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 with many projects and fish surveys. Our fisheries biologists, technicians, hatchery and operations staff are committed to make fishing even better in Wisconsin, and we hope your time on the water reflects that in 2020.

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 reed in many, many more great memories.

Wishing you tight lines and full creels in 2020!

Sincerely,

Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management

Want to catch more panfish? Give electronics a try

Early results show the use of electronics can benefit panfish anglers.

The Department of Natural Resources’ Panfish Team spent much of 2019 analyzing statewide data and trends in panfish fisheries. Over the last 30 years, most panfish populations have been shown to be relatively stable, with bluegill and crappies doing especially well. Previous studies have suggested that some lakes, especially those with 10-fish bag limits, have shown improved size structure in recent years. Anglers are taking advantage of these changes,

• showing increasing angling effort over time (especially during the ice-fishing season),
• high and stable catch rates even in lower density waters, and
• more selectivity for larger fish in their harvests.

A recent analysis involved comparing catch rates among anglers who did or did not use electronics during the 2018-2019 ice fishing season, and early results showed that these devices can be incredibly beneficial: anglers who used electronics while fishing had panfish catch rates up to 3 times higher than those who did not use electronics. Be on the lookout for these studies in the coming months, and for future analyses of the experimental regulations currently being tested across the state on 94 lakes.

Panfish catch rate increase with use of electronics

Free Fishing Weekend
June 6 - 7, 2020 summer
January 18 - 19, 2020 winter
January 16 - 17, 2021 winter

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

Northern Pike
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Walleye
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass
Catch-and-Release
At all other times of the year

Musky – Northern Zone
May 23 to Dec. 31

Musky – Southern Zone
May 2 to Dec. 31

Northern Pike
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Walleye
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Harvest
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Smallmouth Bass
Northern Zone Harvest
June 20 to March 7, 2021

Large and Smallmouth Bass
Southern Zone
May 2 to March 7, 2021

Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass
Catch-and-Release
At all other times of the year

Musky – Northern Zone
May 23 to Dec. 31

Musky – Southern Zone
May 2 to Dec. 31

Northern Pike
May 2 to March 7, 2021

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

Free Fishing Weekend
June 6 - 7, 2020 summer
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Find information on fishing licenses, season dates, regulations, where to fish and more

Facebook: WIDNR
YouTube: WIDNR TV
LinkedIn: Department of Natural Resources

Twitter: @WIDNR
LinkedIn: Department of Natural Resources

Fishing Wisconsin

Instant Classics!

Instagram: wi_dnr
Wilson Creek, Dunn County Habitat Improvements and Easement

Wilson Creek is a Class II brook trout stream with a perpetual fishing easement in this section located downstream of County Rd J just outside of Knapp. WI. Partnership funding and volunteer hours for this project were contributed by NRCS, Kip-TulWish TL, CleanWaters TL, Dunn County Fish and Game and Dunn County Aids money.

Prior to this project, the stream featured a wide, shallow and silted bottom covered in a jungle of fallen box elder trees and other invasive species making it unfavorable with a lack of stable instream habitat. The raw banks were sloped back, the stream was slightly narrowed, and banks were rocked and covered with top soil and seeded with native prairie species and cool season grasses for bank stability. A total of 4,240 feet of integrated bank treatment was completed and instream habitat included installation of 61 root wads, 45 bank boulders, 8 spawning riffles, 3 backwater refuges, 2 wildlife scrapes and 1 plunge pool.

-Kasey Yulifff, fisheries biologist - Dane Anderson, trout habitat specialist - Eau Claire

A Fabulous Fish Stick Project in Florence County

In the fall of 2018, Wisconsin DNR completed a fish habitat project on 145 acre Pine River Flowage in Florence County. The DNR received a $15,000 grant from We Energies to fund this effort. The project entailed cutting, moving and anchoring 160 trees at desired locations along the north shore of the impoundment. We were able to accomplish this project during a We Energies maintenance drawdown of the flowage. This waterbody supports a diverse fishery composed of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and various panfish. The goal of this project was to enhance shallow water habitat in areas that are optimal for smallmouth bass and black crappie spawning. Increased nesting and rearing habitat for these species should increase recruitment and increase adult abundance long term in the flowage as well as increase habitat diversity for all other species of fish within the flowage. We look forward to monitoring the success of this project with a comprehensive survey starting in the spring of 2020.

-Kate Kuenchen, fisheries technician assisted, Florence County

A Phillips Middle School student checks developing brook trout fry in their “Trout in the Classroom” project. Photo: Tammy Holman

Black Earth trout habitat improvements

Black Earth Creek Fishery Area north of HWY KP, just west of Cross Plains 2/3 of mile of trout habitat improvements including boulders, brush and woody cover were added to the river to improve adult trout habitat. Old investments in trout habitat have deteriorated and were destroyed by recent floods. Parts of this project were designed to mimic the natural process of trees falling into the river and creating scour holes, undercut root wads and other habitats trout prefer to feel safe and feed in. Anglers will find new places to cast a fly, dunk a worm or plain a spinner at nearly every bend. Work on the site continues spring 2020 with hundreds of hardwood tree plantings near the banks. - Dan Oel fisheries biologist, Dunn County

Wilson Creek stream improvements created more instream, stable habitat.

Evaluation of the Oconomowoc River electrical barrier using acoustic telemetry

Project Update. - In June of 2019, an additional 14 common carp were collected and tagged with ultrasonic acoustic transmitters and released back into the Oconomowoc River. Acoustic telemetry technology allows fisheries researchers to track migration of individually numbered fish. The total number of acoustically tagged common carp, at large in the Oconomowoc River, is now up to 31. Acoustic receivers were strategically deployed in the Oconomowoc River upstream of the confluence of the Rock River in 2018 and 2019. Preliminary data has indicated the electrical barrier has been effective in preventing the migration of common carp when operated during peak spawning migrations in the Rock River in 2018 and 2019. More data will be collected once acoustic receivers are again deployed in the spring of 2020. Future data collection will further our understanding of the effect of various river conditions and the effectiveness of the barrier. Common carp are a highly invasive, non-native fish species that is detrimental to water quality, native aquatic plants and native fish species. This project is a cooperative partnership with the DNR, the La Belle Lake Management District and the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

La Crosse County, Pettibone Lagoon Pump Project

Pettibone Lagoon is a 21-acre backwater located across the Mississippi River main channel from downtown La Crosse and is a popular shore angling and aquatic recreation destination. Over two-thirds of the fishery is bluegill and largemouth bass with black crappie and yellow perch making up less than 5 percent. Since the 1970’s aerators have been run periodically to maintain dissolved oxygen and prevent fish kills, especially during the winter months. The aerators were marginally effective, and the lagoon still had near-annual winter kills. In 2010, the City of La Crosse decided to remove the aerators and install a pump system to improve oxygen main channel water into the lagoon during summer and as part of an airport improvement project. Since this system was installed nine years ago, tangible improvements in water quality and angler success have been observed.

In 2015, the DNR asked the city to experimentally operate this system during summer. During the experimental period, DNR conducted studies to determine the optimal amount of main channel water to meter into Pettibone Lagoon during the winter and summer months. Since the studies, the City of La Crosse has operated the pumps in accordance with the DNR’s prescribed winter and summer settings. The DNR monitored summer fish usage since the management change and found significantly increasing numbers of game fish. Combined bluegill and largemouth bass numbers have increased nearly 90 percent since pumps were operated in summer. In addition, abundance of bluegill greater than 8 inches has increased 10-fold. Abundance of largemouth bass over 14 inches has increased nearly 2-fold. This project has created a high quality, urban fishing opportunity that can be easily utilized by the public, especially children and the elderly.

This project would not have been possible without the efforts and support of the La Crosse Regional Airport, the La Crosse Parks & Recreation Department, Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020

La Crosse County Fish Cribs

Members of the Lake Holcombe Protection and Improvement Association organized a crib building project on the shore of Lake Holcombe in December of 2019. Along with sponsorship from the DNR staff, 15 cribs were constructed out of oak logs and packed tightly with brush. Once the ice was thick enough, the cribs were pulled out on the ice with a rope and backed to their final location. Deeper water habitat is particularly valued in Lake Holcombe because there is a lack of deeper vegetation due to the stained water and sandy substrate. These cribs will provide refuge from predators for juvenile gamefish, panfish and forage fish species. The majority of the supplies needed to build the cribs were donated by local businesses. A big thanks goes out to everyone in the Lake Holcombe area who helped make this project happen.

Trout can be an educational tool in the classroom - Phillips School District

In Phillips, WI students in pre-Kinder- garten through Grade 8 are tracking the development and growth of brook trout eggs and fry that they brought back to school after their class trip to DNR’s S. Cross Falls Fish Hatchery last November. The trout are raised at the middle and elementary schools in two fully-equipped aquariums purchased with a grant from Phillips Plastic Corporation. Coolidge Spring Trout Ranch provides technical advice on water temperature and feeding rates for optimal survival and growth. Along with this fun, hands-on project, teachers emphasize a take-home message that rearing “trout in the classroom” cannot replace healthy streams.

Researchers implant an acoustic transmitter into an adult common carp. Photo: Mark Baldock, fisheries technician, Horizon.

A Phillips Middle School student checks developing brook trout fry in their “Trout in the Classroom” project. Photo: Tammy Holman
The Hunting River is a trout stream with quality populations of naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. The Hunting River has been historically negatively impacted by logging, agricultural practices and beaver activity. Impairments of the Hunting River included: widening and shallowing of the stream channel causing water temperatures to increase and sedimentation causing siltation of trout spawning areas. This section of stream was also in need of large complex woody and rock habitat preferred by trout.

**Fisheries Research Initiates Four New Research Projects in 2019-2020**

The Fisheries Research Team in the Office of Applied Science began four new projects focused on high priority research needs of the Bureau of Fisheries Management in 2019-2020. The new projects are: 1) assessment of status and trends of Wisconsin panfish size and abundance, and regulations; 2) fish spawning phenology; and 3) lake whitefish in Lake Michigan.

Despite nearly an exclusively catch-and-release recreational fishery for muskelunge, muskelunge are harvested in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin by tribal members during spring and winter spawining. Angling on the West Branch is challenging due to the crystal-clear water clarity. Fine line and natural colored baits are a must. To further increase your angling success, plan to fish the West Branch during low light conditions.

Goals of this project were: narrowing and increasing depth of the stream channel and increasing the amount of complex woody and rock habitat in the stream. This project increased resting- and foraging habitat and improve spawning sites for trout. - Taylor J. Carus, Fisheries Management technician advanced, Antigo

**West Branch of the White River – Hwy Y**

A multi-year project, completed in 2019 by DNR staff at Wild Rose Trout Habitat Station with the assistance of volunteers from local Trout Unlimited Chapters, promises to provide an outstanding trout angling opportunity. Combined with a habitat project completed in 2013, the West Branch has recently seen major improvements in trout habitat, streambank stability, and fishability along more than a mile and half of stream, starting at the Cottonville Ave bridge upstream throughout the entire 220-acre parcel of DNR Public Land to the parking area located on Hwy Y.

The West Branch is 7.9 miles long and located on the southwest side of Wausu- toma. It is a Class 1 trout stream with special regulations – yellow trout must be at least 12” and brook trout and brown trout must be at least 8”.

The West Branch, along with only a handful of streams across Wisconsin, has a documented population of naturally reproducing rainbow trout. Angling on the West Branch is challenging due to the crystal-clear water conditions

**Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020**
Your fishing vision 2020: Focus on catching

Fabulous fishing is a cast away this year.

be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Beautifул/landshorizontl/ashbonen-aces.jpg. Since 2009, walleye fingerlings have been stocked almost every year in Chequamegon Bay. This stocking effort has improved the walleye fishery in the bay which is evident by the high number captured in the spring assessment and the wide range of sizes and ages of the walleye sampled.

ASHLAND and BAYFIELD COUNTIES

Chequamegon Bay-Lake Superior - 34,000 acres. Chequamegon Bay has an excellent year-round walleye fishery. In the 2019 spring walleye assessment along the Ashland shoreline in Chequamegon Bay, 3,360 walleyes were captured. Female walleyes ranged in size from 12.4 to 31.9 inches with an average size of 21.9 inches while male walleyes ranged in size from 10.9 to 28.3 inches with an average size of 19.2 inches. Chequamegon Bay walleyes fishing is open year-round with a minimum length of 15 inches and a bag limit of 5 in total, with only one 20 inches allowed. In the tributaries and connected sloughs of Lake Supe-rior, the walleye season is open from May 28 to September 28. The most popular access points for Chequamegon Bay are Kyes-ker Park and Second Landing although there are active access points at Bono Creek and Fish Creek. Information about Great Lakes access points can be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/beautiful/accessingalllakes.html.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Fox Lake - 2,713 acres. 2019 spring net-ting yielded high quality walleye catches. A total of 1,887 walleyes were captured with a length range of 9.5 to 28 inches and an average length of 19.7 inches. With the current 18-inch minimum length limit, 95% of the catch was legal. Current regulation: Three walleyes may be kept, and they must be at least 18 inches. Clauwen Park in the City of Fox Lake and Town Park on the northeast shore of Fox Lake offer public boat launches with trailer parking and shorefishing opportunities. There is also shorefishing opportunities with parking on the north side of HWY 33 near Fish Tales Bait and Tackle Shop. As a shallow inland waterbody, Fox Lake has a history of intense management. In 1966 and 1997, lake draindowns and chemical treatments were conducted in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres. 2019 adult walleye survey showed a total of 1,000 fish showed a good population with signs of strong recruitment in the 8-year-old walleyes entering the fishery; most male walleyes were harvested in size from 16 to 21 inches with an average size of 19.5 inches and most female walleyes ranged handled ranged from 21 to 28 inches with an average size of 24.8 inches. The largest walleye handled during the survey was a 31.7-inch female. Current regulation: Open May 9 through March 1; 15-inch minimum length with a daily limit of two fish (1 slot – 1 fish over 24”; 1 fish over 24”  Access information: There is a large campground with a nice (but shallow) launch on the south side of the lake. The Lady Lake Chippewa Com-munity has dedicated a tremendous amount of resources to rehabilitate this walleye population over the last decade. Without their efforts this population would have less quality. Greg Mitjete Fishaeries biologist – Florence.

WALLEYE

Fisheries technician Randy Beosen with a walleye captured in a fyke net along the Ashland shoreline in Chequamegon Bay, 3,360 walleyes were captured. Female walleyes ranged in size from 12.4 to 31.9 inches with an average size of 21.9 inches while male walleyes ranged in size from 10.9 to 28.3 inches with an average size of 19.2 inches. Chequamegon Bay walleyes fishing is open year-round with a minimum length of 15 inches and a bag limit of 5 in total, with only one 20 inches allowed. In the tributaries and connected sloughs of Lake Supe-rior, the walleye season is open from May 28 to September 28. The most popular access points for Chequamegon Bay are Kyesker Park and Second Landing although there are active access points at Bono Creek and Fish Creek. Information about Great Lakes access points can be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/beautiful/accessingalllakes.html.

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River – 3rd Street Canoe Landing (City of Black River Falls), Perry Creek Land- mark, Lansing’s Landing, Irving Township Canoe Landing, Highway 108 Landing, near Mauston, WI. North Bend Landing off CTH VV, and Highway 35 landing in Yamhill Township, Menominee County. The river passes through the town of Hay- er (downstream of the Black River Falls dam) and provides a great early- season (late- season) fishing season for walleyes.

**ONCONTY COUNTY**

Archibald Lake – 393 acres. In 2019, adult walleye density was 4.1 adults per acre. This was a significant improve- ment over what was observed in 2013 (1.9 adults/acre). Walleye ranged in length from 7.5 to 24.4 inches and averaged 15.7 inches. Compared to other lakes in the county, Archibald Lake had a large number of walleyes. Large fingering walleye stocking began in 2014 at the rate of 15 per acre. These fish are now starting to enter the fishery. Current Regulation: 18-inch minimum length / 3 fish per day. There is a boat landing on west side of the lake. East side of lake was relatively undeveloped because the shoreline is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Fish sticks – 100 rods were placed at 46 locations in 2009. Wall- eye spawning nets were constructed: 2008 (600’), 2017 (600’) and 2018 (2 reefs – 300’ each), Water levels have increased from 3 to 4 feet since 2011.

**POLK COUNTY**

Wapogasset & Bear Trap lakes – 1,436 acres (both lakes combined) Adult wal- ley population estimates were com- pleted in 2019 for these two lakes. Wapo- gasset Lake had 4.3 adults/acre and Bear Trap had 4.0 adults/acre. Both of which are quite impressive adult den- sities for stocked walleye lakes. Of the 1,451 walleyes handled between the two lakes, the majority (90%) were between 15-20 inches. The walleye population for both lakes is a three fish daily bag limit and a three fish daily harvest slot. These rules except one may be over 24 inches. There are 250 surface acres. Average depth of Wapogasset and one on Bear Trap. The south- eastern boat landing on Wapogasset Lake is operated by the town of Garfield and is the best option for handling larger boats. Both lakes are stocked-depend- ent walleye lakes but have responded well to recent large fingering walleye stockings.

**PORTAGE COUNTY**

Butternut Lake – 1,006 acres. With an es- timated density of 4 adults per acre in spring 2019, walleye population was at the lower end of the objective range (4-8 adults/acre) in the 2018 Management Plan. Most of the walleye captured in fyke nets were small (only 15% >15” long), so the population did not achieve the size structure that anglers said they wanted (30%-50% ≥15”). Unlike many walleye populations with declining re- cruiment in northern Wisconsin and neighboring states, Portage County has a young recruits to replace adults that die from angling and natural causes. Angling is one of the primary walleye harvests in Butternut Lake. A special harvest regulation in effect since 2015 allows anglers an extra harvest toward the abundant walleye of small and medium size. Walleye anglers are encouraged to protec- tive some fish over 14” that might grow larger. Three walleyes of any length may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14”. From the angler counts and in- terviews in a crew survey, we estimated that Butternut Lake anglers caught 5,502 walleye and kept 1,462 in May-October 2019. Harvested walleyes ranged 9-23” and averaged 12.7”. DNR maintains the Hoffman Rocks boat landing off Lakev- iew Drive (formerly County Highway B), where renovations are planned in 2020-2021. The town of Crivitz also offers a gravel boat ramp and boarding dock on the north end at the mouth of Butternut Lake. Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls

**PRICE COUNTY**

**SAUK and COLUMBIA COUN- TIES**

Lowwater Wisconsin River – 92.5 river miles. The Lower Wisconsin River supports a healthy musky population with a muskie from the Lower Wisconsin River. Fisheries biologist Jeff Scheirer emptying a fish net full of walleyes from Potato Lake shortly after ice-out 2019. Photo: Kendal Patria

**PAULSBURY COUNTY**

Golden Lake - 250 surface acres. Average Length – 14 inches. Population estimate 1.5 adults per acre. Current regula- tion: 18-inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 3. The DNR public boat launch is located on Hwy 18, west of Dousman. An adult walleye population estimate completed in spring of 2019 revealed good size structure and a strong 2015 year-class. After just four years of growth, the 2015-year-class of walleyes in Golden Lake was averaging 17 inches, exhibiting above average growth and excellent health. Multiple year classes of walleyes have been stocked into Golden Lake in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Golden Lake lives up to the name hav- ing sandy bottom and excellent water clarity. Diverse aquatic plants and well protected wetlands on the north end of the lake provide excellent habitat for wildlife and fisheries.

**SAUK and COLUMBIA COUN- TIES**

Ledge Lake, Wisconsin – 2,752 acres in Bay- field County is a lake musky anglers already know produces large fish. In 2019 DNR crews worked to capture and tag muskellunge in Namekagon Lake in the first year of an effort to get an estimate of how many muskies are in the lake. In comparison to other lakes muskellunge are fewer in number but few if any lakes can match the size that Namekagon of- fers. The average length of musky han- dled during the survey was 38.6 inches and the largest was 50.5 inches. Of all musky caught in the netting surveys 47% were 40 inches or longer. Storck appears to be effective on Namekagon as evidenced by 36% of the musky surveyed had a hatchery fin clip that was given to stocked fish to determine stock contribution to the population. Namekagon has a 30-inch minimum length limit for muskies. Anglers can access the lake from the National Forest campground on the northern end of the Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020

**VERGIL COUNTY**

Lake Nancy – 757 acres. Lake Nancy in Waukesha County is a low-density wall- eye lake 0.5 fish/acre. However, lower numbers typically mean greater size. This is the case with Lake Nancy. 25% of walleyes over 18 inches. The average of 17 inches. The walleye population is 17.5 inches and 31% of walleye sampled were greater than 18 inches. 25.5 inches was the largest walleye observed. Anglers have reported catching walleye near 30 inches in recent years. Current Regulation: 10 inch minimum length, three fish daily bag limit Concrete boat and launch located on the Southeast side of the lake. Lake Nancy is a part of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative, so those stocking occurred in 2014, 2016, and 2018. Based on stocking, an es- timated 65% of the walleye sampled are from 2014 and 2016.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

Golden Lake – 2,752 acres in Bay- field County is a lake musky anglers already know produces large fish. In 2019 DNR crews worked to capture and tag muskellunge in Namekagon Lake in the first year of an effort to get an estimate of how many muskies are in the lake. In comparison to other lakes muskellunge are fewer in number but few if any lakes can match the size that Namekagon of- fers. The average length of musky han- dled during the survey was 38.6 inches and the largest was 50.5 inches. Of all musky caught in the netting surveys 47% were 40 inches or longer. Storck appears to be effective on Namekagon as evidenced by 36% of the musky surveyed had a hatchery fin clip that was given to stocked fish to determine stock contribution to the population. Namekagon has a 30-inch minimum length limit for muskies. Anglers can access the lake from the National Forest campground on the northern end of the lake, the state landing off County high- way D and the Town landing located in Furry’s Bay.

**BROWN, DOOR, MARINETTE and OCONTO COUNTIES**

Green Bay, Green Bay tributaries and bays and the Fox River. Annual assessments to determine the status of the Green Bay Muskeg population have been conducted on the Fox River using fyke nets in spring and electroshocking in fall for many years. Fyke nets set in the Fox River the past May were filled with many large Musky. Female Musky av- eraged 50.8” and 38.8 pounds. The larg- est female Musky was 57” and weighed 52.1 pounds and was the largest musky caught by DNR assessment crews to date. Male Musky averaged 43.4” and 22.3 pounds. Fall electroshocking surveys on the Fox River captured many Musky in 2019 that were between 40” and 50” Musky anglers have reported catch- ing large, legal size Muskies greater than 34” from the waters of Green Bay this past summer. Current Regulation: The regulation for musky on the Fox River is the Wisconsin’s green bay and the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay is one with a 54 inch minimum length.
**FOREST COUNTY**

Lake Winne - 336 acres. Winna boats one of the highest density muskie fisheries in the state with 1.38 fish per acre, nearly 5x the median value for other A2 musky waters in the state with 0.17 fish per acre. The musky fishery in Forest County should not be overlooked. These waters have something for everyone, ranging from muskie anglers to those looking for their first bite. The size structure of musky in Winna offers a good mix of small to large muskie, with a median length of 45.7". Population estimate in 2019 yielded a population estimate of 2019. There was a total of 139 adults in the fishery, with 47% of fish captured per net per lift.

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

Little Green Lake - 466 acres. Spring survey on all stocked waters in Green Lake County. All musky waters in Green Lake County are stocked with large size muskie, with a median length of 37.9". Population estimate in 2019 yielded a population estimate of 2019. Total catch rate was 4.0/mile, with catch rate of 40+ fish was <0.1/lift, and maximum length captured was 43". In 2018, total catch rate was 2.6/mile, catch rate of 40+ fish was 0.7/mile and maximum length captured was 49". Regulation: 40-inch minimum length / 1 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: Located in the Village of Oliver, Green Lake County Park, off Blue Heron Lane.

**MARINETTE COUNTY**

Calborn Dams Reservoir - 1,018 acres and High Falls Reservoir, 1,593 acres. The musky fisheries are maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The size structure of musky is higher in Calborn Dams than High Falls, but both reservoirs are present in both flowages. Current Regulation: 30-inch minimum length (for trap and grit surveys). Access Information: There are 3 boat landings on Calborn Dams and 6 on High Falls. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Musky were stocked in 2017 for the first time in 2017. A 30-inch minimum length limit went into effect in 2018.

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Squaw Lake - 758 acres, 9 miles of shore line, 21 feet maximum depth. 2019 was a poor year for muskie fishing on Squaw Lake. The fishery was stocked with a mixture of 40+ fish and length fish. Catch rates are based on 2019 electrofishing surveys (expressed as number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed) and fyke net surveys (expressed as average number of fish captured per net per lift). Fyke Net: The fyke net total catch rate was 0.5/mile, catch rate of 40+ fish was 0.3/lift, and maximum length captured was 46". Black River, lower. Total catch rate was 0.66/mile, catch rate of 40+ fish was 0.15/mile, and maximum length captured was 43". In 2018, total catch rate was 2.6/mile, catch rate of 40+ fish was 0.7/mile and maximum length captured was 49". Regulation: 40-inch minimum length / 1 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: Located in the Village of Oliver, Green Lake County Park, off Blue Heron Lane, and Rusty’s Backwater Saloon.

**PRICE COUNTY**

Butternut Lake, Price and Ashland counties—Prospects look good for 1,096-acre Butternut Lake to produce trophy size muskies 50 inches and longer, like it did in 2018. Water in 2019 was 82% of average, and 30% of the year's suspended musky stocking in Butternut Lake, which is once again within the desired range of 30-40%. In 2005 Butternut Lake Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was a success story in pike control methods. The use of the Butternut Lake Fishery Management, the fishery netting in spring 2018 and 2019 yielded a population estimate of 2019. There were 197 adults in the fishery, with 47% of fish captured per net per lift. The petition for development of the 25-30% should be 38 inches or longer. In two consecutive spring fyke net surveys, the catch rate dropped to 2018 range of 10-45.6 inches, and 39% of 100 muskies 20 inches were at least 38 inches.
LARGEMOUTH BASS

McGinnis Lake - 27 acres. An electrofishing survey was conducted in the spring of 2019. Largemouth bass relative abundance was 71 per mile, which is very high (above the 90th percentile) compared to other bass populations in shallow lakes like McGinnis. Large- mouth bass ranged from 0.0” to 17.6” with an average length of 12.5” - 74% of all the fish caught were 12” or greater, and 42% were 14” or greater. Size-struc- ture is high (67-90 percentile) com- pared to other shallow lakes. Current regulation: 14” minimum and the daily bag limit is 5. A public boat launch is off CTH G. The Town of New Chester has an ordinance for motorboat prohibition on McGinnis Lake.

ADAMS COUNTY

Upper Turtle Lake - 438 acres. Upper Turtle Lake has a high-density largemouth bass population, but also has plenty of quality-size, heavy fish. Of the 68 bass collected during the fall 2019 electrofishing survey, 47% were at least 15 inches. The largest bass collected was 39.5 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There is one boat landing and fishing pier on the south end of the lake which is located on Highway 8. Because there is not a minimum length limit, Upper Turtle Lake is a good option for anglers interested in harvesting small (less than 14”) largemouth bass. However, it is also a good choice for anglers interested in catching larger bass.

BARRON COUNTY

Upper Lake - 30 acres. Upper Lake has no warm-water fish and is a haven for smallmouth bass. The smallmouth bass averaged 12.9 inches, the perfect size for putting on a limit and enjoying in the trying sun. With the no minimum length limit, there is no daily bag limit and 5 fish, those fish can be provided a nice road. The 2019 survey showed 33% of all largemouth captured were greater than 14”. Seventy-two percent supports an excellent largemouth bass population. Anglers can access the Lake from the state-owned public boat ramp located off Hwy 27.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Lake Elmo - 92 acres. Lake Elmo is a good option for anglers inter- ested in catching long bass. The maximum length limit for muskies and anglers can access the chain of lakes from a DNR launch on North Landing Camp Road.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020

RUSK COUNTY

Potato Lake - 534 acres. Musky anglers reported poor fishing success and low catch rates last season in Potato Lake, but our spring 2019 netting survey indi- cated a muskellunge population in moderate to high abundance. We cap- tured 110 muskies in 88 net-nights of effort for a fyke netting catch rate of 1.25 muskies per net-night. The aver- age fyke net catch rate in self-sustaining populations is about 0.9 musky per net- night. Of those 110 muskies, we mea- sured 95 and PTI-tagged 92 unique fish, including 29 of the muskies whose IDs re- mained unknown. They ranged between bodily lengths of 28.4 and 68.1 inches, at an aver- aged 36.5 inches. With 18% of muskies at less than 10 inches, the population is below the size benchmark that stakeholders believe is required to ensure self-sustain- ing. To avoid an over-harvest and maintain the health of the fishery, the larger Largemouth bass provide tremendous angling oppor- tunities. Fyke net surveys have been conducted yearly since 2011 to determine existence of muskies stocked by DNR. Currently there are 202 fyke net surveys (expressed as average length for largemouth bass at 12.6 inches. Approximately 50% of the largemouth sampled in this survey were larger than 14.0 inches and bass in the 3 to 5 pound range are not uncommon in Pool 9. Current regulation: Continuous Open Season, 14” minimum length with a 4 fish daily bag limit. There are 15 fyke net surveys with new boat and shore fishing access locations along the embankment of Mirror Lake. Check out the following websites for more details.


Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020
Wisconsin to near Rock Island, Illinois and has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar) and a Globally Important Bird Area.

**DODGE COUNTY**

**Fox Lake** - 2713 acres. 2019 spring electrofishing surveys yielded quality largemouth bass populations. The average length of largemouth bass sampled was 16.5 inches with an average maximum length of 21.0 inches. Multiple largemouth Bass over 20 inches were captured in the 2019 fyke netting survey. The potential is high for sizable largemouth bass. Anglers are encouraged to practice patience and expect to catch large fish.

**FOND DU LAC COUNTY**

**Wolf Lake** - 75 acres. One hundred and ninety-five Largemouth Bass were sampled in Wolf Lake in 2019. The average length of Largemouth Bass sampled was 16.5 inches with a maximum length of 21.0 inches. Multiple Largemouth Bass over 20 inches were captured in the 2019 fyke netting and electrofishing surveys. Trophy potential is high in this lake. Fishing pressure appears to be modest in the summer season.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**

**Cosgrove Lake** – 91 acres Seidel Lake – 35 acres. Florence County offers a wide array of fishing opportunities for largemouth bass. The 2019 surveys of Cosgrove and Seidel Lake are good examples of the diverse largemouth fisheries in this area. Cosgrove Lake is a true ACTION water with an adult population of approximately 200 largemouth bass per acre. Bass anglers fishing this lake can expect to take home-sized bass. Fishing pressure seems to be moderate to low at this lake. Anglers should be prepared to practice patience and wait out the bigger bass. A public boat launch is available. Anglers are encouraged to practice patience and expect to catch large fish.

**LA CROSSE, TREMPEALEAU AND VERNON COUNTIES**

**Mississippi River** - 6403 acres. Largemouth bass on the Mississippi River near La Crescent are well known. There are professional bass tournaments almost every summer weekend, and some of the best tournaments are scheduled annually. From 1993 to 2007, largemouth bass populations steadily increased more than 20% on this large river. Since 2009, numbers have varied, but remain higher than pre-2008 levels. Very high water levels during the past several years have hindered recreational fishing and angling on this traditional largemouth fishery. Therefore, recent decreases in DNREC abundance estimates may be due to adverse sampling conditions, not a decline in fish. Fall 2019 electrofishing samples in pools 6, 8 and upper 9 from Trempealeau, WI downstream to La Crosse, WI showed recently declining numbers. The reach of Pool 8 from La Crosse, WI downstream to Stoddard, WI, catch-and-release fishing and electrofishing in 2011 to 2019. Approximate size of these bass (9.9 inches, p<78) has remained the same. A total of 13.4 percent of these fish were over 14 inches. This is less than 18% percent for other comparable Mississippi River surveys. Abundance of fishable-sized largemouth bass (3.0 fish per hour) was the same as 23 other comparable Mississippi River River surveys, and less than 4.5% in Wisconsin. Anglers that choose those fish to fish will be successful. The potential is high in this lake. Fishing pressure appears to be modest in the summer season.

**IOWA COUNTY**

**Twin Valley Lake** - 136 acres. Twin Valley Lake is a small, highly-visited, and abundant Largemouth Bass fishery. In fact, there are approximately 38 bass per acre in the lake. These fish are naturally reproducing and recruited to the system and spring electrofishing surveys captured fish from 3 inches to 19.2 inches. Average Largemouth Bass captured was 11.6 inches, and 21% of these were 12 inches or larger. Anglers are encouraged to choose those fish to fish Twin Valley Lake and expect to catch bass with a high potential of a successful day on the water. Current Regulation: Largemouth Bass in Twin Valley Lake are managed under the general statewide regulation. Minimum length limit is 14 inches and a daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access Information: Twin Valley Lake is located in Governor Dodge state park. A state park sticker or daily pass is required, and one public boat launch is available. Access on the north side of Highway 33 is relatively shallow (average depth = 5 ft) and there is a lot of aquatic vegetation and flooded timber. Bass can be fat and feed just about anywhere around the lake. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum / 5 fish per day Access Information: There are 2 well-developed boat ramps with several undeveloped access areas available for smaller boats/canoes. Small and large boats can launch off the Little Horm Lake and Explosion Lake from Governor Dodge Park.

**MARAINE COUNTY**

**Lake Peschke** - 146 acres with a moderate to high density and good size-quality largemouth bass population. Our 2019 c-Jun 19 sampling showed good numbers of quality-sized bass with 33% 14” or longer and 8% at 17” or over. We estimated the adult (8+”) population at 4,185 individuals. Boats with 7.5 HP motors or smaller have a daily bag limit of 5 bass. Good boat landing with parking on South Shore Drive. The GPS original topos map had this lake incorrectly labeled as “A”. There is a formal process to name and change geographic information on topographic maps. The folks on this lake are returning the lake name back to Peschke in the Merritt concordance. It seems that process and now the lake is correctly labeled as Lake Peschke.- Dave Seidel Taconite Biologist, Antigo

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

**Squash Lake** - 396 acres, 7.3 miles of shoreline with an average depth of 22 feet. This is an action Largemouth Bass fishery with a high abundance. The size structure tends to run a little small with only 22% of the fish measured in the 2019 survey being over 14 inches, but bigger fish are present. The largest bass handled stretched to 18.5 inches. Squash Lake has a bass regulation that allows 5 bass of any length to be harvested. This is a good catch-and-release fishery. Anglers can expect to have a successful day on Squash Lake with several boat ramps available for larger bass. This is a good catch-and-release fishery. Anglers can expect to have a successful day on Squash Lake with several boat ramps available for larger bass. Anglers are encouraged to practice patience and expect to catch large fish.

**ROCK COUNTY**

**Clear Lake** - 77 acres, public boat landing on west end of lake, 14-inch minimum, daily bag limit of 5 bass. This small Rock County lake features a healthy largemouth bass population with excellenteller potential. According to recent spring survey data, the average length largemouth was 14.3 inches and over 56% of sampled bass were over the 14-inch minimum. Bass over 18 inches were captured in 34.2 bass/mile of electrofishing places Clear Lake on the list of states with a median when compared to other lakes with similar physical characteristics. Gibbs Lake – 73 acres, public boat landing on north end of lake, 14-inch minimum, daily bag limit of 5 bass. Another possible place to harvest largemouth bass with nice largemouth. A 2019 spring survey estimated an average length largemouth of 11.7 inches. Almost 24% of sampled bass were over the 14-inch minimum size limit and bass up to 20 were observed. A catch rate of 10.8 bass/mile of electrofishing indicates high abundance and is well above the median abundance rates for lakes with similar physical characteristics.
RUSK COUNTY

Potato Lake - 534 acres - Base anglers looking for big fish should find them in Potato Lake. Our late spring electrofishing catch rates of 17.8 bass per mile or 37.5 bass per hour point towards the moderate to low population abundance that is necessary to keep bass growing, conserving the population, and allowing plenty of large fish. Electrotoshing captured 70 bass that ranged 8.8-19.0” and averaged 13.9”. With 37% at least 15” long the population met our goal to have 50-50% that size or larger. Although it is not our standard method to evaluate largemouth bass population status, spring netting also captured high proportions of preferred-size largemouth bass ≥ 15” (51.5%) and even some memorable-size bass ≥ 20” (3%). Kyke nets captured 103 bass ranging 5.5 – 21.3” and averaging 14.3”. We observed, but intentionally did not dipnet, many largemouth bass, including many large individuals, in our early spring electrofishing survey that targeted walleye. Five largemouth bass may be kept daily, but they must be at least 14”. Anglers who fish from shore can use the public fishing pier at the end of Boat Landing Road south of White County Highway F. (See DNR Lake Finder). Sidie Hollow Lake is a small impoundment in the South Fork Bad Axe River watershed. A 2019 spring electrofishing survey produced two largemouth bass ≥ 19.7” inches were captured in the survey. Current regulations Gen-Lake off of the public boat ramp at the intersection of County Highway E and Williams Road.

WASHBURN COUNTY

Lake Nancy - 777 acres. This lake holds an average largemouth bass population with trophy bass in the population. The 2019 catch rate was 34.7 fish/mile with an average length of 11.2 inches. Thirty seven percent of bass collected were over 12.0 inches. Those numbers suggest Nancy is a consistent action lake for those looking to harvest small bass. DNR staff also observed two 19” bass and a 21” bass. This lake offers a unique scenario where bass anglers can catch large numbers of bass but have the opportunity for a trophy bass. Current Regulation: 14 inch minimum length limit, five fish daily catch limit. Access: Concrete boat launch located off Karling C1 on the Southeast side of the lake. All around the lakes in Washburn County have a no minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass. This regulation offers the opportunity to harvest estate-size bass and have a large allotment for a fish fry. Though not the most popular fish for eating, bass are good fareable.

SAUK COUNTY

White Mound Lake - 104 acres, maxi- mum length 27”. Located in western Sauk County. A comprehensive fly-fishing survey of White Mound Lake in 2019 found largemouth bass present at the highest abundance of any lake in Columbia and Sauk counties, and higher than 99.9% of lakes across Wisconsin. A night electrofishing survey in late spring yielded a catch rate of 243 fish/mile for fish 8 inches. The population size of largemouth bass 8-20 inches was estimated by lighted fish or a density of 58 fish/acre. The catch rate of bass 8 inches or larger increased by 27% over the previous survey in 2013. Around 90% of the bass sampled were greater than 14 inches, with a few specimens over 20 inches present. With such high abundance, bass growth is slower than in White Mound Dam compared to other area lakes with fewer bass. White Mound Lake should be considered an “action” fishery, especially given the high abundance of largemouth bass, panfish densities are kept in check through predation and growth rates and population size structure of the bluegill population are very good as a result. Yellow perch and black crappies are also present at low abundance but provide anglers with the opportunity to catch larger fish. Current regulations: Standard statewide regulations for all panfish and gamefish of preferred-size bass ≥ 15”. White Mound Lake is located approximately 5 miles northwest of the Village of Plain.

SAWYER COUNTY

Vernon Lake - 35 acres (maximum depth: 22’). Vernon Lake is located in western Sawyer County. A largemouth bass fly-fishing survey on Conners Lake. Photo: Kendal Parré

Side Hollow Lake - 35 acres (maximum depth: 12’). Side Hollow Lake is a small impoundment in the South Fork Bad Axe River watershed. A 2019 spring electrofishing survey produced two largemouth bass ≥ 19.7” inches were captured in the survey. Current regulations Gen-Lake off of the public boat ramp at the intersection of County Highway E and Williams Road.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Big Muskego Lake - 2260 surface acres. Big Muskego is shallow lake averaging 3 feet deep, diverse aquatic plants and a robust largemouth bass population.

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miles from theLazy Lake Dam tailwater down to the confluence with the Crawfish River. Anglers will find easy fishing from shore or by wading in the Village of Fall River, especially in the first half-mile below the dam. This stretch of alternating rock riffles and shallow gravel runs is very angler friendly. A 2019 electrofishing survey of this excellent nursery water covered 0.5 mile of river and yielded a smallmouth bass catch rate of 1.06 fish/mile, with most of the catch composed of fish under 7 inches. Larger fish were not uncommon, however, with catch rates of 78 fish/mile over 11 inches and 30 fish/mile over 14 inches, with a maximum length of 16.5 inches. Current Regulation: Largemouth and smallmouth bass 14 inch minimum length limit. 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: The Boat launch is located on the SW corner of the lake on West Lake Quarry Park that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay. Watermark/Conwayconfiguration is greater than 3 ft. 90% of the impound volume is held water with a depth of 30 ft and 80% of the impound volume is comprised of quality fish, and with 13,500 acres of habitat. The smallmouth regulation was implemented in 2012-2013. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: Statewide 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: Watermark/Conway configuration is greater than 3 ft. 90% of the impound volume is held water with a depth of 30 ft and 80% of the impound volume is comprised of quality fish, and with 13,500 acres of habitat. The smallmouth regulation was implemented in 2012-2013. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: Lake Owen has two public boat launches. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess for a listing of some of the launches in the area. One of the better shore fishing sites is the George F. Pinney County Park (formerly the Old Lake Stone Quarry Park) that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay.

DOOR COUNTY

Green Bay waters of Door County - The smallmouth bass fishery along the Green Bay waters of Door County is well known for its excellent quality large size structure. Although the 2019 creel data from the Door County Sport fishing survey showed that the average length of smallmouth bass caught was 15.5 inches and 77% of the sample was 14 inches or larger, 67% of fish were over 14 inches. In 2014, the average length of smallmouth bass was 16.5 inches long. Larger fish were not uncommon, however, with catch rates of 78 fish/mile over 11 inches and 30 fish/mile over 14 inches, with a maximum length of 16.5 inches. Current Regulation: Largemouth and smallmouth bass 14 inch minimum length limit. 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: The Boat launch is located on the SW corner of the lake on West Lake Quarry Park that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage - During a 2019 spring electrofishing survey, crews captured a total of 287 smallmouth bass at a catch rate of 1.4 bass/100 ft. The catch occurred in length from 6.6-18.9” and averaged 11.8” long. The catch rate remained constant for quality fish, and with 13,500 acres of water and 212 miles of shoreline, it provides endless rocks and crannies to cast for bronzesculls. Anglers should note that only smallmouth (and largemouth) bass less than 14” may be kept, except one fish over 18” may be kept. There is good access from different public boat launches as well as many other private resort access points.

IRON COUNTY

Chalk Hills Flowage - 866 acres. Data collected in 2016 demonstrated an average length of bass collected was 15 inches and fish up to 20 inches were caught. There are scattered areas of rock and aquatic vegetation that provide good smallmouth bass habitat. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum 5 fish per day. Anglers can choose from 4 boat launches: Menomonie Dam, Union Landing, in Mosinee. Boat access is also possible using the half Moon Lake center boat launch or the Domtar Boat Launch that is located north of the dam in Rothchild. The Domtar boat launch may only be open during normal streamflows. Shorefishing opportunities are available at Domtar Boat Launching off of River Rd in Mosinee. Natural reproducing population that provides a bonus opportunity for the anglers targeting walleye; All the lake below the dam in Rothchild and in the riverine portion of the Elk River Flowage. This smallmouth bass population has become particularly noted in our late spring 2019 electrofishing survey when we captured approximately 17 miles in short order. The open season for bass runs from the first Saturday in May, but smallmouth bass must be released until the third Saturday in June. Five largemouth or smallmouth bass in combination may be kept, but no mixed species allowable. The bait launch locations are also at Bar and Grill, off Pier Avenue, Galeske County Park, off Blue Horse Lane, and Rusty’s Backwater Saloon.

PORTAGE and WOOD COUNTIES

Biron Flownage - 2187 acres. A comprehensive survey was completed for Biron Flownage in the spring of 2019. We caught 118 smallmouth bass while electrofishing. Fish ranged in length from 6.6” to 18.9” with an average length of 11.3”. 49% of the smallmouth bass caught were 11” or greater, 18% were 14” or greater, and 22% were 17” or greater. Current regulations Largemouth and smallmouth bass, 14” minimum length minimum limit. 5 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There are at least five boat launches for public use. Boat launch locations are: Anchor Bay, Bar and Grill, off Pier Avenue, Galeske County Park, off Blue Horse Lane, and Rusty’s Backwater Saloon.

PRICE COUNTY

Lac Sault Dore – Volunteers from the Soo Lake Unit Association braved cold weather to assist the Park Falls Fishery crew as they conducted a spring electrofishing survey on 561-acre Lac Sault Dore, located about 7½ miles west of Phillips. While more commonly known as Soo Lake, Lac Sault Dore is the downstream-most of three impoundments on the Elk River system. The survey targeted young walleye hatched there in spring 2019, but it also offered a glimpse of Soo Lake’s quality bass fishing opportunity. Fall electrofishing captured 15 smallmouth bass, ranging 11.4-18.9” long and averaging 15 inches long. We documented similar population abundance and size structure in our late spring 2019 electrofishing survey when we captured 15 smallmouth bass exemplarily ranging from 14-18” long and averaging 15.1 inches. Bass anglers can also seek out largemouth bass over the finer labeled materials that foster aquatic plants in Soo Lake. The 20 large- mouth bass collected had an average length of 15.6” with fall samples were 4.7-19 inches long. With plenty of bass anglers, should provide excellent opportunities. The smallmouth bass population has become particularly noted in our late spring 2019 electrofishing survey when we captured approximately 17 miles in short order. The open season for bass runs from the first Saturday in May, but smallmouth bass must be released until the third Saturday in June. Five largemouth or smallmouth bass in combination may be kept, but no mixed species allowable. The bait launch locations are also at Bar and Grill, off Pier Avenue, Galeske County Park, off Blue Horse Lane, and Rusty’s Backwater Saloon.
and they must be at least 14 inches. DNR maintains a boat landing on County Highway W, and Price County has a shallower boat ramp on the northeast shore off County Highway S. – Jeff Schierer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls.

**ST CROIX COUNTY**

Apple River - 70 river miles including 7½ County. The Apple River in northern St. Croix county near Somerset contains a great smallmouth fishery. Around 7 miles of river was sampled this year and yielded around 16,000 smallmouth per mile of river. Approximately 15% of fish sampled were 18 inches or more, with average length of smallmouth during the survey was 11 inches. There is great potential to catch a trophy size smallmouth in this stretch of river as well as the occasional musky and walleye. Despite a great smallmouth and musky population, the river likely receives very low fishing pressure. The Apple offers a great opportunity for kayaking and floating although the river is busy in the summer on weekends with tubing traffic. Current regulation: 5 in total (combined); 2,229 fish or 2.4/acre. 36.1% of the fish captured during this survey. Data from this survey estimates the apple smallmouth and musky population to be approximately 22,329 fish or 2.4/acre. 36.1% of the fish sampled were 12 inches or greater. The smallest pike captured during the survey was 8 inches in size. DNR recommends daily bag limit of 5 northern pike with no minimum length limit. Access information: In spring 2019, DNR conducted a comprehensive fish survey on the Apple River. Check out the following websites for more details: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/land/boataccesses/ https://www.dws.org/uploadedFiles/Upper_Pool_9.pdf https://www.dws.org/uploadedFiles/Lower_Pool_9.pdf The Waters of Pool 9 are 32,774 acres and Mississippi River Pool 9 – Approximately 34,000 acres. Halfmoon Lake and Spring Lake (3,294 acres) and a Globally Important Bird Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar) and a Globally Important Bird Area.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes - 22 interconnected lakes with a total surface area of 1,090 acres and a total smallmouth bass population estimated to be 2,252,880. The current annual Chinook salmon population was estimated at 100,000. DNR conducted an electrofishing survey to evaluate the current status of the smallmouth bass population in the Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes. Results from this survey show that the Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes supports a decent smallmouth bass fishery. A total of 37 smallmouth bass (4.6 per mile of electrofishing) averaging 12.4 inches (range = 7.2 – 18.0 inches) were captured. These fish were a great potential to catch some high-quality smallmouth bass as 7.x, 15% of the smallmouth bass were 20 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 5 smallmouth bass or largemouth bass in combination with a minimum length limit of 14 inches for both species. Access information: 6 public boat landings are available throughout the various lakes and harbors of the lakes area during the ice-out. The Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes supports a lake run brown trout population. These fish tend not spend much time in the year in the Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes, migrate into the Chain O’ Lake Creek in the fall spawn, and then return back to the lake once spawning is completed. Jagger Lester and his dad Bruce caught a world record northern pike in Green Bay in June 2018. Photo: Mike Karmopolis.

**CRAWFORD AND VERNON COUNTIES**

Mississippi River Pool 9 -32,774 acres and 34 miles of open water. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed backwater pools in Pool 9 near Prairie du Chien, WI from August and October 2019 to determine the health of the fishery. Northern pike were common in this survey and fish ranged in size from 12 to 17 inches with an average size of 14.6 inches. Approximately 30% of the northern pike were over 17 inches. The fishing experience on Pool 9 is exceptional, with low fishing pressure. The Apple River in northern Crawford County and southern Vernon County is part of the Apple River drainage system and is used for both angling and aquatic recreation. The entire flowage is considered a prime fishing area and should be fished with either state’s fisherman license. – Kerry Renschen, Fisheries technician, Florence.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**

Twin Falls Flowage - 828 acres. Northern pike were the main target during early spring fyke netting efforts in 2019. A total of 831 different adults were captured during this survey. Data from this survey estimates the adult northern pike population to be approximately 2,229 fish or 2.4/acre. 36.1% of the fish sampled were ≥12 inches and 7.9% were ≥18 inches. The largest pike captured during the survey was 38.9 inches long with a weight of 26.7 pounds. DNR recommends daily bag limit of 5 northern pike with no minimum length limit. Access information: There are multiple boat access points on the flowage, but the most improved access is in Vayabond Park, just off US Hwy 2 on the W side of the flowage. The entire flowage is considered prime fishing area and should be fished with either state’s fisherman license. – Terri Sund, Fisheries technician, Florence.

**SAUK, COLUMBIA, DANE AND IOWA COUNTIES**

Wisconsin River - 92.5 river miles The lower Wisconsin River supports a healthy smallmouth bass fishery from the Prairie du Sac to the Mississippi River with trophy sized smallmouth available. Anglers can expect to see smallmouth bass in the 8 to 18-inch range with some up to 22 inches. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted electrofishing surveys during October of 2019 and estimated the adult population with an average size of 14.6 inches. Thirty-five percent of the adults were ≥16 inches or greater. Current Regulation: 14 inch minimum length with a daily bag limit of 5. Access information: Public boat launch and accessible bank fishing opportunities are located throughout the lower Wisconsin River. There is a public boat launch close to the dam at Vesper Memorial Park. A daily or annual fee is required to use the launch at this park. Boaters should use caution near the dam as many rock bars, wing dams, and shallow sand breaks are present in the river channel. Geologists have found that over a million years ago the Wisconsin River flowed past the dam. The Apple River and there is access points as well. Musky are stocked at camping businesses along the river with Flowage. There are multiple tubing and wading points at the County Rd C take out points at the County Rd C lend boat landing with loading dock on Peninsula Road and Linden Road. DNR fisheries crew displays a measuring board full of nice smallmouth bass sampled during a fisheries survey.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

Halfmoon Lake - 135 acres. Halfmoon Lake is an endorheic lake of the Wapsipinicon River located in the city of Eau Claire which provides a great urban fishing opportunity with the vast majority of the shoreline open to the public. Annual stocking of large fingerling (8”-9”) northern pike fishery started in 2012. According to data collected from a 2019 fisheries survey, early spring signs to an emerging northern pike fishery with great potential. 100 northern pike were handled in the survey with the biggest being 27” and an average size around 23”. Aging data shows that growth rates are fast, and given this is a young population of fish, there is excellent potential to have an urban fishery with trophy sized northern pike in the coming years. There are two boat landings, but the use of gas power motors is prohibited. The daily bag limit for northern pike is 1 with no minimum length limit. – Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Eau Claire.

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

Greater Bass Lake - 258 acres but very convoluted with over 6.5 miles of shoreline to plug away at. Low to moderate density with good size quality. In 2019 we did a comprehensive fish survey here and estimated the adult (12”) pike population to be about 1 fish for every 2 acres of water (0.5 per acre). 73% of the pike were at least 21” long and 11% were 28” or longer. The biggest pike captured in our survey was 32.5”. No minimum length limit, 5 daily. Excellent boat landing with loading dock on Mill Road...The locals refer to this lake simply as “Bass” Lake, but Langlade County has 2 other lakes with “Bass” in their name: Little Bass and Lower Bass. This one was probably named Greater Bass either because it is the largest of the “Bass” lakes in the county or because it had a reputation for producing big largemouth bass (there are some nice bucket mouths in here too)…Dale Schel, Fisheries biologist, Antigo.

**MARINETTE, OCONTO, BROWN AND DOOR COUNTIES**

Green Bay and tributaries. The late, wet springs of 2013 and 2014 provided favorable conditions for northern pike spawning. These two excellent year classes continue to provide anglers an opportunity to catch memorable pike. Current conditions are excellent for northern pike spawning. These two excellent year classes continue to provide anglers an opportunity to catch memorable pike. Current conditions are excellent for northern pike spawning. These two excellent year classes continue to provide anglers an opportunity to catch memorable pike.
for pike to spawn in. In winter, using a tip-up with a large shiner or dead minnow fished just off the bottom in shallow water can work well. Current regulation for Green Bay tributaries: Open all year. Daily limit is 5. No minimum length limit. Current regulation for all other Green Bay tributaries: Open 1st Saturday in May to 1st Sunday in March. Daily limit is 5. No minimum length limit. Access information: There are numerous boat access and tributary access locations along Green Bay. See the following websites for detailed information:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/
In early spring, adult northern pike migrate from Green Bay to tributaries and ditches to spawn in shallow wetlands, often travelling dozens of miles. This makes pike very susceptible to poor water classes when water levels dry up too early in the spring. Habitat improvement projects such as shallow sumps and culvert replacements have helped northern pike populations along Green Bay.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**
Manawa Millpond - 198 acres. Northern Pike population information: In spring 2019, the WDNR conducted a fyke netting survey on Manawa Millpond to evaluate the current status of the northern pike fishery. Results from the survey show that Manawa Millpond supports a healthy northern pike population. A total of 215 northern pike were captured in 43 net sets during the 8-day survey (catch per unit effort = 5 northern pike per net night). Using mark-recapture, the adult northern pike population was estimated to be approximately 747 fish, or 4.15 adult northern pike per acre. The average size of northern pike caught in the spring fyke netting survey was 23.8 inches (range = 10.2 – 37.6 inches). Plenty of harvestable sized fish were captured, with 32 northern pike being ≥26 inches and 14 northern pike being ≥30 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 5 and no minimum length limit. Access information: One public boat landing is available on the south side of Manawa Millpond of CTH H. Interesting fact: Two burbot, the only fresh-water member of the cod family, were captured during the 2019 spring fyke netting survey of Manawa Millpond.

**POLK COUNTY**
Magnar Lake - 229 acres. The Magnar Lake northern pike population has a moderate abundance with good size structure. Of the 100 pike harvested during the 2019 netting survey, 21% were 24 inches or longer. The largest northern pike harvested was 32 inches. Current regulation: Northern pike are managed under the statewide 5 fish limit, no minimum length limit. Access information: There is one boat landing on Magnar Lake, located off Highway 63. There is also a fishing pier at this location to accommodate shore anglers. Magnar Lake is a productive lake and is a good fishing lake for panfish and other gamefish species like largemouth bass and walleye.

**RACINE COUNTY**
Eagle Lake - 515 acres. Species population information: 28.6% average length, 35” maximum length (2019 spring survey). Current regulation: 40” minimum length limit, 1 daily bag, Access information: Public boat launch on the south side of the lake off Eagle Road. Public boat launches with ample parking located off Church Road at Eagle Lake County Park (north east side) and off Minnetonka Drive (west side). Eagle Lake County Park provides shore fishing opportunities. The Eagle Lake curvilinear shoreline has restrictive harvest regulations for several species following a recent rehabilitation project. A protective 40” length limit allows northern pike to grow to trophy size.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**
Okauchee Lake - 1,257 surface acres. Northern pike are abundant in Okauchee Lake having a population estimate of 5 adults per surface acre. New regulations in 2020 for pike on Okauchee Lake will provide anglers with a harvest opportunity to promote the reduction of pike abundance and improved size structure. Average Length = 20 inches. Current regulation: 30” length limit, 1 daily bag. Access information: There are two public boat launches on Okauchee Lake found at the Golden Most Restaurant and the DNR launch. The DNR boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road 1, north of Wisconsin Ave. The Golden Most marina boat launch located off of Lake Cayne north of East Wisconsin Avenue. - Ben Haussner, Fisheries biologist, Eagle.

**ASHLAND and BAYFIELD COUNTIES**
Chequamegon Bay-Lake Superior - 34,000 acres. The Chequamegon Bay yellow perch fishery is popular, and both the open water and ice seasons. In 2019, fishermen reported increased capture success of yellow perch when fishing in the bay and the sloughs. Chequamegon Bay perch fishing is open February 15th to April 30th and October 1st to December 31st, with a bag limit of 25 in total. The minimum length limit for Chequamegon Bay is Kreher Park and Second Landing although there are additional access points at Bono Creek and Fish Creek. Information about Great Lakes access points can be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/beaches/documents/BeachAccessLaunches.pdf. Recent yellow perch survey in Chequamegon Bay and Fish Creek Sloughs (an adjacent wetland complex) indicated that there is a higher density and higher growth rate of yellow perch in the Fish Creek Sloughs compared to the main bay. Yellow perch up to 9 years old were captured in the survey and lengths ranged from 3.4 to 11.5 inches.

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY**
Marshmill Lake - 441 acres. Marshmill Lake, an impoundment of O’Neil Creek located in north-central Chippewa County, is known locally for its largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie fisheries. The quality bluegill fishing is what keeps most anglers returning to Marshmill Lake. According to 2019 fisheries survey data, the bluegill population is in good health. Catch rates of bluegills remained high and size structure was good too. Many easter bluegills over 10 inches were captured in the 7”-8” range, but a fair number of 9” bluegills were captured, too. There are two access points on Marshmill Lake. The daily bag limit for panfish is 25 and there is no minimum length limit.

**PANFISH**
A net full of Chippewa County bluegill capt... during a 2019 fisheries survey. Photo: Joseph Gerbyshak

**ASHLAND COUNTY**
Lake Galilee. Although only 213 acres, Lake Galilee offers anglers a respectable panfish opportunity. Results from a 2019 fyke netting survey suggest that panfish are present in decent numbers and some decent-sized fish are available. Bluegills ranged in length from 3.5 to 4.9 inches, 90% of which were larger than 4”. Black crappies ranged in length from 5.3 to 12.5”, 10% of which were larger than 10”. Anglers should note the 10-fish daily bag limit for panfish on the Lake Galilee. There is good access from public boat launch located just off Lake Galilee Road.

**CRANDON and VERNON COUNTIES**
Ferryville, WI from August to October 2019, the WDNR conducted a fyke netting survey. Results from the survey showed that Lake Galilee supports a healthy panfish population. A total of 215 panfish were captured in 43 net sets during the 8-day survey (catch per unit effort = 5 panfish per net night). Using mark-recapture, the adult northern pike population was estimated to be approximately 747 fish, or 4.15 adult northern pike per acre. The average size of northern pike caught in the spring fyke netting survey was 23.8 inches (range = 10.2 – 37.6 inches). Plenty of harvestable sized fish were captured, with 32 northern pike being ≥26 inches and 14 northern pike being ≥30 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 5 and no minimum length limit. Access information: One public boat landing is available on the south side of Manawa Millpond of CTH H. Interesting fact: Two burbot, the only fresh-water member of the cod family, were captured during the 2019 spring fyke netting survey of Manawa Millpond.

**ONTO COUNTY**
Bear Lake - 78 acres and Munger Lake - 97 acres. In 2017, pike ranged in length from 9.4 to 31.4 inches and averaged 20.2 inches but only 5 pike over 26 inches were collected. Most northern pike collected were between 17 and 22 inches. Current Regulation: No minimum length / 5 fish per day. Access information: Bear and Munger Lakes - A boat landing is located on Munger Lake off of Lake John Road. Bear Lake can be accessed through the channel connecting the lakes. The 26-inch minimum length limit was removed in 2019 because the special regulation, after 20 years, had failed to produce many big fish.

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FLORENCE COUNTY
Twin Falls Flowage - 920 acres. Bigcrappie is the most abundant panfish in Twin Falls Flowage with a catch rate of over 70 Blauwekkers per net-night during the 2019 survey. The size structure of the bluegill population is respectable with approximately 33% of the fish being > 7 inches. Black crappie was the next most abundant panfish species with a catch rate of over 10 crappie per net-night. Approximately 53% of the crappie captured were > 8 inches in length. Current Regulation: Twin Falls Flowage is a WI- MI boundary water that can be fished with either states fishing license. Fall fish Regulation: 25 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There are multiple access sites, but the most improved boat landing is at Twin Falls Park, located south of the WI side of the flowage. Greg Matzke, fisheries biolo-

DODGE COUNTY
Fox Lake - 2,735 acres. 2019 spring netting surveys yielded high quality bluegill catches. A total of 185 Blauwekkers were captured with a length range of 3.5 to 8.5 inches and an average length of 6.6 inches. 80% of the fish measured were at least 6 inches. Current regulation: The daily bag limit for panfish is 25 with no length. Clausen Park in the City of Fox Lake and Town Park, on the north- west shore of the lake offer public boat launches with trailer parking and shore- fishing opportunities. There is also shorefishing opportunity with parking on the north-east side of HWY 35 near Fish Tales Bait and Tackle Shop. As a shallow impounded body of water, Lake Fox has a history of intense management. In 1966 and 1997 whole lake disease drawsdowns and chemical treatments were carried out in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat.

JACKSON AND BUFFALO COUNTIES
Potters Flowage (255 Acres, Jackson County) and Mirror Lake (19 Acres, Buffal- o County) have diverse population structures: based on spring 2019 netting results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per net lift.

Big Newton Lake
- 138 acres. Population information: Big Blauwekkers can be found in Big Newton Lake located just north of Crivitz. In 2015, 36% of the Big Blauwekkers were 8 or greater inches and an average length of 8.5 inches. Current regulation: 25 fish daily bag limit.

Timothy Lang with a yellow perch caught in the lower Peshtigo River. Photo: Chip Long

edge of their distribution. Anglers can target these fish for quality opportuni-

MARINETTE COUNTY
Big Newton Lake - 49 acres. Population information: Big Blauwekkers can be found in Newton Lake located just north of Crivitz. In 2019, 36% of the Big Blauwekkers were 8 or greater inches and an average length of 8.5 inches. Current regulation: 25 fish daily bag limit. Access information: Mirror Lake – 1 boat landing, public park and ample shore fishing opportunity, no gas mo- tor restrictions. Potters Flowage – 2 boat landings, on the northeast end is a park also with shore fishing access on McKenna Road and Larb Hill Road. Off site access: Accessibility. Fish fa-

Freezelake (85 acres) has seen a full and size captured only 19 crappies in our last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2015. Total catch rate was 37/ net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 1.25/net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.6/net lift and maximum length captured was 12”. There was a total of 28 fish net lifts in 2015. Mirror Lake: Total catch rate was 4.8/net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 0.9/ net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.09/ net lift, and maximum length captured was 10”. There was a total of 15 net lifts in 2015. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2011. Total catch rate was 1.5/net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 0.4/net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.1/net lift and maximum length captured was 10”. There was 18 fishy net lifts in 2011.

Black Crappies - Potters Flowage: Total catch rate was 4.8/net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 0.7/net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.09/net lift, and maximum length captured was 12”. There was a total of 30 net lifts in 2019. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2015. Total catch rate was 37/ net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 1.25/net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.6/net lift and maximum length captured was 12”. There was a total of 28 fishy net lifts in 2015. Mirror Lake: Total catch rate was 4.8/net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 0.9/ net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.09/ net lift, and maximum length captured was 10”. There was a total of 15 net lifts in 2015. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2011. Total catch rate was 1.5/net lift, catch rate of 9”+ fish was 0.4/net lift, catch rate of 10”+ fish was 0.1/net lift and maximum length captured was 10”. There was 18 fishy net lifts in 2011.

Big Newton Lake
- 138 acres. Population information: Big Blauwekkers can be found in Big Newton Lake located just north of Crivitz. In 2015, 36% of the Big Blauwekkers were 8 or greater inches and an average length of 8.5 inches. Current regulation: 25 fish daily bag limit. Access information: Mirror Lake – 1 boat landing, public park and ample shore fishing opportunity, no gas mo- tor restrictions. Potters Flowage – 2 boat landings, on the northeast end is a park also with shore fishing access on McKenna Road and Larb Hill Road. Off site access: Accessibility.

An inch-long crappie caught by Gami Miller on a Vilas County lake. Photo: Steve Gilbert

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A trio of nice Wind Lake Bluegills ready to be measured during a DNR spring electrofishing survey.

to catch big crappies. In 2018 fyke nets caught 212 crappies ranging 6.3–14.1 inches and averaging 9.9 inches. In spring 2019 fyke netting captured 99 crappies that ranged 6.3–13.4 inches and averaged 10.4 inches. The share of crappies 10 inches and longer in our samples was 43% in 2018 and 62% in 2019. Nearly one in five crappies in our spring 2019 sample was at least 12 inches, and 15% were 12 inches or longer in spring 2018. Low catch rates of crappies in fyke nets suggest that the population currently has low to moderate abundance, which is essential for the fast growth rate needed to produce big fish. Under experimental harvest regulations in effect since 2016, Butternut Lake anglers may keep a daily bag limit of 25 panfish combined, but no more than 10 of any one species. -Jeff Schier, fisheries biologist, Park Falls

**RACINE COUNTY**

Wind Lake - 936 acres. Bluegill size and abundance was impressive in Gerber Lakes with 132 Bluegill sampled per mile in 2019, with an average length of 6.1 inches. 38% of the Bluegill sampled were at least 7.0 inches. The maximum length of Bluegill sampled was 9.0 inches. In addition, numerous large Black Crappie were observed; however, they were difficult to net due to the steep drop-offs in Wind Lake. Current regulation: No minimum length limit. Access information: A public boat launch is available. Fishermen may want to target panfish size species. The best fishing is high density with a low-moderate size-structure and received limited angling pressure; this population presents a unique harvest opportunity.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Gerber Lakes (Big and Little connected) - 23 acres. Bluegill size and abundance was impressive in Gerber Lakes with 132 Bluegill sampled per mile in 2019, with an average length of 6.1 inches. 38% of the Bluegill sampled were at least 7.0 inches. The maximum length of Bluegill sampled was 9.0 inches. In addition, numerous large Black Crappie were observed; however, they were difficult to net due to the steep drop-offs in Hill Lake. Current regulation: No minimum length limit. Access information: A county operated boat launch is located on the north side of Little Gerber Lake. The lake does not allow gas operated motors at any time. A ADA accessible fishing pier is located next to the boat launch. Additionally, a walking trail also leads down to the water on the west side of Big Gerber Lake for potential shore fishing opportunity. Anglers have Northern Pike and Largestoun Bass that offer good predator fishing opportunities as well. 

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes - 483 combined surface acres Species-population information: Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes provide a unique predator fishing opportunity as a result of above average numbers of bluegill, black crappie, and sunfish. Recent electrofishing surveys confirm continued hybridization is occurring resulting in a variety of unique colors and patterns. Current regulation: 31.6 maximum length limit daily bag limit of 25. Access information: A recently renovated boat launch and shore fishing opportunities are found in the Phantom Glen city park on the north side of Upper Phantom Lake. The lake is high density with a low-moderate size-structure and received limited angling pressure; this population presents a unique harvest opportunity.
**LAKE STURGEON**

During the sturgeon catch and release season should take special care while handling a fish once landed. Land the fish, photograph it if you choose to, and release it quickly to reduce stress and ensure survival. Lift sturgeon horizontally (not by the tail or gill covers) under the belly to avoid damaging these living dinosaurs. Current Regulations and Season: catch and release only. June 16 – March 1 Access. There are several boat and canoe launches on the Upper St. Croix River. Visit the National Park Service website for more information: http://www.nps.gov/saco/planyourvisit/maps.htm

**INLAND TROUT**

**BURNETT COUNTY**

Upper St. Croix River – River segment: Upper St. Croix River between Confluence with Namekagon River and St. Croix Falls (Burnett County and UWIMN border). Large brown trout: Sturgeon sampled were 18.0 inches and averaged 30 inches. Most were mature fish that typically channel more of their food calories toward reproduction than to gains in length of weight. The five sturgeon with the greatest sizes grew 15.7–32.2 inches over 10–37 years, but most (97%) of the fish that grew all gained only 0.2–2.9 inches in 4–18 years. Tag detections revealed an upstream movement through the natural-like fishway at a hydropower dam on the East Fork Chippewa River. Tag recaptures also documented sturgeon from the Chippewa River meandering the Couderay River, following the 2011 removal of Grinich Hydroelectric Dam that blocked movements for 77 years. Seven tagged sturgeon passed through downstream 2.5, 4, or 5 dams on the Flambeau River with no attempt to return upstream. The highest catches were 35 sturgeon captured in the year-round fishery that extends 300 feet downstream of the Arpin Dam on the Chippewa River, 32 caught in Turtle-Flambeau Flouage where there is no open season for hook-and-line sturgeon fishing, and 29 sturgeon captured at the popular sturgeon fishing spot below Crowley Dam on the North Fork Flambeau River. Flows in 2016 and 2017 severely damaged the stairway and rivervside area that provided abundant access to the Crowley Dam tailwaters. To avoid the risks for personal injury and more importantly anglers are cautioned not to use this public access site until the necessary repairs are completed. In the Chippewa-Flambeau-Flouage River segment: 44 adult sturgeon captured, 8 legal sturgeon ≥ 60” harvested in the 2019 season which runs from the first Saturday in September to September 30 each year. - Jeff Schier, Fisheries Biologist, Park Falls.

**BARRON COUNTY**

Brill River - There’s a three-mile stretch of the Brill River near the village of Brill, which is classified as trout water. The Brill River has a lower density brown trout population but is a great place for anglers interested in targeting large brown trout. The electrofishing rate during the 2019 survey was 303 fish/mile, 30% of the brown trout were 10 inches or larger, with the largest being 18.0 inches. Current regulation: Trout are managed with a 12” minimum length limit and two fish daily bag limit. Brule River is considered Class II brown trout water, meaning there is some level of trout natural reproduction, but population sizes are generally available food and space. Consequently, wild strain brown trout are stocked into the Brill River each year.

**BUFFALO, JACKSON AND TREMPEALEAU COUNTIES**

Area Trout Streams - This report is based on results of 20 trout stream survey sites that were electrofished in summer 2019. Reproduction rates, 60% of surveyed streams showed a decreased level of brook trout reproduction. Brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: 64% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing catch rates of adult brook trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 82% of surveyed streams. Legal: Most area streams converted to a no- length regulation in 2016. However, pre-2016 legal size regulations per individual stream are used to evaluate changes in current catch rates of legal size brown and brook trout. For brook trout, 82% of streams showed stable or increasing numbers of legal size fish and for brown trout, 77% of streams showed stable numbers of legal size fish with 10% increasing. Other Information: Area adult trout populations were generally in good shape in 2019 with plenty of adult and legal sized fish heading into the 2020 season. Decreased reproduction rates were likely due to abnormal spring weather events. Survey results indicate stable to increasing numbers of adult and legal sized fish heading into the spawning season. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries continue to help bolster trout populations throughout the area. Habitat restoration projects were continued on Waumandee Creek, Buffalo County, and Elk Creek, Trempealeau County this past year. Many thanks to our partners in the Cooperative Trout Rearing program and Habitat Restoration program for providing more stocked fish, fishing access, and better habitat for our area trout streams. Please see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for accurate fishable size and bag limit restrictions for the streams you fish.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Bohland Branch - 4.7 miles. Locally known as Bohland Branch or the east branch of Spring Creek, this tributary to Spring Creek in Lodi is a Class 2 trout stream that supports a brown and brook populations with brown trout being the most abundant trout species ever end of the creek where it crosses the DNR fishery area is exclusively brown trout and a 4.7 mile electrofishing survey there yielded a total brown trout catch rate approach- ing 1,600 fish/mile and a brook trout catch rate of 12 inches approaching 7,000 fish/mile and a total brown trout length of 16.4 inches. An electrofishing survey close to the headwaters found trout abundance to be about half of what was found further downstream, and the catch included brown trout 15 inches and brook trout in over 12 inches. Current regulation: Brook trout: Rainbow trout 4-inch minimum length limit and two fish daily bag limit. Information: The stream is accessible via Spring Creek Fishery Area where Mack Rd. crosses the creek along County Highway K east of Lodi, although the lands along the creek upstream and downstream of this cross- ing are private. A DNR Trout Stamp funded habitat improvement project on this fishery site in 2005 is expected to greatly increase brown trout abundance on the lower end of Bohland Branch.

**DODGE COUNTY**

Gill and Irish Creeks - 10.1 miles of Class II brown trout water. 2019 surveys yielded an average length of 9.0 inches, with a maximum length of 152 inches at Gill Creek and an average length of 7.5 inches, with a maximum length of 53.1 inches at Irish Creek. The average catch rate of the Gill Creek surveys was 441 fish per mile which ranks it around the 50th percentile when compared with other all other Class II brown trout waters statewide. Current regulation: Both streams have a daily bag limit of 3, a minimum length limit of 8 inches and no gear restrictions. Access information: Road crossings offer the only public access to either stream. Based on the 2019 surveys Farmerville Road offers the best opportunity. Both streams are stocked annually with Timber Cleoee strain brown trout.

**FLORENCE COUNTY**

Woods Creek - All 16 miles of Woods Creek are designated as Class 1 trout waters. Population Information: Woods Creek is a member of the Popple River drainage with an excellent natural brook trout population and a low density brown trout population. Three locations within the Woods Creek fishing area were sampled during 2019, producing 807 catchable sized brown trout with a mean length ranging from 3.45- 14.1 inches. Current regulation: Downstream of Huff - 1 fish to over 12” Upstream of Hwy 101 – 3 trout over 8”. Anglers in the Woods Creek Fishery Area is an 80 acre parcel located off of Hwy 101 on Town Hall Road which gives excellent in stream and across stream access and an abundance of parking. Access to stream. There is also access to the Hwy 101 crossing. The Woods Creek Dam located near the Hwy 101 crossing was removed in 2002. The dam removal has greatly increased fishable area has changed and improved drastically over time. Future habitat work in this area is planned to create more pool-riffle-run features and to increase holding capacit
GRANT COUNTY

Millville Creek - 5.5 miles of classified trout water. Millville Creek supports a healthy population of brown trout. Recent surveys sampled an overall relative abundance of 235 adult brown trout per mile. Adult brown trout ranged in length from 8 to 16.7 inches with an average length of 11.5 inches. Forty percent of the adult brown trout sampled were 12 inches or greater. Current Regulations: 2 trout over 12 inches may be kept. Access information: There are approximately 4.95 miles of public fishing easements and approximately 2.5 miles of lower Wisconsin Riverway properties. Remaining trout water may be accessed by gaining permission from landowners or by accessing the stream from road right of ways. Located in northwestern Grant County, many folks consider the Millville Creek area prime lime timber rattle snake country. Anglers may get a glimpse at one of Wisconsin’s rare reptile species. - Brud Smo, Fisheries biologist, Dodgeville.

MARINETTE COUNTY

North Branch Pemebonwon - Approximately 2.9 miles of classified trout (8-inch average) are stocked at 6 locations. These fish are produced by a local coop erator (Niagara Sportmans Club). Total stream length = 23.4 miles (17.9 miles Class 1, 4.5 miles Class 2, 3 miles Class 3) Current Regulations: Beginning Oct 15 - 3 fish/day; 8-inch minimum length limit. Access information: Almost all of the NRPBW is within public, Marquette County Forest lands. While numerous road/stream crossings provide good access, anglers can also access the stream at Smalley Falls, Long Slide Falls, and Morgan Park.

MARTIQUE COUNTY

Tagatz Creek - 3.6 miles of Class I 2019 Stream surveys (7 stations): 433-1552/mile. Mean Length = 44.7-8.8”, Max Length = 10.0-12.5” Current regulation: no length, 5 bag access information: Regional fishing opportunities are highly productive and tend to produce a variety of angler opportunities. An angler can encounter numerous pencil streams throughout the river to catch large, but larger water may be ticket when finding the “Manatee-sized” brownies. Much of the success of the trout fishery has to do with natural en vironmental conditions of the river, the connectivity of the river, and the habitat enhancement/fisheries work performed on the river. Numerous restoration and improvement projects conducted by the DNR and Trout Unlimited resulted in positive benefits to local trout populations and improve angler opportunities. The habitat improvements have certainly improved the trout population. Unfortunately, some of these habitat enhance ments were more favorable to brook trout which eventually dominated brook trout. Our current management strategies aim to improve trout habitat to benefit both species of trout while also maintaining popular angling opportunities.

ONEIDA COUNTY

Neosy Creek - Neosy Creek contains 2.4 miles of Class II and 4 miles of Class III trout waters in southern Oneida County. Three 300 meter electrofishing surveys were conducted along Neosy Creek in 2019. The overall size structure was small with most fish between 5 to 10 inches but fish up to 13.9 inches were captured. Neosy Creek vides a good opportunity for anglers who are looking to try from the idea of Oneida County and their luck on a creek. The current regulation is 8-inch minimum length with a daily bag of 3. Roadside access to the creek can be obtained along Camp and Dining Mill Creek roads in the Neosy Creek County Forest. - Zach Wiek, fisheries biologist, Rhinelander.

PORTAGE COUNTY

Tomorrow-Waupaca River - 3.32 miles of trout water. Tomorrow-Waupaca River, Brown Trout 2.0”-19.0”, average length = 7.5”, 9.8%, of fish over 12”, 25.0 inches were captured at 3 sites. 319-1085 fish per mile, above average to exemplary densities as compared trout classification standards for this ecosystem. Current Regulation: Above Clementson Rd 1.0 daily bag limit with 8” minimum length limit for Brown Trout and 12” minimum length limit for Brown Trout. Access above the Mill Dam to Clementson Rd - 2 bag daily bag with 12” minimum length limit. Artificial Lures Only Below the Am herst Milldam - 2 daily bag with 8” minimum length limit. Artificial Lures Only Below the Am herst Milldam - 2 daily bag limit with 8” minimum length limit for Brown Trout. Early Catch and Release Season available in this stretch of stream to River Rd (Waupa ca Co) - 1 daily bag limit with 18” minimum length limit. Artificial Lures Only Access Information: Numerous access points and public parking areas available for trout anglers, especially throughout the Richard Hemp Fishery Area and along stream-crossings from public roads. Additionally, there is a boat launch where trout anglers can access the Amherst Millpond portion of the Tomorrow River. Tomorrow-Waupaca River contains some of most prominent trout water in Central Wis consis. Highly popular amongst angler trout anglers in the region and owes much of its popularity to natural produc tivity. Populations of brook and brown trout in the Tomorrow-Waupaca River are entirely self-sustained through nat ural reproduction. Brook trout occur primarily above the Mil Dam. Amherst Island Brook trout are located downstream below the Dam. The temperature regime changes and tends to primarily permanently naturally reproducing brown trout that are supplemented with some stocking. Supplemental brown trout stocking in the lower reaches of the Tomorrow-Waupaca can enhance this population, but the stocking commitment is minimal, especially with populations in close proximi ty to the Amherst Milldam. Further downstream, stocked brown trout may contribute to these populations but success is variable. Regardless of stocking, these trout populations are

RICHLAND COUNTY

Mill Creek - 14.3 miles. The mainstem of Mill Creek is classified as class 2 trout water with class 1 tributaries, which support a naturally reproducing popula tion of Brown Trout. Stream surveys conducted at four locations west of Wisconsin State Highway 14 along CTH E indicated a total catch of 285 adult trout (18 inch es), estimating the relative abundance at 777 adult Brown Trout per mile. Average length among the four sites was 9.6 inches with a maximum of 17.5 inches. Mill Creek hosts a plethora of public access with over 5 miles of easements. Current Regulations: US Fish and Wildlife 14 upstream to Quarry Hill Road. All trout caught shall be immediately released. Adult Brown Trout and Brook Trout. Current regulations: 3 trout in total over 8”. Access information: Numerous access points and public parking areas available for trout anglers, especially throughout the Richard Hemp Fishery Area and along stream-crossings from public roads. Additionally, there is a boat launch where trout anglers can access the Amherst Millpond portion of the Tomorrow River. Tomorrow-Waupaca River contains some of most prominent trout water in Central Wisconsin. Populations of brook trout are supported by natural productivity in the region and owes much of its popularity to natural productivity. Mill Creek is home to the “Manatee-sized” brownies. Much of the success of the trout fishery has to do with natural environmental conditions of the river, the connectivity of the river, and the habitat enhancement/fisheries work performed on the river. Numerous restoration and improvement projects conducted by the DNR and Trout Unlimited resulted in positive benefits to local trout populations and improve angler opportunities. The habitat improvements have certainly improved the trout population. Unfortunately, some of these habitat enhancements were more favorable to brook trout which eventually dominated brook trout. Our current management strategies aim to improve trout habitat to benefit both species of trout while also maintaining popular angling opportunities.

SHAWANO COUNTY

West Branch Red River - 29.6 miles of Class I and Class II trout water. Trout population information: In 2019, the DNR completed electrofishing sur veys at nine locations along the West Branch Red River. Catch per unit effort (CPUE, as the number of trout per mile of electrofishing) at these nine sites averaged 9.7 (range = 3.1 – 16.4) brook trout per mile of stream. Densi ties were highest in the middle and up per sections, near Spruce Road, River Road, and CTH D. Brook trout between 1.9 – 12.6 inches were captured with the electrofishing effort. Brook trout anglers will have plenty of opportunities in future years. Brook trout in this river as CPUE of brook trout 28 inches averaged 92.4 (range = 5 – 388) per mile of electrofishing at these nine sites, brook trout 23 inches were captured at 8 sites, and brook trout 22 inches were captured at 3 sites. Current regulations: Green stream with a daily bag limit of 5 trout in total and no minimum length. Access information: Anglers can access the West Branch Red River from several points along the river. Also, the West Branch Red River flows through 40 acres of DNR owned land on the south side of Boehm Road that is accessible via a ¼ mile long access lane off Boehm Road. The West Branch Red River has excellent water quality and abundant spawning gravel for brook trout. As such, the brook trout populations in this reach have been sustained solely through natural reproduction and no trout have been stocked in this river since 1975.

VERNON COUNTY

West Fork Kickapoo River and tributaries West Fork Kickapoo River, Knapp Creek, Sea Branch, Maple Dale, Har risburg, and Unnamed Tributaries Species population information: The West Fork Kickapoo River and its
**VERNON, LA CROSSE and - MONROE COUNTIES**

Coon Creek and tributaries. Coon Creek, Bohemian Valley Creek, Deerskin River, Rulland’s Coulee, Spruce Creek, Coulee Creek, Spruce Creek, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Success in Seas Branch. In early 2019 in hopes of replicating the success in Seas Branch. Removal efforts will continue in 2020 to further reduce brown trout in the West Fork, in early 2019 in hopes of replicating the success in Seas Branch. Removal efforts will continue in 2020 to further reduce brown trout abundance and provide a competitive advantage for native brook trout.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

South Branch Little Wolf River upstream from Iola Millpond (locally known as Mack Creek) -3.9 miles of Class I trout water upstream from Iola Millpond Brown trout population information: In 2019, the DNR completed electrofishing surveys at two locations along the South Branch Little Wolf River upstream from Iola Millpond. Catch per unit effort (CUE) as the number of brown trout per mile of electrofishing at these two sites averaged 762 (range = 241 – 1,285) brown trout per mile of stream. Brown trout densities were significantly higher in the upper reaches near Paulson Road. Brown trout between 1.6 – 20.3 inches were captured with the average size being 7.5 inches. Anglers will have plenty of opportunities to catch harvestable size brown trout in this river system. Brown trout ≥12 inches averaged 2603 (range = 139 – 362) per mile of electrofishing across the two sites, with 2603 inches were captured both sites, and seven brown trout ≥12 inches were captured at the Madison Rd site, including seven ≥20-Inches. Current regulation: Yellow trout with a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total and a minimum length of 8 inches. Access information: Anglers have exceptional access to the South Branch Little Wolf River upstream from Iola Millpond via five road crossings as well nearly half of the stream corridor in stream bank easements. Significant trout habitat improvements were completed throughout the stream bank easements in 2015, including restoring four stream bank habitat, stabilizing eroding banks, and installing rack vortex weirs, wing dams, plunge pools, and additional overhanging bank covers. The South Branch Little Wolf River also supports a brook trout population, although densities of brown trout were found to be much lower than brown trout densities in 2019 surveys. The Final fishing report for 2020 is available on Wisconsin Fishing Report – 2020. The Final fishing report for 2020 is available on Wisconsin Fishing Report – 2020. The Final fishing report for 2020 is available on Wisconsin Fishing Report – 2020. The Final fishing report for 2020 is available on Wisconsin Fishing Report – 2020.
Fisheries technician, Logan Hacker, shows off a male brook trout by the spot on the tail, during a 2019 fisheries survey of Halfmoon Lake in Eau Claire.

fight and can be caught with lures that mimic bait fish. Brook trout are common in some areas of the state, but in the Eau Claire area, trout fishing opportunities are scarce. The potential to catch bowfin up to 30". There are two boat launches in the area, but only one may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brown trout. East of Bark Point: bag limit of 2; West of Bark Point: 35 and 40-inch Lake Trout. The average length of harvested Lake Trout in the 2019 open-water season was 22.1 inches, but 35 and 40-inch Lake Trout are often caught and released in Lake Superior. July and August are the most popular months to troll for Lake Trout. During the early spring and fall months, trolling and casting for Coho, Salmon and Brown Trout in Lake Superior is also very popular. 2019 was a banner year for Coho harvest in Lake Superior, however, this population has historically been dependent on natural reproduction and is generally cyclic in nature. Sardine Brown Trout have been consistently used in the DNR since 2010, and creel reports have shown anglers continuing to catch more (and bigger) Brown Trout every year.

Lake Superior - Lake Trout continues to be the primary target species in the Apostle Islands and the Bad River. Current regulations: Lake Trout season is open from April 1 through September 30. 10 inch minimum length, but only 1 over 25 inches. East of Bark Point: bag limit of 2; West of Bark Point: bag limit of 3. Trout (Rainbow, Brown, Brook, Splake) = 5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brown trout. Rainbow Trout must be greater than 26 inches; Brook Trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other trout must be greater than 15 inches. Limit of 30 total fish. Annual size survey ran in 2015 and 2018, with over 198,000 fish. Recent recruitment surveys suggest we can expect a good supply of fish entering the adult population since the survey began in 2006. Current regulation: The bag limit for lake whitefish is 10 fish with no length. Access in freshwater salmon (Coho, Pink, Atlantic) = 5 in total with no minimum length limit and no closed season. Access at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open March 28 through November 15; Minimum length: 26 inches; Daily bag: 1 trout and salmon combined. The average length of harvested Lake Trout in the 2019 open-water season was 22.1 inches, but 35 and 40-inch Lake Trout are often caught and released in Lake Superior. July and August are the most popular months to troll for Lake Trout. During the early spring and fall months, trolling and casting for Coho, Salmon and Brown Trout in Lake Superior is also very popular. 2019 was a banner year for Coho harvest in Lake Superior, however, this population has historically been dependent on natural reproduction and is generally cyclic in nature. Sardine Brown Trout have been consistently used in the DNR since 2010, and creel reports have shown anglers continuing to catch more (and bigger) Brown Trout every year.
Fisheries biologist Laura Schmidt with a wild lake trout caught during a Wisconsin DNR spawning survey on Lake Michigan.

ages). At salmon spawning facilities during autumn 2019, several Chinook over 30 pounds were processed. The opportunity in 2020 to catch a large and possibly trophy size Chinook salmon is a very good possibility. So make sure to plan at least a couple of fishing trips on Lake Michigan this year and get in on the outstanding action for Chinook salmon. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html). Nick Legler – fisheries biologist in Sturgeon Bay.

COHO SALMON:
The coho fishing season typically starts off in the warmer southern waters of Lake Michigan and then progresses northward all the way to Sheboygan and into Lake Michigan and then progresses northward all the way to Sheboygan. Coho fishing was above average in 2018 when anglers harvested 85,411 (10-year average harvest of 76,937). In 2019, coho were quality size with reports of several large fish. Weather patterns caused coho to be in deeper water than normal during their migration North in 2019. Coho salmon are spawned at both the Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) in Racine and the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility (BAFF) in Kewaunee. In 2019, approximately 1,200 coho were captured at the RRSF and 402 were captured at BAFF. Between the 2 facilities, over 1.6 million eggs were taken to help achieve the 2020 and 2021 goals of stocking 500,000 coho each year in Wisconsin waters. Anglers can look forward to improved coho numbers for 2021 and results from the increased stocking. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit.

LAKE TROUT:
Lake Michigan provides fantastic fishing opportunities for salmon and trout, including lake trout, supported by stocking and natural reproduction. A total of 26,747 lake trout were harvested in 2019 lake-wide, which was almost 20% over the ten-year average harvest. Anglers from Kenosha to Sheboygan reported high catches of lake trout, accounting for 92% of the total lake trout harvest for Wisconsin in Lake Michigan for 2018. The average size of lake trout females harvested was 27.2 inches and 8.5 pounds. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Minimum length is 10 inches. The Mid-Lake Reef Complex is a refuge for lake trout. No lake trout may be targeted or possessed within the boundaries of the Mid-Lake Reef Complex. For the past two fall seasons, anglers have had success catching lake trout in the Milwaukee and Sheboygan Rivers. In 2018, lake trout that were intended to be stocked on offshore spawning reefs were stocked near shore due to high wind conditions on the lake. These fish were marked with a fin-clip, which has allowed biologists to determine that anglers catching lake trout in the river in 2018 are catching 2018 yearlings stocked in 2018 and 2019. Chinook salmon were pre- viously clipped and tagged from 2011-2016. Chinooks continue to be clipped lake-wide, but not tagged. Lake trout clipping and tagging has been ongoing lake-wide since 2011. Wisconsin creel data from 2019 is being compiled, but from 2018 the average length of an angler caught steelhead was 25.6 inches, the average weight was 6.5 pounds, and over 57,000 rainbow trout were harvested. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html). Nick Legler – fisheries biologist in Sturgeon Bay.

Steelhead measured by fisheries biologist Nick Legler at the C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility in Kewaunee. Eggs are collected from steelhead each spring and transferred to the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery to produce steelhead for stocking into Lake Michigan tributaries.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2020
Getting Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing
Community/urban fishing program provides access to fishing fun!

KENOSHA, MILWAUKEE, OUTAGAMIE, OZAUKEE, RACINE, ROCK, SHEBOYGAN, WALWORTH, WASHINGTON and WAUKESHA COUNTIES

Urban Fishing Waters Include the following:
- Kenosha County: Anderson Park, Bone Children’s Pond, Milwaukee County: Brown Deer Park, Dineen Park, Estabrook Park, Franklin High School, Greenfield Park, Holler Park, Humboldt Park, Jackson Park, Juneau Park, Kosciuszko Park, McCarthy Park, McGovern Park, Miller Park, Mitchell Park, Oak Creek Parkway, Saveland Park, Schroep Park, Sundon Lake, Sheridan Park, Washington Park, Wilson Park, Outagamie County: Appleton Memorial Pond, Ozaukee County: Harrington Beach Quarry, Mequon Rotary Park East and West, Packets Pond, Schoeller Park, Willow Brooke Park; Racine County: Gornsey Park, Johnson Park, Lockwood Park, Picket Park, Quarry Lake, Reserve Park; Rock County: Lions Park Pond Sheboygan County; Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond, Sheboygan Quarry, Memorial Park, River Park Lagoon; Walworth County: Ceylon Lagoon, Congdon Park Millpond Pond Park, Washington County: Boot Lake, Hartford Millpond, Homestead Hollow Park, Kowaskum Millpond, Regner Pond Sandy Knoll Park, Wells Lake, Wiedenbach Park Pond; Waukesha County: Calhoun Park, Delafield Rearing Pond, Foxbrook Pond, Heyer Park North and South, Lapham Peak Pond, Lepper Dam Millpond, Lions Park-Overland, Memonee Park, Minoqua Park, Muskego Park, Nixon Park, Regel Park, and Woodfield North and South; County: Waukesha Lake sizes vary; Urban County: Woodfield North lakes and ponds under 25 acres. Species populations information: Average Length – 8 inches. Current regulation: Designated urban waters have a year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 14 thru April 24, 2020) for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers. They also have a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) gamefish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead). Access information: Shore fishing opportunities are found at all urban ponds. Stacking information is available seasonally on the Urban Waters Fishing Hotline at 414-263-8494 or toll free at 888-347-4563. Kids Clinics: Urban fishing waters are a great place to take kids fishing and many host free kids fishing clinics for both ice fishing and open water. For clinic information, visit the angler education page on the DNR website (https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/AnglerEducation/). - Laura Schmidt, fisheries biologist, Milwaukee

LANGLADE COUNTY

Remington Pond – City of Antigo – 5 acres. 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. The Antigo Chapter of Trout Unlimited periodically stocks 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.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Mirror Lake – City of Tomahawk – 4 acres. 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. 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.

SAWYER COUNTY

Thousands of people visit Hayward, Wisconsin each summer. Many are serious anglers, but some may be beginners or just curious about fishing. Shue’s Pond is in a small park located adjacent to downtown Hayward on 3rd and Kansas Street. There are picnic tables, a gazebos, and plenty of fishing access to the pond. Shue’s Pond is connected to Smith Lake Creek and Lake Hayward and it’s always full of panfish that are willing to bite. Shue’s is a great location for kids or families that want to try fishing in an easily accessible spot with good odds of catching some fish. There are several bait shops within a few blocks of the pond. Kids under 16 can fish for free, anyone 16 and older needs a license to fish.

WISCONSIN COUNTY

Regner Park Pond – 2 acres The pond is stocked annually with rainbow trout from the state hatchery system. The City of West Bend also regularly stocks other species. Current regulation: Year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 9 thru April 26, 2019) for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers. There is also a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) gamefish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead). Access information: (best access point(s), shore-fishing opportunities, etc.) Regner Park, 800 N Main Street, West Bend, WI 53090. Regner Pond was recently dredged and fish habitat was added to improve the angling experience. Other park amenities include picnic areas, sports facilities and play areas, plus a summer swimming pond and winter ice rink.

To make sure you get the most of your fishing experience, we’ve got it for you, including some tips for beginners and some advanced techniques. Wisconsin Natural Resources Department also provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have employment-related questions, please write to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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Basic Tackle Box Checklist

- Line
- Hooks
- Bait
- Net
- Weights
- Bobbers
- Stringers
- Fish Basket
- Tackle Box
- Fishing License
- Small Flashlight
- Camera
- Fishing Regulations
- Showers

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