Wisconsin anglers’ most favorite table fare?

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

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.

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 the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov and search “Fishing for Dinner”.

Wishing you tight lines in 2015!

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!

Director,
Fisheries Management

Spring 2015
An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Fisheries Management program

fishingwisconsin.org

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 Harvest
May 2 to March 6, 2016

**Smallmouth Bass**
Northern Zone Harvest
June 20 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

Wisconsin anglers’ most favorite table fare?

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!

Director,
Fisheries Management

**Spring 2015**
An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Fisheries Management program

fishingwisconsin.org

**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

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 the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov and search “Fishing for Dinner”.

Wishing you tight lines in 2015!

Director,
Fisheries Management

Spring 2015
An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Fisheries Management program

fishingwisconsin.org

**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

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 the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov and search “Fishing for Dinner”.

Wishing you tight lines in 2015!

Director,
Fisheries Management
Fabulous Fisheries Projects

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 foot 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.

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.

“How if you are looking for a place to fish, hunt, trap, or enjoy any of Wisconsin’s natural 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.wisconsin.gov and search “Atlas.”

New fishing access opportunities for trout and smallmouth bass streams

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 Becker 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 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 holding habitat for wildlife. Large-wooder 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 launch. 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.
undertaken to partially replace the loss of Walleyes for Tomorrow and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project was undertaken to partially replace the loss of reef at the upper limits of the 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. The project was undertaken to partially replace the loss of Walleyes for Tomorrow and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project was undertaken to partially replace the loss of reef at the upper limits of the Milwaukee Estuary Fish Spawning Project. 

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:

wilfishphotos@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.

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.

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 Revitalization 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 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. The PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags are similar to those used for pet identification.

Because of its extraordinary qualities, the East Fork Chippewa River is designated as an “Outstanding Resource Water” and as a candidate for inclusion under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. From dam construction in 1953 until the fishway was installed in fall 2011, the diversion dam at the Winter Hydropower Project was the only physical barrier to fish movements on East Fork Chippewa River. For nearly 60 years the 7-foot-high structure had fragmented aquatic habitat and regulated the fish and wildlife communities in this high-quality watershed. Providing safe upstream and downstream fish passage at this dam would restore connectivity and functionality of the river ecosystem in 295 stream miles throughout the watershed, including 85 miles on the mainstem. Our time and effort spent to capture the 81 individuals tagged to date suggest a sturgeon population in low abundance consisting mainly of large, old fish and few new recruits. Sturgeon typically do not move for spawning every year. Male sturgeon reproduce in 2-year cycles, and the eggs of adult females mature in 3- to 5-year cycles.

By spring 2014 forty-five tagged sturgeon were at large downstream of the Winter Hydroelectric Project and 36 more tagged adults passed 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, hydro-power project operators have reported visual observations of several sturgeon in the fishway when tag detectors were not yet installed or not functioning properly.

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 healthy omega-3 fats. Studies suggest that omega-3 fats may be beneficial during fetal brain and eye development, and eating modest amounts of fish containing these healthy fats may lower the risk of heart disease in adults. Health experts recommend that fish be included as part of a healthy diet.

However, fish may take in pollutants from their environment and food. Mercury and PCBs are the contaminants of greatest concern in fish, prompting recommendations that people limit or avoid eating certain 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.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015

3
WISCONSIN FISHING: A VERITABLE SMORGASBORD
Choose your fare in 2015 and head to the water!

WALLEYE

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. This regulation is subject to change based on tribal declarations and harvest. Access information: There are 4 public boat accesses in the Bear Lake area. The last record 28% 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. Anglers should check for walleye fishing rules in the Wisconsin- DNR’s website to search for access in-

CALUMET, FOND DU LAC, GREEN LAKE, OUTAGAMIE, SHAWANO, WAUSAU, WAUPACA, AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan) along with all their tributaries from their mouths 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-

CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE AND MONROE COUNTIES

Lake Arbutus - 840 acres, Clark and Jackson Counties, Upper Black River (above Black River Falls dam), Clark 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 sampling and catch rates, 9 of the very strong 2013 year class that was produced in Lake Puckaway. In 2013, a survey 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-

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 annually over the previous 10 years has gone up considerably. This likely is largely due to very good natural reproduction in southwestern 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 stocking efforts increased due to the Wisconsin Walleye Initi- ative. In 2013 expanded growth walleye were stocked in Otter, and walleye fishing rules were developed. The fishing found many age one walleye, indi-

DODGE COUNTY

Fox Lake - 2,625 acres

Walleye 2014 fall electrofishing catch rate was higher, 0.55/net lift, compared to 0.31/net lift in 2014, 78/hour in 2012, 116/hour in 2011, a high of 98/hour in 2010 and comparable to the 10-year average of 98/hour. The number of young of the year (YOY) was 13/hour in 2014, compared to 12/hour in 2013, 11/ hour in 2012, 4/hour in 2011 and a high of

Shore and boat anglers fish for walleye in De- Pere on the Fox River
Walleyes are collected from a Shawano-area lake in 2014.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Whitefish Lake - 848 acres

A 2013 fisheries survey indicated a moderate depth walleye population with a fairly good structure. There were 394 walleye captured during the fyke netting survey and 215 were over 18 inches, with largest fish caught measuring 18 inches. Current regulation: The Whitefish Lake walleye fishery is improved and with the water levels back up to our “high density” goal for this lake. Additionally, the smaller lake size helps keep forage fish numbers down, intensifying competition, and providing anglers with a good opportunity for fast action. Alternatively, the larger lake size helps steer the angler’s focus on 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 access just off of Hwy. G.

**FOREST COUNTY**

**Lily Lake** - 546 acres

28' deep This productive body of water supports a decent walleye fishery, supported by stocking. Recent estimates put the population 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 bite can sometimes be rough. Harvest take on the ice. Two private and one public landing provide adequate access.

**GREEN LAKE**

**Little Green Lake** - 466 acres

28' Deep This productive body of water supports a decent walleye fishery, with a good structure. Recent estimates put the population at between 2-3 adults per acre. Males had average lengths of 16.7” and females averaged 23.5”. This lake is full of forage so the bite can sometimes be rough. Harvest take on the ice. Three public and one private landing provide adequate access.

**IRON COUNTY**

Pine Lake: Its walleye fisheries are good and should be on your list of destinations. Pine Lake is 312 acres and located just north of Mercer. Recent surveys indicate strong natural reproduction and high adult walleye densities (8.0/acre). Although very few trophy fish (1% or less) were present, 3% of the 1 inch population, has a maximum depth of 102 feet, this lake makes for an easy access. Whitefish Lake – 276 acres

This productive body of water supports good numbers of fish in the river and lake at most times of the year.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**

Brule River Flowsage (WI-MI boundary water)

The Brule River Flowsage is one of the few places in Florence County where you can go and catch a walleye. The typical population in this flowsage is between 2 and 3 adults/acre. Since this flowsage is a boundary water one should consult the regulations book before fishing intended. Patten Lake - 225 acres

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

**MARATHON COUNTY**

Lake Dubay - 6000 acres

Lake Dubay is surveyed for walleye in 2014 using fyke nets and electrofishing. A total of 879 walleyes was recorded: 2.3 fish per net-night. Average length from fyke nets was 15.7 inches and 28% of the fish caught were greater than 15 inches and 7% greater than 20 inches. Fall electrofishing electrofishing gave an abundance of 23 age-1 walleyes per mile. In general, the population is stable, compares well to other local walleye fisheries, and will continue to provide harvestable fish. Current Regulations: No closed season, harvest slot 15”-19.9”, “20” not be kept and only one fish over 28” is allowed, bag limit is 2 fish, and no minimum length limit / 5 fish per day Access information: Dalman Landing / County Park, Groeller Road, Klement Park, City of Jefferson below Jefferson Dam. Through the assistance of local cooperative groups, the Bar Lake Fish Hatchery released 396,054 walleye fry and 1,515,682 northern pike fry into Lake Koshkonong/Rock River in 2014.

**LACONIO COUNTY**

Enterprise Lake – 505 acres with a good naturally reproducing population; 14-18” is a protected slot. Angler reports have been good and suggest the walleye population is growing as expected under the current regulation. Crystal Lake – 74 acres with a good naturally reproducing population with the bulk of the fish in the 16-20” range; 15” length limit; 2014 adult population estimate of 3.9 per acre.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawkis, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowsages 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 at Rice Reservoir (Lake Nakomis System) – 2,274 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2010 adult population estimate of 3.0 per acre at full pool Spirit Reservoir – 1,667 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2005 adult population estimate of 2.9 per acre. City Flowsage – 404 acres of naturally reproducing walleye water; 15” length limit; 2014 spring netting survey showed a nice population with strong numbers in the 12- to 20”-range.

**LINDEN COUNTY**

White Potato Lake – 978 acres

The walleye fishery is maintained through stocking by the DNR and White Potato Lake Sportmen’s Club. The lake is spring 2013 reduced walleye fish populations compared with 2013 however, of the over 800 fish collected, 72% were greater than 15 inches. Current regulations; 15-inch minimum length limit / 5 fish per day Access information: Anglers can choose from 6 boat landings to access White Potato Lake. The average depth of this lake is 5 feet and there is an abundance of vegetation.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Three Lakes Chain A spring survey found abundant walleye water centered on 11 inches with 20% of fish over 16 inches. Squirrel Lake – 1,317 acres. We estimated an adult walleye population of 3.5 per acre. Most fish fell between 12 and 14 inches, with abundant numbers up to 20 inches. Two Sisters Lake - 719 acres. We estimated 2.8

**OCONTO COUNTY**

Lake Dubay - 6000 acres

Lake Dubay is surveyed for walleye in 2014 using fyke nets and electrofishing. A total of 879 walleyes was recorded: 2.3 fish per net-night. Average length from fyke nets was 15.7 inches and 28% of the fish caught were greater than 15 inches and 7% greater than 20 inches. Fall electrofishing electrofishing gave an abundance of 23 age-1 walleyes per mile. In general, the population is stable, compares well to other local walleye fisheries, and will continue to provide harvestable fish. Current Regulations: No closed season, harvest slot 15”-19.9”, “20” not be kept and only one fish over 28” is allowed, bag limit is 2 fish, and no minimum length limit / 5 fish per day Access information: Dalman Landing / County Park, Groeller Road, Klement Park, City of Jefferson below Jefferson Dam. Through the assistance of local cooperative groups, the Bar Lake Fish Hatchery released 396,054 walleye fry and 1,515,682 northern pike fry into Lake Koshkonong/Rock River in 2014.

**Oconto County**

White Potato Lake - 978 acres

The walleye fishery is maintained through stocking by the DNR and White Potato Lake Sportmen’s Club. The lake is spring 2013 reduced walleye fish populations compared with 2013 however, of the over 800 fish collected, 72% were greater than 15 inches. Current regulations; 15-inch minimum length limit / 5 fish per day Access information: Anglers can choose from 6 boat landings to access White Potato Lake. The average depth of this lake is 5 feet and there is an abundance of vegetation.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Three Lakes Chain A spring survey found abundant walleye water centered on 11 inches with 20% of fish over 16 inches. Squirrel Lake – 1,317 acres. We estimated an adult walleye population of 3.5 per acre. Most fish fell between 12 and 14 inches, with abundant numbers up to 20 inches. Two Sisters Lake - 719 acres. We estimated 2.8
adult walleyes per acre 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 few larger fish.

**PRICE COUNTY**

Phillips Chain of Lakes – 1,236 acres. Early spring fyke net catches captured in 2014 and 2015 averaged nearly 14 inches. Long and Wilson lakes experienced the greatest declines, while catch rate increases in Darby Lake and remained relatively unchanged in Elk Lake. We did not estimate walleye density in 2008 or 2010, so we do not know whether the population meets our objective for 3 – 5 adults per acre in the Chain. Our indices of walleye size structure were generally a bit larger than our goal (20 – 40% at least 15 inches), though walleye in Elk Lake fell short of the goal in both years. We do not think any size may be kept. A proposed fishing regulation should improve the size distribution of the walleye population in the Phillips Chain. Focusing angler harvest toward abundant, slow-growing walleyes of intermediate size (10 – 13 inches) while allowing conservative harvest of one walleye > 14 inches should increase the proportion of adult walleyes longer than 15 inches. If approved, the new rule would take effect in April 2016. Walleye of any size may be kept, but only one can be over 14 inches.

Solberg Lake – 859 acres. Despite several measures of poor reproductive success in the last decade, our netting survey immediately following the spring 2014 thaw revealed that walleye size in Solberg lake appeared to have increased. Netting was conducted in Dworsky Lake and remained relatively unchanged in Elk Lake. We did not estimate walleye density in 2008 or 2010, so we do not know whether the population meets our objective for 3 – 5 adults per acre in the Chain. Our indices of walleye size structure were generally a bit larger than our goal (20 – 40% at least 15 inches), though walleye in Elk Lake fell short of the goal in both years. We do not think any size may be kept. A proposed fishing regulation should improve the size distribution of the walleye population in the Phillips Chain. Focusing angler harvest toward abundant, slow-growing walleyes of intermediate size (10 – 13 inches) while allowing conservative harvest of one walleye > 14 inches should increase the proportion of adult walleyes longer than 15 inches. If approved, the new rule would take effect in April 2016. Walleye of any size may be kept, but only one can be over 14 inches.

Butternut Lake – 1,096 acres. Anglers can expect fast fishing action for “eater-size” walleyes typical of a naturally reproducing population. Our capture rate of 62 walleyes per net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Walleye of any size may be kept, but only one can be over 14 inches.

**WISCONSIN**

Delavan Lake – 1,906 acres. Walleye fishing has rebounded on Shell Lake in recent years. Fish hatched in 2011 and 2013 surveys Current regulation: 15 inch minimum length limit. Daily bag limit of 1 fish. Current regulation: 15 inch minimum length limit. Daily bag limit of 1 fish. Public boat launch is located at the STH 50 boat launch on the southwest side of the lake. A healthy adult walleye population continues to support natural reproduction of walleye in Lac La Belle, as revealed by continued fall electrofishing surveys. Walleyes on Lac La Belle provide excellent angler catch and release opportunity. 656 acres. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the estimated estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired estimate – 3 adults per acre. Net-night suggests that population density will likely be high in Butternut Lake. Our survey yielded an estimate of 2,170 adult walleye. Most of these can be attributed to strong recruitment of 4 – 7 adults per acre. The majority was moderately high and near the desired
There are three public access points around the lake and one private landing located at Toddy’s Landing.

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

Little Green Lake - 466 acres. Little Green is one of the few lakes in this part of the State to provide a musky fishery. It is a stocked fishery and receives an annual release of fall fingerlings from the state and also gets some supplemental stockings from local groups. Angler caught fish typically average around 38”, but fish upwards of 50” have been caught in recent years. Little Green falls under the standard statewide regulation for musky opening in the first week of May and ending on December 31st. The minimum length limit is 40” with a bag of one.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Wisconsin River and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawk, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flower Lakes) and the connecting riverine portions) - about 5,000 acres of prime, naturally reproducing muskellunge water. No stocking takes place on these waters. Adult population estimates range from 0.1 to 0.3 per acre. Parts of this system may be considered water type (Lakes Mohawk) but the whole system has true trophy potential that make these lower adult densities acceptable to maintain population of muskellunge. If a musky angler could design their dream lake from scratch it might come out looking a lot like Green Lake. Green is annually released with Whitefish is 800 acres of crystal clear water and has a depth of 105 feet. The lake is stocked with 3 years 40” muskellunge. Quite a few. The lake is a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed. This lake makes it a challenge for anglers, but the rewards can be great. There is a public boat ramp off of State Hwy. 27. The statewide limit applies and trolling is allowed.
Lake Owen - 1,425 acres
Lake Owen currently has a moderate density, good size structure largemouth bass population. The catch rate of largemouth bass in the spring 2014 electrofishing survey was 13.8 fish per mile, but the size structure had improved. The average length for the largest fish sampled measured 14.1 inches and the largest fish measured 20 inches. Current regulation: There is a no minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 largemouth bass which makes it a great option for the “harvest-oriented” bass angler. Anglers are encouraged to harvest largemouth bass from 12 to 16 inches may not be kept. Anglers are also recommended to harvest largemouth bass from 12 to 16 inches and 1.5% were over 20 inches. Great bass, which were surveyed at 21 fish/mile of shoreline. 45% of the individuals sampled on Lake Winnebago including Asylum Bay, Little Pine-Black Wolf Point, and Black Wolf Point-Comfort Point. Sampling also resulted in over 32 largemouth bass/ mile of shoreline. 45% of the individuals sampled 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.

Lake Ripley - 418 acres
Largemouth bass catch rate for 2014 electrofishing was 74 fish/hour, compared to 58/ hour in 2013 and 67/hour in 2012 with fish ranging from 2.1 to 17.9 inches. Current regulation: 18-inch minimum length, 1 fish daily bag on largemouth bass. Access information: Public boat launches and shore fishing access sites: CTBA, CTTH, and Aqua Visitor Center. While not a true musky lake, Fox Lake does boast an occasional 45+ inch musky.

FLORENCE COUNTY

Crescore Lake - 91 acres
Largemouth bass and 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 also resulted in over 32 largemouth bass/ mile of shoreline. 45% of the individuals sampled 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.

Lake Ripley - 418 acres
Largemouth bass catch rate for 2014 electrofishing was 74 fish/hour, compared to 58/ hour in 2013 and 67/hour in 2012 with fish ranging from 2.1 to 17.9 inches. Current regulation: 18-inch minimum length, 1 fish daily bag on largemouth bass. Access information: Public boat launches and shore fishing access sites: CTBA, CTTH, and Aqua Visitor Center. While not a true musky lake, Fox Lake does boast an occasional 45+ inch musky.
RANGE FROM 2.2- TO 18.4-INCHES. CURRENT REGULATION: 14- INCH MINIMUM, 5 FISH DAILY BAG ON LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS. ACCESS INFORMATION: PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH LOCATED ON ISLAND LAKE OFF HWY 12 ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE LAKE. THE CURRENT STATE RECORD LARGEMOUTH (11 POUNDS, 3 OUNCES) WAS CAUGHT IN 1940.

Rocky Lake - 1,370 acres
Largemouth bass catch rate for 2014 fall electrofishing was 372/hour, compared to 414/ hour in 2013 and 315/hour in 2012, with fish ranging from 2.18 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length, 5 fish daily bag on largemouth and smallmouth bass. Fishing stations provided by City of Lake Mills on east side of lake. Additional shorefishing on east and west shores of Mill Pond.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Yellowstone Lake - 450 acres
The largemouth bass population in Yellowstone has been improving over the last 10 years. It offers anglers above average opportunities to catch trophy-sized largemouth bass with an abundance of bass over 16 inches available. Spring electrofishing surveys in 2014 revealed a good panfish fishery with bluegills up to 9.5 inches and black crappies up to 13 inches. There are also seven boats available for rent on Yellowstone Lake in October of 2014. Photo: Brad Bivin

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 14 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 between 12 and 15 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 refilled following drawdowns. 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 a good bass fishery with an average size, growth and abundance of bass being above average, particularly following the improved habitat that was created. We would expect that the improvements in depth and plant coverage, following the spring drawdowns, will provide some great fish for northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish species. Newly improved landings on Buffalo provide good access. There is only one public landing on Montello Lake just north of Montello.

ONEIDA COUNTY

Minocqua and Kawagusagas Lakes - There is no minimum length limit for bass on Minocqua Chain. Spring electrofishing found abundance 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.

POLK COUNTY

Balsam Lake - 1,901 acres
Balsam Lake currently has a high density, low size structure largemouth bass population. The bass population in the spring 2014 electrofishing survey was considered very high at 72.4 fish/ shallow mile. Of the 579 largemouth bass sampled in this study, 81.5% of the fish were between 8 and 15 inches and only 4.8% were greater than 15 inches. Current regulation: There is a no 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 required 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 1,900 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 lake was surveyed by electrofishing from the launch, fish caught from 10 to 19 inches. 63% of the catch was greater than 14 inches and the largest bass caught was 19 inches. Lake Thomas will continue to provide great action for bass as there were enough young fish ready to move into the harvestable size range. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 bass in total may be kept. Access: The Town of Stockton maintains a small boat launch on Lake Thomas. Lake Thomas is stocked annually with rainbow trout and offers this added fishery.

RACINE COUNTY

Brown’s Lake - 396 acres
Species population information: Action water, with 13.1” average length, 17.6” maximum length (2014 survey) Current regulation: 16” minimum length limit, 5 daily bag. Access information: On the south 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 8th 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 Lake Delton, near Wisconsin Dells. There are three boat launch on Mirror Lake. One is located within Mirror Lake State Park on the eastern shore of the lower part of the lake. The second is located at the end of Lakeview Rd. off of State Highway 23 on the northern shore, upstream of the outlet of the lake near the inflow of Dell Creek. The third is a carry-in only access located along State Hwy. 27 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

Shawanano Lake - 6603 acres
Spring booming school surveys captured moderate numbers of largemouth 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 and the largest are found in the south. There are multiple ramps located on Swan Acres Rd, Civic Village Park, Stark Rd, and County Park. Huckleberry Harbor, on the Shawano Lake Outlet Channel has multiple ramps and an lage parking area.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015 9
**SMALLMOUTH BASS**

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Rice Lake** - 385 acres

The Rice Lake smallmouth bass population has an extensive size structure, and is often overlooked by anglers. During the spring 2014 DFC netting and electrofishing surveys, nearly half of the smallmouth bass handled were 15 inches or greater and 14.5% were at least 18 inches. The largest smallmouth bass captured was 19.7 inches. Current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit and 5 fish bag limit. Anglers should check for additional regulations. There are several boat landings at Rice Lake. Several lakes off East Orchard Beach Road and South Main Street are the best landings, especially for larger boat anglers. Large bass will likely be present for smallmouth bass in the south basin of the lakes.

**CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE and TREMPEALEAU COUNTIES**

**Lake Arbuthnot** - 840 acres, Clark and Jackson Counties, **upper Black River** (above Black River Falls dam), Clark and Jackson Counties

A typical Platte River smallmouth bass being released after a recent WISNR electrofishing survey. Photo: Brian Sime

A 2014 shocking survey sampled smallmouth bass at a rate of 7.5 individuals/mile of shoreline. 72% of the individuals were over 12 inches, 34% were over 14 inches, and 5% were over 17 inches. These fish are built for fishing, with many 4.5 pound fish available to anglers. Currently, there is a 14 inch minimum length limit with 5 fish bag limit of 1 fish from below the Stevens Point Dam access point. The Platte River offers anglers an excellent opportunity to catch smallmouth bass in a driftless area small stream environment.

**DOOR COUNTY**

**Green Bay**

The smallmouth bass fishery continues to be great along portions of Door County’s shoreline and the trend is expected to continue in 2015. Although the 2014 creel data are not yet available, smallmouth catch per effort had been trending upward over the previous two years with current catch per effort well above the long term average. Some stronger, younger age classes that were documented in recent spawning surveys should still be well represented in the population suggesting a good number of fish between 1 and 3 years of age (larger) in the Door County population. Survey data have documented smallmouth bass fish age has been steadily increasing since the mid-1990s. This has been reflected in the sport catch as fish in excess of 7 pounds have been reported for several tournaments in recent years. Current regulation is 14-inch minimum length limit plus 5 daily bag limit for Lake Arbuthnot and the Black River.

**FOREST COUNTY**

**Butternut Lake** - 1,292 acres

Butternut Lake has what appears to be a more abundant smallmouth bass population than Butternut Lake. Size structure is slightly lower, but still some very quality fish with approximately 22% of fish being over 14 and 17 inches, respectively.

**GRANT COUNTY**

**Platte River** - 25 miles of smallmouth bass

The Platte River supports a good population of smallmouth bass. Recent surveys sampled 101 young of the year, yearling, and adult smallmouth from 18.2 inches. Current regulation is 14 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1. Access information: The Platte River offers anglers an excellent opportunity to catch smallmouth bass in a driftless area small stream environment. It is becoming a popular stream for canoe and kayak fishermen. The Platte River is currently identified as a 9' stream with the Wisconsin River Bank Easement protection program. This program allows for the purchase of public access along identified priority streams including the Platte River. Any properties offered in the program will be available for public access along the Platte River for fishing and canoeing. More information can be found at the DNR website: http://dat.wi.gov/topic/fishing/streambank/ or you may simply type “streambank” in the search box located on the DNR homepage.

**IRON COUNTY**

**Turtle-Flambeau Flowage** - 13,545 acres

A 2014 shocking survey sampled smallmouth bass at a rate of 7.5 individuals/mile of shoreline. 72% of the individuals were over 12 inches, 34% were over 14 inches, and 5% were over 17 inches. These fish are built for fishing, with many 4.5 pound fish available to anglers. Currently, there is a 14 inch minimum length limit with 5 fish bag limit of 1 fish from below the Stevens Point Dam access point. The Platte River again proved impressive for smallmouth bass production. Electrotrolling catch rate of smallmouth bass caught from 5.5 fish per hour to 30 fish per hour. The highest catch rate was near Brokaw at 44 feet per hour and 10% of the catch was greater than 14 inches. Below Lake Waushau catch was 24 fish/hour, with 17% of the catch greater than 14 inches; below Dubuque Dam 6 fish/hour (100% larger than 14 inches); and below the Steeves Point Dam 2014 catch rate was 14 inches. Once again the catch of young-of-the-year fish was excellent throughout the river. Current regulation: No closed season; 14 inch minimum length; bag limit is 5 fish per day. Access: Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for each 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 plus 5 fish bag limit of 1 fish from below the Stevens Point Dam Flowage to ATECH Park Spillway.

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

**Enterprise Lake, Sawyer Lake, and Rose Lake**

All of these are now naturally reproducing populations following introductions of lake associations. The Sawyer and Rose populations are still expanding and probably only made up of mostly small fish in the 12-16" range. Enterprise Lake has a low density, high quality smallmouth population.

**PRICE COUNTY**

**Phelps Chain of Lakes** - 1,236 acres.

Lake spring electrofishing surveys in 2008 and 2014 revealed that the Phelps Chain’s smallmouth bass population fell far short of the goals set in the 2008 Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, suggesting perhaps that our objectives for abundance (25 - 30 smallmouth bass ≥ 7 inches per electrofishing hour) and size structure (50 – 70% at least 7 inches long) may be too ambitious in comparison to the area’s highest quality smallmouth bass fisheries. Most recently Elk Lake had the highest smallmouth bass fish in the 10-16" range; Fish the boulders and woody habitat anywhere in the Wolf River in Langlade County.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

**Wisconsin River** and its impoundments (Lakes Alice, Mohawk, and Alexander, Grandmother and Grandfather Flowages and the 34- acre riverine portion) – about 5,000 acres of high density and high quality smallmouth bass populations.

**MARATHON and PORTAGE COUNTIES**

**Wisconsin River**

In 2014, the Wisconsin River again proved impressive for smallmouth bass production. Electrotrolling catch rate of smallmouth bass caught from 5.5 fish per hour to 30 fish per hour. The highest catch rate was near Brokaw at 44 feet per hour and 10% of the catch was greater than 14 inches. Below Lake Waushau catch was 24 fish/hour, with 17% of the catch greater than 14 inches; below Dubuque Dam 6 fish/hour (100% larger than 14 inches); and below the Steeves Point Dam 2014 catch rate was 14 inches. Once again the catch of young-of-the-year fish was excellent throughout the river. Current regulation: No closed season; 14 inch minimum length; bag limit is 5 fish per day. Access: Angler access to the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for each 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 plus 5 fish bag limit of 1 fish from below the Stevens Point Dam Flowage to ATech Park Spillway.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

**Oakaukee Lake** - 1,210 surface acres

Species population information: Average length – 15 inches with above average abundance. Current regulation is 14-inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Access information: There are two boat launches found on Oakaukee Lake; the DNR boat launch on upper Oconomowoc Lake and The Goldens Pasture Restaurant on the west basin of Oakaukee. Oakaukee Lake has a maximum depth of 94 feet and has a very diverse and abundant smallmouth bass population.

**Eagle Spring Lake** - 270 surface acres

Species population information: Average length – 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit – largemouth bass population from 14 inches to 18 inches may not be kept, and only 1 fish per 18 inches is allowed. The daily bag limit is 3. Access information: The public launch is located on the lake’s east side off of county Highway E, near Eagle Spring Pub. Looking for a nice meal? This lake has an abundant population of largemouth so anglers are encouraged to help thin the population improve growth rates.

**Big Muskego Lake** - 2200 surface acres

Species population information: Average length – 18 inches. Current regulation: 18 inches minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: There are three public boat launches located on the lake’s east, south and southeast sides facing Bosthorn and Durham Drive. This shallow system is home to heavy aquatic plants and big bass. Restrictive regulations provide exciting catch and release opportunities for bass and pike.

**WAUSAHA COUNTY**

**Big Hills, Little Hills, Johns and Witter’s Lakes** - 133, 81, 73 and 53 acres respectively All four of these fairly small, pothole lakes have had the 14” length limit removed in an attempt to reduce bass density and improve size structure. There are opportunities for high catch rates and harvest of small bass in encouraged. All of these lakes are highly developed with good access points for each segment. Map is 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 plus 5 fish bag limit of 1 fish from below the Stevens Point Dam Flowage to ATech Park Spillway.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

**Mildred Lake** - 191 acres. Spring electrofishing turned up abundant smallmouth under 16 inches.

Squealed Lake - 1,317 acres. Both species of bass were moderately abundant with excellent size and a few fish up to about 20 inches.
abundance and best size structure of the Phillips 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 wayish, the favorite food of smallmouth bass, had experienced a small decline. Recall that the strong catch-and-release ethic among bass anglers, we suspect that few bass are taken under nationwide harvest regulations. A late spring 2014 survey in nearby Sol Egg Lake in the same drainage basin revealed that smallmouth bass 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 sturgeon, walleye, musky, catfish and lake sturgeon; however, river’s most abundant game fish species is smallmouth bass. During late summer of 2013, DNR electrofishing crews sampled 298 smallmouth bass ranging from 2.2 to 18.8 inches. Smallmouth bass that were landed were of a size that was common. Eighteen percent of the population was over 14 inches and 5% was over 17 inches. A 14 inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of five in total for the season on the Wisconsin/Minnesota border was required. As a result of the high water levels in the spring of 2014, 19.0 miles of shoreline in public ownership.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

**Shell Lake** - 2513 acres Shell Lake continues to hold good numbers and size structure of smallmouth bass. A creel survey completed in 2014 revealed an average length of smallmouth bass harvested was 16.0 inches complimenting high survey catch rates near this size in 2013. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access: Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

**Oconomowoc Lake** - 818 acres species Species population information: Average length = 15 inches. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: Excellent shore fishing opportunities near the Oconomowoc River inlet can provide fast action. 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 Highway 33. Rocky substrate, deep drop offs and rocky structure provides excellent habitat for smallmouth bass on Oconomowoc Lake. Recent fall electrofishing surveys have consistently revealed excellent size structure and abundance of smallmouth bass with good trophy potential.

**NORTHERN PINE**

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Upper Turtle Lake** - 427 acres There were few catches of quality northern pike in the fall 2014 electrofishing survey. The largest fish handled was 33 inches. Current regulation: None. Access: Inland lakes in Turtle Lake. Treaty Lake is part of the same watershed and contains native northwoods populations. In 2013, one northern pike was captured during spring fyke netting. A 20.1” largemouth bass was harvested during the spring electrofishing on the lake. Access: There is a boat launch and public fishing pier near the dam.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY**

**Middle Eau Claire Lake** - 880 acres A 2013 creel survey reflected relatively low numbers but better than average size structure. The average length was 20 inches and the largest fish handled was 46 inches. Current regulation: Northern pike are managed with the statewide regulation-no minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. Access information: There is a boat landing and fishing pier near Highway 8. Upper Turtle 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.

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

Olson’s Flowsage, Jackson County, 253 acres, upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dam). Clark and Jackson Counties, and lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dam). Clark and Monroe, Trempealeau and Trempeannis counties. Catch rates for Olson’s Flowsage are based on spring 2014 electrofishing netting results and for the Black River, catch rates are based on fall 2014 electrofishing surveys.
results. Olson's Flowage: Total catch rate was 1.9 per net lift, catch rate of 26+” fish was 1.5 per net lift and maximum size captured was 37”.

The last netting survey was conducted in 1992. Total catch rate was 2.8 per net lift, catch rate of 26+” fish was 2.6 per net lift and maximum size captured was 35” Black River, upper and lower. Results based on electrofishing surveys and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed (6/mile).

**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 42 pike per net-night. However 68% were larger than 22” and 26% greater than 28 inches. Current Regulation: No closed season, no minimum length limit, 5 fish bag limit. Access: Public boat access to the Wisconsin River downstream of Highway 10 - Minimum length limit of 26” daily bag limit of 3 fish.

**GREEN LAKE and MARQUETTE COUNTIES**

Lake Puckaway - 5.039 Acres, 5” average depth

This lake continues to be the premier northern pike fishery for this area. The “bite” is typically controlled by forage availability and hotspots for pike are a little easier to be on paper. High densities and good size structure, with good numbers in the 30” range, should provide plenty of action. There are three good access points on the south end of the lake and two developed landings on the north shore. The north shore landings can be tricky when water levels drop during the summer months.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Spirit Reservoir - 1,667 acres

Naturally reproducing pike population; 2008 adult population estimate of 2.8 per acre signaling a high density population; At that time most pike were in the 15-22” range.

**ST CROIX COUNTRY**

Pine Lake - 107 acres

Pine Lake (Baldwin) is locally known for bass and panfish fishing, but pike are the predominant game fish in the lake. During spring of 2014, fishery crews sampled 1422 pike ranging in length from 11 to 39 inches. The adult population estimate was 4-4.5 pike per acre. Pike in the 23-32-inch length-range are common. Anglers are encouraged to contact DNR wildlife officials for several species following a recent chemical control. Quality largemouth bass fishing is also available.

**SAUK COUNTY**

Lake Delton - 249 acres

During a fyke netting survey in the spring of 2014, 241 northern pike were captured. Of these, 46% were larger than 28 inches, 19% were larger than 32 inches, and 14% were larger than 34 inches. Two individuals greater than 40 inches in length are known from Lake Delton. Lake Delton offers the chance to catch large northern pike, particularly through the ice in the winter. Current Regulation: Minimum length limit of 26 inches, daily bag limit is 2 fish. Lake can be accessed through the channel connecting the lakes.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Thunder Lake - 1,835 acres. Experienced a substantial winterkill, but we still saw good numbers of northern pike in a June survey. Most fish measured in the teens and low 20s, while the largest pike was 26.9 inches.

**MARINETTE, ONCOTO, 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 for pike to be present in all segments of Green Bay, from 5 years earlier. The increase in pike population was due to the breach along CTH A during the winter. Current Regulation: There is no minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 fish in Green Bay and tributaries. Pike in the 23-32-inch length-range are common. Anglers are encouraged to contact DNR wildlife officials for several species following a recent chemical control. Quality largemouth bass fishing is also available.

**CASS COUNTY**

Lake Chetek - 2,400 acres

Lake Chetek offers great pike fishing for those looking above for average size. Chetek 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. A netting survey in 2013 found roughly 1 in 4 in 2014 to be over 28 inches with some fish approaching 40”. Pike are moderately low density in Chetek which allows them to get to better sizes. There are several public boat launches on Lake Chetek (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 moderately 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 1/2 mile from the outlet of the Yellow River. Access information: Public ramps on Chetac and Birch Lake, access to Lake Delton, access to Chetac and Eagle Lakes. Eagle Lake provides outstanding opportunities for fishing and other family activities. Eagle Lake is located along the east side of the lake. The lake is supported by two aeration systems that oxygen the water during winter periods. Bluegill and black crappie are common. Current Regulation: the minimum length limit could reveal Miller Dam’s potential to produce trophy-size northerns 44 inches and longer.

Chad Leanna, LTE fisheries technician, notes that northern pike fishing is excellent on Chequamegon Waters Flowage (Miller Dam). Taylor County. Photo: Jeff Scheirer.
ing efforts have increased the northern pike. Tom Lake has excellent northern pike habitat. There is a park and a public fishing pier west of Main Street in the city of Mukwonago. Access information: The public boat launch on the east side, Hillside Road (southeast side), Chapin Road (north side – no park- ing), Wykle Drive in Lake (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.

**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 in Lodi. Daily boat launch fee. 
E. V. George Street in Williams Bay (north side), Chapin Road (north side – no parking), Wykle Drive in Lake (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: Public boat launch on the east side of the point, north of US 31/14 (see large parking lot, but spots fill up quickly on the weekend), another public boat launch on the west side of Delavan Lake. The Bluegill Road launch (smaller lot) puts over 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 park at the ST 50 boat launch.

**Waukesha County**

Lower Phantom Lake - 375 surface acres
Species population information: Average Length - 25 inches. 
Current regulation: 26”-78” length limit, daily bag limit (two of any species). 
Access Information: The public boat launch is located at the west end of Andrews Street, west of Niley Street 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”-50” length limit, daily bag limit of 50 fish. 
Access Information: There are three public launches located on the lake’s east, south and southeast sides found on Boshorn and Duhlm Drive. This shallow system has heavy aquatic plants and big northern pike. The conservative minimum length and bag limit 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 continue to find more fish off the coast. In 2013, 215,422 fish (66,236 lbs) compared to 148,980 fish (29,752 lbs) in 2012. Similar to recent years, the majority of the open water harvest (39%) was by boat anglers with most of the fish being found at racks at Door and Kewaunea Counties. Boat anglers launching in Oconto and Green Bay experienced an increase in the tick in perch harvest, with 24% of the open water harvest in 2013, compared to 11% in 2012. Bold efforts during launching in 2012 in Brown County accounted for 19% of the harvest while the remaining 3.4% of harvest was made up of lake trout, shore, or stream anglers, or by anglers who responded to the moored boat survey. The 2014 open water harvest estimations can be available by spring of 2015. Harvest of perch through the ice continues to be a near component of the overall harvest, with an estimated 19,139 fish taken between January 1 and March 31, 2014. Current regulations: Open May 20 to March 15. Daily limit is 15 yellow perch. No minimum length limit. 
Access Information: There are dozens of boat access and shore locations access to fish for yellow perch. The productive waters of Green Bay are much faster than most inland lake populations. For example, a 4’/4” old perch from the Bay averages 10 inches, while a 4’/4” fish from most inland lakes would be around 6 inches.

**Buffalo County**

Mississippi River – Pool 5 and lower Pool 4
Species population information: 22.0” average length, 29.0” maximum length (2014 survey) 
Current regulation: 5.0”-15” length limit, daily bag limit of 1. 
Access Information: There are 142,000 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 miles to the first dam including the upper Fox River and Wolf Rivers. Acres and River Length:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>165,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To the first dam including the upper Fox River and Wolf Rivers. Acres and River Length:

- Fox: 165,246 acres
- Wolf: 165,246 acres

Access Information: Boat landing at Birch Street, Winneconne, and Poygan O’Neil Creek, is a productive system that has been known to produce quality panfish. Marsh-miller Lake, an impoundment of Lower Phantom Lake and Wolf River, is a productive system that has been known to produce quality panfish. Marsh-miller Lake, an impoundment of Lower Phantom Lake and Wolf River, is a productive system that has been known to produce quality panfish. Marsh-miller Lake, an impoundment of Lower Phantom Lake and Wolf River, is a productive system that has been known to produce quality panfish.

- 436 acres

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Lake Mendota). 

**Clay and Jackson Counties**

Lake Arbutus, Clark and Jackson Counties, 840 acres, Olson’s Flowage, Jackson County, 253 acres, and Abbatuna backwater (Emerald, and Jackson). Jackson County, 30 acres (Emerald) and 49 acres (Backburn). 
Species Population Information: based on spring 2014 netting results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per net lift. Populations of perch, crappie, bluegill and bass were the most abundant species. Population information were not recorded in 2014 for Emerald and Blackburn Lakes.

**Black Crappie - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 6.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.6 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. Olson’s Flowage: Total catch rate in 2014 was 7.2 fish. Access information There are dozens of boat access ramps on Yellow Lake off of Jeffries Rd, Lake Ave, and Yellow Lake Rd. 

Yellow perch - Lake Arbutus: Total catch rate in 2014 was 4.5 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.5 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. 

**Black Crappie - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 6.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.6 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 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2009. Total catch rate was 14.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.5 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2009. Total catch rate was 11.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.2 net lift and maximum size captured was 11.5”. 

**Bluegill - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 11.1 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 4.6 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.0 net lift and the largest fish captured was 5.8”. Flounder: Total catch rate in 2014 was 219 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 22.6 net lift and the largest fish captured was 9”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2012. Total catch rate was 11.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.2 net lift and maximum size captured was 11.5”.

**Black Crappie - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 6.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.6 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. 

**Bluegill - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 11.1 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 4.6 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 0.0 net lift and the largest fish captured was 5.8”. Flounder: Total catch rate in 2014 was 219 per net lift, catch rate of 8” fish was 22.6 net lift and the largest fish captured was 9”. The last netting survey was conducted in 2012. Total catch rate was 11.3 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.2 net lift and maximum size captured was 11.5”.

**Yellow perch - Lake Arbutus:** Total catch rate in 2014 was 4.5 per net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.5 net lift and the largest fish captured was 12”. Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015

A happy, young angler shows off his first fish, a Wisconsin Trout Stream from Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company's accessible fishing pier. Wisconsin River below the Rainbow Dam. Oneida County. Photo: Jeff Panucci.

A nice keeper perch caught off of Oconto Park II in late summer.
LA GRANDE 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 no secret to anglers as evidenced by the hundreds of boats that populate this lake throughout the year. It probably benefits from partial winterkill, almost on an annual basis, due to the abundance of aquatic plants in this shallow lake burning up the oxygen under the ice; These winterkills probably help to maintain balance of predators and prey and keep the abundant young perch fishing to ensure enough to allow fast growth to occur.

HIDDEN GEMS ON COUNTY FOREST - La Grande County has dozens of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes. Many of these are on county forest land. Get out your maps or GPS and explore, you just might find that spot you don’t want your neighbor to know about!

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lake Alice - 1,369 acres. Bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, and perch. Good habitat quality water = good fishing, enough said

HIDDEN GEMS ON COUNTY FOREST - Lincoln County has hundreds of mostly smaller largemouth bass/bluegill type lakes; Many of these are on county forest land. Get out your maps or GPS and explore, you just might find a spot you’d never tell your relatives about!

MANITOWOC, KEWAUNEE AND DOOR COUNTIES

Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties lakes are all less than 140 acres, Door County 250 to 1,200 acres.

Inland lakes in Manitowoc County are small and easy to fish with small boats. Panfish, mainly Bluegill, yellow perch and rock bass are popular with local anglers. Most lakes have abundant panfish although in some lakes they average less than 6”. Best bets for shore fishing include Long Lake and Silver Lake. Other lakes have good boat launches. Experienced anglers or beginners can spend an enjoyable day of fishing on these lakes. Lakes in Kewaunee County are also small in size. East Alaska, West Alaska, Heidelmann, and Port of Kewaunee Lakes all have public access and are great places for family fishing because they can be fished from small boats. Panfish are abundant in these lakes so the fishing action can be very good, however large panfish may be hard to find. Door County lakes are much larger than lakes in the other counties. Kangaroo Lake has good numbers of yellow perch, bluegill and large rock bass. Spring yellow perch fishing is very good off of the causeway (Highway E). Clark Lake has seen increasing numbers of bluegill and rock bass. Panfish in these lakes have good size structure with good numbers of 8” panfish in them. The Forestville Flowage provides shore fishing opportunities and there are no good numbers of bluegill in it. Anglers may also find some nice bluegill and yellow perch. Current fishing regulations are listed, except for Silver Lake, Manitowoc County which has a 10 panfish bag limit.

MARATHON COUNTY

Norrie Lake - 99 acres. Norrie Lake was surveyed 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 42%. 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. Additional Information: Norrie Lake is a wall-eye initiative lake and received a stocking of extended growth walleye in 2014.

MARATHON AND PORTAGE COUNTIES

Lake Dubuy - 6000 Acres Lake Dubuy was surveyed in 2014, a total of 1665 bluegill were netted at a rate of 9.5 fish per net-set. Average length was 10.8 inches and 71% of the fish caught were greater than 10 inches. There appears to be a very strong class of fish moving through the fishery, which will be available to anglers at ages for at least 20 years. Current Regulation: No-length-limit, no season, 25 panfish in total may be kept. Access Information: Lake Noquebay can be accessed by a boat ramp located on the north side of the lake on Boat Landing Road or from Lake Noquebay County Park.

MARINETTE COUNTY

Lake Nequebay - 2,398 Big bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie and perch can be found in Lake Nequebay located just northeast of Crivitz. The last survey (2014) revealed numerous bluegill over 8 inches and crappies over 6 inches. Noquebay has good weed growth in certain areas of lake and the water is moderately stained. Current Regulations: 25 in total (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, crappie) Access Information: Lake Nequebay can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the northeast side of the lake on Boating Road or from Lake Nequebay County Park.

NEENAH COUNTY

Long Lake - 113 acres. We found good numbers of bluegill with some fish up to 7.5 inches.

Minocqua and Kawagunsegaga Lakes Bluegill Fishing: Up to 9 inches.

Squash Lake - 396 acres. Bluegill up to 8 inches.

Squirrel 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- inch and a few 11-inch crappies.

Thunder Lake - 1,835 acres. Good numbers of 9 to 10 inch crappies a large winterkill last year, Thunder had a bumper crop of small perch under 7 inches, last year’s numbers of crappies of all sizes up to 11 inches, and a moderate number of bluegill x pumpkinseed hybrids in them.

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 Chippewa 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 population of walleye that keep crappie from overpopulating and taking a daily bag limit that has never been on Moose Lake in many years to prevent overabundance of large fish. Anglers looking to target ‘slabs’ in a beautiful northwoods setup with the exception of several public boat launches, a National Forest parking lot, and many miles of public shoreline and islands.

SHAWANO COUNTY

Shawano Lake and Wolf River Pond 9-0635 public access and 305 acres.

Recent surveys conducted on Shawano Lake and Wolf River Pond indicates abundant populations of panfish. Electrofishing and netting surveys indicated moderate to high quality water. Anglers may also find some nice bluegill and yellow perch. Current fishing regulations are listed, except for Silver Lake, Manitowoc County which has a 10 panfish bag limit.
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 in moderate abundance. Current Regulation: Parfishting regulations are statewide default for both waters. Access Information: Multiple public accesses are found on Shawano Lake with the primary boat ramps located at Swan Acres Rd, Cedar 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 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 nature 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 2010 was near the low end of the objective range (10 – 20 crappies per net set) indicating a moderate population abundance—an increase of more than 4 times the capture rate in spring and fall 2010 (5 crappies). Increased abundance can be attributed to the strong 2010 year class, represented by crappies 7.5 – 8.5 inches. The wide range of sizes indicates reliable recruitment with no miss-catch. The wide range of sizes represented by crappies in 2010 year class, represented by crappies in the 12- to 24-inch range with some near 30 inches. Flathead also have good numbers of fish in the 12-24 inch range with a few large fish reaching 36 inches and 8 flatheads. Channel catfish can be targeted in back-water channels with moderate to fast flows and lots of woody debris. A popular method using “whisk” bait with a weight for bottom fishing from shore. Flathead are more commonly targeted in larger flow complexes behind wingdams and woody debris using live bait. Access Information: There are many access sites on the Upper Mississippi River. These sites range from unimproved gravel landings with limited parking to multi-lane blacktop landings with parking for many vehicles/trailers. These sites are maintained by various State, Federal, and County Agencies 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 or call your local DNR office. Additional access includes US Fish and Wildlife Service and downloaded the pool maps for refuge.Up_Mississippi_River-map.html

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Okauchee Lake - 1,137 acres. Crappie Average length - 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access Information: There are two public accesses on Okauchee Lake located 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 off of Lacy 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 - 98 surface acres. Crappie Average length - 6 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access Information: The public boat launch for Lower Genesee Lake is found on Lower Genesee Lake Road. This smaller kettle lake can provide a nice creel of blackgills. Lower Genesee Lakes is stocked annually with trout in spring. Oconomowoc Lake - 818 surface acres. Crappie 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 food sources have resulted in a healthy gillnet population and excellent gillnet catch growth rates. Spring netting efforts in 2014 revealed good numbers of large bluegills.

**CRAWFORD, GRANT and VERNON COUNTIES**

Upper Mississippi River Pool 9 - 10 - 20,561 acres of open water and backwater lakes and approximately 65-miles in length. Channel and flathead catfish remain a popular choice for anglers on the Mississippi. Catfish channel cars show good numbers of fish in the 12- to 24-inch range with some near reaching 30 inches. Flatheads also have good numbers of fish in the 12-24 inch range with a few large fish reaching 36 inches and 8 flatheads. Channel catfish can be targeted in back-water channels with moderate to fast flows and lots of woody debris. A popular method using “whisk” bait with a weight for bottom fishing from shore. Flathead are more commonly targeted in larger flow complexes behind wingdams and woody debris using live bait. Access Information: There are many access sites on the Upper Mississippi River. These sites range from unimproved gravel landings with limited parking to multi-lane blacktop landings with parking for many vehicles/trailers. These sites are maintained by various State, Federal, and County Agencies 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 or call your local DNR office. Additional access includes US Fish and Wildlife Service and downloaded the pool maps for refuge.Up_Mississippi_River-map.html

**DANE COUNTY**

While not known as a catfish lake, Lake Mendota is a popular choice due 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 - 98 surface acres. Crappie Average length - 6 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access Information: The public boat launch for Lower Genesee Lake is found on Lower Genesee Lake Road. This smaller kettle lake can provide a nice creel of blackgills. Lower Genesee Lakes is stocked annually with trout in spring. Oconomowoc Lake - 818 surface acres. Crappie 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 food sources have resulted in a healthy gillnet population and excellent gillnet catch growth rates. Spring netting efforts in 2014 revealed good numbers of large bluegills.

**JEFFERSON and DODGE COUNTIES**

Lake Koshkonong/Rock River/Crawfish River/Bark River - 50,000 lake acres + 80+ river miles (Rock River), 48+ river miles (Crawfish River), 29 river miles (Bark River). 2013 catfish hoop netting produced channel catfish ranging from 18.6 to 29.5 inches and 9 pounds. Flathead catfish ranged from 20.2 to 37 inches and 22 pounds. Current regulation: Seasons are open year-round on the Rock/Crawfish/Rock Rivers and Lake Koshkonong for all game fish except muskellunge. Catfish (channel and flathead) open all year with a 10 fish daily bag and no minimum length limit. Access information: Delaney Royce County Park, Gorstiller Road, Klemont Park, City of Jefferson below Dam Rock, Dam Rock in Johnson Creek, Kaukauna Park, Oppo- rtunities for large flathead catfish (35+ inches) exist in all major rivers in Jefferson and Dodge Counties.

**MARATHON and PORTAGE COUNTIES**

Lake Dubuhy - 6600 acres During the Lake Dubuhy 2014 survey we captured a total of 642 channel catfish at a rate of 3.1 fish per net-night. Of these fish, 90% were larger than 16 inches; 14% greater than 24 inches; and 4% larger than 30 inches. The 5th to 95th percentile length was 20.2 to 37 inches Current regulation: No closed season; no bag limit. Access: Anglers access the Wisconsin River is excellent with multiple access points for every segment. Maps are available through DNRs online boating access site. Anglers in central Wisconsin can enjoy fishing sections of the Wisconsin River where abundance of channel catfish is at or above the statewide catch average.

**MARQUETTE, GREEN LAKE and WAUSAU COUNTIES**

Fox River - Channel catfish numbers remain high and are one of the most sought after species on the river. The river is full of habitat that is ideal for this species. Recruitment is typically very high and it is uncommon to find razorback flathead catfish. Annual fall sucker surveys. Fish in the 2 to 5 lb. range are common. Flathead populations continue to remain stable and are also becoming more popular on the river. Catch rates of channel catfish have historically been the highest for flathead, current size was 7.5 inches and pushing the 20 lb. window. A very healthy, 47” flathead catfish sampled during our Lake Dubuhy electrofishing survey caught in 2014

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2015
Fish Wisconsin

16

Fish Wisconsin

half (53%) of the fish sampled in 2013 were in the harvest slot size of 30” to 36”. Length and bag limits for each species follow the Wisconsin waters regulation; Channel catfish – open year round. If one flathead catfish is possessed, with no minimum length limit. Flathead catfish — open first Saturday in May until September 30, daily bag of one, 30” minimum but fish from 29” to 30” must be kept. Plenty of developed access areas are located along the river from Montello to Berlin including ar-

**RA CIN E COUNTY**

Fox River - 4.5 miles from Waterford up to the county line

Very high catch rates of 20”+ channel catfish, including fish up to 30” and 10 pounds. Current regulation: no length limit, 10 to 15 miles from the Waterford Dam off N River Road. Another public boat launch upstream of the west end off Bridge Road. Excellent shorefishing access at the park immediately above and below the Wa-

**SHAWANO, OUTAGAMIE and WAUPACA COUNTIES**

Wolf River - Recent hoop net surveys conducted at the Wolf River indicate moderate to high numbers of channel catfish with over 66% of fish over 20 inches and the largest fish 33.8 inches. Flathead catfish were found in smaller numbers but exhibited good size with 73% of catch over 30 inches and the largest at 42.7 inches. Current regulation: Channel catfish: 25” in total, open all year; Flathead catfish: daily bag limit of one; Flats and only Flatheads from 30 to 36 inches.

ed, the revised rules dramatically reduced the harvest of females, allowing them to reproduce more than once thereby increasing the harvestable size. Popular shorefishing spots include the tailwaters of dams on medium- and large-size rivers.

**WO 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 flat- head catfish ranging from 7.2 to 40.5 inches. The 40.5-inch fish weighed close to 40lbs. We caught 5 flathead per mile while electrofishing, we were pleasantly surprised to catch this many catfish and some very nice

**ASHLAND COUNTY**

Beaver and Cammeraker Lakes. These lakes are 35 and 19 acres, respectively. Both put-and-take trout stockings are stocked annually with legal-sized trout (brook trout in Beaver and rainbow trout in Cammeraker). Both lakes are category 3 trout regulation; so the minimum length limit and the bag limit is 5. Access exists via boat launch at both lakes.

**CHIPPEWA and EAU CLAIRE COUNTIES**

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 sea-

**PRICE COUNTY**

Flambeau River - Hook-and-line-sturgeon anglers enjoyed excellent success in Sep-

**CHIPPEWA, DUNN and EAU CLAIRE COUNTIES**

South Fork Hay River - There is a 2.7-mile stretch of the South Fork Hay River in Bar-

**BAR R ON COUNTY**

South Fork Hay River - There is a 2.7-mile stretch of the South Fork Hay River in Bar-

**BUFFALO, JACKSON and TREN- PEAU LEA COUNTIES**

Area Trout Streams - Based on 2014 sur-

**GRANT COUNTY**

Roundtrip Branch - 6.0 miles of trout water The Roundtrip Branch supports a good popula-

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

Big Green Lake, 7,346 acres Wisconsin’s deepest inland lake and one of the only lakes in the state with a healthy, stocked Lake Trout fishery. These fish are slow growing, but long lived. Fish

**LAKE STURGEON**

**LAKE SUPERIOR**

Fisherman technician Josh Krall with a big Fox River channel catfish from the Watertown impoundment in the summer of 2014. Photo: Lake Rever

or over 42 inches may be possessed. Season follows statewide gamefish season. Access Information: Multiple public and private boat access areas are located throughout the Wolf River from Fremont upstream to Sha-

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Illinois Fox River - This report refers to the 12 mile reach from I-43 downstream to De-

**DUNN COUNTY**

South Fork of the Hay River - Four miles of Class 1 trout water from the Daun/Barron County border upstream to the Waunona Dam. Many trout access areas. Trout populations in Elkhorn re-

**E LA K E K RE E K E 18 miles**

Elk Creek meanders through Chippewa, Eau Claire and Dunn Counties before it empties into the Chippewa River. Elk Creek is a potential for providing more stocked fish, fishing ac-

**E O R G A N I Z AT I O N S**

for providing more stocked fish, fishing ac-

**E A U CLAIRE COUNTY**

**E A S T E R N L A N D S**

“Fish Wisconsin” is one of the primary sources of information for anglers in Wisconsin. It is published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and provides up-to-date information on fishing regulations, current fish population status, and recreational opportunities in Wisconsin. The document includes information on various lakes and rivers within the state, highlighting their fishing opportunities and regulations. It also provides tips on catching different species of fish, such as sturgeon and salmon, along with information on the size limits and bag limits for each species. Overall, the document aims to inform anglers about the state of Wisconsin’s fisheries and encourage responsible fishing practices. This can help conserve fish populations and ensure sustainable fishing for future generations. The document is useful for both anglers new to the sport and experienced fishermen looking for fresh insights and updates on Wisconsin’s fishing conditions. By providing accurate and timely information, “Fish Wisconsin” contributes to the conservation and preservation of Wisconsin’s aquatic resources, promoting a healthy and sustainable ecosystem.
from recent surveys measured 11.5 to 33.5", with an average length of 19.8". 59% 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 in the City of Green Lake. Some of these landings do require a fee.

### IRON COUNTY

**Weber and Plunkett Lakes:** At 61 and 48 acres, respectively, these put-and-take fisheries are stocked annually with legal-sized rainbow trout. The current regulation on both lakes is Category 2: 7 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Both have access via public boat launch (note Plunkett's is carry-in).

**Ditch 3:** was surveyed at Isherwood Road in 2013. 13% of brown trout were captured at a rate of 95 fish/mile with 28% of larger than 7 inches. Average length – 9 inches. A recent stream survey showed that anglers in this stretch will have the opportunity 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. upstream to South Avenue). The remainder of Ditch 3, minimum length limit 3 fish daily bag limit. Access information: This segment of Ditch 3 flows through Dell Creek Wildlife Area, which provides access to Dell Creek over most of its length. Anglers can access the segment from a parking lot along Simpson Rd. and walk in via an access lane that leads to the creek. They may also access the creek from the bridge crossing at South Avenue. The confidence of Beaver Creek with Dell Creek occurs in this segment, giving anglers access to a stream predominantly populated by brown 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.

### LINCOLN COUNTY

**Brook Trout – Prairie River, North Branch Prairie River, Big Pine Creek; New Wood River**

**Brown Trout – North Branch Prairie River, Big Pine Creek; Big Rib River**

**Stocked Lakes – Jack (rainbows), Pence (brown), and Townline (rainbows)**

### LANGLADE 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 Okonsa River. Brown Trout – Evergreen River; Wolf River; Hunting River; Saud Spring. South Branch Okonsa River

**Stocked Lakes – Jack (rainbows), Pence (brown), and Townline (rainbows)**

### MARINETTE COUNTY

**Thunder Lake 135 acres, South Branch Penewinom, North Branch Penewinom Thunder Lake**

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 Penewinom, North Branch Penewinom, 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 Penewinom (10,000 total). Current Trout Regula- tions are available at: www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/troutseasons.html. Access information: All of these streams can all be accessed from various road/stream crossings.

Jennifer Bergman, Wood, Adams and Juneau Counties

**DNR Fish technician Ronald Bode holds a 27.5 inch male brown trout collected during a fall survey on the lower Peshtigo River.**

**ONIDA COUNTY**

Brown trout are stocked in Dotyville Lake and Bearskin River, rainbows are planned for Perch Lake, Hawk Lake and Little Bass Lake at a rate of 150 fish per acre. Mercer Springs, Mercer Springs – 1.8 acres. Provides walk-in shore-fishing for stocked brown trout. Directions: Take Hwy 70 west of Minocqua 5.5 miles; south on Kilawee 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 pool. Perch Lake – South Branch Perch Lake is stocked. With an average length of 19.8 inches. 59% 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 in the City of Green Lake. Some of these landings do require a fee.

### 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 350 fish/mile with 14% larger than 12 inches. At Hwy T brown trout are captured at a rate of 305 fish/mile with 11%, larger than 12 inches. Catch rate was lower in 2014 due to higher water levels affecting the efficiency of sampling. Current Regulation: Regular inland trout season; from Amherst Dam to Durant Road brown trout minimum length is 12 inches and brown trout 8 inches; the bag limit is 3 fish in total. Below Durant Road the minimum length for brown trout is 18 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. Additional Information: Areas surveyed were upstream of County Hwy W.

### 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 opportunity 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. upstream 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 most of its length. Anglers can access the segment from a parking lot along Simpson Rd. and walk in via an access lane that leads to the creek. They may also access the creek from the bridge crossing at South Avenue. The confidence of Bear Creek with Dell Creek occurs in this segment, giving anglers access to a stream predominantly populated by brown trout. The regulation on Bear 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.

### SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

**Onion River and its tributaries - 10 miles of I-94 Brown trout waters**

2014 surveys yielded an average length of 8.8 inches, with a maximum length of 16 inches. We saw catch rates of up to 741 fish per mile which put it around the 83rd percentile when compared with other all brown trout waters statewide. Current regulation: 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 bridge at CTH E and a number of points along CTH E just south- west of Plymouth. Upstream of CTH E anglers will find extensive habitat work in a number of stretches and this is generally where 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 15.5 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 restrictions Access information: The best access is from the bridges at HWY 28 or CTH J just southwest of Cascade. As a Class I stream Chambers Creek is one of the few naturally reproducing brook trout streams in southeast Wisconsin.

### SHEWISHA 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- mumpermanent population size. Access information: Access can be found at the Old Village Road, Hwy 59 and Hwy D road crossings. This segment of the creek has a consistent natural reproduction of brown trout providing good action.

**Scuppernong River - The headwaters stream**

Average length – 8 inches. Current regulation: Artificial lures only, catch and release.
only. Natural reproduction and supple-
mental stocking provide good action in
the area. There are several boat ramps
at Lambeau Farm Campground. Parking
can be found along Hwy ZZ or the Ice Age Trail for parking
area.

WAUPACA COUNTY
Radley Creek - Electrofishing surveys con-
ducted in 2014 indicated brown trout den-
sity for adult size fish was at average levels
with catch rate ranking at the 9th percent-
ile (when compared to statewide data) for
6-inch brown trout in the 0-10 year average.
Survey catch rates for legal size fish (9+ inches) are at moderate levels. Cur-
rent regulations are: 5 inch minimum,
3 daily bag limit) Access Informa-
tion: Fishing access is very good, with
multiple DNR managed properties off State Highway 22, Station Lake Rd, and Dayton Rd. The Radley Creek has had a long his-
tory of past habitat development projects
that has contributed to improved the quality of trout populations. Waupaca River. - In the special regulation section of the Waupaca River, recent sur-
evies indicate wild trout populations have
been holding steady with electrofishing
catch rates of large (over 15 inch trout) at
29% and small (8 to 15 inch) at 19% of the population of water have a very good chance of catch-
ing. Current regulation: Category 3 (5 inch minimum,
3 daily bag limit) for all water downstream of River Rd. Current regula-
tion: Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to the stream. The Waupaca River is one of the top trout streams in the state, and includes a fishway off Loveland Road. Brown trout, coho salmon, and chinook salmon are common in the area. Brown trout fishing tends to peak in the summer months with good fishing being possible through the fall. Current regulations are: 6 inch minimum,
3 daily bag limit. Access Information: Anglers should continue to look for a good return of brown trout in 2015 with suitable river conditions.

KENOSHA, RACINE, MILWAU,
KEEVE, and SHEBOYGAN COUNTIES
Lake Michigan and tributaries
Brown trout - Brown trout fishery in
Lake Michigan is supported through stock-
ing, with over 400,000 trout planted annu-
ally in recent years. Brown trout fishing is
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 near Milwaukee and Green Bay harbor. With
good water quality, gobies providing an abundant food source, brown trout grow at impressive rates and some trout reach the 15 to 20 pound range. 2014 was a good year for brown trout fishing in most of Lake Michigan and we hope the trend continues in 2015.

COHO SALMON.
- The coho fishing season typically starts off in the warmer southern waters of Lake Michigan and pro-
gresses northward all the way to Sheboy-
gan waters. Coho fishing in 2013 was fairly consistent in late April and May in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Counties. About 400,000 coho salmon were stocked in Wisconsin waters, and good coho fish-
ing should continue to be good throughout the rest of the season with suitable weather patterns. Current regulation: Open all day. Daily bag limit is 5 in total, 10 inches or larger. Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. 2014 was 29,094 and 27,240, respectively. There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. 2014 was 29,094 and 27,240, respectively. There are many boat and shore access locations to fish.

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 in the area and in the sport fishery. The sport harvest in 2012 and 2013 was 20,094 and 27,240, respectively. These recent harvest figures indicate a reversed 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. No access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lake/michigan/fully/ fullfishing.html and dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutAccess.html
Light trout. - In 2013 rainbow trout fish-
ing was above average, and 58,311 fish
were harvested in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. Trollers found good num-
bers of fish, and stream anglers caught the first few fish in 2001. Anglers normally have success with all three strains of rainbow trout – chubstok, river, and ar
deer. In 2014 the steelhead run was strong despite an unusually late ice out followed by high stream flows. Wisconsin stocked about 400,000 rainbow trout annually into Lake Michigan. If the stream flow conditions are ideal for fishing, we may see a good steelhead run in 2015, in addition to the normal run of cross-bred Chinook. Catch initial reports indicated a good steelhead run in northern Michigan. However, currently stocks about 400,000 rainbow trout (steelhead) annually into Lake Michi-
gen. We use three strains that have different spawning times and habits to diversify the fishery (Chambers Creek, Gunaraska, and Arlee). We are currently working on ground water studies and preparing to refurbish our Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery which has outdated and deteriorating infra-
structure. With a refurbished hatchery we hope to increase rainbow trout production to past levels to carry the Lake Michigan rainbow trout fishery into the future.

GLASON & TROUT

DUGLASS COUNTY
Bois Brule River, downstream from U.S.
Way of the Mouth. - The Bois Brule River is one of the most productive trout streams in Wisconsin. A high quality population of brown trout, coho salmon, rain-
bow trout, chinook, and steelhead exists in the Bois Brule River. There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lake/michigan/fully/fishin

MANITOWOC, KEWAUNEE,
DOOR, OCONTO, and MARINETTE
COUNTIES
Northern Lake Michigan and tributaries
Steelhead. - In 2013 rainbow trout/steel-
head fishing was above average, and 58,311 fish
were harvested in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. Trollers found good num-
bers of fish, and stream anglers caught the first few fish in 2001. Anglers normally have success with all three strains of rainbow trout – chubstok, river, and ar
deer. In 2014 the steelhead run was strong despite an unusually late ice out followed by high stream flows. Wisconsin stocked about 400,000 rainbow trout annually into Lake Michigan. If the stream flow conditions are ideal for fishing, we may see a good steelhead run in 2015, in addition to the normal run of cross-bred Chinook. Catch initial reports indicated a good steelhead run in northern Michigan. However, currently stocks about 400,000 rainbow trout (steelhead) annually into Lake Michi-
gen. We use three strains that have different spawning times and habits to diversify the fishery (Chambers Creek, Gunaraska, and Arlee). We are currently working on ground water studies and preparing to refurbish our Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery which has outdated and deteriorating infra-
structure. With a refurbished hatchery we hope to increase rainbow trout production to past levels to carry the Lake Michigan rainbow trout fishery into the future.

Chinook. - For the past decade Lake Michi-
gen has produced record annual catches of chinook salmon and the average for the past decade has been over 300,000 chinook salmon harvested annually. This success has not been consistent in every location in Wisconsin and has also varied from year to year. 2012 saw the 5th highest harvest on record in Wisconsin (390,000 chinook salmon) and the success was generally good with harvest about slightly below average harvest of 145,000 chinook salmon harvested. In 2013 fish-
ing was good with fish available in the northern areas dur-

Angler Shawn Frey displays the brown trout he caught in Port Washington.
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 have been at record lows, but 2019 and 2012 experienced good hatch and survival of alewife. These young alewives provided a fair amount of forage during 2013 and as a result many big Chinnocks 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 invasive species with the quagga mussel causing the most impact by reducing the available food for young prey fish. However, DNR fisheries managers have been working with our counterparts in 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 total, 10 inches or larger. Access Information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish. Brown trout make fall migration are stocked in tributaries other than the Menominee in early 1990’s. This strain is desired since grown to a robust level. Whitefish eggs are taken to the Wild Rose Hatchery. The seeforellen strain originated in alpine lakes in Germany, and eggs for Wisconsin were collected weekly for 4-6 weeks in November and December, and then fertilized 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 would be around 23 inches, while a 3-year old brown 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. There is a fair amount of forage available for brown trout including 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 collected from the wild. These fish are kept in captivity at the Wild Rose Hatchery. Each fall, gillnet samples indicate that several brown trout are kept each year by electrofishing boats. After the eggs hatch, some fish remain at Wild Rose until stocking or are raised as broodstock. A portion of the young fish is transferred 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 that DNR has stocked for over 2 decades: Wild Rose domestics and seeforellen. 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.

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 been pulled from the water! It’s the perfect gift for anyone who want to learn to identify the fish they catch. The poster is also great for restaurants, tackle shops, resorts and don’t forget, just plain fun for the room walls. Tuck it into a tackle-box? The poster is available in two sizes for downloading and printing:

- Letter (8.5”x11”)
- Tabloid (11”x17”)
- Double Tabloid (22”x34”)

Download address: dwr.wi.gov/topic/fish-ing/guides/gamefishebook.htm
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has placed an added emphasis on promoting Urban Fishing in recent years. We are trying to get more young people involved in the sport of fishing. There are currently about 60 ponds or lagoons classified as Urban Waters. These water bodies have special regulations geared towards improving the fishing experience for young anglers. If you live in Southeast Wisconsin, there is an Urban Fishing water near by, for a list of designated waters refer to the Hook and Line Fishing Regulations. The DNR annually stocks thousands of rainbow trout in these waters. In addition the 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 these folks the DNR works with volunteers from local fishing clubs to conduct instructional kids fishing clinics each winter and spring. Thanks to the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers, thousands of kids are taught the basics of fishing each year. I highly recommend the kids fishing clinics whether you are just getting started or have been at it for a few seasons. The clinics are free, highly informative and an all around good time. The volunteers teach the kids about fishing techniques, how to use the equipment, knot tying, safety, fish identification and much more.

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

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

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

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 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.

Science in the spotlight

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 type.

“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/pools/fish Mapper/). Data points on the map are pinpointed by GPS coordinates and identify 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 are: bluegill, carp, minkellenge, longnose (shor eel) and lake and smallmouth bass. Check them out at: https://www.youtube.com/user/WIZONRTI.