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

Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/WIDNR)
Watch us on YouTube (youtube.com/user/WIDNRTV)
SIGN UP for Fisheries Updates. Go to fishingwisconsin.org to sign up and stay informed on fisheries issues.
Follow “fishwisconsin” on Twitter. Subscribe at fishingwisconsin.org

Wisconsin Anglers - Plan your fun!
Fish as Art Calendar 2015 - It's Free!

THE WISCONSIN FISHING REPORT
Spring 2015 - An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Fisheries Management program - fishingwisconsin.org

Wisconsin anglers’ most favorite table fare?

Dear WISCONSIN ANGLER

Another fantastic fishing season approaches. I hope you all are ready for it. I know I will be.

Please take a few minutes to read about how we put your fishing license dollars to work last year. Our fisheries biologists, technicians, hatchery and education staff are committed to make fishing even better in Wisconsin, and we hope your time on the water reflects that in 2015.

Our world-class fishing opportunities make Wisconsin waters a special place, and one of the greatest gifts we can give someone is to connect them to the great outdoors. Take a friend fishing — it’s a gift that will last a lifetime.

I’d like to ask all anglers to continue to care for our fisheries. By working together, we can keep Wisconsin fish and lakes healthy and reel in many, many more great memories and fish.

Wishing you tight lines in 2015!

Randal W. Beach
Director, Fisheries Management

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Wisconsin fish are fun to catch and great to eat

A new initiative aims to bring new anglers to the table... the dinner table.

Do you know someone who missed the fishing boat as a kid? Perhaps they were raised vegetarian and have decided they want to flesh out their diet a bit. Are you or they interested in sustainable, local foods?

Wisconsin waters are teeming with hungry fish. Help someone learn how to land one on their dining table for a tasty, healthy meal with a low food miles score by directing them to these classes. Classes began this winter to teach adults what they’ve been missing - knot-tying, casting, fish identification and preparing the catch for the table. There is still time to get involved with the spring class in Madison.

Madison-Fitchburg Class Schedule – DNR Service Center, 4 sessions

Indoor: Wednesdays – April 15, 22, and 29, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We’ll go until 8:30 on 4/29/15 when we cook our catch at the Willy Street Coop - East. Fishing: April 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact Samantha.Allen@wisconsin.gov at the DNR to register, 608-261-6431.

Classes are free, but we request a $25.00 deposit to save your spot. The deposit is refunded at the first class.

Contact Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-2272 if you like to help at any of these class sessions or plan one for your area. We especially need people to take novices fishing.

For more information, go to the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov and search “Fishing for Dinner”.

Wishing you tight lines in 2015!

Director,
Fisheries Management

2015 SEASON DATES

Early Inland Trout
March 7 (5 a.m.) to April 26

General Hook and Line Inland
May 2 to March 6, 2016

General Inland Trout
May 2 (5 a.m.) to Sept. 30

Largemouth Bass
Northern Zone Harvest
May 2 to March 6, 2016

Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Catch-and-Release
May 2 to June 19

Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Harvest
June 20 to March 6, 2016

Largemouth Bass
Southern Zone
May 2 to March 6, 2016

Musky – Northern Zone
May 23 to Nov. 30

Musky – Southern Zone
May 2 to Dec. 31

Northern Pike
May 2 to March 6, 2016

Walleye
May 2 to March 6, 2016

Lake Sturgeon (hook and line)
Sept. 5 to Sept. 30

Free Fishing Weekend
June 6 - 7, 2015 summer
January 16 -17, 2016 winter

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Easing into the future through streambank protection

MADISON - In 1989, the Stewardship Streambank Protection Program was established to protect stream corridors and provide public fishing access. During 2014 and winter of 2015 fish biologists across the state have been busy securing public fishing easements along our best trout and smallmouth bass streams. By the time fishing season opens, inland trout and smallmouth bass stream anglers will find many new public access sites across Wisconsin with the majority found in the driftless region.

According to recent trout angler surveys, the lack of time and angler access to inland trout streams was a significant reason for reduced participation in the sport of trout fishing. Streambank easements in most cases secure a 66 feet public walk-in access along each bank of the stream as it passes through private land enrolled in the program. Designated parking and walk-in trails may also be provided. Such access work will reduce time commitments to find places to fish and open many miles of private land to the public. Fisheries biologists and land agents are currently discussing Streambank Protection easements with 387 landowners across the state. By June of 2015, 50-75 miles of new public accessible areas for trout and smallmouth bass stream fishing are forecasted.

New fishing access opportunities for trout and smallmouth bass streams

The Department maintains maps for streams and DNR properties that are eligible for stream bank protection funding. Over 3,070 miles of streams located in 44 counties are eligible (below).

How do I find these fishing easements?

Public Access Lands (PAL) Atlas or the Public Access Lands mapping application

A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Public Access Lands Atlas and its companion mapping application is now available online. The atlas highlights the significant increase in public access to Wisconsin lands made possible through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, as well as other lands open to the public for outdoor recreation. The Public Access Lands mapping application is a map-based system that allows you to locate and obtain information on public access properties. If you are looking for a place to fish, hunt, trap, or enjoy any of Wisconsin’s outdoor activities this atlas will help you find public lands to do so,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. From state natural areas to state trails, lakeshores to rivers, Wisconsin has a wealth of public lands for your enjoyment. Here you can create your own online map or download PDF maps from the PAL atlas and search for places based on outdoor activities.

Go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Atlas”.

Trout habitat improvements on the Tomorrow for today

WISCONSIN RAPIDS - On the Tomorrow River between 2011 and 2014, two segments of trout habitat work were completed on fishing easements leased by Trout Unlimited. The projects totaled 3185 feet upstream of Keener Road (2011) and 965 feet downstream of Keener Road (2014). A total of 60 lunker structures were installed in sets of from 3 to 6 mid-stream cover including 115 boulders and 7 logs. The project provided a much needed channel narrowing and enhanced flow regime with the placement of 5 wing deflectors spanning 800 feet over the two projects and the construction of an island in the section upstream of Keener Road. The projects were funded by a grant from Natural Resources Conservation Service and completed jointly by DNR staff and volunteers from the Frank HorkenbGT Chapter.

A little help for walleye

PEWAUKEE - The newly formed chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT) had a banner inaugural year accomplishing many tasks including a fish sticks project, assisting in large fingerling stocking efforts, fry hatchery construction & operation, a catch & release incentive program and successful fundraising. Under the leadership of Tom Kneep and Mike Underwood, the WFT chapter efficiently manufactured a lake side fry hatchery. During the spring of 2014, the chapter successfully captured adult walleyes and collected twelve full hatching jars of walleye eggs. Approximately 4 million walleye eggs were successfully incubated, hatched and fry were stocked back into Pewaukee Lake. In March of 2014, the Pewaukee chapter implemented a successful fish sticks project off of Walk’s Island providing much needed woody structure to Pewaukee Lake. The chapter has established over 170 members and attendance at meetings and support during fundraising events has been remarkable.

Lake sturgeon assessment in Milwaukee Harbor

MILWAUKEE - Since 2006, DNR fisheries crews have been stocking lake sturgeon in the Milwaukee River from a streamside rearing facility located at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg. Over the past 2 years, we have set Gill nets to capture juvenile lake sturgeon using the soft sediment and habitat found in the Milwaukee Harbor. In 2013, we captured 11 lake sturgeon ranging in age from 2 to 4 years old. In 2014, we caught 15 lake sturgeon that we stocked in 2011 – 2013 from our streamside facility. Results indicate that these lake sturgeon are surviving well, growing fast and using the harbor and estuary as a nursery area. Based on growth rates observed during this assessment, we anticipate lake sturgeon can reach 50 inches in about 10 years at which time they might start to migrate up the Milwaukee River to spawn.

In-stream habitat improvements on the Yellow River

BARRON - An in-stream habitat improvement project was recently completed on a 0.5-mile stretch of the Yellow River at Hecker Park in Barron. Funds for the project originated from a restoration settlement that was to be used in the Red Cedar River watershed. The purpose of the project was to improve in-stream fish habitat and fishing opportunities on the Yellow River by increasing in-stream habitat and habitat complexity. Eric Berge, Mike Christner, and Jere Fisk from the stream habitat crew based out of Spooner installed 50 yards of rock and boulders, created several pools, and utilized large woody debris to create wing deflectors and log jams. The Yellow River is one of the best local options for stream smallmouth bass anglers, and the stretch of stream where the habitat work was completed receives extensive use due to its close proximity to Barron; therefore, the public benefits of this project are expected to be highly significant.

If you build it, they will come - large woody habitat restoration

EAU CLAIRE - Large woody habitat restoration projects were conducted on Lake Wissota and Lake Holcombe in 2014. Trees along the shoreline were dropped into the lake providing critical spawning, nursery and adult fish habitat as well as resting and loading habitat for wildlife. Large-wood habitat is particularly important in these waterbodies because of the lack of aquatic vegetation due to the stained water and sandy substrate. Twenty trees were dropped into Lake Wissota near Camp Kenwood and along the State Park boat landing. Ninety trees were dropped into Lake Holcombe at three locations on Xcel Energy property. These projects could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the Lake Holcombe and Lake Wissota Improvement Associations along with Xcel Energy.
EAT FISH, BE HEALTHY

Eating your catch can be part of a healthy, balanced diet. Fish are generally low in unhealthy saturated fats and high in protein. Fish contain vitamins and minerals and are the primary food source for many species of fish from many waters throughout the nation. You can get the health benefits of eating Wisconsin’s fish while also reducing potential health risks from unwanted pollutants by following Wisconsin’s fish consumption guidelines.

FISH WISCONSIN!
Free Fishing Weekend • June 6-7, 2015

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Catching smiles
Wisconsin Fishing Photo Gallery

You know the fish are there. You’ve caught them. Now, be a proud angler and let everyone know it. Submit your fishing photos and they will be displayed proudly on the fisheries website.

What kind of photos should you send? How about big fish photos, little fish photos, lots of fish photos, kids and fish photos, dogs and fish photos, and fish and fish photos. Get the picture? All things fish. Or if the fish didn’t cooperate, beautiful fishing scenery would be just as good. We all know that we’ve got a great state to fish. Let’s show it.

A few things to consider: Your fish should be legally caught in Wisconsin waters. Not all photos submitted may be selected for inclusion and only those photos appropriate for all age groups will be considered.

Send your photos to:

willfishphotos@wisconsin.gov

Your email should include:

- the photo (the higher the resolution, the better),
- the species (if known), date of catch, and location of catch,
- if at all possible, a length and/or weight of the fish,
- photographers name, and
- a short description of the photo - one or two sentences is fine.

Note: Please be aware that by submitting a fishing photograph, you are granting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources a non-exclusive license to use and reproduce the photograph for all such purposes as the department may deem appropriate.

Fabulous Fisheries Projects (continued)

Milwaukee Estuary Fish Spawning Project

MILWAUKEE - In 2006, DNR fisheries constructed a 0.6-acre fish spawning reef at the upper limits of the Milwaukee Estuary, just below the abandoned North Avenue Dam with funding provided by Walleyes for Tomorrow and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project was undertaken to partially replace the loss of historical spawning habitat destroyed by channelization. The reef was designed to accommodate spawning requirement of lake sturgeon, walleyes and a variety of non-game species. The reef elevation was constructed below the long-term average Lake Michigan level. Falling lake levels and a record low in January 2013 left some areas of the reef exposed to desiccation. In 2013, funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan and the DNR Office of Great Lakes, and an easement from the River Reclamation Foundation enabled DNR fisheries to lower portions of the existing reef to accommodate lower lake levels, and expand it by an additional 0.3 acres.

Reconnecting waters: fishway passes fish

PARK FALLS - To evaluate the effectiveness of the fishway at Winter Hydroelectric Project on the East Fork Chippewa River in Sawyer County, DNR’s fish team based in Park Falls installed electronic equipment (purchased by the U.S. Forest Service) to continuously detect and record uniquely-coded PIT tags surgically implanted in sturgeon that may swim over submerged antennas placed in and near the fishway. The tags are similar to those used for pet identification. Synchronized date-time stamps on each record allow us to determine upstream and downstream direction of fish movements. Renewable World Energies, owner of the Winter Hydroelectric Project, operates the fishway annually from April 15 to June 1 and for two weeks in late September to coincide with the seasonal movements of spawning fish in spring and juvenile fish in fall.

By spring 2014 forty-five tagged sturgeon were at large downstream of the Winter Hydroelectric Project and 36 more tagged adults roamed the river upstream from the dam. Despite several glitches, the equipment recorded the movement patterns of six tagged sturgeon near or through the fishway in spring 2014. Of the four tagged sturgeon that passed through the fishway, one returned downstream within a half hour, another returned after 16 days, and two remained upstream of the dam. Our tag recorders in the fishway did not detect adult sturgeon movements over the 2-week period of fishway operation in fall 2014. In addition to the electronic records, hydropower project operators have reported visual observations of several sturgeon in the fishway when tag detectors were not yet installed or not functioning properly.

Because of its extraordinary qualities, the East Fork Chippewa River is designated as an “Outstanding Resource Water” and food source for healthy omega-3 fats. Studies suggest that omega-3 fats may be beneficial for heart disease. Fish contain vitamins and minerals and are the primary food source for many species of fish from many waters throughout the nation. You can get the health benefits of eating Wisconsin’s fish while also reducing potential health risks from unwanted pollutants by following Wisconsin’s fish consumption guidelines.

We plan to expand our tagging effort to include young sturgeon and other fish species to evaluate the fish community’s use of the fishway. Information on fish movements will eventually allow us to fine-tune the seasonal timing of fishway operation prescribed in the federal license for the hydroelectric project.

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Wisconsin fishing: a veritable smorgasbord

Choose your fare in 2015 and head to the water!

Want more information? Contact the county biologist dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/people/fisheriesbiologists.html

WALLEY

BARRON COUNTY
Bear Lake - 1,348 acres
A 2014 fisheries survey indicated a lower density walleye population with excellent size structure. There were 216 walleye captured during the fyke netting survey and 73 were over 18 inches, and 32% were over 24 inches. Current regulation: The Bear Lake walleye fishery is managed with an 18-in minimum length limit and 3 fish daily bag limit. Reg. is subject to change based on tribal declarations and harvest. Access information: There are 4 public boat landings and 3 boat ramps. The latest 28 ¾ is the most popular access. The Bear Lake walleye fishery is maintained through stocking. The DNR has been stock- ing large fingerling walleye into Bear Lake in an attempt to increase the walleye popula-

BROWN, OCONTO and MARI-
NETTE COUNTIES
Fox River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay
Strong spring walleye runs are common on the Fox, Menominee, Oconto and Peshtigo Rivers providing anglers ample oppor-
tunities to catch large numbers of migrating walleye. Since access points in many of these rivers open in early March, hardy an-
glers brave cold temperatures to have the opportunity to catch many walleye and per-
haps the “big” one. Most anglers jog or cast baits slowly for walleye in early spring. Larger fish over 30 inches and weighing in at over 10 pounds. Current regulation: The rules vary by location and species. Check for walle

CALUMET, FOND DU LAC, GREEN LAKE, OUTAGAMIE, SHA-
WANO, WAUSAUR, WAUPACA, and WINNEBECO COUNTIES
The Winnebeago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Pygmy) along with all their tributaries from their mouth up stream to the first dam including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. Access and River Length: 165.246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 river miles. The Winnebago System walleye population is one of the most robust populations in the state and is set to continue produc-
ging great walleye fishing opportunities. In 2014, fisheries staff tagged 5,046 male walleye and 1,746 female walleye in the Wolf River during the spring electrofishing assessment. The spring as-

CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE and MONROE COUNTIES
Lake Arbutus - 840 acres, Clarks and Jackson Counties, Upper Black River (above Black River Falls dam). Clint and Jackson Counties, and Lower Black River (below Black River Falls dam), Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties. Lake Arbutus: based on spring fyke net results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per net lift. Total catch rate in spring of 2014 was 6.8/ lift and catch rate of 17” fish was 1.9/ lift. Largest walleye captured was 26”. The 2014 bottom trawling assessment was conducted in 2010. Current catch rate was lower than 2014 at 0.6/ lift. Catch rate of 14” fish was also lower at 0.4/lift in this species. Chequamegon: biggest walleye over 18 inches and the majority of walleye were 15.0 to 16.9 inches. Current regula-
tion: 14.0 inch minimum length, 3 fish daily bag limit. Anglers can refer to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access geo-

DOOR and KEWAUNEE COUNTIES
Green Bay waters
Although the 2014 creel estimates are not yet available, the level of walleye caught in Green Bay waters along these counties an-
nually over the previous 10 years has gone up considerably. This likely is largely due to very good walleye natural reproduction in southern and western portions of Green Bay over that time span. In 2013, a survey of the Sturgeon Bay local spawning popu-

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
Otter Lake - 661 acres
There has been a history of stocking walleye in Otter Lake and stockings will likely increase due to the Wisconsin Walleye Initia-

DODGE COUNTY
Fox Lake - 2,625 acres
Walleye 2014 fall electrofishing catch rate was 2.0/ hour in 2014 compared to 7.8/ hour in 2012, 11.6/ hour in 2011, a high of 31.0/ hour in 2010 and comparable to the 10-year average of 9.8/ hour. The number of young of the year (YOF) was 13/ hour in 2014, compared to 12/ hour in 2013, 1/ hour in 2012, 4/ hour in 2011 and a high of 7.8/ hour in 2009. In 2014, 18% of the wall-
ye sampled during fall electrofishing were over 18 inches and the majority of walleye were 15.0 to 16.9 inches. Current regula-
tion: 18.0-inch minimum length, 3 fish daily bag limit on walleye. Access information: Clau-

DOOR, KENOSHA, and WISCONSIN COUNTIES

Michigan Boundary, Tributary Streams to Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for sea-
son and harvest rules. Access information: There are many good boat launches in the area. Good sites and launch locations exist on the Fox, Menominee, Oconto and Peshtigo Rivers. Check the Lake Michigan page for access information. www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/tributaryac-
cess.html. Results from our 2014 full elec-
trofishing index surveys on the Fox River and Green Bay show that the relative abun-
dance of young of the year (Y0Y) walleye were again above average in 2014. This follows which 2013 was banner year for

Shore and boat anglers fish for walleye in De-
Pere on the Fox River

near where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Acces-

SECTIONS OF THE REGULATION PAMPHLET FOR SEA-
STREAM TO THE FIRST DAM INCLUDING THE UPPRIVER

WINNEBECO COUNTIES

wisconsinfishing.org

A football of a walleye is collected from Otter Lake, Chippewa County during a recent fisheries survey.

A bridge.
Walleyes are collected from a Shawano-area lake in 2014.

FLORENCE COUNTY
Brule River Flowage (WI-MI boundary wa-
ter) The Brule River Flowage is one of the few places in Florence County where you can go and do not catch a walleye. The typical population in this flowage is between 2 and 3 adults/acre. Since this flowage is a boundary water one should consult the regu-
lation book before fishing the intended water.

Patten Lake - 255 acres A walleye rehabilitation project intended to return Patten Lake to a high density wal-
eye population is starting to show dividends. This population dropped to less than 1 adult/acre in 2011, but since 2011 walleye re-
production has been impressive. There are now quite a few young fish that are starting to reach maturity and adding to the popula-
tion. The population on this lake returned to the state-wide 15 inch minimum length limit in 2014 and this will help us get to our “high density” goal for this lake.

DOUGLAS COUNTY
Whitefish Lake - 648 acres A 2014 fisheries survey indicated a moder-
ate density walleye population with a fair size structure. There were 104 walleye captured during the fyke netting survey and 216 were over 18 inches, with largest fish caught measuring 28 inches. Current regu-
lation: The Whitefish Lake walleye fishery is managed with a 15-in minimum length; daily limit is two fish. Access infor-
mation: There is 1 public boat landings on Whitefish Lake. The landing was recently improved and with the water levels back up in the lake makes for an easy access. Whitefish Lake has a naturally reproducing cisco population, has a maximum depth of 102 feet and is a seapage lake, meaning it has no inlets or outlets. During the drought of the previous decade water levels on Whitefish Lake dropped approximately 5 feet. In the past few years the water levels have returned to normal.

St. Louis River Estuary - 12,000 acres Spring 2013 adult index survey showed a good population with abundant legal-size fish. 78% of all walleye captured and re-
leased during the survey ranged from 14- 
27 inches. Average length of all walleye captured and released was 23 inches, and female walleye were generally larger than male walleye. Current regulation: Open May 9 through March 1; 15-inch minimum length; daily limit is two fish. Access infor-
mation: Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier Located in the City of Superior 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/bait/cause/ for complete location. Onranger Lu-

GREEN LAKE COUNTY
Little Green Lake - 466 acres 28 deep This productive body of water sup-
ports a decent walleye fishery, supported by stock-
ing. Recent estimates put the popula-
tion at between 2-3 adults per acre. Males on average were 16.7” and females averaged 23.5”. The lake is full of forage, so the fish can sometimes be tough. Harvest regulations include a 15 inch minimum length limit above the ice on the lake. There are public and private per-
sonal fishing access provided these locations. 

Upper Fox River including Lake Puckaway This premier walleye fishery is part of the Winnebago system and in most years pro-
duces good years classes of walleye. The Pinecon dam is the upper boundary for the system and there is a 15 inch minimum length-
limit above the dam. The Puckaway populat-
ion is partially managed by a permitter program by the Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District. Best fishing occurs during spring although a stud-
ent fish can be caught in the river and lake at most times of the year.

IRON COUNTY
Pine Lake: It is in walleyes for the table you seek, Pine Lake should be on your list of destinations. Pine Lake is 312 acres and lo-
caled just north of Mercer. Recent surveys indicate strong natural reproduction and high adult walleye densities (8.0/acre). Al-
though very few Trophy fish (presently 1% larger than 20 inches), Pine produces plenty of “crazy” walleyes. These abundant walleye keep forage fish numbers down, intensifying competition, and providing angels with a good opportunity for fast action. Additionally, the smaller lake size helps shorten the learning curve for new anglers and is less daunting for anglers looking to try a new body of water. Currently, there is no minimum length limit, but only 1 fish over 14 inches is allowed. There is good ac-
ess just off of Hwy. G.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage: The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (TFF) offers over 13,545 acres of water to explore. This is prime walle-
ye water, with adult densities consistently recorded above 40/acre, placing it above average for northern Wisconsin. Its enor-
mos size compliments an abundance of river and stream inlets, river channels, old lake beds, stump fields, flats, rock reefs, and island complexes to fish. Here, you could fish all week and not fish the same spot twice. Al-
though most anglers target walleyes, TFF also hosts a fine murky, smallmouth bass, and panfish fishery as well. And, since the TFF is located in a largely undeveloped landscape, fantastic fishing is complemented by scenic beauty and proximity to areas of interest. There are public boat launches along the TFF and over 60 campgrounds to accommodate anglers looking for some A+ fishing and a little solitude.

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawkis, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the connecting riverine portions) – about 5,000 acres of prime, naturally reproducing walleye water. Seasons, length limits, and bag limits vary on this system, please refer to the regulations booklet for water specific regulations. Adult population estimates range from 2.5 per acre to 10 per acre. Rice Reservoir (Lake Nokomis System) - 2,274 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2015 adult population estimate of 30 per acre at fall harvest. Spirit Reservoir - 1,667 acres of naturally reproducing walle-
hy water; 15” length limit; 2005 adult population estimate of 2.9 per acre. 

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015
adult walleye per acres with good numbers up to 20 inches. Long Lake - 113 acres. Spring electrofishing found fair numbers of 11- to 13-inch walleye coming up, with a 15.3" average length, max up to 24" in 2012, 15 inch minimum length limit on Big, West and N Shore of Rice Lake restaurants. Sheddings off East Orchard Beach Lane and South Shore Drive. Sheddings are available at the ramp. 5 Access information: A public boat launch is located on south end of Lake LaBelle near the public beach area on Wisconsin Avenue. A healthy adult walleye population continues to support natural recruitment of walleye in Lake LaBelle. As revealed by continued fall electrofishing surveys. Walleyes on Lake La Belle provide excellent angler catch and release opportunity, but creel sized fish greater than the 20 inch minimum length limit are hard to come by.

Oconomowoc Lake - 818 surface acres Average Length - 15 inches. Population estimate - 2 adults per acre. Current regulations: 10 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 2. Access information: Shore fishing opportunities near the Oconomowoc River inlet can provide fast action. The public boat launch is located on south end of Lake LaBelle near the public beach area on Wisconsin Avenue. A healthy adult walleye population continues to support natural recruitment of walleye in Lake LaBelle. As revealed by continued fall electrofishing surveys.

Lake Delavan - 1906 acres Anglers can expect fast fishing action for “easiest- to-catch” walleyes 11 - 13 inches in Butternut Lake. Travels from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that these lakes make up over 1,100 acres in total. The biologist's survey for the Butternut Lake". While density was moderately high as desired, only 14% of walleyes were 15 inches or longer, in contrast with our goal to have 30 – 50% at 15 inches long. The apparent lack of occurrence of preferred-size walleye stems from weak natural reproduction. Small numbers of walleye were being harvested on Walleye day. The walleye system. The maximum length, which has helped the population rebound from a major dip in the late 90’s. That means that good fish are rare. But if you are looking for fast walleye action and a lot of fish in 14- to 17-inch range, Sand is definitely worth a stop. The regulation may change in the future to allow more harvest, but in the meantime, anglers are enjoying this unique experience. There is a public boat launch off County Road F.

Walworth County

Delavan Lake - 1906 acres Average Length - 15.75” average length, max up to 24” in 2012 and 2013 surveys Current regulation: 18” minimum length limit, 3 daily bag Access to a public boat launch on the east side of the lake at STH 50 and 5 Shore Drive. Shore fishing is available at the ramp. But spots fill up quickly on the weekend), another public boat launch on the southwest side of the lake at Winona Lake, and has consistently good natural walleye recruitment.

Waukesha County

La Belle - 1154 surface acres Average Length - 16 inches. Population estimate - 3 adults per acre. Current regulations: 20-inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: Shore fishing opportunities near the Oconomowoc River inlet can provide fast action. The public boat launch is located on south end of Lake LaBelle near the public beach area on Wisconsin Avenue. A healthy adult walleye population continues to support natural recruitment of walleye in Lake LaBelle, As revealed by continued fall electrofishing surveys. Walleyes on Lake La Belle provide excellent angler catch and release opportunity, but creel sized fish greater than the 20 inch minimum length limit are hard to come by.

Ashland County

Rice Lake - 859 acres Anglers can expect fast fishing action for “easiest- to-catch” walleyes 11 - 13 inches in Butternut Lake. Travels from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that these lakes make up over 1,100 acres in total. The biologist’s survey for the Butternut Lake population with an 18-inch minimum length limit which has helped the population rebound from a major dip in the late 90’s. That means that good fish are rare. But if you are looking for fast walleye action and a lot of fish in 14- to 17-inch range, Sand is definitely worth a stop. The regulation may change in the future to allow more harvest, but in the meantime, anglers are enjoying this unique experience. There is a public boat launch off County Road F.

Price County

Phillips Chain of Lakes - 1,236 acres. Early spring fyke nets captured walleye at a rate nearly 25 times higher in 2014 compared to 2013 and 2014 surveys. Despite several years of Walleye system. The maximum length, which has helped the population rebound from a major dip in the late 90’s. That means that good fish are rare. But if you are looking for fast walleye action and a lot of fish in 14- to 17-inch range, Sand is definitely worth a stop. The regulation may change in the future to allow more harvest, but in the meantime, anglers are enjoying this unique experience. There is a public boat launch off County Road F.
There are three public access points around the lake and one private landing located at Toddy’s Landing.

Big Green Lake - 7,346 acres. Big Green Lake has been stocked with musky since the early 80’s. It is currently being managed as a low density “trophy” fishery. Although numbers are on the low side; more anglers are finding them and are reporting seeing more fish. With Green Lake’s extreme depth and forage base, these fish have the capability to grow big and live long. We have seen fish approaching the 50” mark. Green may be a little challenging to fish, but there is a chance to land a “trophy”. There are a number of boat landings, around the lake, providing good access. Some of these require a fee.

**Iron County**

Trade Lake - 781 acres. In 2014, crews targeted muskellunge during a spring netting survey. Muskellunge were measured up to 45 inches. 57% of the individuals surveyed were larger than 38 inches, and 17% were larger than 42 inches. Good numbers of quality-sized fish are waiting for anglers in Trade. Currently, there is a 38” minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1 fish. There is a public boat launch on the lake, or access is possible through the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

**Lincoln County**

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawkin, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the connecting分别的viewings the peninsula) - about 5,000 acres of prime, naturally reproducing muskellunge water. No stocking takes place on these waters. Adult population ranges from 0.1 to 0.35 per acre. Part of this system may be considered recreation type (Lake Mohawkin) but the whole system has true trophy potential that these lower adult densities help to maintain. There is a 40-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of one. Angler access to the Wisconsin River sections in Stevens Point and Whiting, is unique, providing anglers diverse fishing opportunities. The minimum length limit for muskellunge is 45 inches with a daily bag limit of one. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points available through DNRs online boat access site: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/Default.aspx. Multiple waterbodies on the Wisconsin River system are Class A waters, these waters are known as “trophy waters” for their ability to consistently produce a number of large fish, but overall the abundance of musky may be relatively low. These waterbodies include: Big Eau Plein Revesier, Lake Dohse, Minocqua Flowage, Lake Waushau, Stevens Point Flowage, Wisconsin River sections in Stevens Point and Whiting, Iron Flowage, Petenwell Lake, and Castle Rock Lake. All other sections of the river are Class B waters, meaning these waters provide good fishing. A number of muskies in the river are tagged with orange internal anchor tags, which help to between their pelvic and pelvic fins. Anglers should report this valuable recapture information by calling the tag response number on the tag. The information reported should include the tag number, fish size, and as much information as they want to give about the location of where the fish was caught.

**Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams and Juneau Counties**

Wisconsin River - The muskellunge population in the Wisconsin River has been surveyed in recent years in various flowages from Merrill downstream to Castle Rock Lake. These surveys show that muskellunge have made a comeback and the system is capable and in fact producing trophy-size (50 inch) fish. The Wisconsin River has ample forage fish and diverse habitats that support a healthy population of muskellunge. Each flowage is unique, providing a diverse fishing opportunities. The minimum length limit for muskellunge is 45 inches with a daily bag limit of one. Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points available through DNRs online boat access site: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/Default.aspx. Multiple waterbodies in the Wisconsin River system are Class A waters, these waters are known as “trophy waters” for their ability to consistently produce a number of large fish, but overall the abundance of musky may be relatively low. These waterbodies include: Big Eau Plein Revesier, Lake Dohse, Minocqua Flowage, Lake Waushau, Stevens Point Flowage, Wisconsin River sections in Stevens Point and Whiting, Iron Flowage, Petenwell Lake, and Castle Rock Lake. All other sections of the river are Class B waters, meaning these waters provide good fishing. A number of muskies in the river are tagged with orange internal anchor tags, which help to between their pelvic and pelvic fins. Anglers should report this valuable recapture information by calling the tag response number on the tag. The information reported should include the tag number, fish size, and as much information as they want to give about the location of where the fish was caught.

**Shawano County**

Shawano Lake - 6603 acres. Recent surveys indicate abundance and size structure metrics rank Shawano Lake in the upper 75th percentile when compared to other trophy muskellunge waters in Wisconsin. In the 2014 spring netting survey, 42% of muskellunge sampled were over 40 inches with the largest fish at 57.1 inches. The lake has a strong population of white sucker and yellow perch and an abundance of ciscoes, all favorite musky snacks. Not surprisingly, big musky are frequently seen in DNR surveys. There is good weed growth throughout the lake that holds musky, but fish also use the shallows to a challenge a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy 27. The statewide length limit applies and trolling is allowed.

**Sawyer County**

If a musky angler could design their dream lake from scratch it might come out looking like Whitefish Lake. Whitefish Lake holds musky, but fish also use the shallows to a challenge a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy 27. The statewide length limit applies and trolling is allowed.
Lake Owen - 2,347 surface acres  
Average Length - 34 inches.  2012 population estimate - 0.35 adult per acre.  Current regulation - 40 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1.  Access information: There are two boat launches found on Lake Owen - the county park launch on the west side and the Smokey's Muscle Shop on the east side. Lake Owen is home to the largest musky population in southeastern Wisconsin.

Largemouth Bass  
Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, and their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers.  Access and River Length: 165,246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 river miles. Fishes staff conducted several bass/panfish spring electrofishing surveys in Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, and Lake Poygan in 2014. Several areas were sampled on Lake Winnebago including Asylum Bay, Little Point-Black Wolf Point, and Black Wolf Point-Comfort Point. Sampling was also conducted on Lake Butte des Morts in Sunset Bay and on Lake Poygan in Boom Bay. A total of 141 largemouth bass were captured. The largemouth bass catch rate was highest in Asylum Bay (52.3 fish/hour of electrofishing) while Boom Bay had the lowest catch rate (2.5 fish/hour of electrofishing). The majority of largemouth bass sampled in Lake Winnebago were sub-legal (81.2%), averaging 12.4 inches. However, several large fish were captured including a 20” largemouth bass. The Smokey’s super slab is a roadblock for many vehicle/trailers. These sites are maintained by various state, federal, and county agencies and may require and access permit.  

Buffalo County  

Mississippi River - Pool 5 and lower Pool 4  
2014 spring electrofishing surveys showed good numbers above and below the 14-inch length limit. Overall, nearly 54 adult and juvenile largemouth bass were captured per 200 square feet of survey. Twenty seven percent of surveyed largemouth bass were greater than 12 inches, while one in five largemouth were greater than the 14-inch length limit. Surveys of areas with good water flow along rock, riprap, or on wingdams. Largemouth bass frequent backwater lakes, island points, sloughs, and sloughs with moderate flow. The Mississippi River has the highest largemouth bass population in Florence County. A 2012 survey showed that Keyes Lake has one of the more abundant largemouth populations in Florence County at 3 acres/acre. Typical of high density populations, the size structure is not as large, but approximately 20% of the fish are over 14 inches and some large fish were observed.  

Spread Electrofishing Lakes of - 548 acres  
The SECL is a system with a high density of largemouth bass (estimated at 7.4 acres/acre). With 22% of the fish over 14 inches and a few fish observed over 20 inches, this is one of the few high density systems that does have trophy potential.

Iron County  
Lake Ripley - 415 acres  
Largemouth bass catch rate for 2014 electrofishing was 74/hour, compared to 58/ hour in 2013 and 67/hour in 2012 with fish travel a mile in 15 minutes. A 2014 shocker survey resulted in over 32 largemouth bass/mile of shoreline, 45% of the individuals in this survey were larger than 12 inches, and over 30% were at least 14 inches. Wilson also has good numbers of smallmouth bass, which were surveyed at 21/fish/mile of shoreline at the same survey. With the catch rates and size structure noted in this survey, Wilson is sure to make for a fun trip. Currently, there is no minimum length limit, but bass from 12 to 16 inches may not be kept. Access exists via a public boat launch.
were sampled. They ranged from 9.0 to 19.6 inches with an average length of 14.8 inches. Fifty-seven percent were greater than 15 inches. Twelve percent were greater than 18 inches. While the maximum length collected on this survey was 19.6 inches, the lake does support a fishable population of largemouth bass greater than 20 inches. Current regulation: Only bass 12 inches or greater may be harvested. Daily bag limit is 2 game fish in total. Access Information: Two boat launches and one canoe launch are available. Multiple fishing pads for disabled anglers are located along the northeast portion of the lake. Shore fishing opportunities are ample. Yellowstone Lake is located in Lafayette County, Wisconsin.

**MARINE COUNTY**

**Upper Scepter Flowage** - 586 acres
This flowage has good populations of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Fish up to 20 inches for both species were collected during the last survey. The portion of this flowage that contains a series of back-water habitat for largemouth while the upper portion of the flowage is more riverine, providing suitable habitat for smallmouth. Current regulation: (special regulations for Wisconsin-Michigan border waters) Access Information: Coon Landing - Highway 180, north of Marquette.

**MARATHON COUNTY**

**Big Bass Lake** - 174 acres
Big Bass Lake, surveyed by electrofishing in 2014, we captured 33 largemouth bass during summer and 67 during fall for an average catch rate of 3.5 fish/hour. The species structure has improved since 2008 when the current regulation was put in place. The percent of fish greater than 12 inches has increased from 25% in 2005 to 40% in 2014. Current regulation: The daily bag limit is 3 bass in total; only bass less than 14 inches may be kept; one fish may be over 18 inches. Access: The Town of Bevent maintains a boat landing off of Lake Road. Additional Information: The lake provides good action for largemouth bass and also the opportunity to harvest fish less than 14 inches, with the potential for harvest of one bass over 18 inches.

**MARQUETTE COUNTY**

**Buffalo and Montello Lakes** - 2,210 and 286 acres
Both of these lakes have recently been reffiled following drawdown. Buffalo was completely drained down 2 years, as part of a dam renovation project which includes a new fish way, and Montello was partially drained down in 2013 to help control nuisance vegetation. Buffalo Lake was re-filled this spring. These lakes have historically provided good anglers fishing with an average size, growth and abundance of bass being above average, particularly following the improved habitat that was installed. We would expect that the improvements in depth and plant growth, following the recent drawdowns, will provide some great fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass and the smallmouth bass. Specifically, improved landings on Buffalo provide good access. There is only one public landing on Montello Lake just north of Montello.

**MONEIDA COUNTY**

**Minocqua and Kawagusagas Lakes** - There is no minimum length limit for bass on Minocqua Chain. Spring electrofishing found abundances of largemouth and smallmouth up to 15 inches.

**Squash Lake** - 396 acres
Largemouth are somewhat more abundant, but we found both species of bass up to 16 inches. Current regulation: There is a minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit on largemouth bass which makes it a great option for the “harvest-oriented” bass angler. Anglers are encouraged to harvest small largemouth bass. By thinning the population of largemouth bass in Balsam Lake, their size structure should improve. Access Information: There are four boat landings on Balsam Lake. At 1,901 acres, Balsam Lake is the largest lake in Polk County.

**PORTAGE COUNTY**

**Lake Thomas** - 32 acres
Lake Thomas was surveyed in 2012 and we captured 23 largemouth bass using electrofishing. The smallmouth bass, up to 19 inches in total length, was captured 19 inches. Lake Thomas will continue to provide great action for those who are there every year to fish the smallmouth bass ready to move into the harvestable size range larger than 8 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 bass in total may be kept. Access: The Town of Stockton maintains a boat landing off of Hwy 174. Thomas Road. Lake Thomas is stocked annually with rainbow trout and offers this added fishery.

**RACINE COUNTY**

**Browns Lake** - 396 acres
Species population information: Action water, with 31.1 average length, 17.6% maximum length (2014 survey) Current regulation: 16” minimum length limit, 5 daily bag Access Information: Public boat launch on the east side of the lake near the cease. Multiple public boat launches on the southeast side of the lake at a Racine County Park. The park also features a large parking lot and a sand beach.

**SAUK COUNTY**

**Mirror Lake** - 139 acres
While only an average “numbers” fishery, Mirror Lake has good size structure and offers anglers the opportunity to catch larger bass. During two electrofishing surveys in the spring of 2014, 195 largemouth bass were captured. Of these, 47% were larger than 14 inches, ranking in the 86th percentile statewide for lakes smaller than 794 acres. Current regulation: Minimum length limit is 14 inches, daily bag limit is 5 fish. Access Information: Mirror Lake is located just southwest of the Village of Lafayette, near Wisconsin Dells. There are three boat ramps on Mirror Lake. One is located within Mirror Lake State Park on the east shore of the lower part of the lake. The second is located at the end of Lakeview Rd. off of State Highway 23. The third is located off of the north shore of the lake near the inflow of Dell Creek. The third is a carry-in only access located along State Hwy. 25 near the Dell Creek inflow. There is also shore fishing access in Mirror Lake State Park (fishing pier), and at the site of the dam that forms Mirror Lake (reached from Burritt Ave.). Mirror Lake offers anglers a good panfish fishery, with bluegills up to 9.5 inches and black crappies up to 13 inches. Yellow perch and white crappies may be caught as well. Smallmouth bass, while not common, are also present in Mirror Lake.

**SHAWANO COUNTY**

**Shawano Lake** - 6063 acres
Spring boomsounding surveys captured moderate numbers of bass. Overall, the 579 target lake bass with an average size of 12.6 inches and some bass up to 20.0 inches. Approximately 37% of the bass catch was over 14 inches. Current regulation: Statewide default- 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 daily bag. Access Information: Multiple public accesses are found on Shawano Lake. One of the most popular boat ramps located at Swan Acres Rd, Cecil Village Park, Stark Rd, and County Park. Huckleberry Harbor near the Shawano dam. Lake Outlet Channel has multiple ramps and a large parking area.

**WALWORTH COUNTY**

**Lake Geneva** - 5401 acres
Species population information: 14.1 average length, 20.5% maximum length (2013 survey) Current regulation: 14” minimum length limit, 5 daily bag. Access Information: Six public boat launches are available on Geneva Lake: Lakeport in (west side), E Geneva Street in Williams Bay (north side), W Sunnyview Rd, Lakeport (no parking), Wrigley Drive in Lake Geneva (northeast side), Hillside Road (southeast side) and Lim Road (no parking). Shorefishing opportunities are available at several parks and municipal fishing piers across the lake.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

**Shell Lake** - 2515 acres
Along the Shell Lake basin and walleye, largemouth bass have increased in number recently in Shell Lake. 2013 survey data on 2013-14 indicated that largemouth bass were above the 14 inch minimum length limit. Current regulation: 14” minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access Information: Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.
10 FishWisconsin  fishingwisconsin.org

Wisconsin River
In 2014, the Wisconsin River again proved impressive for smallmouth bass production. Electrofishing catch rate of smallmouth bass ranged from 5.5 fish per hour to 30 fish per hour. The highest catch rate was near Brokaw at 44 fish per hour and 10% of the catch was greater than 14 inches. Below Lake Wausanusca was 24 fish/hour, with 17% of the catch greater than 14 inches; below Dodge Bay dam (6.23% with 14 inches); and below the Steenpoint Dam (2013). Current regulation: No closed season; 14 inch minimum length; bag limit is 5 fish daily.

Access: Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through the DNR online boating access site. There is one special regulation on the Wisconsin River in Portage County, an 18 inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 1 fish from below the Steenpoint Dam Fish Affluence Point Spillway.

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawk, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flawguses and 143 small lakes) supports about 5,000 acres of high density and high quality smallmouth bass populations.

A typical smallmouth bass fishery continues to be a good, high-quality fishery to harvest smallmouth bass.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, DNR, Wisconsin River, Portage County, Wisconsin.

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abundance and best size structure of the Phillips-Chippewa Chain's four lakes. We do not know why overall our electrofishing capture rate decreased nearly two-thirds from 2008 to 2014, though it's possible that wayfish, the favorite food of smallmouth bass, had experienced a small decline. Because of the strong catch-and-release ethic among bass anglers, we suspect that few bass were taken under statewide harvest regulations. A late spring 2014 survey in nearby Solberg Lake in the same chain sampled the same water body but there also did not attain objectives for size and number. If our spring 2020 surveys show similar results in these waters, we should revise the Fishery Management Plans to reflect more realistic objectives for their smallmouth bass populations.

**ST CROIX AND POLK COUNTIES**

**St. Croix River** - The St. Croix River from St. Croix Falls to Stillwater, Minnesota is free flowing for 29 miles. The St. Croix River has an abundance of game fish including bass, walleye, muskie, catfish and lake sturgeon; however, river's most abundant game fish species is smallmouth bass. During late summer of 2013, DNRF electrofishing crews sampled 298 smallmouth bass ranging from 2.2 to 18.8 inches. Smallmouth bass are the 8-15 inch size range that comes common. Eighteen percent of the population was over 14 inches and 5% was over 17 inches. Average minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of five in total. Smallmouth bass are stocked below the high bridge near the Arcola sandbar. The Minnesota boundary water is different than inland waters. The bass season begins May 23 on the Wisconsin side for bass. A 10 inch  minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access: Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

**Middle Eau Claire Lake** - 880 acres 2013 netting survey found relatively low numbers but better than average size structure. The average length was 20 inches and the largest fish caught was 44 inches. Current regulation: Northern pike are managed within the northern region regulation-no minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. Access: Information: There is a boat landing and fishing pier located on the northwest corner and a large public fishing pier near Hwy 8. Middle Eau Claire Lake is an all-around solid fishing lake. Anglers should not overlook the other outstanding fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, panfish, and walleye on Upper Turtle Lake.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY**

**Oconomowoc Lake** - 818 acres Species population information: Average length = 15 inches. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: Shell Lake has a pubic boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake. Upper Turtle Lake has an abundance of game fish including bass, walleye, muskie, catfish and lake sturgeon; however, The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Wisconsin Rapids, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Pewaukee) along with all of the tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the Upper and Wolf Rivers. Access and River Length: 165,246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 miles for miles Species Population Information: In the spring of 2013 fisheries crews set fyke nets on Lake Pewaukee to assess the status of the northern pike population following a fish kill caused by high water temperatures during the summer of 2012. The netting indicated that the population was still very healthy and that a high percentage of fish larger than 26” minimum length limit were still present. In fact, 59% of the female pike captured in the survey were larger than 26”, with the largest fish being 31.5”. The presence of large northern pike was also observed during commercial rough fish fishing operations conducted on Lake Butte des Morts in the fall of 2013 and 2014. In 2013, fisheries staff collected 32 northern pike from the seine that were all greater than 30” with the largest fish measuring 40.3 inches. In 2014, fisheries staff collected 39 northern pike during the seine operation ranging from 23.048” to 36.8 inches. Although no northern pike captured were able to tip the scales to 20 pounds, there were several fish captured in the 16- to 18-pound range. Northern pike fishing on the system can be challenging due to an abundant amount of natural forage; however, the 2014 annual Lake Winnibago traveling survey indicated lower forage base numbers than previous years. Therefore, this could be a good year to put some extra effort into search for northern pike on the system. Current regulations: The current open season for northern pike is May 2, 2015 - March 6, 2016 with a daily bag limit of 2 and a minimum length limit of 26”. Access Information: There are numerous accesses around the Winnie system. They range from multi-launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town accesses at road ends. Most developed sites require a daily or seasonal launch fee. Consult a system map or the DNRF’s Boat Access Website to search for launch facilities near you or to want to see boat launch fees. Consult the Wisconsin DNR Statewide Fishery Management Plan, DNR, or contact your local WCO for more information. The abnormally high water temperatures observed over the 4th of July weekend on Lakes Winnibago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, Pewaukee, and Partridge in 2012 caused mortalities of an estimated 600-800 northern pike. Unfortunately, most of the northern pike were eating adult crayfish and many of the pike were larger than 24”. As a result of the fish kill, DNR staff set fyke nets in spring 2013 to evaluate the effects of the fish kill on the overall population. Results from the netting surveys in 2013 indicated that the female population was still comprised of a high percentage (59%) of fish larger than the 26” minimum length limit. In comparison, 60% of the adult female population was composed of fish larger than 26” in 2009, which was the last year of collection before the fish kill. These data indicate that it was unfortunate to see so many larger northern pike die in 2012, but the effects to the overall population were minor. The population still contained a large number of both legal-sized and trophy-sized fish.

**CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE AND TREMPLEAU COUNTIES**

** Olson's Flowage, Jackson County, 253 acres, upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dams), Clark and Jackson Counties, and lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dams), Clark and Jackson Counties, and Trempeleau and Monroe Counties. Catch rates for Olson's Flowage are based on spring 2014 electrofishing netting results and for the Black River, catch rates are based on fall 2014 electrofishing
**MARATHON AND PORTAGE COUNTIES**

Lake Dubay - 6000 acres

The northern pike population in Lake Dubay from the 2014 survey indicates the population is low density with net catch at 4.2 fish per net-night. However, 68% were larger than 12” and 26% greater than 28” inches. Current Regulation: No closed season, no minimum length limit, 5 fish bag limit. Access: There is public access to the Wisconsin River upstream of Mirror Lake. There is another point on the east side of the lake off Ely Rd. The lake is better for smaller northern pike and is managed for walleye. Limit is 12 inches.

**RAINEY, OCONTO, BROWN AND DOOR COUNTIES**

Green Bay and tributaries

Northern pike inhabiting the productive waters of Green Bay have a wide variety of forage to grow quickly. It is not uncommon to catch 5 to 8” pike during the summer months. One of the best fishing spots would be around 10-13 inches. Many would be a size desired by anglers by the time they are 2 and 3 years old.

**ST CROIX COUNCIES**

Pine Lake - 107 acres

Pine Lake (Baldwin) is locally known for bass and panfish but it is the northern pike that are the predominant game fish in the lake. During spring of 2014, fishery crews sampled Pigeon River (522) pike ranging in size from 7” to 39 inches. The adult population estimate was 4.4 -4.6 per acre. Pike in the 23-32 inch-length range were common. Anglers can expect to catch 1-2 fish per mile of river surveyed (#/mile). The northern pike population in Lake Dubay continued to be the premier northern pike fishery for this area. The “bite” is consistent and the lake is prime for northern pike. The lake currently has restrictive harvest regulations for several species following a recent chem- ical treatment. This allows northern pike to maintain abundance with better-than-average size structure in Chequamegon Waters Flowage. This shallow and fertile impoundment on the Yellow River, locally known as Miller Dam Flowage, is located about 12 miles north of the City of Wilson. Pike are moderate to low density in Checat which allows them to get to better sizes. There are several public fishing access areas on the Yellow River (connected). Statewide bag limits apply.

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Lake Checat - 2,400 acres

Lake Checat offers great pike fishing for those looking above for average size. Chet- ace is a very productive lake that offers good angling for many species, but pike are the biggest predator in the lake and offer top end size. Angling surveys in this lake found 37% in 1-4 in 2014 to be over 28 inches with some fish approaching 30”. Pike are moder- ato low density in Checat which allows them to get to better sizes. There are several public access areas on the Mississippi River (connected). Statewide bag limits apply.

**TAYLOR COUNTY**

Chequamegon Waters Flowage - 2,714 acres

Consistent with the 2010 assessment, our early spring 2014 netting survey reflected a northern pike population in moder- ately high abundance with better-than-average size structure in Chequamegon Waters Flowage. This shallow and fertile impoundment on the Yellow River, locally known as Miller Dam Flowage, is located about 12 miles north of the City of Wilson. Pike are moderate to low density in Checat which allows them to get to better sizes. There are several public fishing access areas on the Yellow River (connected). Statewide bag limits apply.

**VERNON, TREMPALEAU, AND LA CROSSE COUNTIES**

Mississippi River, Pools 7 and 8 - Trem- paleau, La Crosse and Vipavac counties— 37,270 acres.

Northern pike numbers sampled in pools 7 and 8 during the springs of 2008-2014 from Germia to Trempaleau, Wisconsin showed increasing num- bers. Catch rates from spring netting have doubled from the period 2008-2011 to the period 2012-2014. Anglers are reporting a similar increase in northern. Thirty percent of pike were over 21 inches; 15 percent were over 28 inches while five per-
cent were larger than 30 inches. The largest northern pike we’ve sampled was 42.5 inches and weighed over 22.5 pounds. Presently the Mississippi River season is open year-round, with a bag limit of five fish with no size restrictions. Access information: The best way to find a boat landing is to go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information. Access is free at the river level of the US Fish and Wildlife Service website and download the map pools.fws.gov/inw/sites/how-do-i-find-a-boat-launch.html. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for managing national wildlife refuges, and regional offices are responsible for managing fish and wildlife resources in their respective regions.

WALworth COUNTY
Lake Geneva - 5401 acres Species population information: 26.2” average length, 33.0” maximum length (2013 survey). Current regulation: 32” minimum length limit, 1 daily bag access information: Six public boat launches are available on Geneva Lake. Lakefront (south side), Chapin Road (north side – no parking), Wrigley Drive in Geneva (northeast side), Hillside Road (southeast side) and Linn Road (south side). Shorefishing opportunities are available at several parks and municipal fishing piers across the lake.

Delavan Lake - 1906 acres Species population information: 22.7” average length, 30.0” maximum length (2013 survey). Current regulation: 32” minimum length limit, 1 daily bag access information: A public boat launch on the east side of the lake at STH 50 boat launch. Two larger parking lots, but spots fill up quickly on the weekend), another public boat launch on the west side of the lake at the Bluff Hill Road (smaller parking lot about 800’ away from the launch), and a canoe access on the northwest side of the lake at the N Shore Drive. Shorefishing is available at the 16 acre Town of Delavan boat on the STH 50 boat landing.

WAuKEsHa COUNTY
Lower Phantom Lake - 375 surface acres Species population information: Average Length - 25 inches. Current regulation: 26” - 28” minimum length, daily bag limit (two of each). Access information: The public boat launch is located at the west end of Andrews Street, west of Niley Place in the city of Mukwonago. There is a park and a public fishing pier located next to the boat launch. Lower Phantom Lake has excellent northern pike habitat with abundant aquatic plants. Recent stocking efforts have increased the northern pike abundance and reports of pike in the mid 30 inch range have been reported by anglers.

Big Muskego Lake - 2200 surface acres Species population information: Average length - 26 inches. Current regulation: 40” - 49” minimum length, daily bag limit (15). Access information: There are three public launches located on the lake’s east, south and southeast sides found on Bostorn and Durham Drive. This shallow system has heavy aquatic plants and big northern pike. The conservative minimum length limit and access provide exciting catch and release opportunities for bass and pike.

BROWn DOOR, MARINETTE and Oconto COUNTIES
Green Bay - The challenge for anglers continues to be finding schools of perch as they follow food sources and preferred water temperatures. Open water electrofishing surveys in 2014 have experienced a hard winter, and the majority of perch were below multi-lane launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town access at road ends. Many of the larger, more developed sites require a daily or seasonal launch fee. Consult a map of the system to see what access is near where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information.

BROWN county
Buffalo county
Mississippi River - Pool 5 and lower Pool 4 Species population information: The species population was not available. Access Information: Access on the Mississippi River is at the Pool 5 and lower Pool 4. Missisquoi wildlife management area.

Burnett County
Yellow Lake - 2283 Acres A 2014 spring electrofishing survey found a very good yellow perch population in this 2014 acreage lake. In recent years we have had a lot of 30,000 bluegill, and only one exceeded the 16-inch mark. If you catch one, enjoy its uniqueness. It’s a special fish!

Buffalo County - The challenge for anglers continues to be finding schools of perch as they follow food sources and preferred water temperatures. Open water electrofishing surveys in 2014 have experienced a hard winter, and the majority of perch were below multi-lane launch facilities with ample parking to small unpaved town access at road ends. Many of the larger, more developed sites require a daily or seasonal launch fee. Consult a map of the system to see what access is near where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information.

Calumet, FOND DU LAC, Green Lake, OUTagami, ShAWAnA, waUsHo, waUpaca, waUpaNeBo and winnebenGo COUNTIES
The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Highwood), in which there are more than 120 years of angling history, and includes the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin River contains large quantities of fish, including bluegill, bass, catfish, and pike. The Winnebago System is located in the heart of the state and provides exceptional crappie fishing opportunities. Access: Located next to the boat launch. Access Information: There are numerous access ramps on Yellow Lake off of Jeffries Rd., Lake Ave, and Yellow Lake Rd.

Calumet - 3463 Acres Marsh-Miller Lake, an impoundment of O’Neil Creek, is a productive system that has been known to produce quality panfish. A spring 2014 electrofishing study found good numbers of panfish despite a moderate water level during the winter months of 2013-2014. Although panfish numbers were down compared to historic surveys, the water level may help the fishery by increasing growth rates and making for bigger fish in the upcoming years. Access Information: 25 fish bag limit, no minimum length limit Access information: Boat landing at Birch Point County.

CLARK and JACKson COUNTIES
Lake Abutus, Clark and Jackson Counties, 840 acres, Olson's Flowage, Jackson County, 253 acres, and Abutus backwater (Emerald, and Jackson), Jackson County, 30 acres (Emerald) and 49 acres (Blackburn). Species Population Information: based on spring 2014 netting results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per net lift and the percent of the total population characteristics were not recorded in 2014 for Emerald and Blackburn Lakes.

Black Crappie - Lake Abutus: Total catch rate in 2014 was 6.8 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0.9 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. Olson’s Flowage: Total catch rate in 2014 was 0 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 2.3 net lift and the largest fish captured was 11.5”. The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 8.9 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0.6 per net lift and the largest fish captured was 12” Emerald: Total catch rate in 2014 was 26.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 2.3 wet lift and the largest fish captured was 12.5”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2009. Total catch rate was 46 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0.3 per net lift and the largest fish captured was 13”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2009. Total catch rate was 11 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0.2 per net lift and maximum size captured was 11”.

Bluegill - Lake Abutus: Total catch rate in 2014 was 1.1 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.5 net lift, and the largest fish captured was 9”. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2012. Total catch rate was 4 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.2 net lift, and the largest fish captured was 8”. Olson’s Flowage: Total catch rate in 2014 was 219 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.3 net lift, and the largest fish captured was 9”. The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 4.7 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.2 net lift and maximum size captured was 8”.

Yellow Perch - Lake Abutus: Total catch rate in 2014 was 4.5 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0.6 net lift, and
maximum size captured was 12". The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2012. Total catch rate was 0.15 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0 per net lift and maximum size captured was 9.0”. The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 0.35 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0 per net lift and maximum size captured was 9.0”. The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 0.35 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0 per net lift and maximum size captured was 9.0%. The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 0.35 per net lift, catch rate of 10” fish was 0 per net lift and maximum size captured was 9.0%.

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

Rolling Stone Lake - 672 acres. Year in and year out this lake just keeps producing numbers of quality bluegill, crappie, and perch. It is not so secretive as evidenced by the hundreds of thousands of fish out there yearly. It probably benefits from partial win- twillows, almost on an annual basis, due to the abundance of aquatic plants in this shallow lake burning up the oxygen under the ice. These winnows likely help to maintain balance of predators and prey and keep the young abundant and easy to fish with small boats. Panfish, crappie and perch can be found in Lake Noquebay located just northwest of Crivitz. The last sur- vey (2014) revealed numerous bluegill over 9" and 10 inch crappie. Noquebay has good weed growth in certain areas of lake and the water is moderately stained. Current Regulations: 25 to total (bluegill, pumpkinessed, yellow perch, crappie). Ac- cess information: Lake Noquebay can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the northwest side of the lake on Boat Landing Road or from Lake Noquebay County Park.

**MARATHON COUNTY**

Norrie Lake - 99 acres. Norrie Lake was stocked with nets in 2012 during the summer. The lake appears to have had a consistent bluegill fishery with fish reaching 9 inches. The percentage of fish greater than 6 inches has remained steady since 2003 at 44-45%. The size structure was excellent with a strong class of 7 inch bluegill and a strong class of young- of-year fish. Current Regulation: No-length limit, no season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Access: The Town of Norrie maintains a boat landing off of Norrie Road. Addi- tional Information: Norrie Lake is a wall- eye initiative lake and received a stocking of extended growth walleye in 2014.

**MARIENETTE COUNTY**

Lake Noquebay - 2,398 A big bluegill, pumpkinessed, crappie and perch can be found in Lake Noquebay located just northwest of Crivitz. The last sur- vey (2014) revealed numerous bluegill over 9" and 10 inch crappie. Noquebay has good weed growth in certain areas of lake and the water is moderately stained. Current Regulations: 25 to total (bluegill, pumpkinessed, yellow perch, crappie). Ac- cess information: Lake Noquebay can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the northwest side of the lake on Boat Landing Road or from Lake Noquebay County Park.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Long Lake – 113 acres. We found good numbers of bluegill with some fish up to 7.5 inches. Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Lakes Bluegill - 2,353 acres. Squash Lake - 396 acres. Bluegill up to 8 inches.

Squirre Lake – 1,317 acres. Good numbers of 9- to 10-inch crappies and 7- to 9-inch perch. Three Lakes Chain. Abundant 7-inch perch, along with good numbers of 9- and 11-inch crappies. Thunder Lake - 1,853 acres. Thunder Lake was a large winterkill last year. Thunder had a bumper crop of small perch under 7 inches, 90% of crappies of all sizes up to 11 inches, and a moderate number of bluegill x pumpkinessed hybrids under 6 inches.

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Moose Lake - 1,559 acres. Moose Lake offers a great setting to chase high quality crappie. Moose is located at the confluence of the West Fork of the Chipewa River and the Moose River and has dark stained water. Moose is doing well in this lake and a recent DNR netting survey found about half of all crappie in the lake to be over 10 inches. The good crappie size can be attributed to an effective predator popula- tion of walleye that keep crappie from over-populating and a daily bag limit that has been in place for almost 40 years. Moose has many miles of public shoreline and islands.

**SHAWANO COUNTY**

Shawano Lake and Wolf River Pond - 6,063 acres and 505 acres. Recent surveys conducted on Shawano Lake and Wolf River Pond indicate abundant populations of panfish. Electrofishing and netting surveys indicated moderate to high
bluegill abundance with over 40% of catch over 6 inches and 20% over 7 inches. Black crappie were found at moderate abundance with 39% of catch over 10 inches. Yellow perch, rock bass, and pumpkinseed were also found at moderate abundance. Current Regulation: Parfis regulations are statewide default for both waters. Access Information: Multiple public access are found on Shawa-no Lake with the primary boat ramps located at Swan Acres Rd, Civil Village Park, Stark Rd, and County Park. Huckleberry Harbor in the Shawano Lake Outlet Channel has multiple ramps and ample parking. A large DNR property on the Southwest shoreline offers opportunities for wading anglers. Shawano Lake and connected water bodies can provide anglers with many options for fishing. Boats can navigate between Shawano Lake, Washington Lake and Wolf River Pond via the Shawano Lake Outlet Channel. The smaller waters are a nice option on windy days when Shawano Lake can be difficult to fish with smaller boats. The shallow waters of Shawano Lake offers opportunities for wading anglers – especially along the south shorelines off State Highway 22.

**TAYLOR COUNTY**

Chequamegon Waters Flowage – 2,714 acres. Our capture rate of black crappies in fall 2014 was nearly 30% lower than the end of the objective range (10 – 20 crappies per boated net). This represented a modest, but positive sign for the desired moderate population abundance—an increase of more than 4 times the capture rate in spring and fall 2013 (4 fish per net). Increased abundance can be attributed to the strong in spring and fall 2010 fyke nets. Increased crease of more than 4 times the capture rate moderate population abundance—an increase of more than 4 times the capture rate of black crappies in mid-size objective (30 – 50% at least 10 inches Bluegill. Average Length – 6 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: Concretes boat launch and public fishing near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

Shell Lake – 2,513 acres. A 2013 survey showed large numbers of bluegill with approximately half of the sample being 9 inches. Rock bass were the second most abundant panfish sampled with a mean length of 9.4 inches. Almost 80% of rock bass were over 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: The Golden Mast boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road T, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Mast boat launch is located just off of Lacy Neck north of East Wisconsin Avenue. Look for crappies in one of many shallow bays when the water temperatures rise to the low to mid 50 degrees. A comprehensive spring netting survey implemented in 2013 and 2014 revealed excellent black crappie size structure and abundance. Lower Genesee Lakes – 9.8 surface acres. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: Information: The public boat launch for Lower Genesee Lake is found on Lower Genesee Lake Road. This smaller lake offers a nice crease of bluegill. Lower Genesee Lakes are stocked annually with trout in spring. Oconomowoc Lake – 818 surface acres Bluegill. Average Length – 6 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: Information: The public boat launch is located upstream of Oconomowoc Lake on the Oconomowoc River, downstream of Upper Oconomowoc Lake on the north side of Wisconsin Avenue. Excellent habitat and quality has resulted in a healthy garmenich population and excellent panfish growth rates. Spring netting efforts in 2014 revealed good numbers of large bluegills.

**CRAWFORD, GRANT and VER- NON COUNTIES**

Upper Mississippi River Pools 9 & 10 – 20,561 acres of open water and backwater lakes and approximately 45-miles in length. Channel and flathead catfish remain a popu- lar choice for anglers on the Mississippi. Channel catfish show great numbers of fish in the 12- to 24-inch range with some near-30 inches. Flatheads also have good numbers of fish in the 24-34-inch range with a few large fish reaching 36 inches and larger. Channel can be targeted in back- water channels with moderate to fast flows and lots of woody debris. A popular method is using “shark bait” as a deadly fishing technique. Flathead are more commonly targeted in larger flow channels behind wingdams and woody debris using live bait. Access information: There are many ac- cesses on the Upper Mississippi River. These sites range from unimproved gravel landings with limited parking to multi-lane backwater landings with parking for many vehicles/trailers. These sites are maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Re- sources and may require an access permit. The best way to find a boat landing is to go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information (dncr.wi.gov/topic/park/parkfinders.cfm) for White US Fish and Wildlife Service website and download the pool maps for refuge/Up- per_Mississippi_River/map.html

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Okauchee Lake – 1,157 acres Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: Information: There are two public access on Okauchee Lakes. Both access are found at the Golden Mast Restaurant and the WDNR launch. The WDNR boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road T, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Mast boat launch is located just off of Lacy Neck north of East Wisconsin Avenue. Look for crappies in one of many shallow bays when the water temperatures rise to the low to mid 50 degrees. A comprehensive spring netting survey implemented in 2013 and 2014 revealed excellent black crappie size structure and abundance. Lower Genesee Lakes – 9.8 surface acres. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access: Information: The public boat launch for Lower Genesee Lake is found on Lower Genesee Lake Road. This smaller lake offer a nice crease of bluegill. Lower Genesee Lakes are stocked annually with trout in spring.

**DANE COUNTY**

While not known as a catfish lake, Lake Mendota is gaining in popularity as THE place to catch truly large specimens of Ole’ Whiskers. Spring fyke netting efforts, con- firmed largely to the lake’s northern basin where the Yahara river enters Mendota, yielded 426 fish average of 29.8 inches and 9.8 pounds. Net crews saw fish in excess of 36 inches and pushing the 30 lb. weight window. The mouth of Sistemk Creek and off of rocky Maple Bluff are productive areas, as is Lake Cherokee above STT. Catfish are easy on cut bait or large gobs of crawlers still being used. Anglers should focus on cut bait or large gobs of crawlers still being used. Anglers should

**JEFFERSON and DODGE COUN- TIES**

Lake Dubuhy – 6000 acres During the Lake Dubuhy 2014 survey we captured a total of 642 catfish at an average size of 2.3 fish per net-night. Of these fish, 90% were larger than 16 inches, 12% greater than 24 inches and 4% larger than 30 inches. Current regulation: No length limit, 25 daily bag and no minimum length limit. Access infor- mation: US Fish and Wildlife, Service website and download the pool maps for refuge/Up- per_Mississippi_River/map.html

**WISCONSIN WATERS**

**CATTAIL, CRAPPIE, BASS AND BUTTHERS**

You are never too young (or too old, for that matter) to enjoy Wisconsin’s paddling op- portunities. Photo - Jon Hansen.
ed, the revised rules dramatically reduced the harvest of females, allowing them to reproduce more than once. Beautifully sized fish yield a higher harvestable size. Popular shorefishing spots include the tailwaters of dams on medium- and large-size rivers.

W O O D COUNTY

Petenwell Lake, 23.173 acres

In 2014, we completed the first survey to ever target flathead catfish on the upper part of Petenwell Lake. We caught 67 flathead catfish ranging from 7.2 inches to 40.5 inches. The 40.5-inch fish weighed close to 40lbs. We caught 5 flatheads per mile while electrofishing; we were pleasantly surprised to catch this many flatheads and some very nice sized ones, too. Current regulation: No closed season; no minimum length limit; bag limit is 10 in total consisting of flathead catfish. Access: Petenwell Lake has multiple boat launches and opportunities for shore fishing. Search “Petenwell Lake” on our website or direct access locations.

ASHLAND COUNTY

Beaver and Cammeraker Lakes

These lakes are 35 and 19 acres, respectively. Both put-and-take trout stocks are stocked annually with legal-sized trout (brook trout in Beaver and rainbow trout in Cammeraker). Both lakes are category 4 trout regulation, so the minimum length limit and the reduced bag limit of 5. Access exists via boat launch at both lakes.

LAKE STURGEON

Lower Chippewa River - The Lower Chippewa River (Lake Holcombe downstream to the Mississippi River) offers anglers an opportunity to harvest a lake sturgeon greater than 60 inches during the hook-and-line season. If an angler intends to harvest a fish, they must first purchase a harvest tag and, if successful, register their catch. The 2014 season was most successful on the Lower Chippewa River where the 60-inch minimum length limit has been in effect. Nineteen lake sturgeon were harvested, a 26% increase from last year. The greatest harvest was from below the Dells Pond Dam and the Chippewa Falls Flowage where six fish were harvested at each location. Anglers also reported catching numerous sublegal size fish, a sign of a healthy sturgeon population. Night crawlers or bait kept presented in deep holes of the river is a good combination for a successful sturgeon fishing trip.

PRICE COUNTY

Flameau River - Hook-and-line sturgeon anglers enjoyed excellent success in September 2014, the fifth year after a historic minimum length limit and the reduced season length went into effect to address concerns about overfishing pressure on Wisconsin’s lake sturgeon fisheries. Anglers registered 12 lake sturgeon that measured at least 60 inches in the highest annual harvest in the Upper Chippewa Basin since more than 30 years ago, which took effect statewide in 2012. Anglers took seven sturgeon from Flameau River, four from the Chippewa River, and one from the Jump River in Price and Rusk counties. The heaviest harvest was 72 pounds, and the average weight of all sturgeon measured 70.0 pounds. Our Fishery technicians examined the entrails and fin bones of the harvested sturgeon to help us manage this important fishery. The ratio of females to males harvested in 2014 was 31:1—the sex ratio in the 2013 harvest. They also counted the rings on cross-sections of the fin bones, since this is the way the age of trees is estimated. This sturgeon that were aged in the 2014 survey are 30 to 45 years old. As intended, the revised rules dramatically reduced the harvest of females, allowing them to reproduce more than once. Beautifully sized fish yield a higher harvestable size. Popular shorefishing spots include the tailwaters of dams on medium- and large-size rivers.

Inland Trout

South Fork Hay River - There is a 2.7-mile stretch of the South Fork Hay River in Barron County that is classified trout water, however, some of the best trout water is more than a half mile from our management areas. Trout populations in Elkhorn River reach moderate density, most of the catchable trout are slow growing, but long lived. Fish

CHIPPEWA, DUNN AND EAU CLAIRE COUNTIES

Elk Creek - 18 miles

Elk Creek meanders through Chippewa, Eau Claire and Marinette Counties before it empties into the Chippewa River. Elk Creek is a potentially excellent location for trout stocks. It is not stocked with trout, and the river is considered very high for the area. With the high density, most of the catchable trout are between 5-10 inches. Current regulation: There is a 2.7-mile stretch of the South Fork Hay River in Barron County that is classified trout water, however, some of the best trout water is more than a half mile from our management areas. Trout populations in Elkhorn River reach moderate density, most of the catchable trout are slow growing, but long lived. Fish

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GRANT COUNTY

Rountree Branch - 6.0 miles of trout water

The Rountree Branch supports a good population of brown trout. Recent surveys sampled 68 acres of brown trout per mile ranging from 6.4 to 21.2 inches with an average of 11.1 inches. Seventy-seven percent of the brown trout sampled were 12 inches or greater. Current Regulation: Nine inch minimum with a daily bag limit of 3. Access information: The City of Platteville maintains public trails along much of the Rountree Branch. Anglers are able to access the stream from these trails. Historically the Rountree Branch did not support a population of brown trout. The stream was inundated with runoff from mining waste. During the late 1980’s and early 1990’s the University of Platteville, City of Platteville, local conservation groups and DNR relocated the mining waste and removed much of the mining waste contributing to the stream. The Rountree Branch now supports a naturally reproducing population with no stocking needed.

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Big Green Lake - 7,346 acres

Wisconsin’s deepest inland lake and one of the most popular fishing locations. It is a healthy, stocked Lake Trout fishery. These fish are slow growing, but long lived. Fish
from recent surveys measured 11.5 to 33.5" with an average length of 19.8". 99% of fish sampled were of quality size (28") or better. Lake trout season opens the first Saturday in January and runs through September 30th. Daily bag limit is 2 and the minimum length limit is 17". There are a number of developed landings around the lake and one at the Trout Lake Green Lake. Some of these landings do require a fee.

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**IRON COUNTY**

Brook Trout – East Branch Eau Claire River downstream from STH 45. Spring Brook immediately upstream from Antigo and downstream of Antigo, McGregor Lake; South Branch Oconto River; Brown Trout – Evergreen River; Wolf River; Hunting River; Saal Spring. South Branch Oconto River Stocked Lakes – Jack (rainbow), Pense (brown), and Townline (rainbow)

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

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**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Brook Trout – Prairie River; North Branch Prairie River; Big Pine Creek; New Wood River Brown Trout – Prairie River; North Branch Prairie River; Big Pine Creek; Big Rib River Stocked Lakes – Tahoe (rainbow), Hen- son (brooks), Larson (rainbows), Moraine (rainbow)

**MARIENETTE COUNTY**

Thunder Lake - (135 acres) South Branch Pemebstone, North Branch Pemebstone, Upper Middle Inlet, IK Creek and North Fork Thunder River Thunder Lake is an opening day hot spot for trout anglers. Annually, 5,000 rainbow trout are stocked before opening weekend (first Saturday in May). For anglers wanting to target brook trout, the South Branch Pemebstone, North Branch Pemebstone, Upper Middle Inlet, IK Creek, and the North Fork Thunder River all have good brook trout populations. Over 5,000 brook trout are planted each year in both the North & South Branches of the Pemeb- stone (10,000 total). Current Trout Regula- tions: http://gtpy.gov/fishing/regulations/troutregs.html Access information: All of these streams can all be accessed from various road/stream crossings.

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**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Brown trout are stocked in Doubly Lake and Bearskin River, rainbows are planned for Perch Lake, Hawk Lake and Little Bass Lake at a rate of 100 trout per Mercer Springs. Mercer Springs – 1.8 acres. Provides walk-in shore-fishing for stocked brook trout. Directions: Take Hwy 70 west of Minoc- qua 5 miles; south on Kilowee Road 1 mile; at the first bend make a right turn into shared driveway; left fork of the driveway leads to DNR parking area. Short walk-in trail to the spring pools. Perch Lake – 25 acres. Stocked with rainbow trout. Oneida County Parks have a handicap-accessible fishing pier, picnic area and shelter. No boat motors allowed. Directions: Take Hwy 77 south from Minocqua 7 miles; south on Wabasha Lake Road 1 mile; east on Trout Creek Rd (200 yards); south on County Park Road. Rocky Run Creek A stream survey in the middle reaches found abundant chubs and shiners, with low numbers of wild brook trout up to 8.9 inches.

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**PORTAGE COUNTY**

Tomorrow River below Amherst - Hwy A and Hwy T Surveys since 2012 indicate at Hwy A brown trout on average are captured at a rate of 330 fish/mile with 14% larger than 12 inches. At Hwy T brown trout are cap- tured at a rate of 378 fish/mile with 15% larger than 12 inches. Catch rate was lower in 2014 due to higher water levels affecting the efficiency of sampling. Current Regu- lation: Regular inland trout season; from Amherst Dam to Huron Road brown trout minimum length is 12 inches and brook trout 8 inches; the bag limit is 3 fish in total. Below Huron Road the minimum length for brown trout is 15 inches and for brook trout 12 inches, gear restriction is artificial lures only; the bag limit is 1 fish in total. Access: The Tomorrow River can be accessed from numerous road crossings and from parking areas along the Richard Hemp Fishery Area. See the Fabulous Fishing Project for more information on trout habitat work below Amherst.

Ditches and 3

Ditch 3 was surveyed at Isherwood Road in 2012 and brook trout were captured at a rate of 95 fish/mile with 28% of larger than 7 inches. Current regulation: Regular inland trout season; minimum length limit 7 inches; the bag limit is 5 fish. Access: The Ditches are accessible at most road crossings. Ad- ditional Information: Areas surveyed were upstream of County Hwy W.

Emmons Creek Fall survey work on Emmons Creek for 2014 captured brown trout at a rate of 1300 fish/mile which is comparable to the long term average of about 1500 fish/mile. 80% were larger than the 7 inches which is bar-

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**SAUK COUNTY**

Dell Creek - Dell Creek offers nearly 12 miles of Class II trout water from Simpson Rd access lane upstream to South Avenue. Dell Creek flows over a sand bottom for almost its entire length and as a result natural reproduction is low. However there are several deep holes and cuts that combine with good water quality to provide good habitat for low densities of large trout. A 2013 trout survey showed that anglers in this stretch will have the opportu- nity to catch brown trout up to 16 inches and larger, brook trout from 8 to 12 inches, and rainbow trout which are stocked early in the spring at around 9 inches and reach nearly 13 inches by the end of summer. Current Regulation: Only artificial lures may be used, and all trout caught must be immediately released (Coon Bluff Rd. up- stream to South Avenue). The remainder of Dell Creek has a 9-inch minimum length limit and 3 fish daily bag limit. Access information: This segment of Dell Creek flows through Dell Creek Wildlife Area, which provides access to Dell Creek over much of its length. Anglers can access the subject segment from a parking lot along Simpson Rd. and walk in via an access lane that leads to the creek. They may also ac- cess the creek from the bridge crossing at South Avenue. The confluence of Bear Creek with Dell Creek occurs in this seg- ment, giving anglers access to a stream pre- dominantly populated by wild brook trout. The regulation on Beaver Creek is the same as for the Coon Bluff-Simpson Avenue segment of Dell Creek. Anglers will also find that this stretch of Dell Creek is relatively free of overhanging brush, making it fishable with spinning tackle or fly rod.

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**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Onion River and its tributaries - 10 miles of Class I brown trout water - 2014 surveys yielded an average length of 8.8 inches, with a maximum length of 16 inches. We saw catch rates of up to 742 fish/mile, per which it put around the 83rd per- centile when compared with other all brown trout waters statewide. Current regu- lation: Upstream of CTH E – Category: 5 daily bag limit 1, minimum length limit 15 inches, artificial lures only. Downstream of CTH E – Category: 3 daily bag limit 3, minimum length limit 9 inches, no gear restrictions. Access Information: The best access is from the bridges at HWY 28 or CTH W just southwest of Plymouth. Upstream of CTH E anglers will find extensive habitat work in a number of stretches and this is generally were we find the larger fish in our surveys.

Chambers Creek - 1.5 miles of Class I brown trout waters 2014 surveys yielded an average length of 8.3 inches, with a maximum length of 11.5 inches. We saw catch rates of up to 183 fish per mile which puts it around the 49th percentile when compared with other all brown trout waters statewide.Current regulation: Category 3: daily bag limit 3, minimum length limit 9 inches, no gear restric- tions Access information: The best ac- cess is from the bridges at HWY 28 or CTH W just southeast of Cascade. As a Class I stream Chambers Creek is one of the few naturally reproducing brook trout streams in southeast Wisconsin.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Genesee Creek - this report references a 2 mile reach Average length – 9 inches. A recent stream shocking survey revealed brown trout up to 17 inches. Current regulation: 9 inch mini- mum length limit 5 inches. Current informa- tion: Access can be found at the Old Village Road; Hwy 59 and Hwy D road crossings. Access is consistent natural reproduction of brown trout providing good action.

Scuppernong River - The headwaters are accessible the first Saturday in May. Average length – 8 inches. Current regula- tion: Artificial lures only, catch and release
only. Natural reproduction and supplemental stocking provide good action in the southern Two River and Dog River Campground. Parking can be found along Hwy ZZ or the Ice Age Trail for parking area.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Radley Creek - Electrofishing surveys conducted in 2014 indicated brown trout density for adult size fish was at all-time low levels with catch rate ranking at the 95th percentile (when compared to statewide data) for 6-inch brown trout in 2013 and 2014 year average. Survey catch rates for legal size fish (9+ inches) are at moderate levels. Current regulation: Access Information: Waiting availability for electric fishing in Radley Creek has had a long history of past habitat development projects that has currently improved the quality of trout populations.

Waupaca River - In the special regulation section of the Waupaca River, recent surveys indicate wild trout populations have been holding steady with electrofishing catch rates of large (over 15 inch trout) at 29% of the total electrofishing catch. This is one of the largest brown trout populations in the state of Wisconsin. Current regulation: Category 5 (limited) for brown trout and 12 inch minimum for brook trout and rainbow trout; 1 daily bag (artificial flies only) from River Rd up-stream to County Hwy Q. Access Information: Riverview and Hwy ZZ or the Ice Age Trail fee parking at the downstream reach of trout water. Anglers looking for good access Information: Waiting availability for electric fishing in Radley Creek has had a long history of past habitat development projects that has currently improved the quality of trout populations.

**KENSIO, RACINE, MILWAUKEE, OZaukee and SHEBOYGAN COUNTIES**

Lake Michigan and tributaries

Brown trout - Last year's brown trout fishery in Lake Michigan is supported through stocking, with over 1,400,000 fish planted annually in recent years. Brown trout fishing stays strong all through the fall and into months of January through March. Anglers can catch good numbers of brown trout in the winter months in many areas, especially the Milwaukee Harbor and Harbor. With a mature fishery, goblins providing an abundant food source, brown show good growth rates and some fish reach the 15 to 20 pound range. 2014 was a good year for brown trout fishing in all points from Door County to Port Washington and we hope the trend continues in 2015.

- Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total; 10 inches or larger. Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total; 10 inches or larger. Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. Access Information: Waiting availability for electric fishing in Radley Creek has had a long history of past habitat development projects that has currently improved the quality of trout populations.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Bois Brule River, downstream of U.S. Highway

Three primary migratory species: brown trout, coho salmon, and rainbow trout (steelhead). Most recent tallied run distribution: brown trout 38%, steelhead 32%, coho salmon 28%; size range 20 to 100 inches. Annual run numbers and timing generally depend on weather patterns. Current survey peak run timing: brown trout - last week of August, coho salmon - first week of September through mid-October, steelhead also spring-run with peaks based on river ice-out. Current regulation: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2 - Open last Saturday in March through November 15, 5 trout and salmon in total, only 2 may be brown trout and only 1 may be steelhead trout. Legal length: brown 17", salmon 12", and rainbow 26". Access Information: To go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/SpecialFishing/BoisBrule River - and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points at designated areas in the Brule River State Forest. Early access for most points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Carlson Road, Copper Range Campground, State Highway 13, or at launcher barrier/ fishway off Loveland Road. Brown trout, coho salmon and steelhead.

**GL SALMON & TROUT**

Lake trout.

- Approximately 700,000 - 800,000 lake trout are stocked in Lake Michigan annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Further evidence of natural reproduction has been documented through DNR surveys, even though Lake Michigan is open to the sport fishery. The sport harvest in 2012 and 2013 was 20,094 and 27,240, respectively. These recent harvest estimates however reversed a trend of lower harvest numbers dating back to 2003. Current regulation: Open from March 1 – October 31. Daily bag limit is 2; 10 inches or larger. However, no possession of lake trout is allowed within the Mid-Lake Reef Complex (see fishing regulations booklet for more details). Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. For more information on lake trout, please visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/fish/lake_trout.html

- Rainbow trout - Species population information: In 2013 rainbow trout fishing was above average, and 58,311 lake trout were harvested. Trollers found good numbers of fish, and stream anglers caught the most fish in 2001. Anglers had success with all three strains of rainbow trout – chambers creek, gunaraka and arlee. In 2014 the steelhead run was strong despite an unusually late ice out followed by high stream flows. Wisconsin stocks about 400,000 rainbow trout annually into Lake Michigan. If the stream flow spring level is ideal for fish migration, we may see a good steelhead run in 2015, in addition to the Chinook salmon.

- Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total; 10 inches or larger. Access Information: Waiting availability for electric fishing in Radley Creek has had a long history of past habitat development projects that has currently improved the quality of trout populations.

**MANITOWOC, KEWAUNEE, DOOR, OCONO and MARINETTE COUNTIES**

Northern Lake Michigan and tributaries.

- Steelhead - In 2013 rainbow trout/steelhead fishing was above average, and 58,311 lake trout were harvested in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. Trollers found good numbers of fish, and stream anglers caught the most fish in 2001. Anglers had success with all three strains of rainbow trout – chambers creek, gunaraka and arlee. In 2014 the steelhead run was strong despite an unusually late ice out followed by high stream flows. Wisconsin stocks about 400,000 rainbow trout annually into Lake Michigan. If the stream flow spring level is ideal for fish migration, we may see a good steelhead run in 2015, in addition to the Chinook salmon. Catch estimates for 2014 are not in yet, but based on initial reports, the average size is still high but not as high as in 2013. Many factors affect chinook salmon fishing and catch might have been down slightly due to high flows and muddy water which made for tough fishing conditions. The summer trolling also caught fish and initial reports indicate fishing for 2015 will depend upon spring flows and water clarity – better catches will occur if conditions are just right with good spring flows but too high or not too muddy and not too muddy conditions. Summer fishing success will depend upon how much the lake warms and how the thermocline sets up. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total; 10 inches or larger. Access Information: Waiting availability for electric fishing in Radley Creek has had a long history of past habitat development projects that has currently improved the quality of trout populations.
populations in Lake Michigan. Factors that impact how fish bite and anglers ability to catch fish are generally not within our control and include: weather, water temperature, currents, local availability of forage fish, and, for the fall runs, stream flow and clarity. Other factors that influence fish populations are overall lake-wide prey fish abundance, natural reproduction rates of chinook salmon, and stocking of trout and salmon. Total prey fish abundance in Lake Michigan has been at record lows, but 2019 and 2012 experienced good hatching and survival of alewife. These young alewives provided a fair amount of forage during 2013 and as a result many big Chinooks over 20 pounds were caught. These same prey fish likely fueled the larger sized fish in 2014 as well. Overall prey fish abundance is still very low and the driving force behind the overall low prey fish abundance is invertebrate species with the spaga mussel causing the most impact by reducing the available food for young prey fish. However, DNR fisheries managers have been working with our counter parts in the other states to adjust trout and salmon stocking levels accordingly to conserve prey fish abundance and continue the great trout and salmon fisheries that Lake Michigan has to offer. What will 2015 look like? Well, that will depend upon a host of factors that are unpredictable, but regardless there should be plenty of chinook salmon available for anglers to catch on Lake Michigan during 2015. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total, 10 inches or larger. Access information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. DNR.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/ and dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/ TributaryAccess.html Tagging studies have shown Chinook movement throughout the lake, and some even migrate over from Lake Huron. In 2013 the one-year-old Chinook salmon caught by Wisconsin anglers in the summer fishery were 65% naturally reproduced. Most of this natural reproduction of chinook salmon occurs in Lake Huron tributaries and northern Michigan tributaries of Lake Michigan.

**MARINETTE, OCONTO and DOOR COUNTIES**

Green Bay and tributaries  
Brown trout - Brown trout stocked into the productive waters of Green Bay have plentiful forage to grow quickly. Most of the brown trout harvested by anglers are 2 or 3 years old. By autumn, a 2-year-old brown trout would be around 21 inches, while a 3-year-old brown trout would be around 29 inches. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily limit is 5 trout/ salmon in total. Minimum length is 10 inches. Access information: Anglers can troll for browns in the spring and summer months. There are numerous boat access locations along the shores of Green Bay. Check out this website for details. dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/ Brown trout make fall migration runs into the Menominee, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers. From late September into the winter months, shore anglers may have luck catching browns in these major tributaries. To find detailed tributary access information, go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html DNR stocks around 126,000 brown trout yearlings into Green Bay. There are two strains that DNR has stocked for over 2 decades: Wild Rose domestics and seeforellen. The Wild Rose strain is a domestic strain, where adult broodstock are held in captivity at the Wild Rose Hatchery. Each fall, games are collected from the broodstock. After the eggs hatch, some fish remain at Wild Rose until stocking or are raised as broodstock. A portion of the young fish are transported to one of several smaller hatcheries throughout the state where the fish continue to be raised until they are stocked into Lake Michigan or Lake Superior. The seeforellen strain is a wild (feral) strain, meaning the adult broodstock are distinguished by a fin clip and are collected from the wild each fall by electrofishing boats. Adult fish are transported to Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility on the Kewaunee River, eggs are collected weekly for 4-6 weeks in November and December, and then fertilized eggs are taken to the Wild Rose Hatchery. The seeforellen strain originated in alpine lakes in Germany, and eggs for Wisconsin were obtained from New York DNR in the early 1990’s. This strain is desired because it grows fast and spawns later in the fall than domestic strains. Therefore, it provides fishing opportunities for stream anglers well into the winter months. Much of the fishing success of a given year is dependent on survival of yearling brown trout that were stocked one to two years ago, as well as water temperatures which affects their availability in nearshore areas where browns inhabit.

**DOOR, KEWAUNEE and BROWN COUNTIES**

Green Bay waters  
The relatively new lake whitefish ice fishery in Green Bay continues to provide great action for ice anglers. Much of the action takes place at various locations along the east shore between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Harvest rates for the 2014 ice fishing season were down from 2013 but still relatively good in the short history of this fishery. Population index surveys completed in 2014 suggest the whitefish spawning stock(s) in the area continue to maintain solid numbers thanks to good recruitment within the last decade. Recent spring juvenile gillnet surveys indicate that several modest year classes are present and should contribute to the fishery for the next several years. Barring any change in lake whitefish feeding and/or distribution patterns in Green Bay, the 2015 ice fishery should once again provide some good fishing. Current regulation: The bag limit for lake whitefish is 10 fish with no length limit. Access information: There are a number of access points between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to: dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/ for a listing of some of the launches in the area. Anglers are advised to check ahead for ice conditions before venturing out. Lake whitefish were extirpated from the Menominee River, Green Bay, over a century ago. However, fish began to return to this river during the 1990s. A spawning population has since grown to a robust level. Whitefish hatched in the Menominee, as well as other possible west shore Green Bay tributaries, are likely a major contributor to the whitefish ice fishery in Green Bay. In fact, over the last two years surveys revealed spawning condition lake whitefish were inhabiting tributaries other than the Menominee in November including the Fox, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers.

Aaron Breidert holding a nice Chinook salmon caught in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Fish and fishing enthusiasts - Do you know your gamefish?  

There are a lot of fish to be found in Wisconsin's waters. In fact, there are about 160 different fish species in the state. A new poster captures a small portion of these fishes: Wisconsin's most common game fishes in all their colorful splendor. They look like they've just been pulled from the water! It's the performance for anglers who want to learn to identify the fish they catch. The poster is also great for restaurants (placemats), tackle shops, resorts and don't forget, just place behind room walls. Tuck it into a tackle box? The poster is available in several sizes for downloading and printing:

- Letter (8.5" x 11")
- Tabloid (11" x 17")
- Double Tabloid (22" x 34")

Download address: dnr.wi.gov/topic/fish/gPEAThroughGameFish.ofwht
Getting Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing

Community/urban fishing program provides access to fishing

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

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

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

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

It’s now easier than ever to get kids started in fishing. Make it a family outing and have fun. For more information contact: Matt Coffaro, Statewide Urban Fisheries Biologist 414-263-8614

Remington Pond, Langlade County
City of Antigo - Only juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish. Stocked with rainbow trout per day. 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.

City of Tomahawk - Only juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish. Stocked with rainbow trout in the spring and brook trout in the fall. Trout Unlimited and Northwoods Sportsmen’s Club periodically stock 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.

Map shows locations of all Wisconsin fish species

Anglers and fish enthusiasts alike can now interactively see where their favorite fish species have been found using an interactive DNR map which shows results from fish surveys dating as far back as 130 years. The online fish mapping tool is an interactive map database which lets anyone search the more than 160 fish species found in Wisconsin by either county or habitat types.

“What’s great about the fish map tool is you can see the big picture of where different species are found in the state,” says John Lyons (Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research Section), fisheries research scientist. “The tool lets you zoom in on specific bodies of water so you can see what kinds of fish are found in your favorite local lakes.”

The tool offers a fun interactive application for anglers and there is a tutorial video located on the fish map tool website explaining how to use the map. (https://cida.usgs.gov/products/fishmap/map/). Data points on the map are pinpointed by GPS coordinates and the kinds of fish species were found during a given research collection outing. The fish map tool was created in partnership with the US Geological Survey Center for Integrated Data Analytics and is used by DNR researchers to study long term trends for fish populations in Wisconsin.

Fish portraits: new video series

Research scientist John Lyons has produced a number of “fish portrait” videos for the Wisconsin DNR YouTube channel. In this video series, John introduces a fish species, details its typical length and weight, lifespan, population, and behavior. Even a seasoned angler is sure to learn something new about their favorite species in these videos.

Fish portraits available as: bluegill, carp, makakelunge, longnose perch and lake trout.

Check them out at: https://www.youtube.com/user/FIDANRT