

Summary of Fishing Tournaments in Wisconsin in 2016

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Applications

- 626 applications for fishing tournaments were received
 - 37 applications were either withdrawn, cancelled, or denied
 - 589 applications were approved and held
 - 367 catch-and-release tournaments (62%)
 - 89 immediate release tournaments (15%)
 - 133 catch and keep tournaments (23%)
 - 104 ice fishing tournaments (18%)
 - 56 Great Lakes tournaments (9%)
 - 249 bass specific catch-and-release tournaments (42%), which is the single most popular tournament type and target fish.

2016 Permitted Fishing Tournaments by County

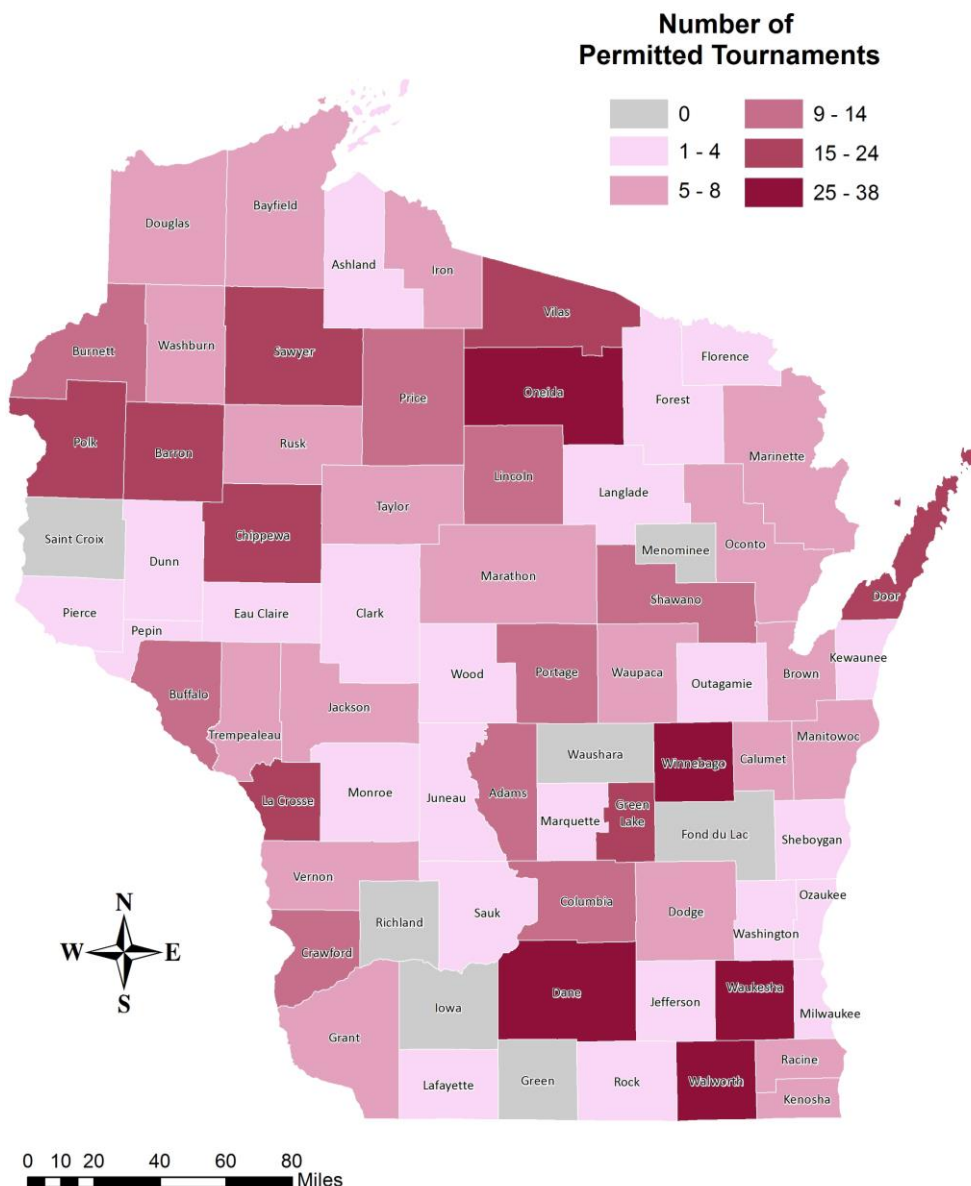


Figure 1. Wisconsin DNR Permitted Tournaments by County in 2016

Distribution

Tournaments took place in 67 counties throughout Wisconsin (Figure 1).

Top counties include: Winnebago (38), Waukesha (33), Dane (28), Oneida (28), Walworth (26), Green Lake (24), La Crosse (23), and Door (19).

Notable Results

- 5 more tournaments were held in 2016 than in 2015; an increase of 1% (Table 1)
- Prizes awarded were up more than \$46,000 in 2016 compared to 2015; an increase of 1% (Table 1)
- The number of bass registered decreased from 2015 to 2016 by more than 2,500 fish (Table 2)
- The number of walleye registered decreased from 2015 and 2016 by nearly 6,000 fish; however, the percentage of walleye released increased by 15% in 2016 (Table 2)

Table 1. Number of tournaments, projected effort, and prize value awarded 2014-2016

Effort/Prizes	2014	2015	2016
Tournaments	561	584	589
Anglers	71,123	80,641	74,075
Boats	15,561	18,263	16,775
Hours Fished	1,922,623	2,095,382	2,203,263
Prizes Awarded	\$3,203,968	\$4,230,367	\$4,277,109

Table 2. Catch numbers and release rates for events registering species from 2014-16.

Species	Number Fish Registered			Percent of Fish Released		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	27,723	33,240	30,594	99%	96%	98%
Walleye*	16,867	17,639	11,693	72%	60%	75%
Great Lakes (Salmon/Trout)	9,981	11,253	12,407	0.02%	1%	0.01%
Panfish**	5,465	8,243	9,090	25%	19%	16%
Muskellunge	832	1,221	955	100%	100%	99.9%
Northern Pike	2,359	2,720	2,351	45%	30%	34%
Rough Fish***	20,032	13,542	14,978	0.05%	5%	0.01%
All Species	87,663	91,322	87,381	49%	51%	48%

*Walleye includes walleye, sauger, and saugeye

**Panfish includes crappies, bluegill, sunfish, and yellow perch

***Rough Fish includes buffalo, bullhead, bowfin, common carp, freshwater drum, gars, suckers, quillback, redhorses, and other minnows

Note: The catch numbers, number of anglers, number of boats, and prize money data were retrieved from reports submitted by the tournament organizers. Currently 55 tournament reports of the 589 tournaments have not been submitted.



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