Lake Michigan Fisheries

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Updates

- Stocking numbers
- Kettle Moraine Springs update
- Private hatchery – steelhead
- Whitefish studies
- Staff updates
- Mass Marking study
- Fleet rates
- Project planning
# Stocking Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>844,000</td>
<td>810,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho</td>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>365,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown yearlings</td>
<td>329,000</td>
<td>363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown fingerlings</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steelhead (WDNR)</td>
<td>310,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steelhead (Private)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlee Rainbows</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stocking

• Allocation of Chinook and Brown Trout via new strategy is going smoothly (25% of allocation is based on directed effort, harvest rate, etc.)

• Stocking of Rainbow based on Steelhead Management Plan

• Stocking of Coho based on migration patterns of coho (south to north)
Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery Update

• Cleared Building Commission and Legislature – on track for build
• 95% plans expected this month
• Then out for bid
• Hope to begin build in early 2019
Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery Update

• On track for 2 rearing modules
• Approx 175K per module = 350K annually
• Can only raise 2 strains at once, need to alternate between our 3 strains
• Quarantine building is in the plans, allows Skamania broodstock to be taken to hatchery
Private Hatchery for Steelhead Production

- Coolidge Springs purchased 55K fingerlings for $0.22/fish = $12,100
- DNR to buy back 50K at $2.34/fish = $117,000
- DNR production cost in 2014 = $1.06 ea
- Extra cost to clip and tag by DNR staff
- Extra management cost
Coolidge Springs, Fifield WI
September 16-20, 2018

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT.......................... we make fishing better
Coolidge Springs, Fifield WI
Coolidge Springs, Fifield WI
Whitefish Studies

- Working with commercial fishers, UWSP, USGS, and/or UW Sea Grant on various lake whitefish studies including:
  - Whitefish movement in Green Bay using acoustic telemetry and loop tags (walleye, musky and sturgeon).
  - Implementing catch composition study in Green Bay trap nets/gill nets.
Whitefish Studies

• Proposal to use large mesh gillnets (4.5” mesh) in Zone 3.
  ➢ Discussions with commercial fishers from October 2017 to May 2018
  ➢ Did not come to agreement on requirements of the study
  ➢ Not moving forward at this time
WDNR Staff Updates

- **Retirements**
  - Steve Hewett, Section Chief in Madison
  - Tim Kroeff, Fish Technician in Sturgeon Bay

- **Departures**
  - Willie Fetzer, GL Specialist in Madison

- **New Faces**
  - Laura Schmidt, Fish Biologist in Milwaukee
  - Jason Meacham, Fish Tech in Milwaukee
  - Derek Apps, Fish Tech in Sturgeon Bay
Mass Marking Study

- FWS and/or DNR staff worked all major tournaments along the WI shoreline
- Collected a lot of biological information, snouts, other samples
- Will take most of winter to process samples
- FWS will have updates in early spring
Fleet Rates

• 2018 Fleet rates
  – Trucks dropped from $0.57/mi to $0.50/mi
  – Cars/vans increased from $0.31 to $0.50
  • Used extensively by creel survey clerks
  • Approx. 125,000 mi/year = $23,750 add’l
  • Almost 40% increase in supply/travel cost
Project Planning

- No license fee increase since 2004
- Great Lakes stamp $10 over 10 years ago
- Will be planning projects for the next two years this winter
- Likely no new projects, current allotments will remain flat or decrease
Upcoming Events

Sturgeon Fest

Lakeshore State Park, Milwaukee
Saturday, September 29
11AM – 3PM
www.sturgeonfest.org
Upcoming Events
Spawning Facility Open Houses

dnr.wi.gov and search for "fish open houses"

Besadny
Ransom Moore Lane
Kewaunee, WI
Sat, October 6
9AM – 3 PM

Root River
Lincoln Park
Racine, WI
Sat, October 13
9AM – 3 PM
Questions???

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