat landing near the mouth of the Brule River. This flowage is a good water between W1 and ML located at the headwaters of the Menominee River. The southern half of the flowage (everywhere south of the Brule River) can be fished with a W1 fishing license. To fish the northern half of the flowage you must have a MI fishing license. Approximately 90% of the water frontage is owned by WE Energies and is left in a natural state.

IOWA COUNTY

Twin Valley Lake - 150 acres. Twin Valley Lake has probably the highest density of 30” muskies in the state at 1 fish per acre. Many of these fish are older males from 36” to 39”. There are a few females in the 40” to 41” range with a occasional fish around 44”. Fishing pressure on muskies in this lake is extreme but still catch rates are good. Body condition of these fish is acceptable but not excellent as the lake does not contain either suckers or redhorse. Current regulation: Minimum 40” with 1 bag limit. Access information: Located in Gov. Dodge State Park. Park Sticker/fee required. There is a great large size boat with an associated pier. A good, hard surfaced parking lot provides for more ample parking. There is some shore fishing opportunity associated with the boat ramp and parking area as well as with the main picnic area. The best shore fishing is associated with the dam and associated banks but accessing this requires a 1/3 mile walk from CTH “Z”. Boating on the lake is restricted to electric motors, port and starboard gas motors. Row boat and canoe rental is located across the street.糖山的哥特式大教堂是该州第二大的州立公园。公园内有47座湖泊，总面积为6,760英亩，为瓦克瑟湖州立公园的3倍。公园内有2座水坝，是瓦克瑟湖的主要水体。水上运动包括钓鱼、皮划艇、独木舟和冲浪等。

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Taylor, and Lost Land lakes - 1,024 and 2,264 acres. Both lakes have good numbers of muskies with the size to 46” captured. These lakes are a great bet for a 40-inch plus fish. Muskies can be found in the area adjacent to the North shore with a good mix of stained water, Lost Land has huge ex- 

Sawyer County

Lake of the Pines - 273 acres. Our cap- ture rates for muskies per night-net in early spring 2013 fyke nets reflects the high population density that was estimated at 0.85 muskies ≥ 30 inches per acre in 2009. Anglers should enjoy fast fishing action, but the current level of abundance (4 – 8 times higher than the goal) may be hindering the population’s size structure. Ten to twenty percent should be at least 42 inches long, but the proportion of muskies 42 inches or longer in spring fyke nets did not exceed 2% in 2009, 2010, and 2013. Growth rate may slow in this relatively small lake, if abundance remains high. This lake has been surveyed in recent years and is considered one of the most consistent producers of muskies in northern Wisconsin. The water quality is high, providing a good environment for muskies to thrive.
Okauchee Lake - 1210 acres. Spring netting in 2013 revealed an average length of 40 inches. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There are two public launches on Okauchee Lake located just east of the Okauchee Lake Dam on Rtd 10, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Mast boat launch is located off of Lacy's Lane north of East Wisconsin Avenue. Okauchee Lake has a maximum depth of 94 feet and has an excellent cisco population which provides an additional forage base resulting in above average growth rates. Okauchee Lake is a great option for catching a trophy muskie.

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

Winnebago System (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Green Bay, and the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers) Cafem, Fend du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie County, and the Fox River System - 165,246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 river miles. Great Lakes spotted sturgeon muskellunge were stocked throughout the Winnebago System during the 2005-2007. During this time span, 613,248 fish were stocked (389,643 fy; 1,162 small fingerlings; 22,397 large fingerlings; 40 yearlings; and 6 adults). Angling pressure targeting muskies has increased in recent years and anecdotal reports indicate that some very nice fish (>45”) have been caught. A commercial rough fish fishing operation, Lake Butte des Morts in the Fox River in fall of 2013 captured 5 muskellunge ranging in size from 38.8-55.7 inches. Current regulations: The current regulation for muskie is a daily bag limit of 1 fish with a minimum length limit of 50”. Access information: There are numerous accesses around the lake range from multi-lane launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town accesses at various points along the lake. From multi-lane launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town accesses at various points along the lake. Most of the shoreline is owned by the USFS and is kept in a natural state. There is a re-serve with multiple cabins built over the water creating a unique experience, for information call Fay Lake Resort @ 715-674-3829.

**BUFFALO COUNTY**

Mississippi River – Pools 5a and 6 - 2013 fall electrofishing surveys showed good numbers above and below the 14-inch length limit. Overall, nearly 31 adult and juveniles were captured per hour. Two-thirds of surveyed largemouth bass were greater than 12 inches, while nearly one in three largemouth were greater than the 14-inch length limit. Surveyed fish topped out at just over 20 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit; 5 fish/day bag limit Access information: There is a public boat landing on the south side of the lake of Old 35 Road.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY**

Lague Owen - 1,323 acres. Lake Owen has a moderate density largemouth bass population, but also has a good number of quality-sized fish. In a recent electrofishing survey, 32% of the largemouth bass were greater than 15 inches. The largest fish was 17.7 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit. In 2014, largemouth bass may be harvested when the regulations for fishing season are established the first Saturday in May. Access information: There are two public boat launches on Chequamegon National Forest property that borders the lake. Since there is not a minimum bass size regulations for largemouth bass are encouraged to harvest a variety of size.

**ASHLAND COUNTY**

Long Lake - 111 acres. Large mouth bass anglers looking for some nice sized fish should travel to Long Lake located 1 mile NE of Mellen, WI. A 2013 electrofishing survey showed 43% of the largemouth bass were greater than 12 inches in length. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit and 1 daily bag limit. Lake is a moderate sized lake with some big fish around. Anglers should keep in mind to practice good fishing Long Lake has to offer are smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and northern pike. In a small lake such as Long, excessive harvest could quickly reduce the number of bass and harvest opportunities for anglers.

**CRAWFORD/GRANT COUNTIES**

Upper Mississippi River Pools 9 & 10, Crawford, Grant, and Monroe counties - 20,561 miles of open water and backwater lakes and approximately 66-miles in length. Smallmouth and largemouth are found in a variety of habitats ranging from 2 feet to 17 feet deep. Angler pressure targeting these species has increased and anecdotal reports indicate that some very nice fish (>45”) have been caught. In a recent electrofishing survey, 32% of the largemouth bass were greater than 15 inches.

**DODGE COUNTY**

Fox Lake - 2,625 acres. Largemouth bass catch rates for 2013 fall electrofishing were 48-hour, compared to 79-hour in 2012 and 67-hour in 2011, with means ranging from 2.6 to 2.0 insect. Current regulation: 18-inch minimum length limit. Fish are abundant on large-mouth bass. Access information: Public boat launches and shorefishing sites: Clau- sen Park on Mill Creek outlet channel and Town Park (northwest side). While not a true musky lake, Fox Lake does boast an oc- casion-45-inch musky.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**

Fay Lake - 252 acres. Fay Lake has a mod- erate density of largemouth bass, estimated at 2 adult/acre during 2013. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: Public boat landing on the NW corner of Fay Lake. Most of the shoreline is owned by the USFS and is kept in a natural state. There is a re-serve with multiple cabins built over the water creating a unique experience, for information call Fay Lake Resort @ 715-674-3829.

**FOREST COUNTY**

Trump Lake - 172 acres. This lake has the highest density largemouth bass population in the Forest County at an estimated 2 adult/acre. This extremely high density began having negative impacts on the bass population and the fishery. To prevent the bass population from topping out at just over 20 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit, 3 fish daily bag limit (only 1 can be a bass) Access information: Access information: There is a public boat landing on the East end of Trump Lake. This is “hands down” the best place to go for “action” bass fishing. The new regulation will allow for increased harvest of largemouth bass, so don’t feel bad taking a few for the table...it will actually be helping the overall population.

**KENOSHA COUNTY**

Powers Lake - 459 acres. The average length of the largest fish was 17.9 inches and the average size larger fish of the bass was 4.4 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: There are two public boat landings on Crane Lake and three on Pickeral. Boats can trav- el through a culvert to have access to both lakes. The current 14-inch minimum length limit has greatly increased the size of large-mouth bass in Pickeral. Prior to this regulation only 38% of the population was greater than 12 inches, now 82% of the population was > 12 inches. The average size largemouth bass has also increased from 11.9 inches to 14.2 inches, creating a very quality bass fishery.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Lake Ripley - 418 acres. Largemouth bass catch rates for 2013 fall electrofishing were 4:50, compared to 6:50 in 2012, 1:00 in 2011 and 5:40 in 2010, with fish ranging from 2.1- to 18.6 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 fish daily bag on largemouth and smallmouth bass. Access information: Public boat launch located on Island Lane off Hwy 12 on the north side of the lake. Something that the angler might find interesting, (stocking history, record fish, habitat work, etc). Lake Ripley produced the state record largemouth, 34.98” in 1946 and the record still stands.

**KOSKI COUNTY**

Rock Lake - 1,370 acres. Largemouth bass catch rates for 2013 fall electrofishing were 41:00, compared to 3:10 in 2012, with fish ranging from 2.1- to 17.2 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length, 5 fish daily bag on largemouth and smallmouth bass. Access information: Public boat launches: CTH B (north side), Mill Pond (west side), Sandy Beach Park (south side) and Elm Point Road Launch (southwest side). Additional shorefishing stations provided by City of Milwaukee on east side of lake. Additional shorefishing on east and west shores of Mill Pond.

**LAMBERTH BASS**

A student volunteer proudly displays a nice Clareview Chain largemouth bass.

**LAMBERTH BASS**

Large mouth bass angler looking for an opportunity to catch a lot of fish, while keeping some for the fly fishing, pan, should head to Lake Wilson near Mer- cer, WI. Optimal bass habitat, along with a robust population of largemouth, continues to produce strong numbers of young fish. For this reason, anglers should not be shy about keeping smaller bass; those under the protected slot size (< 12 inches). However, it is encouraged that bass above the protected slot size (> 16 inches), are released, to help improve the quality of the fishery. Current reg- ulation: No minimum length limit, but bass from 12 to 16 inches may not be kept, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: 1 public boat landing.

**WAUSAU GRANT COUNTY**

Wilson Lake - 162 acres. Largemouth bass anglers looking for an opportunity to catch a lot of fish, while keeping some for the fly fishing, pan, should head to Lake Wilson near Mer- cer, WI. Optimal bass habitat, along with a robust population of largemouth, continues to produce strong numbers of young fish. For this reason, anglers should not be shy about keeping smaller bass; those under the protected slot size (< 12 inches). However, it is encouraged that bass above the protected slot size (> 16 inches), are released, to help improve the quality of the fishery. Current reg- ulation: No minimum length limit, but bass from 12 to 16 inches may not be kept, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: 1 public boat landing.

**WISCONSIN COUNTY**

Wilson Lake - 162 acres. Largemouth bass anglers looking for an opportunity to catch a lot of fish, while keeping some for the fly fishing, pan, should head to Lake Wilson near Mer- cer, WI. Optimal bass habitat, along with a robust population of largemouth, continues to produce strong numbers of young fish. For this reason, anglers should not be shy about keeping smaller bass; those under the protected slot size (< 12 inches). However, it is encouraged that bass above the protected slot size (> 16 inches), are released, to help improve the quality of the fishery. Current reg- ulation: No minimum length limit, but bass from 12 to 16 inches may not be kept, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: 1 public boat landing.
**Lindale County**

Lake Babe - Help us eradicate largemouth bass from this 6-acre, naturally reproducing brook trout pond. No length limit and bag limit of 5 fish per day. The depth is so it is available for harvest the first Saturday in May. Please take your 5 home today!

Rolling Stone Lake - 672 acres. Naturally reproducing largemouth bass, high density and high size quality fishery.

**Lincoln County**

County forest lakes - Hidden Gems on the County Forest – Lincoln County has hundreds of nearly smaller largemouth bass/blugill type lakes. Many of these are on county land. Get out on your own or GPS’s and explore, you just might find that secret hot spot!

**Marathon County**

Lake Emily - Lake Emily was surveyed in 2013 where we captured 106 largemouth bass in our nets and 34 fish electrofishing. The length structure was good with 20% of the catch greater than 12 inches and 22% of the fish greater than 14 inches. The largest bass caught was 21 inches. The estimated population of adult largemouth bass in Lake Emily was 77 fish per about 11 adult fish per acre. Lake Emily should provide great bass action in the coming year. Current regulation: Minimum length limit is 14 inches, and daily bag limit is 5 fish. Access information: Public boat access with parking and launch fees is located at the Cake Creek Park off Highway 11. The DN also stocks walleye into Browns Lake.

**Sawyer County**

Tiger Cat Flowage - 1,012 acres. The lake is loaded with great bass habitat. The Tiger Cat comprised of 6 lakes that are connected by channels and there is an abundance of shallow vegetated islands in the southern portion of the flowage (referred to locally as “The Everglades”). This complexity of habitat makes for a very unique northwoods largemouth bass fishing environment. Bass are abundant and many fish are between 14 and 16 inches with potential for 20-inch fish. Statewide regulations apply for bass. Access boat can be found at the Twin Lakes Road, Tiger Cat Dam Road, and Hwy 77.

**Waukeshah County**

Lake White Mound - 270 acres. Average length – 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches may not be kept, and only 1 fish over 18 inches is allowed. Current regulation: Fish size 3. Access information: The public launch is located on the east side of County Highway E, near Eagle Spring Pk. Look- ing for a nice meal? This lake has an abundant population of largemouth bass so anglers are encouraged to harvest bass less than 14” to promote size structure and balance the predator-prey relationship.

**Bayfield County**

Chequamegon Bay - Population information: Chequamegon Bay deserves its reputation as a trophy smallmouth bass fishing area. Anglers should see the average length of smallmouth bass in the 18 inch range and there is a large number of 20 and 22 inch smallmouth bass. Many year classes contribute to the population and we consistently see fish older than 20 years. Current regulation: From May 1st through June 20 is catch and release only. From June 21 to March 31, the smallmouth bass may be kept. Except Prior to the current regulation, the average length of Chequamegon Bay smallmouth bass was less than 12 inches, with the oldest fish over 10 years old. The current fishing gives anglers an opportunity to target with trophy fish!

Middle Eau Claire Lake - 902 acres. A 2013 survey found a low density smallmouth bass population with good size structure on Middle Eau Claire Lake. Electrofishing survey of smallmouth bass caught up to 20 inches in length. Current regulation: There is a 14 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of five for smallmouth bass. Catch and release only lets up the 3rd Saturday in June. Access Information: There is a concrete boat landing off of State Highway 27. Catch and release fishing is popular when the smallmouth bass are running and most of the flowage is in the southern bass zone.

**Chippewa County**

Holcombe Flowage - 3890 acres. A spring 2013 survey showed many quality-sized smallmouth bass were present in the flowage especially in early spring. The flowage is likely the overwintering area for smallmouth bass in the Chippewa and Jump rivers. When the water temperatures reach above 55 degrees, many of these fish will run up the various rivers that feed the flowage for the summer months. Anglers that target this spring movement can do exceptionally well. A similar downstream movement is present in the fall as well. The statewide bass regulation of a 14 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag of 5 is in effect and most of the flowage is in the southern bass zone.

**Clark County**

Upper Black River (above Black River Falls) - Iron, and Jackson Counties, and Lower Black River (below Black River Falls dam), Jackson, Menomonee, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties. The river, up and lower: Smallmouth is the dominant bass species in the upper and lower river. Upper river total catch rate was down at 7/7 in 2013 compared to 122/12 in 2012. In the lower river total catch rate was down to 7/7 to 13 mile compared to 13 mile in 2012. Lower river total catch rate was also down at 5/6 in 2013 compared to 7/7/12 in 2012. Catch rate for legal (14") was also down to 3/1 compared to 9/2/12 in 2012. Maximum size of fish caught in the upper river was 19” and 18” for the lower river. Regulation:
Fishery management regulations are in place for many Wisconsin lakes to provide for the enjoyment of anglers and to protect Wisconsin’s fish. accom adapts its program to the changing conditions of our waterways and the changing needs of anglers. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources works with anglers to ensure that Wisconsin’s public fishing opportunity continues to be enjoyed by all. 

**DANE COUNTY**

Lake Mendota - 9,942 acres. Smallmouth bass and yellow perch are the dominant species. Smallmouth bass are not a major sport fish. The best smallmouth bass fishing is on the south shore, with excellent opportunities on the north shore. Current regulation: 1 fish, 18” length limit; Multiple boat landings are located on the north end of the lake. The smallmouth bass population is generally considered to be good for recreational fishing. 

**DOOR COUNTY**

Green Bay - The smallmouth bass fishery continues to be a consistent producer of高质量 smallmouth bass fishery. Surveys were conducted in 2012 to evaluate the fish population and to examine their food preferences. Those surveys found that 62% of the bass were greater than 14 inches long. Smallmouth bass 14” or larger, have a high density, high quality smallmouth population. 

**LANGLE COUNTY**

Enterprise Lake, Sawyer Lake and Rose Lake - All of these lakes are new naturally reproducing populations following introductions of fingerling stockings by the lake associations; Grandmother and Grandfather Flowsages 

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Aice Lake, Aizenbach, and Alexluss). Grandmother and Grandfather Flowsages 

**MARCHANT COUNTY**

Wisconsin River, Marathon, and Portage counties. 

**MARATHON COUNTY**

The smallmouth bass population is surveyed each year on the Wisconsin River during summer. From 2006 to 2013, average electrofishing catch rate of smallmouth bass was 11 fish per hour (FPH) in the Morrell to Waupaca and on average 33% of the fish were greater than 14 inches; 25 fish/hour were caught from Rothadresse and 44% of 25” or larger; 13 fish/hour was below Doby Dam with 23% larger than 14 inches; and an average of 25” with 29% greater than 14 inches. In the past 2013 had a number of young-of-year fish catch rate of the fish, and the Wisconsin River should definitely be on any anglers list of places to visit for smallmouth bass fishing. 

**ECONOMIC COUNTY**

Current regulation: No closed season; 14 inch minimum length; bag limit is 5 bass in total. Access: Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every angler segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. There is an important special regulation on the Wisconsin River in Portage County, an 18 inch minimum length (bag of 1) below the Stevens Point Flowsage Dam to Atchuck Park Spillway. Access is excellent as well, with a daily bag limit of 3 fish/smallmouth, one boat landing, and a fishing pier at the end of Wisconsin Street in Stevens Point. 

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Tomahawk Lake - Spring electrofishing on 3.1 miles of 3,392-acre Tomahawk Lake turned up a 14% smallmouth, smallmouth, 8” to 15 inches. Tomahawk has good numbers of both species of bass, with large-mouth usually found in vegetated bays and smallmouth relating to the many rocks and main-lake structure. 

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Conners Lake - 429 acres. Our electrofishing data from 2013 showed that the capture rate of 23” or larger fish may not be as high as in the past, one only fish over 18 inches is allowed, and a boat landing is located. Access information: 4 public boat landings; 

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Little Wolf River - Recent electrofishing surveys indicate high quality smallmouth bass populations with catch rates of 14” and larger. The number of smallmouth bass per mile (ranks above the 90th percentile for northern Wisconsin bass fisheries). Current regulation: Statewide default – 14 inch minimum length limit and 5 daily bag. Access information: Access is limited to road crossings for wade fishing. Most anglers float the river between road crossings from Manawa to Spillway downstream to Highway X. This reach has numerous put-in and take-out areas. 

**NORTHERN PIKE**

Beaver Dam Lake - 1,163 acres. There were 448 northern pike collected in the 2013 survey. The majority (74%) ranged from 15-20 inches. The number of northern pike in Norwegian Bay (ranks above the 90th percentile for northern Wisconsin bass fisheries). Catch rate of larger fish (26”+) was down to 0.2 net per mile and maximum length captured was 35”. 

Sheboygan River - 3,580 acres A 2013 survey found that 62% of the bass were greater than 14 inches. The largest bass was captured was 19.3 inches. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum 5 bag. Access information: There is a public landing off of Highway W on South Turtle. There is another public landing on the channel between South and North turtle. The lakes in the chain are dark water with lots of rocky shoreline. May and early June are the best time to target smallmouth on this chain. 

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

Shale Lake - 2,580 acres A 2013 survey found a high density smallmouth bass population with good size structure. The average fish size is 14 inches and larger. Electrofishing catch rate of smallmouth bass greater than 15 inches exceeded 99% of surveys of similar lakes in Wisconsin. Current regulation: There is a 14 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 for smallmouth bass on Shale Lake. 

**WAKEESHA COUNTY**

Oconomowonokee River - 818 acres. Anglers prefer 15 inch length. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Access information: The river is located upstream of Oconomowonoke Lake on the downstream of Oconomowonoke Lake on the north side of Wisconsin Avenue. Rocky substrate, deep drop offs and wooded areas provide excellent habitat for smallmouth bass on Oconomowonoke Lake. Recent fall electrofishing surveys continually show excellent size structure and abundance of smallmouth bass with good trophy potential. 

**CLARK COUNTY**

Rock Dam Lake - 118 acres. Total catch rate was 2.9 per net lift, catch rate of 26”+ fish was 0.4/net lift and maximum length captured was 34”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2005. Total catch rate was 5 net per mile, catch rate of 26”+ fish was 0.5/net lift and maximum length captured was 35”. 

**WAUSA COUNTY**

Black River (above the Black River Falls dam), Clark and Jackson Counties, and Black River (below the Black River Falls dam), Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau counties. - Upstream of the Black River Falls Dam, Black River is 53 miles long and 1,100 feet wide in 2013 compared to 1.3/mile in 2012. Catch rate of larger fish (26”) was down to 0.2/net lift and maximum length captured was 34”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2005. Total catch rate was 7.3 net per lift, catch rate of 26”+ fish was 0.5/net lift and maximum length captured was 36”. 

Upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dam), Clark and Jackson Counties, and Black River (below the Black River Falls dam), Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau counties. - Upstream of the Black River Falls Dam, Black River is 53 miles long and 1,100 feet wide in 2013 compared to 1.3/mile in 2012. Catch rate of larger fish (26”) was slightly higher in 2013 (0.6/mile) than 2012 (0.5/mile). Maximum size of pike captured in the lower river in 2013 was 37 inches. Regulation: Rock Dam Lake, Black River, and Black River downstream of Highway 10 – No minimum length limit/day bag limit of 5 fish. For Sherwood Lake and the Black River downstream of Highway 10 – Minimum length limit of 26”/daily bag limit of 2 fish.
IRON COUNTY

Gile Flowage - 3,384 acres. 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 5-foot fish. A recent 2012 spring netting survey revealed an extremely high quality northern pike population with good size structure. The survey indicated that for northern pike larger than 14 inches, 47% were also larger than 32 inches, and 15% were larger than 38 inches. Current regulation: Minimum length limit is 26 inches, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: The public boat launch is at the east end of county road H and West Shore Drive, and from County Hwy H to Bubbling Springs Drive to Ridge Road.

WAUKEasha COUNTY

Big Muskie Lake - 2,200 acres. Average length - 26 inches. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: The public boat launch is located off the east end of Lake Edgerton and off of Bobber and Crivitz Roads. This shallow system has heavy aquatic plants and big northern pike. The highly conservative minimum length limit provides exciting catch and release action for bass and pike.

PANFISH

ADAMS COUNTY

Castle Rock Lake, Adams and Juneau counties - 12,990 acres. Castle Rock Lake was surveyed in the spring of 2013. Size structure of the bluegill population was excellent, where 47% of the fish that were at least of stock length size (3 inches) were equal to or greater than quality length (6 inches) and 16% were equal to or greater than the preferred length (8 inches). Current regulation: No length limit, no closed season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Access: Access is excellent on Castle Rock Lake.

BARRON COUNTY

Chetek Chain of Lakes - The Chetek Chain has good numbers of black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, and Ojaski lakes. The total acreage for all lakes combined is 3,765 acres. As documented in a 2012 survey, all lakes in the Chetek Chain contain robust populations of 7-9 inches crappies and 9-11 inches bluegills. Current regulation: 25 fish bag limit, no minimum length limit. Access information: There is a public boat launch on the south end of the lake.

BURNETT COUNTY

Devils Lake - 1,001 acres. A 2013 electrofishing survey found a very good bluegill population. The average length of bluegills was 6.7 inches and over 60% of the fish surveyed were over 7 inches. Current regulation: No length limit, no closed season. Current regulation: 25 panfish Access Information: There is a public boat access on the south end of the lake at the end of Stillson Road.

BUFFALO COUNTY

Mississippi River - Poole Sa and E - 2013 fall electrofishing surveys showed a healthy bluegill population. Overall, nearly 48 adult and juvenile bluegill captured per acre. Bluegill mean length was 6.7 inches and 79% of the fish captured were over 6 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25 Panfish Access Information: There is a public boat launch on the south end of the lake.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Holcombe Flowage - 3,880 acres. A 2013 fall electrofishing survey documented that several strong year classes of black crappie were present. Top end fish were in the 11 to 13-inch range with a few bigger and another strong year class of 9 to 11-inch fish was present. Anglers will do best in Pike Lake,
CLARK COUNTY
Rock Dam Lake • 118 acres. Black crappie. Total catch rate was 20.6 per net lift, catch rate of 10+" fish was 0.53/lift and maximum length captured was 13.5". The netting survey was conducted in 2005. Total catch rate of 15.4 net lifts is 4.5 per net lift, and maximum length captured was 10". Fish lake for families and young anglers who fish these contributing to an excellent bite rate.

LACROSSE COUNTY
Mississippi River, La Crosse Area, Trempealeau, Lake La Crosse and counties. The Mississippi River in the La Crosse area includes a total of 53,800 acres and stretches from the Village of Onalaska downstream to the city of Lansing, IA. In 2007 through 2013 full summer surveys of the Black River Channel region, including the Black River in La Crosse, Round Lake, French Lake and French Slough had the following average abundance of panfish (256 fish per hour) followed by Lawrence and Trempealeau counties on the Mississippi side (100 fish per hour), the Goose Island and Stoddard region (91 fish per hour), and the Trempealeau Lakes Region (89 fish per hour). The Reno region, in northeast Port 9, had the lowest abundance (10.3 fish per hour). Really good news is yellow perch numbers have increased about 175 percent since 2006 in the La Crosse area. This increase, also seen in other up per Mississippi River regions, is associated with clearer water. If you are looking for a few large couple or few thousand fish the drink the clipboard has the data you are looking for.

DANE COUNTY
Lake Waubesa • 2080 acres. Lake Waubesa, and adjacent, (upstream) Upper Mud Lake, are the main open water fish destinations for bluegill and crappie anglers. Annually, the lakes south end attracts spring sport fisherman with their “big” bass. Bluegill fishing is generally tied to the weed beds and the areas adjacent to the two west shore, however, good habitat is readily accessible. Current regulation: 25 in total, no length restriction. Access: County lakes can be found on the West shore at Goodland and at the DNR Data Park. Rock Dam park, south of the Village of McFarland allows boat access from the east bank.

Lake Wingra • 345 acres. While lacking in size, Lake Wingra is a fine pan fish lake for those who want to go big or want the bobber to go down!! Annual shocking of the lake has maintained the high fish density in the lake and the 95% abundance of 6 inches but numbers can outweigh size where catching is concerned. Current regulation: 25 in total, no length restriction. Access: There are two boat launches on the lake, one on each shore fishing opportunities exist along the Yards park shoreline on Wingra’s north shore, and one on the west shore on both shoreline fishing and a boat rental concession.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY
Yellowstone Lake • 450 acres. The bluegill population in Yellowstone has been steadily improving and now offers anglers an opportunity to catch many bluegill over a good size. Electrofishing surveys in 2013 revealed a mixed good bluegill fishery. Two hundred forty five bluegill caught 8.5 inches from 3.0 to 9.0 inches. Forty-five white perch were greater than 10 inches. The catchable size bluegills averaged 7.5 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 25, no length limit. Access information: There is a boat launch accessible and one canoe launch. There are multiple ADA accessible fishing piers. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Yellow stone 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.

MARATHON COUNTY
Wisconsin River • Lake Wisau was surveyed in 2012 and the results showed a strong bluegill population with 39% of the fish greater than 6 inches. While size structure may vary year to year, lake conditions play a major role. Atlantic salmon. The level of this note in this is abundance and size and action is consistent. Current regulation: No length limit, no season, 25 per boat in total may be kept. Access: Angler access to Lake Wisau is excellent with boat launches at three city parks (Oak Island, Schofield, and Memorial Parks) and Bluegill Bay County Park. Rookery Bay is a favorite destination for local ice anglers. During the month of December there is very little ice possible. This bay is located off of the Rib River Channel where a flows under the Hwy N Bridge and into Lake Wausau. Ice anglers access mostly from a small park just south of the Hwy N Bridge from Wisconsin N access from Gulliver’s Restaurant.

FLORENCE COUNTY
Iron County
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage • 13,545 acres. 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. Current regulation: 25 in total, no length restriction. Access: Electrofishing surveys in 2012 and the results showed a mixed good bluegill fishery. Two hundred forty five bluegill caught 8.5 inches from 3.0 to 9.0 inches. Forty-five white perch were greater than 10 inches. The catchable size bluegills averaged 7.5 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 25, no length limit. Access information: There are multiple ADA accessible fishing piers. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Yellow stone 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.

KNOX COUNTY
Lake Michigan and tributaries, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Sauk Counti es • In 2012 the sport harvest of yellow perch fell to the lowest in decades, with 9,155 fish harvested. The harvest seemed to rebound somewhat in 2013, but the majority of the harvest is from Lake Michigan. The 2013 perch harvest was low and both total and average body size of the harvest was 9.5 inches, making up 50% of the harvest. The 2013 year-class of perch should continue to drive the fishery in 2014. The majority of perch harvest in the southern portion of these counties from Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties. Current regulation: Open from June 16 – April 30. Daily bag limit is 5 yellow perch. No mini mum length. There are many boat and shore access locations to Fish for yellow perch. drewn.gov/topic/lands/baotaccess/

LACLEDE COUNTY
County Forest lakes • There are hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes. Many of these are on county forest land. Get out your maps or GPS and explore, you just might find a spot you’d never tell your relatives about!!

MANITOWOC COUNTY
Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties...
Green Bay, Marinette, Oconto, Door and Brown counties: Good news for perch anglers: The 2010 year class of yellow perch was the largest in 30 years of surveys. In 2014, those 4-year-old fish should range in size from approximately 9 to 12 inches. The crappies in Chain, with their schooling habits of perch as they follow food sources. Open water harvest of yellow perch in 2012 was 148,980 (29,752 lbs) compared to 254,942 fish (67,729 lbs) in 2011. The majority of the yellow perch (38%) was by boat anglers harvesting at ramps at Door and Kewaunee County. Golden Lake - 63 acres. The 2013 open water creel survey results show that substantial harvests of black crappie and black crappie occurred during 2013. Bluegill and crappie fishing is expected to remain strong throughout the 2014 season. Most bluegill harvested ranged from 7.9 inches and black crappie, 9.12 inches. The St. Croix River is open year round, the daily bag limit is 25 of each species and there is no minimum length limit. The Jaycee’s Public Boat Access in Presque is located on the north side off of Highway K, also known as the Moraine Sce nic Drive. Spring netting in 2013 revealed bluegills were found in good abundance and had an average size of 7.4. Panfish have a good size structure in Golden Lake. Pike Lake - 711 surface acres. Average length - 7 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Additional information: Access information: Access to the lake is by a very good public launch at Pike Lake Park, which is a very productive body of water and has good numbers of bluegill and yellow perch as well.

**LWALESHA COUNTY**

Okauchee Lake - 1157 acres. Average length - 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Additional information: There are two public launches on Okauchee Lake located at the Golden Must Restaurant and the DNR launch. The DNR boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road T, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Must boat launch is located off of Eacles Lake north of East Wisconsin Avenue. Look for crappies in many of shallow bays when the water temperatures rise to the low to mid 50 degrees. Spring netting in 2013 revealed excellent black crappie size structure and abundance.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Piggen Lake and Marion Pond - 163 and 108 acres. Recent surveys conducted on both waterbodies indicate abundant populations of panfish. Netting surveys conducted in Piggen Lake indicated high bluegill abundance with 36% of catch over 6.0 inches. Crappies and yellow perch were also in low numbers. Surveys conducted on Marion Pond indicate very high densities of bluegill, yellow perch, and black bullhead. The majority of these fish are the result of a strong year class hatched in 2010 and with current regulations place bluegill harvestable size over the next summer. Current regulation: Panfish regulations are statewide default for both waters. Additional information: Piggen Lake has multiple access including five boat launches and a city park with ample shore fishing opportunities. Marion Pond has two boat launches and shore fishing opportunities at Wallace Park and Lions Point. Anglers venturing over to Piggen Lake or Marion Pond should consider their effort during spring, late fall, and winter months due to the extensive growth of submergent aquatic plants which can limit the ability to fish it effectively during the summer. Wrathman Lake - 1.55 acres. The 2013 open water creel survey results show that substantial harvests of black crappie and black crappie occurred during 2013. Bluegill and crappie fishing is expected to remain strong throughout the 2014 season. Most bluegill harvested ranged from 7.9 inches and black crappie, 9.12 inches. The St. Croix River is open year round, the daily bag limit is 25 of each species and there is no minimum length limit. The Jaycee’s Public Boat Access in Presque is located on the north side off of Highway K, also known as the Moraine Scenic Drive. Spring netting in 2013 revealed bluegills were found in good abundance and had an average size of 7.4. Panfish have a good size structure in Golden Lake. Pike Lake - 711 surface acres. Average length - 7 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Additional information: Access information: Access to the lake is by a very good public launch at Pike Lake Park, which is a very productive body of water and has good numbers of bluegill and yellow perch as well.

**IOWA COUNTY**

Ludden Lake - 43 acres. The channel catfish population continues to increase due to the extensive growth of submergent aquatic plants which can limit the ability to fish it effectively during the summer. Wrathman Lake - 1.55 acres. The 2013 open water creel survey results show that substantial harvests of black crappie and black crappie occurred during 2013. Bluegill and crappie fishing is expected to remain strong throughout the 2014 season. Most bluegill harvested ranged from 7.9 inches and black crappie, 9.12 inches. The St. Croix River is open year round, the daily bag limit is 25 of each species and there is no minimum length limit. The Jaycee’s Public Boat Access in Presque is located on the north side off of Highway K, also known as the Moraine Scenic Drive. Spring netting in 2013 revealed bluegills were found in good abundance and had an average size of 7.4. Panfish have a good size structure in Golden Lake. Pike Lake - 711 surface acres. Average length - 7 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Additional information: Access information: Access to the lake is by a very good public launch at Pike Lake Park, which is a very productive body of water and has good numbers of bluegill and yellow perch as well.
Fisheye biologist, Laura Stronich-Thompson hoists a large flathead catfish collected from Lake Kashkonong.

KENOSHA COUNTY

Fox River - A fish survey with hoop nets was conducted on the Fox River above the Villager of Silver Lake in Kenosha County in June, 2013. This section of river supports an average channel and scattered catfish population. Channel catfish averaged 17.5 inches and the largest was 31 inches. Flathead catfish averaged 26.7 inches and the largest was 36 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length; bag limit is 10 in total. Access information: Public boat launch is available off of West River Road, the Hwy HH boat ramp, the Hwy HH boat ramp, and the River Road boat ramp. Shore line access in available off of West River Drive, which has numerous parking areas where anglers can access the Wisconsin River. Catfish are a great bait fish for kids, they are easy to catch using basic tackle and fight hard.

PORTAGE COUNTY

Wisconsin River - Catfish populations are surveyed regularly on the Wisconsin River with summer hoop netting. In 2013 we surveyed the River near Biron, Wausau and found a great population of channel catfish. We captured a total of 252 catfish for a catch rate of 2.8 per net night, which was the largest number ever captured on this water. For this water 79% of the fish were greater than 16 inches, and 28% of the fish were greater than 24 inches. The largest fish captured was 28.5 inches. Current regulation: No closed season; no minimum length limit; bag limit is 10. Access: Stevens Point/Floorage is accessible at the Dubay Dam boat ramp, and Bunkert Park boat ramp in Stevens Point and should be available at both access points. Other access includes Lake-Ashland Dam ramp, the Hwy HH boat ramp, and the River Road boat ramp. Other shore line access available off of west River Drive, which has numerous parking areas where anglers can access the Wisconsin River. Catfish are a great bait fish for kids, they are easy to catch using basic tackle and fight hard.

SHAWANO COUNTY

Wolf River, Shawano, Outagamie and Waupaca counties - Recent hoop net surveys conducted on the Wolf River indicate moderate to high numbers of channel catfish with over 57% of fish over 20.0 inches and the largest fish at 34.5 inches. Flathead catfish were found in lower numbers but exhibited good size with 84% of catch over 30.0 inches and the largest at 43.1 inches. Flathead catfish as a species have a unique shape and structure appear to be trending upward. Current regulation: No closed season; no minimum length limit in total, open all year. Flathead catfish: Daily bag limit of one fish and only flatheads from 30.0 inches and over can be possessed. Season follows statewide gamefish season. Access information: Multiple public and private boat accesses are located throughout the Wolf River from Fremont upstream to Shawano. Good shore fishing areas are found at public accesses in Fremont, Gillis Landing, New London, and at multiple properties in the lower Wolf River bottom state lands.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Illinois Fox River - This report refers to the

LAKE STURGEON

An educational opportunity: Children at play investigate a 72-inch sturgeon collected from the North Fork Flambeau River. Photo: Greg Rublee.

Flambeau River, Iron, Ashland, Price, Sawyer and Rusk counties - The Flambeau River, including its North and South Forks, is one of a handful of Wisconsin waters that offers anglers a decent chance to catch lake sturgeon during the hook-and-line season each September. Population abundance is generally higher in the free-flowing river segments, but they are also known to inhabit the nine impoundments on this river system. Sturgeon season remains closed upstream from Turtle-Flambeau Dam as restoration of that sub-population continues. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily limit is 5 (total of which only 1 is the minimum length of 10 inches). Access information: Anglers can troll for browns in the spring and summer months. There are numerous boat access locations along the bay shore. Check out this website for the latest details. doi: wa.gov/topic/lakes/bauctours/ Brown trout make fall migratory runs and may be fished year round in the Flambeau, Menominee, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers. From late September into the winter months, shore anglers may have luck catching browns in these major tributaries. DNR stocks around 126,000 brown trout offshore in 2010 to move them into Green Bay. Since the early 2000’s, brown trout harvest was down considerably from the previous few decades. In an attempt to re-vitalize that fishery, DNR began stocking trout offshore in 2010 to move them away from nearshore predators at the stocking sites. We no longer stock fall fingerling brown trout into Green Bay but have seen expected 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 2000 to 2010 to 20 hours per fish in 2012. Much of the fishing success of a given year is reliant on the survival of stocked brown trout in the water temperature that affects prey availability in nearshore areas where those fish inhabit.

Lake Superior, Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Washburn counties - Lake Trout will make up the bulk of anglers catch in the Apostle Islands region, yet abundance appears to have declined in recent years. Anglers have compensated by having greater success in their pursuit of coho and brown trout. While the average size of coho and brown trout from creel surveys is less than 20 inches, trophy fish in excess of 43 inches are reported throughout the year. Current regulation: 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.

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. Access information: dnr.wi.gov/DNR-RMManagedLands/index.htm?tid=8\tCoyLawer Coho salmon are produced naturally in the tributaries of Lake Superior, providing a fishery that is essentially free to the anglers of Wisconsin. Brown trout are stocked in Lake Superior because 1) they are extremely popular with anglers and 2) they live longer than most pacific salmon, meaning there is a greater prospects for the stocked fish to eventually be caught by anglers.

Bois Brule River, downstream from U.S. Highway 2. 2,671 steelhead ascended the Bois Brule River lamprey barrier fishway during the fall 2012-spring 2013 season: 4,594 in the fall and 2,577 in the spring. The spring run was particularly notable for the first time on record, over 400 steelhead ascended the fishway during the three separate weeks. Further, the 2,177 steelhead in the spring was the highest spring run on record. The record-breaking heavy snowfall and cool air temperatures during the spring in northern Wisconsin likely influenced the spring run. Current regulation: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2 - Open from the Saturday after Easter April 1 through November 15; 26-inch minimum length; daily limit is one fish. Access information: Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateFishes/brule.html and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points are through designated areas only within the Brule River State Forest. Easy access at most points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Carlson Road, Copper Range Campground, State Highway 13, or off Loveland Road at the Brule River lamprey barrier/ fishway. Steelhead were last stocked in the spring of 2002, and a portion of those fish returned to spawn in the Brule between 2003 and 2010. The spring of 2012 saw the majority of the stocked fish reached their maximum life span of 8-10 years. Beginning in the fall of 2010 and continuing to the present time, no stocked fish have been observed passing through the fishway. The current minimum length to harvest a steelhead is 26 inches, which allows steelhead to spawn at least one time during their lives. It is important to remember that steelhead spawn repeatedly throughout their lives. They are different from salmon, which spawn only once. Before steelhead can be taken, the 26-inch limit should be handled and released with extra care to ensure a better future for spawning and natural re-
Lake Michigan and tributaries, Kenosha, Racine, Rock River, Oconomowoc, Green, Wal- ly counties - The brown trout fishery in Lake Michigan is supported through annual stocking. Brown trout fishing in 2011 was poor, but in 2012 and 2013 the fishery re-bounded and offered good angling through the fall and into months of January through March. Anglers caught good numbers of browns in the higher water levels and long island areas, especially the Milwaukee River and harbor. Spring stream flows are ideal for fish mi- nor stocking. Most of the brown trout in Lake Michigan are annually stocked with legal-sized (Beaver and Pole – brook trout). Anglers interested in fishing these lakes are advised to contact local fisheries staff to verify that trout have indeed been stocked. Regulations: Category 2 - 7 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Access information: Beaver and Cameron Lakes have public boat landings, and Pole Lake has a walk-in access.

BARRON COUNTY
Brill River - There are 3 miles of stream near the village of Brill that is considered trout water. The Brill River has a respectable brown trout population with good size structure. The electrofishing catch rate during the 2013 survey was 510 fish/mile, which is good for the area. The Brill River offers potential to grow some larger brown trout. In 2013, 30% of the fish measured were 10 inches or larger, with the largest fish being 17.5 inches. Current regulation: There is a 12 inch minimum length limit for brown trout and an 8 inch minimum length limit for brook trout. The regulation for trout is 3 inch in length. Access information: Anglers can access the Brill River from the stream crossings at 290th Road, County Highway W, 27 ½ Ave, and 26th Ave.

BUFFALO COUNTY
Area Trout Streams Buffalo, Jackson, and St. Croix counties - Despite unfortunate reductions in our area trout populations, 2013 surveys still found very favorable popu- lations throughout our management area. Future monitoring will gauge further impact to our trout populations of drought conditions in summer and fall of 2013. Supplement- al trout stocking from DNR and coop- erative stockings put brook trout in the area. Drought effects of last year’s drought. Habitat re- generation of some streams in 2013 improved trout productivity and conditions and angler access in Waumandee and Danuaser Creeks (Buffalo County), and the Elkhorn River above the North Branch Beaver Creeks (Trempealeau County).

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Spring Creek (Lodi), Columbia County - 16 miles. Trout surveys along the length of Spring Creek in Columbia County produced brown trout electrofishing catch rates rang- ing from 175 to 1,426 per mile. The high- est trout density was found in the segment running through Goers Park in the City of Lodi behind the ball diamonds, in- cluding 125 brown trout per mile larger than 12 inches. The brown trout enhancement for brown trout larger than 15 inches exists downstream from the second Highway 113 bridge cross- ing between the City of Lodi and Lake Wa- ycon. Access to the creek is offered through Spring Creek Fishery Area. Current regulations: For all trout species: From the beginning of the classified trout water in Dane County to the far upper ends of the better streams in the area which are not stocked as well as the long hard winter and late spring in 2013 seem to have negatively im- pacted the trout population in the Eau Claire Area. These two class streams which are dependent on stocking to provide good fishing opportunities for anglers in the past populations the past decade but duties of trout fishing in Dane County seem to have reversed this trend. Some examples of those streams are Bear, Arcadia, Lower Plum and Lowes Creek. The good news is many of the Class 1 trout streams in the area which are not stocked and sustain themselves via natural reproduc- tion seem to be holding their own with trout abundance in the 1500-6000 fish/mile range. Elk, Duncan, McCann and Hay Creeks are the top Class 1 waters in the Eau Claire area. Each of these streams has a state fishery management plan and public access is common to abundant.

GRANT COUNTY
Little Grant River - 9.0 miles (trout water) in Grant County supports a good average population of brown trout. Recent surveys sampled 355 yearling and adult brown trout from the upper Grant River from a size range of 7 inches (minimum length limit). Current regulation: As signed, 3 fish with a 9" minimum length limit prior to June 1 and 4 fish after June 1. The regulation on Bohlman Branch Creek is for brook trout. The regulation on Bollman Branch Creek is for brook trout in the east side of Lodi part of Spring Creek Fishery Area, and provides public access to a mixed brook and brown trout fishery. The regulation on Bollman Branch Creek is 3 inch minimum, 6 inch minimum and 3 inch daily bag limit.

DANE COUNTY
Black earth creek - 12 miles. A legendary stream, Black Earth Creek (BEC) rightfully earns its status as a premiere trout destina- tion, regionally, statewide, and in the upper midwest. Surveyed annually, the 2013 as- sessment showed consistent good numbers of legal trout 9 inches and over. In the lower stream reaches where catch and release regulation apply, excellent numbers of fish are available for harvest. Currently, 20" from the Black Earth segment. Current regulation: As signed prior to June 1 9" minimum length limit. In the area from South Valley Road, downstream, catch and release, artifi- cial bait restrictions apply. Access: The Department holds a minimum of 10 individ- ually accessible parcel along BEC. These properties are on a semi-annual basis to allow angler access and freedom of move- ment along the stream corridor. Specific maps can be found at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ fishing/anglereducation/wherefish.html as an existent invasive, the NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL, was sampled from BEC in late 2013. Anglers, specifically migratory wad- ers and footwear, are the method of trans- port between streams. Anglers are advised to clean their gear before fishing other waters. For more information go to the DNR web- site, dnr.wi.gov.

Storv Creek Southern Dane and northern Iowa counties - April is prime time angling for brown trout. For those who are willing to walk, Storv Creek offers the lure of big fish, quiet, and solitude. Storv Creek flows through the Broome County (WIBA) and offers some wild fish, A small brook trout in Stor- creed lends itself best to bait and spinner fishing as dense streambank vegetation can make flycasting difficult. Due to its relative re- mote character, Story holds some truly large brook trout. Brown trout anglers may also catch brook trout in the upper stretches above the county line. The stream below Hwy 92 is easily wadeable and holds nice fish under the overhanging dogwood and elderberry that commonly line the banks.

Current regulation: 3 fish 9" bag limit daily; Access, Walk in access from bell- brook Rd on the north, Tippeyline and Apple roads on the east property boundary, 892 SW 92 (the county line) , and CTH X on the roads on the east property boundary, STH 45 between Hwy 2 and Hwy 50 on the west. SW Wisconsin Coules Region, Grant, Iowa and Richland counties - A couple hundred miles of water. The number of brown trout in the water system is still decreasing including a large number of quality fish and some memorable-size fish as well. There are some good brook trout fisheries in the far upper ends of some of the better streams but this really is not a brook trout area. The majority of these streams are now Class 1 naturally reproducing fisheries. Current regulation: As signed, 3 fish with a 9" minimum length limit. The rest of the stream is under the county base regulation of 3 fish with a 9" minimum length limit daily bag limit of 3. Access information: Access is walk in only. Public fishing easements start 0.5 miles downstream of the Fall River bridge. The rest of the stream is an extens upstream for 2.8 miles upstream end at Milner Road.

IRON COUNTY
Weber & Plunkett Lakes - 66 and 48 acres, respectively. For trout anglers looking for an enjoyable experience, these put-and-take trout lakes are annually stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Plunkett Lake has a home to trout anglers looking for no shoreline development, while Weber Lake (near Hurley) sees increased activity as the popularity continues to grow. Anglers are required to purchase a fishing license. For more information go to the DNREC website, www.de.wv.gov.

Storv Creek Southern Dane and northern Iowa counties - April is prime time angling for brown trout. For those who are willing to walk, Storv Creek offers the lure of big fish, quiet, and solitude. Storv Creek flows through the Brookville Animal Area (WIBA) and offers some wild fish, A small brook trout in Storv Creek lends itself best to bait and spinner fishing as dense streambank vegetation can make flycasting difficult. Due to its relative re- mote character, Story holds some truly large brook trout. Brown trout anglers may also catch brook trout in the upper stretches above the county line. The stream below Hwy 92 is easily wadeable and holds nice fish under the overhanging dogwood and elderberry that commonly line the banks.

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LANGELO COUNTY
Brook trout waters - East Branch Eau Claire River downstream from STH 45, Millie’s Creek from Portage to Tomahawk and from Antigo and downstream of Antigo, McGee Lake, South Branch-Oconto River
**Brown trout waters - Evergreen River; Wolf River; Hunting River; Sauk Spring; South Branch Oconto River**

**Stocked Lakes -** Jack (rainbows), Pence (brooks), and Tranquility (rainbows)

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Brook trout waters - Prairie River, North Branch Prairie River; Big Pine Creek; New Wood River

**MARINETTE COUNTY**

Thunder Lake - 155 acres. Thunder Lake is an opening day hot spot for trout anglers. Annualy, 5,000 rainbow trout are stocked before opening weekend (first Saturday in May).

South Branch Pembovonok, Upper Middle Inlet, KC Creek, North Fork Thunder River - For anglers wanting to target brook trout, the South Branch Pembovonok, North Branch Pembovonok, Upper Middle Inlet, KC Creek, and North Fork Thunder River all have good brook trout populations. Access information: These streams can all be accessed from various road stream crossings.

**ONEDA COUNTY**

Trot waters - Brown trout are stocked in Dorothy Lake and Bearskin River; rainbows are planted for Perch, Hawk and Little Bass Lake, and brook trout for Mercer Springs. Mercer Springs fishery area is a spring pond complex located about 6 miles west of Minocqua, on Kilawee Road.

**PORTAGE COUNTY**

Flume Creek - Flume Creek flows through northeastern Portage County and eventually into the Little Wolf River. Full stocked brook trout for 2013 indicate brown trout are remaining stable but were down slightly from 100 fish per mile to about 80. Brook trout numbers for Flume Creek have averaged about 750 fish per mile and were also down slightly from about 300 per mile. These lower estimates can be attributed in part to a beaver dam in the middle of our survey transect. In general, Flume Creek has had consistent trout numbers over the years, but for the lower numbers being harvested, the size of the brook trout increased by 40% in 2013. Current regulation: Regular inland trout season, brown trout limit is 12 inches and brook trout 9 inches; the bag limit is 3. Access information: Flume Creek has good access from road crossings and has several fishery areas. There are several large tracts of DNR property east of Rodenh and there are several fishing easements on a large portion of Flume Creek.

**ST CROIX COUNTY**

Kinnickinick River, St. Croix and Pierce counties - 15 miles of Class I trout water in St. Croix County and 10 miles of Class I water in Pierce County. 2013 electrofishing surveys show the majority of Kinnickinick River brown trout population ranks consistently above the 95 percentile for overall trout density (25 [71x80]per mile [greater] in the State of Wisconsin. Upstream 1/2 mile reach, 1/8 mile reach (lower dam in Glen Park) in the City of River Falls, Category 2 - A 7 inch minimum length limit and bag limit of 1 trout per day, 1 daily bag limit. On Lake Louton in the City of River Falls to the St. Croix River, Category I - 10 inch minimum length limit, and bag limit of 1 trout under 10 inches, or 4 trout under 10" and 1 over 14 inches. Access information: Namekagon River fishing area which lies upstream of the City of River Falls and along StTH 65. Access downstream of River Falls is primarily limited to Glen Park in the City of River Falls and CTH F in Kinnicinick River State Park.

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Namekagon River basin in Sawyer and Bayfield counties - A trout fishing paradise, no matter what kind of experience anglers are looking for. The main river from Hayward to Lake Namekagon is premier brown trout water that consistently produces between 20-30 trout per mile. Access points are abundant and the river is great for wade fishing or floating. The adventuresome angler may be interested in exploring some of the coldwater tributaries and springs that feed the Namekagon to the StCroix River. The adventuresome angler may be interested in exploring some of the coldwater tributaries and springs that feed the Namekagon to the StCroix River. SAWYER COUNTY - 25 per mile. Anglers fishing this section of the river may want to try water bodies near StCroix River and Pinnebog River in Sawyer County.

**Sheboygan County**

Onion River and its tributaries - 10 miles of Class I brown trout waters. 2013 surveys yielded an average length of 8.5 inches, with a maximum length of 15 inches. We saw catch rates of up to 992 fish per mile which puts it around the 87th percentile when compared with other brown trout waters statewide. Current regulation: Upstream of CTH – Category 5; daily bag limit 1, minimum length limit 15 inches, artificial flies only. Downstream of CTH – Category 3; daily bag limit 3, minimum length limit 9 inches, no gear restrictions Access information: The best access is from the bridge at CTH A and a number of points along CTH U. Upstream of the river, anglers will find extensive habitat work in a number of stretches and this is generally where we find the largest fish in our surveys.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Rosenow Creek - A 1/2 mile reach Average length – 7 inches. A recent stream shocking survey revealed a trout up to 11 inches. Current regulation: 9 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: Access can be found at the Oconomowoc high school property off of North Lapham Street. This small coldwater stream has consistent natural reproduction of brook trout providing good action.

**Paradise Springs** - A 1/2 mile reach Average length – 7 inches. A recent stream shocking survey revealed a trout up to 11 inches. Current regulation: 9 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 3 downstream of Hwy N. Catch and release, artificial flies onlylipperum of Hwy N. Access information: Access can be found on Hwy N west of Hwy 39 west of Eagle. Natural reproduction and supplemental stocking provide good action on both sides of Hwy N. Downstream, anglers can find trout fishing under a number of bank structures. Upstream of Hwy N features ADA access to a fishing pier located on the stocked pond.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Waupaca River - In the special regulation section of the Waupaca River, recent surveys indicate wild trout populations have been holding steady with electroshocking catch rates of large (>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. Current regulation: Category 5 (18 inch minimum for brown trout and 12 inch minimum for brook trout and rainbow trout; 1 daily bag, artificial flies only) from River Rd upstream to Durand Road in Portage County. Category 2 (7 inch minimum, 5 daily bag limit) for water downstream of Bearskin Lake Loound in the City of Waupaca have great access. A fishing trial for physically challenged anglers is located upstream of the Water Street bridge that has a hand service ramp and several spars to access the stream. The Waupaca River Fishing Area is comprised of DNR managed lands off County Hwy Q and Foley Rd. The downstream reach of City of Waupaca is primarily limited to Glen Park in the City of Waupaca and CTH F in Kinnicinick River State Park.

**GET THE LEAD OUT! Please consider using non-lead tackle.**

[dnr.gov for more information](http://dnr.gov)

**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 lakes 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 Website by, for a list of designated waters refer to the Hook and Line Regulation Booklet. The DNR currently annually stocks thousands of rainbow trout in these waters. In addition the Hunger Task Force Food 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 have fished in clinics during the winter and spring. I highly recommend the kids fish clinics whether you are just getting into fishing or have been fishing for a few years. 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, fish identification and much more.

The DNR also offers Angler Education instruction workshops. This program is dedicated to train volunteers how to incorporate fishing programs in their community. Instructors are provided guidance and ideas to help them introduce children to basic fishing skills and connect them with WI water.

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 loan 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 more information contact: Mad Cofman, Supervisor Urban Fisheries Biologist 414-263-8614

Remington Pond, Langlade County

Stocked with rainbow trout in the spring and brook trout in the fall. South Branch of Remington Pond is classified as Urban Waters. These waters are periodically stocked with trout also for the kids to enjoy.

Open year around – no length limit, 3 trout per day, 1 bass or northern pike per day, 10 panfish (bluegill, sunfish, crappie, perch, bullhead) per day.

Mirror Lake, Lincoln County

Only juveniles of 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish Mirror Lake. Mirror Lake Stocked with rainbow trout in the spring and brook trout in the fall. Open year around – no length limit, 3 trout per day, 1 bass or northern pike per day, 10 panfish (bluegill, sunfish, crappie, perch, bullhead) per day.

**For more information, please visit:**

[fishingwisconsin.org](http://fishingwisconsin.org)