R3 and the future of Wisconsin fishing

An new initiative aims to create new participants or increase participation rates of current or lapsed anglers.

Under Wisconsin’s new R3 program, Department of Natural Resources staff hope to recruit new anglers, retain them once they’re active and reactive those who step away from fishing for a while.

Wisconsin fishing license holders are an important component in making our fisheries great and we want to hear from you. To find links to fishing licenses, where to fish and more at:

fishingwisconsin.org

Many critical vacancies around the state are currently filled by retired fisheries biologists and 55 fisheries management technicians. These new hires along with our seasoned employees are going to have another busy year in 2019. Some may consider 2018 to be the “year of the plan.” For the first time in DNR history, the fisheries program will be developing a statewide trout management plan. Efforts will begin in January and continue throughout the year with many opportunities for input from you the angler. We will also be updating the 30-plus-year-old Lake Superior management plan as well as revising the decade-old sturgeon management plan. There will be ample opportunity for stakeholder input as these plans are developed. It is our job to manage these amazing fishery resources but you as a stakeholder are an important component in making our fisheries great and we want to hear from you. To find out more about how to be involved in any of the planning efforts in 2018 visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing.

I am excited to report that 2017 was another very productive year for the fisheries program in Wisconsin. We produced over 7 million fish for stocking our waters and were also able to fill many critical vacancies around the state including 10 fisheries biologists and 35 fisheries management technicians. These new hires along with our seasoned employees are going to have another busy year in 2019.

What can you do to be an R3 advocate? Take someone fishing for the first time. If you haven’t bought a fishing license in recent years, now is the perfect time to do so. And if you already plan on being on the water, buy an extra lure or two—don’t worry, the money spent is being put back into the sport.

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

Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/WDNR)
Watch us on YouTube (youtube.com/ WISDNR)

SIGN UP for Fisheries Updates. Go to fishingwisconsin.org to sign up and stay informed on fisheries issues.

Follow “fishwisconsin” on Twitter. Subscribe at fishingwisconsin.org
The fish are here, there, everywhere!

Where are you going to be in 2018?

The fish are here, there, everywhere! The fishery in Menominee River and Green Bay quality and is one of few lakes in Bar- nage, WI. The water level can fluctu- ate by as much as 12 feet over several years. Silver Lake has excellent water quality and is one of few lakes in Bar- nage County that has walleye natural reproduction.

BARRON COUNTY

Silver Lake - 331 acres. In a 2017 fis- heries survey, the density of adult (≥15 in) walleye was estimated to be 2.2 fish/acre, which is an increase from the most recent survey in 2009 when it was 1.9 fish/acre. Of the 320 adult walleye handled in the survey, 65% were between 15 to 20 inches in length. Current regulation: The Silver Lake walleye fishery is managed with a 15- inch minimum length limit. Walleye 20-24 inches may not be harvested, and only walleye longer than 24 inches may be harvested, 3 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There is one public boat landing at Grant County Park on the south end of Silver Lake off CTH R. Grant County Park is located by the Wisconsin County and includes a restroom, picnic shelter, volleyball net, and a swimming beach. Silver Lake is a deep, clear lake, and the water level can fluctu- ate by as much as 12 feet over several years. Silver Lake has excellent water quality and is one of few lakes in Bar- nage County that has walleye natural reproduction.

BROWN, OCONTO AND MARINETTE COUNTIES

Fox River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay Since 2012, Wisconsin DNR has assessed the magnitude of walleye spawning migra- tion throughout the Fox River located in south- ern Green Bay and into the Oconto, Peshtigo and Menominee Rivers. Current regulation of walleye roaming the lakes. Current Regulation: The Silver Lake walleye fishery is managed with a 15-inch minimum length limit. Walleye 20-24 inches may not be harvested, and only walleye longer than 24 inches may be harvested, 3 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There is one public boat landing at Grant County Park on the south end of Silver Lake off CTH R. Grant County Park is located by the Wisconsin County and includes a restroom, picnic shelter, volleyball net, and a swimming beach. Silver Lake is a deep, clear lake, and the water level can fluctuate by as much as 12 feet over several years. Silver Lake has excellent water quality and is one of few lakes in Bar- nage County that has walleye natural reproduction.

CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE AND TREMPREA- LEAU COUNTIES

Buckhorn Lake (24 acres) and Emerald Lake (26 acres) were sampled in 2017. The upper Black River Falls dam) is located upstream from the Clam River mouth, lower Green Bay (south of a large lake), and in the lower Fox River (DeVerre Dam to mouth), lower Green Bay (south of a large lake). The Clam River tributaries are based on spring surveys in 2017. It is likely that this will continue to provide respectable fishing oppor- tunities for boat and shoreline anglers throughout the system. Annual sur- veys conducted by DNR staff and local volunteers continue to reveal a healthy self-sustaining walleye population. There were 4,962 male walleye and 1,079 female walleye tagged during the 2017 spring electrofishing assessment. The strong 2008, 2011, and 2013 year classes continue to dominate the adult walleye population. Nearly 100% of male walleyes mature at age 3, but the majority of female walleye (≥2%) will make their first spawning run at age 5. Therefore, anglers should see more fish from the 2013 year class moving through the system in 2018. Anglers can also expect to see young num- bers of fish from the strong 2016 year class, which will provide a good boost to the adult walleye population and provide future fishing opportunities. Lastly, the annual Lake Winnebago trawling assessment revealed a strong year class of young of year trout perch (456.3 YOY/trawl) and a weak year class of gizzard shad (1.3 YOY/trawl). Although trout perch will provide good forage opportunities, walleye ang- ers on the system know that gizzard shad can often drive walleye fishing success on the system. Therefore, an- glers should have a better chance at con- vincing some walleyes to bite the hook in 2018. Current Regulations: The Sys- tem is open year round for walleye and sauger. There is a combined daily bag limit of 5 fish, of which only 1 may be a sauger. There is no minimum length limit for either species. Access Informa- tion: There are numerous access points around the Winnebago system. Con- sult a map of the system to see what ac- cess is near where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information (http://dnr.wi.gov/ topic/Lands/BoatAccess). DNR fisheries staff has tagged walleye annually on the Winnebago System since 1993. In that time span, 149,771 walleyes have been tagged on the system. The wal- leyte tagging program relies on anglers to report any tagged fish they catch by mailing them to the Oshkosh DNR of- fice (623 East County Road, Oshkosh WI 54903) or emailing them to dnrwin- nebogosystemtagreturns@wisconsin.gov. Anglers are encouraged to check their walleye catch for tags and report them properly. Anglers that return tags can expect a mailed certificate that provides information about the tagged fish they caught. - Adam Nickel, fisheries biologist, Oshkosh

BURNETT COUNTY

Upper Clam Lake (1,338 acres) and Lower Clam Lake (366 acres), 2017 survey data found Clam Lake walleye ranged from 11.5 to 28.2 inches. Fifty-eight percent of the adult walleye sampled were between 15 - 20 inches. The two lakes are shallow and feature good cover, so it can be dif- ficult to find fish. Many anglers who are success trolling to find wall- eye roaming the lakes. Current Regula- tion: 15” - 20” may be kept, except one fish per day. The Clam Lakes are based on 2017 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish caught per net lift) and for the Black River, catch rates are

CALUMET, FOND DU LAC, GREEN LAKE, OUTAGAMIE, SHA- WANO, WAUSAU, WAUPACA AND WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Prayg) along with all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. 165,246 acres for the lakes and roughly 142 river miles The Winneba- go System walleye fishery continues to provide respectable fishing oppor- tunities for boat and shoreline anglers throughout the system. Annual sur- veys conducted by DNR staff and local volunteers continue to reveal a healthy self-sustaining walleye population. There were 4,962 male walleye and 1,079 female walleye tagged during the 2017 spring electrofishing assessment. The strong 2008, 2011, and 2013 year classes continue to dominate the adult walleye population. Nearly 100% of male walleyes mature at age 3, but the majority of female walleye (≥2%) will make their first spawning run at age 5. Therefore, anglers should see more fish from the 2013 year class moving through the system in 2018. Anglers can also expect to see good num- bers of fish from the strong 2016 year class, which will provide a good boost to the adult walleye population and provide future fishing opportunities. Lastly, the annual Lake Winnebago trawling assessment revealed a strong year class of young of year trout perch (456.3 YOY/trawl) and a weak year class of gizzard shad (1.3 YOY/trawl). Although trout perch will provide

The other landing is on the SW side at the end of Cumberland Point Rd. The launch for Lower Clam Lake is on the N side of Hwy 70. Walleye present in Clam Lake today likely originate from wild walleye populations in the Clam River upstream. These immigrants have taken advantage of the dramatic changes to vegetation and turbidity caused by common carp in the lake.

Lake Lorencen holding his first walleye caught on an Oshkosh County Lake. Photo: Tom Lorenzen

Buckhorn Lake: Total catch rate was 1.2/net lift, catch rate of 15”+ fish was
VERNON COUNTIES

The lake level was 9.5 feet in 2009. Total catch rate was 0.5/net lift, catch rate of 15+ fish was 0.25/net lift, and maximum size captured was 19”.

In 2016, total catch rate was 15/mile and maximum size captured was 18”.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Blackhawk Lake - 212 acres. Walleye are abundant in Blackhawk Lake and the population is estimated at 10 Walleyes per acre. During spring netting surveys 594 Walleye were sampled ranging from 8.3 to 26.8 inches with an average of 18.4 inches. In fact, 96% of the Walleye sampled were of harvestable size.

Blackhawk Lake is located within the Blackhawk Lake Recreational Area. Camping, fishing, hunting, biking, and picnicking are permitted within the recreational area and a public beach and picnic area are available. Public restrooms, hiking, and pontoon rentals are also available. For further information, contact the Badger Sportsman Club, 9071 State Highway 61, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 715/609-5637.}

IOWA COUNTY

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DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 10,000 acres and 27 miles of open water. During summer 2009, the lake level was 6 feet in 2009. Total catch rate was 0.5/net lift, catch rate of 15+ fish was 0.25/net lift, and maximum size captured was 19”.

Black River, lower: Total catch rate was 9/net mile, catch rate of 15+ fish was 4.3/net mile and maximum size captured was 18”.

Black River, upper: Total catch rate was 7.7/mile, catch rate of 15+ fish was 2/2 mile and maximum size captured was 25”.

In 2016, total catch rate was 15/mile and maximum size captured was 18”.

In 2017, the adult population estimate was 10 Walleyes per acre. During spring netting surveys 594 Walleye were sampled ranging from 8.3 to 26.8 inches with an average of 18.4 inches. In fact, 96% of the Walleye sampled were of harvestable size.

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JOHNSON COUNTY

Lake Koshkonong/Rock River - 10,000 lake acres and 27 miles of open water. During summer 2009, the lake level was 6 feet in 2009. Total catch rate was 0.5/net lift, catch rate of 15+ fish was 0.25/net lift and maximum size captured was 19”.

In 2016, total catch rate was 18/mile and maximum size captured was 22”.

In 2017, the adult population estimate was 10 Walleyes per acre. During spring netting surveys 594 Walleye were sampled ranging from 8.3 to 26.8 inches with an average of 18.4 inches. In fact, 96% of the Walleye sampled were of harvestable size.

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DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres. Walleye lengths ranged from 18 to 27 inches with a mean length of 21.9 inches (2010). Adult walleye averaged 15 inches, 5 inches of which was taken above a 16 inch fish screen. The average length of fish in excess of 24 inches is 19 inches. Maximum size length was 25 inches. Regulation: Minimum length limit is 15 inches. Daily bag limit is 5 fish. No more than 1 fish per day may be over 24 inches. The season is open year-round on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong from November 1 through March 31. Minimum length limit is 15 fish daily bag limit on walleye. Access is available at Barker's Island Landing, Groeller Road, Klement Park, and Fish Hatchery Dam. Through the assistance of local coop- erative groups, the DNR's Bark River, Blackhawk, and Rock River Hatchery stocked 3.5 million walleye fingerlings in 2017.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lake Koshkonong/Rock River - 10,000 lake acres and 27 miles of open water. During summer 2009, the lake level was 6 feet in 2009. Total catch rate was 0.5/net lift, catch rate of 15+ fish was 0.25/net lift and maximum size captured was 19”.

In 2016, total catch rate was 18/mile and maximum size captured was 22”.

In 2017, the adult population estimate was 10 Walleyes per acre. During spring netting surveys 594 Walleye were sampled ranging from 8.3 to 26.8 inches with an average of 18.4 inches. In fact, 96% of the Walleye sampled were of harvestable size.

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be a consistent reproductor of walleyes; The bulk of the adult population is in the 15-20" range; 15" minimum length limit, 20-24" protected slot, 5 daily limit but only 1 over 24". Good boat ramps with parking at the dam and on CTH N. Shore fishing opportunities at the numerous bridge crossings and along county highways Y, L and N. – Dave Sea- tol, fisheries biologist, Antigo

**MARATHON COUNTY**

Big Eau Pleine Flowage - 6,348 acres, max. depth 46 feet. A total of 5,617 walleyes were captured during a 2017 comprehensive spring survey. Mark-recapture data estimates the walleye population around 24,769 fish (3.5 acres) fish ranged in size from 6.5 to 30.0 inches. Thirty-four percent of the adult walleye sampled were larger than 15 inches; an increase from the 2003 survey which found twenty percent larger than 15 inches. Average lengths for males and females were 14.7 and 22.4 inches. Current Regulation: 15" - 20" may be kept, except one fish may be over 24"; daily bag limit of 3 fish. Access: There are twelve boat launches spread across county highways Y, L and N. Additional sites on a first-come first-serve basis.

**WHITE POTATO LAKE**

The White Potato Lake Sportsman’s Club. Anglers have good success in May and early June before the water warms and aquatic vegetation makes trolling difficult. The ice fishing jamboree in January draws a very large crowd. – Dave Sea- tol, fisheries biologist, Antigo

**Price County**

Big Dardis Lake - Located near the town of Phillips, 144-acre Big Dardis has a low-density walleye population maintained by stocking of large fingerlings every other year. Immediately after ice out in 2017, the Park Falls fisheries team captured 55 walleyes and estimated the adult population to be about 0.4 adults per acre. By using fyke nets, 15.0% were larger than 10 inches per net-night with 96% greater than 15 inches and 42% at least 25 inches long. The largest walleye measured in the spring survey was 29.2 inches. Low walleye density allows for plenty of forage and walleyes are growing fast enough to reach trophy size. Angling harvest is managed under a daily bag limit of 3 walleyes, a 15-inch minimum length limit, a protected slot from 20 to 24 inches, and only 1 walleye over 24 inches allowed. There is a public boat launch located on Dardis Lake off Lake Lane. – Tom LaNeau, fisheries technician, Park Falls

**Racine County**

Tichigan Lake/Fox River - 280 lake acres and 7 river miles. Recent surveys have shown the positive results of ongoing DNR and private stocking efforts, with a 12.7" average length and maximum of 25.7". Catch rates during recent monitoring surveys indicate a strong population of walleye utilizing Tichigan Lake and the connected reaches of the Fox River. Multiple boat launches on the river and a small carry-in access to the lake make Tichigan an attractive destination for walleye and many other species. Current regulation: 15" minimum length limit, 5 daily bag. NOTE: As with many other waters in Southwestern Wisconsin, Tichigan Lake and the Fox River will be switching to an 18" minimum and 3 daily bag for walleye, beginning in the 2018 gamefish season. Access Information: A public boat launch at the Highway Road on the Fox River and two launches in the Village of Waterford provide boating access to the river and Tichigan Lake. A small carry-in access on the lake near Fir Lane provides access for non-motorized users and ice anglers.

**Sawyer County**

Walleye fishing in Wisconsin doesn't get any more beautiful than the scenery provided on the Chippewa Flowage (15,000 acres) in Sawyer County. With over 90% of the shoreline left wild and undeveloped, anglers on the Chippewa will feel like they are much farther north. And the walleye fishing is only going to improve from now on. Huge numbers of stocked walleye (over 200,000 extended growth walleye stocked since 2012), coupled with natural reproduction in recent years, have rebuilt this historic walleye population. Walleye in the Chippewa Flowage are managed with a slot limit, allowing harvest of fish between 15-20". Current about, 1 out of about 4 fish are in the harvest slot, depending somewhat on specific location in the flowage. There are many walleye over 20 inches as well. For those that want to fish with every waking hour of daylight, the Chippewa Flowage offers many fish from lake to stream on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Waushauken County**

LaCrosse - 1134 surface acres. Average Length – 16 inches. Population estimate – 3.5 adults per acre. Current regulation: 28 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: 发 indicate fishing opportunities on the Oconomowoc River inns access to the river and public beach area on Wisconsin Avenue. Anglers can expect a low-density walleye population (0.5 fish per acre). A healthy adult walleye population continues to support natural reproduction of walleye in LaCrosse, as revealed by continued fall electrofishing surveys. Walleyes on LaCrosse provide excellent angler opportunities for those looking to catch and release good numbers of fish. – Benjaime Muhlestein, fisheries biologist, Eagle

**Wood County**

Nepco Lake - A fyke-net survey was conducted in the spring of 2017 to target northern pike, walleye and muske- lunge. Anglers can expect a low-density walleye population (0.5 fish per acre). In the survey, 95 walleyes were caught ranging in length from 12.1" to 27.8" with an average length of 21.0". 99% of the walleye caught were quality size (15") or larger. 63% of walleye caught were preferred size (20") or larger and 5% were memorable size (25") or larger. Current regulation: 18" minimum length limit with a 24" protected slot. If A public boat launch and shore fishing options are available at the Wood County Park off CTH Z. During the spring, walleyes may run up Fourmile Creek to the Lake Wisconsin Dam. Nepco Lake historically has been stocked with walleye and is a part of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative, stocking occurs on even years.

**Oconto County**

White Potato Lake - 978 acres. During the last survey, 1,055 walleyes were col- lected. Walleyes ranged in length from 7.9 to 24.5 inches and averaged 15.9 inches. Walleyes were reaching legal size (15") by age 4. Compared to other area lakes, walleye growth and abundance was good. Current Regulation: 15-inch minimum length / 5 fish per day Access information: Anglers can choose from 6 boat landings to access White Potato Lake. Of interest: The average depth of White Potato Lake is less than 5 feet. The walleye fishery has been primarily maintained through stocking by the White Potato Lake Sportsman’s Club. Anglers have good success in May and early June before the water warms and aquatic vegetation makes trolling difficult. The ice fishing jamboree in January draws a very large crowd. – Scott Toshner, fisheries biologist, Brule

**Brown, Door, Oconto and Marinette Counties**

Green Bay, Green Bay tributaries and bays and the Fox River – Species population information is collected through annual spring surveys to determine the status of the Green Bay Muskellunge population have been conducted for many years. Huge numbers of stocked walleye and fall electroshocking for many years. Musky nets set in the Fox River this past May were filled with many large Musky. Female Musky averaged 41" and 36.3 pounds, and male Musky averaged 56.1" and weighed 47.5 pounds. The largest male was 47.5" and weighed 29.3 pounds. Anglers have reported catching legal size Musky greater than 54" from the waters of Green Bay. Current regulation: the regulation for musky on the Fox River, Green Bay tributaries and the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay is one fish with a 54 inch minimum length limit. Access information: The most musky anglers launch their boat from the Fox Point Landing or the Metro Ramp on the Fox River, the Su- mario Boat Launch on the Suamico River, Carmedy Ramp on Little Sturgeon Bay, or the Menominee River Ramp. During 2017, DNR stocked 3,234 brookies and 5,424 yearling Great Lakes strain Musky into Green Bay and Goos Bay. Since stocking resumed in 2010, DNR has stocked 32,252 fishing and in the past three years 15,995 yearling Great Lakes Musky into Green Bay making the future of Musky fishing on the bay bright. To accomplish our stocking targets, DNR collects eggs and milt from Musky caught on the Fox River and from the Besadny Anadromous Facility that are stored are cryopreserved and used for the result of a cooperative project between Wisconsin and Michigan DNR.

Michigan spawning musky from Lake St Clair and the Detroit River and transferred the small fingerlings to Wild Rose Hatchery after disease testing was complete. Those fish are then raised at Wild Rose for nearly another year until they are stocked in early October as yearlings that are nearly 14". Survival of this size musky is very high which should be noticed by anglers in 5 to 7 years. – Steve Hoger, fisheries biologist, Green Bay.

CALUMET, FOND DU LAC, GREEN LAKE, OUTAGAMIE, SHA-WANO, WAUSAU, WAUPACA AND WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan) along with all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. 165,246 acres for the lakes and townships within the Winnebago System during the years 2002-2007. During this period, 22,397 large fingerlings; 40 yearlings; and 6 adults. As a result, the system currently supports a low density musky population, with the largest musky fisheries maintained through stocking efforts. The DNR's 2017 spring Lake Neshonoc fyke net survey. Photo: Chris Scheier.

CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE AND TREVEMPALCE COUNTIES

Upper Black River (above the Black Falls Dam), Clark and Jackson counties, and lower Black River (below the Black Falls Dam), Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau counties.

CATCH rates are based on 2017 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed). Black River, upper: Total catch rate was 7.5/mile, catch rate of 40+” fish was 0.4/mile and maximum size captured was 43”. In 2016, total catch rate was 5/mile, no 40+” fish were captured and maximum size was 39”. Black River, lower: Total catch rate was 1.4/mile, catch rate of 40+” fish was 0.3/mile and maximum size captured was 49”. In 2016, total catch rate was 2.3/mile, catch rate of 40+” size fish was 0.2/mile and maximum size captured was 48”. Current Regulation: 40-inch minimum length limit / 1 fish daily bag limit - Dan Hatfield, fisheries biologist, Black River Falls

DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres Approximately 25% of the muskellunge captured and released in 2017 by fyke net survey; average length of 31.6 inches, with a range of 14.4 inches to 52.8 inches. Seven individuals (2%) exceeded the 50-inch minimum length limit. Muskellunge were well distributed throughout the upper and lower river segments. Current regulation: Open May 26 through November 30; 50-inch minimum length with a daily limit of one fish. Access information: Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier: Located in the City of Superior where Belknap Street joins the river. Features paved parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, and portable restrooms. Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/ for complete information. Oliver Landing: Located in the Village of Oliver, just south of Superior, at the end of East Detroit Street. Paved parking and portable restrooms. Barker’s Island Landing: Located in the City of Superior at the mouth of the Chippewa River. Features restsrooms and paved parking. Loon’s Foot Landing: Located in the City of Superior just west of the Nemadji River. Restrooms and paved parking. Muskellunge were stocked from western Lake Superior during the late 1800s or early 1900s due to overharvest and habitat and water quality degradation. The Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 paved the way for dramatic water quality improvements to the St. Louis River, particularly with construction of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in Duluth, Minnesota, which began operating in 1979. Improved water quality prompted Wisconsin and Minnesota DNRs to re-establish Muskellunge toward a self-sustaining population. Collaboratively managed as a trophy fishery, Wisconsin DNR stocked Wisconsin strain muskellunge from 1983 to 2004 (43,171 total of two sizes of fingerlings and 5/4 yearlings) and Minnesota DNR stocked two species (Shoepack and Locke Creek and 4,231 minnows). Minnesota DNR also stocked 7,532 tiger muskies from 1988 through 1990; these muskies have been tagged since the project began and 120 have been captured in recent surveys and likely exist only in low numbers, if at all. The Spirit Lake area is popular for muskellunge angling. Natural reproduction was found in recent surveys, and a study using hydroacoustic technology is currently ongoing through the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to determine seasonal movements and non-spawning habitat use throughout the river and Lake Superior. Members of the La Supp Superior Chapter of Muskie, Inc. endured rain, snow, and strong winds to assist State personnel in recent surveys. The Chapter also provides financial support, which came as a grant awarded to Minnesota DNR for equipment and supply purchases. – Scott Toothner, fisheries biologist, Brulé.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Lake Neshonoc - The DNR’s 2017 spring fyke netting assessment found moderate densities of muskies, with the largest musky fisheries maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The density (fish/acre) of muskie in higher in Calhurt Falls fishery, one in 45-inch range are present in both fisheries. Current Regulation: 50-inch minimum length / 1 fish per day. Access information: There are 5 boat landings on Calhuron Falls and 6 on High Falls. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Muskellunge were stocked in High Falls for the first time in 2017. The new 50-inch

LINCOLN COUNTY

Seven Island Lake - 132 acres of naturally re-increasing muskellunge water. Annual fall electrofishing surveys to keep tabs on walleye reproduction show consistent muskellunge catch rates. The adult population is high density but fish tend to top out in the mid 40-inch range; 40-inch minimum length limit, 1 daily. Good boat landing with ample parking on the southeast side of the lake. The 45-inch fish we captured after ice-out weighed 26.5 pounds. – Dave Selft, fisheries biologist, Antigo.

MAREINETTE COUNTY

Caldoen Falls Reservoir (1,018 acres) and High Falls Reservoir (1,498 acres). The musky fisheries are maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The density (fish/acre) of muskie in higher in Calhuron Falls fishery, one in 45-inch range are present in both fisheries. Current Regulation: 50-inch minimum length / 1 fish per day. Access information: There are 5 boat landings on Calhuron Falls and 6 on High Falls. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Muskellunge were stocked in High Falls for the first time in 2017. The new 50-inch

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minimum length limit will go into effect in 2018.

**PRICE COUNTY**

**Musser Flowage** —363 acres. Spring fyke netting targeted muskies yielded 52 muskies with a mean length of 47 inches or longer. Stocking occurs every other year at a rate of 0.5 fingerlings per acre. This reservoir of the Eka River offers ample forage and has a history of producing large muskies. There are two public boat launches and one shore fishing pier located near the dam. Musser follows the statewide regulations with a daily bag limit of 1 muskie and a minimum length limit of 40 inches. Season opens the last Saturday in May and runs through November 30th. —Chad Leanna, fisheries technician, Park Staff

**SHAWANO COUNTY**

**Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes** —316 acres. In 2017, the DNR completed a spring netting survey of the Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes. A total of 34 individual muskies were captured during the netting survey. Eight of the 34 muskies were captured twice during the survey resulting in a total of 42 captures. Size structure of the 34 individual muskies captured ranged from 33.4 – 47.4 inches with a mean size of 39.7 inches. Although the Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes is a very small waterbody and is classified as a Class B musky fishery, it still supports a moderate density of muskies (i.e., 0.22 muskies per acre during the last population estimation in 2013-2014) and has the potential to grow some very large muskies. During the 2017 survey, 13 muskies over 40 inches were captured with the largest at nearly 47.5 inches. Current Regulation: Daily bag limit of 1 muskellunge with a minimum length of 40 inches. Access information: A public boat launch and shore fishing opportunities are available at the west side of Clipper Lake. There is also an improved gravel landing on Arbor Vitae Dr. on the south side of the lake with parking for several big. Arbor Vitae Lake also sports a nice largemouth bass fishery with several 15-pound bass having been recorded in DNR surveys. —Hadley Barons, fisheries biologist, Woodruff

There is ample prey in Nepco Lake for muskellunge. —Jon Bergman, fisheries biologist, Wisconsin Rapids

**VILAS COUNTY**

**Big Arbor Vitae** —1070 acres. A mark and recapture survey conducted in spring of 2017 estimated a density of 0.22 adult muskellunge per acre. During the survey, 31 fish 40+ inches were captured with the largest being a 47.1 inch female. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length limit, bag 1. There are two public landing docks with dock and paved parking - on the north side of the lake off Buckhorn Rd., the other off from Hwy 78 on the southeast side of the lake. There is also an improved gravel landing off Arbor Vitae Dr. on the south side of the lake with parking for several big. Arbor Vitae Lake also sports a nice largemouth bass fishery with several 15-pound bass having been recorded in DNR surveys. —Hadley Barons, fisheries biologist, Woodruff

**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

**Random Lake** —209 acres. During 2017 spring fyke netting surveys a total of 51 muskellunge were captured. The mark and recapture samples yielded an adult muskellunge population estimate of 0.64/acre. This density is considered to be average when compared to other surveys statewide. Lengths ranged from 26.5 to 44 inches with an average length of 34.5 inches. While trophy potential is limited, Random Lake offers excellent musky action. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length limit and 1 fish daily bag. Access information: There is a public boat launch and shorefishing opportunity at Lake View Park, Random Lake, WI.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

**Pewaukee Lake** —2437 surface acres. Average length – 34 inches, population estimate – 0.62 adults per acre. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: There are two boat launches found on Pewaukee Lake; the county park launch on the west side and Smokey’s Muskie Shop on the east side. Pewaukee Lake is home to the largest musky population in Wisconsin. Not only is the muskie in Pewaukee boast an average size of 34 inches, anglers annually catch a few over 50 inches. About 2437 acres, yellow perch, black crappie and bluegills make up an excellent forage base for this thriving musky population. —Benjamin Heuser, fisheries biologist, Eagle

**WOOD COUNTY**

**Nepco Lake** —496 acres. A fyke-net survey was conducted in the spring of 2017 to target northern pike and muskellunge. Anglers can expect a low-density muskellunge population. Ten muskellunge were caught during the survey ranging in length from 19.7” to 47.1” with an average length of 36.7”. The 47.1” fish was a female that weighed 27 lbs. The next largest fish were 40.9” and 45.1” males. Current regulation: 40” minimum length limit, bag 1. Release and Catch is promoted to get this fishery established. A public boat launch and shore fishing opportunities are available at the Wood County Park off CTH Z. The Consolidated Musky Club of Wisconsin Rapids has been working with the Department to stock muskellunge into Nepco Lake at a low stocking rate, every other year. Fish have been marked in some way with either a fin clip or inserted with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag.

The 2017 fall population – 496 acres. Spring fyke netting targeting muskies yielded 52 muskies with a mean length of 47 inches or longer. Stocking occurs every other year at a rate of 0.5 fingerlings per acre. This reservoir of the Eka River offers ample forage and has a history of producing large muskies. There are two public boat launches and one shore fishing pier located near the dam. Musser follows the statewide regulations with a daily bag limit of 1 muskie and a minimum length limit of 40 inches. Season opens the last Saturday in May and runs through November 30th. —Chad Leanna, fisheries technician, Park Staff

**Bayfield and Douglas Counties**

Bayfield County: Owen, Upper Eau Claire, Middle Eau Claire, Lower Eau Claire, Alkens, Jackson, Namekagon and Diamond Lakes. Douglas County: Bord, Upper St. Croix and Whitefish Lakes.

Largemouth bass populations are generally increasing across Douglas and Bayfield counties. Specific regulations have been implemented on the above waters to allow for a largemouth bass consumption opportunity for anglers. Along with the change to largemouth bass being open to harvest on the regulated gamefishing season opener, anglers have increased opportunities to harvest largemouth bass on these lakes. These same lakes also have an 18 inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass and 1 smallmouth bass/day bag limit. The smallmouth bass regulation is intended to provide a quality fishing opportunity for anglers. Current regulation: No minimum length for largemouth bass. Smallmouth bass have a minimum length of 18 inches with 1 smallmouth bass/day bag limit. Combined bag limit of 5 fish/day for bass. Several of the lakes included above are a part of a DNR study regarding bass and walleye populations.

**BUFFALO COUNTY**

**Mississippi River – Pool 5**. The 2017 fall electrofishing survey showed good numbers above and below the 14-inch length limit. Overall, nearly 81 adult and juvenile largemouth bass were captured per hour. Forty eight percent of surveyed largemouth bass were greater than 12 inches, while one fish was greater than the 14-inch length limit. Surveyed fish topped out at 34.1 inches. Access information: Check DNR website for access locations. Interesting info: There is potential for a large number of largemouth bass in the future. Minnesota and Wisconsin bass anglers at the lower Mississippi River are encouraged to fish for largemouth bass at Pool 5. The coldwater bass fishery is in its early stages of development. The DNR is currently conducting electrofishing surveys in the Pool 5 fishery to get a better understanding of the overall population size. As the bass population increases, there will be opportunities for the bass fishery to develop into a high-quality fishery. —Jen Bergman, fisheries biologists, Rancho

**IRON COUNTY**

**North Bass Lake**. Conveniently located close to town with a paved boat launch and ample parking, North Bass offers anglers 194 acres of completely undeveloped northern Wisconsin water which is a very popular muskie fishery. A 2017 netting survey sampled 137 largemouth at a high rate of 8.1/net-night ranging in length from 8.6-18.9”. Relatively high densities create an opportunity for consistent action, but the quality size structure also provides potential for getting the camera out.
LA CROSSE, TREMPLEAU AND VERNON COUNTIES
Mississippi River, Pool 7 and 8 and upper 9 — 3580 acres. Largemouth bass fishing on the Mississippi River near La Crescent, MN is excellent with above average bass populations every summer weekend, and some very large tournaments scheduled every year. Since the late 1990’s, this fishery’s numbers have increased dramatically. Largemouth bass numbers sampled in pools 7, 8, and upper 9 during the fall of 2017 from Trempealeau, WI downstream to Lansing, IA showed steady or improved numbers. In the reach of Pool 8 from La Crescent, MN downstream to Lawrence Lake, 2017 bass numbers remained the same as 2016 when sampled in 2013. Average bass size increased over 3 inches since 2013 to over 16 inches in 2017. In the Trempealeau Lakes area, largemouth bass numbers increased three-fold since 2013. Average bass size remained the same as 2016 (8.6 inches) but increased to over 14 inches in 2017. In the Lansing area four percent of largemouth bass were over 14 inches and increased to 6.8 inches. On Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi River, five total bass at least 14 inches can be kept daily. The season is continuous. Anglers are encouraged to contact the boat landing staff for information on availability of boat rental services.

LAKE GEORGE
Lake George — 135 acres. Also known as Spring Valley Reservoir, it is located on the ST. Croix River/Lanigo Lake border. It is surrounded by the Eau Calle Recreation Area. Largemouth bass numbers are moderate at 1.5 per acre, but bass can be found up to 20 inches. Twenty-three percent of the bass handled were 14 inches or larger, with the largest bass pushing 20 inches. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. Access information: There is one boat ramp located on the northeast shore. There are two public boat ramps on Nelson Lake; one off of Dam Road and one off of Getch Road.

LAKE GENEVA
Lake Geneva — 5401 acres. Recent bass surveys on Lake Geneva have produced very good catch rates and size structure, including a 14.3” average length and 21.3” maximum length. Anglers are reporting excellent fishing days, particularly in the fall. Minimum length limit: 5 daily bag limit. Access information: Public boat launch locations are available on Lake Geneva Street in Fontana (west side), E. Geneva Street in Williams Bay (north side), Chapman Island Drive in Lake Geneva (south side), Hillside Road (southeast side) and Linn Hillside Road (southeast side) and Linn
Road (south side). Shorefishing opportunites are available at several parks and municipal fishing piers across the lake.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

**Pewaukee Lake** - 2437 surface acres. Species population information: Average length - 13 inches with average abundance and excellent trophy potential. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Access information: There are two boat launches found near Pewaukee, one on Chuckaman Pond and one on Pewaukee County Park launch on the west side and Smokey’s Muskie Shop on the east side. Pewaukee Lake has an excellent largemouth bass size structure with top tournament crooks averaging greater than 4 lbs. per fish.

**Eagle Spring Lake** - 270 surface acres. Species population information: Average length - 9 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit - large-mouth bass and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches may not be kept and only 1 fish over 18 inches is allowed. The daily bag limit is 5. Access information: The public launch is located on the lakes' east side off of County Highway E, near Single Spring Pub. This lake has an abundant population of largemouth so anglers are encouraged to harvest bass less than 14” to help reduce the population improve growth rates.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

**Brekk/Brekke Lake** - 45 acres. Large-mouth bass population information: In 2017, The UW-Stevens Point research project examining spatial genetic structure of smallmouth bass across Wisconsin, samples were collected in 2017 from eight smallmouth populations around Green Bay and the Lake Michigan. Results will be available in 2018.

**DOOR COUNTY**

**Green Bay waters.** The smallmouth bass fishery along the Green Bay waters of Door County is well known for its outstanding abundance and robust size structure. Although the 2017 creel data are not yet available, smallmouth bass sport fishing catch per effort has recently declined from the high levels experienced several years back. Angler catch rates declined in 2016 to 0.56 smallmouth caught per hour fished; falling below the previous 15 year average of 0.67. Fyke netting surveys of the spawning populations in the Sturgeon Bay area in 2015 and 2017 indicate mixed trends in catch per effort (measure of relative abundance) since the previous survey in 2009. Overall, the Door County smallmouth meta-population is in relatively good condition. Continued increase of Lake Michigan water levels should provide more smallmouth spawning and nursery habitat that was lost during the record low levels recorded around 2012-2013. Current regulation: The rules vary by location and date; anglers should check the smallmouth fishing rules in the Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for season and harvest rules. Access information: There are many boat launches in the area including several in Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay; Peninsula State Park is one of the sites that provide access to areas in northern Door County. 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 K. Pinney County Park (formerly the Old Stone Quarry Park) that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay. As part of a UW-Stevens Point research project examining spatial genetic structure of smallmouth bass across Wisconsin, results will be available in 2018.

**ASHLAND AND BAYFIELD COUNTIES**

**Chequamegon Bay** - Lake Superior. Chequamegon Bay deserves its reputation as a trophy smallmouth fishery. Spring surveys have shown the average length of smallmouth to be around 18 inches. Many university classes contribute to the population and we consistently see fish older than 20 years. Current regulation: May 5 through June 15 is catch and release only. From June 16 to March 1 length of Chequamegon Bay smallmouth was only 14 inches and most fish were less than 10 years old. The current fishery gives anglers a greater opportunity to tangle with trophy fish!

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Silver Lake** - 331 acres. Silver Lake has a respectable smallmouth bass fishery. Roughly half of the smallmouth bass handled in a recent survey were 14 inches or larger, with smallmouth over 18 inches present. Current regulation: The Silver Lake smallmouth bass fishery is managed with the statewide bass regulation - 14 inch minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. There is one public boat landing at Grant County Park on the south end of Silver Lake off CTH B. The park is maintained by Barron County and includes a restroom, picnic shelter, volleyball net, and a swimming beach. Smallmouth bass do well in Silver Lake due to the abundance of rock and gravel which are habitats that smallmouth prefer. In addition to smallmouth bass, bass anglers will also find a largemouth bass population with moderate size structure.

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

**Upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dam)**, Clark and Jackson Counties, and **lower Black River** (below the Black River Falls dam). Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties. Catch rates reported on 2017 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river). **Black River, upper**: Total catch rate was 99/mile, catch rate of 14”+ fish was 14/mile and maximum size captured was 17”. In 2016, total catch rate was 47/mile, catch rate of 14”+ fish was 2/mile and maximum size captured was 17”. Black River, lower: Total catch rate was 1.1/mile, catch rate of 14”+ fish was 0.3/mile and maximum size captured was 16”. In 2016, total catch rate was 4.2/mile, catch rate of 14”+ size fish was 1/mile and maximum size captured was 20”. Regulation: 14 inch minimum length limit / 5 fish daily bag limit.

**Door County**

**Green Bay waters.** The smallmouth bass fishery along the Green Bay waters of Door County is well known for its outstanding abundance and robust size structure. Although the 2017 creel data are not yet available, smallmouth bass sport fishing catch per effort has recently declined from the high levels experienced several years back. Angler catch rates declined in 2016 to 0.56 smallmouth caught per hour fished; falling below the previous 15 year average of 0.67. Fyke netting surveys of the spawning populations in the Sturgeon Bay area in 2015 and 2017 indicate mixed trends in catch per effort (measure of relative abundance) since the previous survey in 2009. Overall, the Door County smallmouth meta-population is in relatively good condition. Continued increase of Lake Michigan water levels should provide more smallmouth spawning and nursery habitat that was lost during the record low levels recorded around 2012-2013. Current regulation: The rules vary by location and date; anglers should check the smallmouth fishing rules in the Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for season and harvest rules. Access information: There are many boat launches in the area including several in Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay; Peninsula State Park is one of the sites that provide access to areas in northern Door County. 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 K. Pinney County Park (formerly the Old Stone Quarry Park) that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay. As part of a UW-Stevens Point research project examining spatial genetic structure of smallmouth bass across Wisconsin, results will be available in 2018.
**GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

**Big Green Lake** - 7,346 acres, 236' max depth. 79% of the lake is 50' in depth. Species population information: 2016 survey indicated a mean of 12.5 ft/mile of electrofished shoreline, size range of 6.3-18.3" with a mean size of 12.8". Current regulation: 14" Minimum, Bag of 5. Access information: There are numerous developed landings located around the lake. Most do require a fee. Most anglers target these fish during pre-spawning periods along the numerous rock points and bays located in this lake. A few "hardly" anglers also fish deep water, but the best are to be found in half and provide 50 miles and over 5,000 acres of top-notch brown bass fishing opportunities. The Wisconsin River system throughout the county produces high density and high quality populations. The majority of the fish are in the 12-18" range, but fish over 20" are caught. There is a 14" minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 bass. Harvest season north of STH 64 starts the first Saturday in May, and south of STH 64 starts the first Saturday in May. The impoundments have several boat ramps and between state, county, and utility company land, there are plenty of shore fishing opportunities.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

In Lincoln County, the Wisconsin River and its impoundments cut the county in half and provide 50 miles and over 5,000 acres of top-notch brown bass fishing opportunities. The Wisconsin River system throughout the county produces high density and high quality populations. The majority of the fish are in the 12-18" range, but fish over 20" are caught. There is a 14" minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 bass. Harvest season north of STH 64 starts the third Saturday in June, and south of STH 64 starts the first Saturday in May. The impoundments have several boat ramps and between state, county, and utility company land, there are plenty of shore fishing opportunities.

**MINARETTE COUNTY**

Chilkas Flowsage - 866 acres. Data collected in 2016 demonstrated an average length of body was measured was 15 inches and fish up to 20 inches were measured. There are scattered areas of rock and aquatic vegetation that provide good smallmouth bass habitat. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum / 5 fish per day. Access information: Anglers can choose from 4 boat landings from Penem Falls to the Chilkas Hills dam. This section of the Minemonee rivers supports diverse habitat with shallow river water (less than 5 feet) above Chilkas Hills. The impoundment has a maximum depth of 30 ft and 80% of the impoundment is greater than 3 ft.

**SAYWARD AND WASHSBURN COUNTIES**

Fishing smallmouth in rivers is about as much fun as it gets. Northern Wisconsin offers many great opportunities for river smallmouth bass, but the Namekagon River in Sawyer and Washburn Countities stands out. There are numerous access points along this stretch of river allowing for shore fishing, wading, or fishing from a canoe. There are 14 free campsites scattered along the river maintained by the National Park Service between Hayward and Trego. You can make it an overnight trip. The smallmouth bass fitnesses are high, with up to 70% of fish being between 12-18". Recent surveys compared to the previous survey for the 2017 survey improved by 64% when the 2018 survey was conducted. Other Access information: There are numerous access points along this stretch of river allowing for shore fishing, wading, or fishing from a canoe. There are 14 free campsites scattered along the river maintained by the National Park Service between Hayward and Trego. Northern Wisconsin offers many great opportunities for river smallmouth bass, but the Namekagon River in Sawyer and Washburn Countities stands out. There are numerous access points along this stretch of river allowing for shore fishing, wading, or fishing from a canoe. There are 14 free campsites scattered along the river maintained by the National Park Service between Hayward and Trego.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Pine Lake - 703 surface acres. Species population information: Average length - 13 inches. Current regulation: 14" minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Access information: The public boat launch is located on the north end of the lake. The 500’ of rocky substrate deep drop-offs and woody structure provides excellent habitat for smallmouth bass on Pine Lake. Recent fall electrofishing surveys have shown excellent size structure, abundance of taken and trophy potential for smallmouth bass.

**NORTHERN PIKE**

**BAYFIELD COUNTY**

Upper Eau Claire Lake - 1,030 acres. The fisheries survey revealed a moderate pike population. In a 2017 netting survey 78 pike were collected: pike averaged 19.1 inches and the largest measured 48 inches. 53% of pike collected were 20 inches or greater. Current Regulation: no minimum length / 5 fish per day. Access information: There is one boat landing on Upper Eau Claire Lake located on Island Lake Rd. There is a state-owned island on Upper Eau Claire Lake which allows overnight camping. No reservations are taken but is a first come first served basis.

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

Green Bay and tributaries - The late, wet springs of 2013 and 2014 provided favorable conditions for northern pike spawning. Those two excellent year classes will continue to provide quality fish in the upper 20-inch range and greater. Because the vast size of the bay reduces competition between top predators and because it hosts an abundance of prey fish such as yellow perch, gizzard shad, and round gobies, we do not see stunted populations of pike as is commonly seen in many inland lakes. In winter, using a tip-up with a large shiner or dead shiners, I fish right off the bottom in shallow water can work well. Current regulation for Green Bay and major 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 access points along this stretch of river allowing for shore fishing, wading, or fishing from a canoe. There are 14 free campsites scattered along the river maintained by the National Park Service between Hayward and Trego. There are two boat launches on Upper Clam Lake and one launch on Lower Clam Lake. Upper Clam Lake has one landing on the SE portion of the lake off of Clam Lake Drive and the other landing is on the SW side at the end of Cumberland Point Rd. The launch for Lower Clam Lake is on the N side of Hwy 70. Northern Pike are one of six gamefish that are present year-round in Clam Lake. The others being walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and lake sturgeon (no season on sturgeon here). There are also many non-game species including: redhorse, sucker, bullhead, bowfin, and minnows.

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

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan) along with their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam in cluding the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. The Winnebago System provides anglers with various northern pike fishing opportunities, particularly for ice fishing on the Upper lakes of Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, and Lake Butte des Morts. In the spring of...
2017 DNR fisheries creases set fyke nets on Lake Poygan to assess the northern pike population. There were 1,165 northern pike captured and 10% of fish handled were larger than the 26” minimum length limit. The presence of quality sized northern pike was also observed with 62 fish sized over 25”.

Good opportunities exist throughout the system, particularly for quality trophy sized fish, but fishing success can be driven by forage base trends, particularly gizzard shad. The 2017 Lake Winnebago fishing survey indicated a weak gizzard shad hatch on the system.

Anglers looking to take some pike home for a fish fry or fill some jars for pickles should check out Lake Poygan. That said, don’t be surprised if you run into one of these trophy specimens we’ve consistently encountered in recent survey efforts. Currently, there is no minimum length limit and a total daily bag limit of 5 northern pike on the Gile Flowage, and anglers can access from any of 4 different public boat landings.

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

Otter Lake - 83 acres. Naturally reproducing, medium to high density, with very nice size quality; We did a survey here in 2017 and estimated the adult population at over 12 per acre. The majority of the fish were in the 18-30” range but we saw some pike up to 38” and 40” No daily length limit, 5 daily. Boat ramp with ample parking on the north end and shore fishing is possible along the northeast shoreline highway right-of-way. Would be a fun little lake to stick some tips in for pike!

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Silver Lake - 82 acres. Naturally reproducing, medium to high density pike population with diverse size quality; 2017 survey estimated the adult population at 0.9 per acre with the majority in the 16-25” size range, no length limit, 5 daily. Good boat ramp with roadside parking on the west end. The biggest pike we captured in our nets was 23.5”.

**MARINETTE COUNTY**

Peshtigo Flowage - 232 acres. The last fisheries survey revealed an abundant pike population. Over 500 pike were collected; pike averaged 18 inches and the largest measured over 40 inches. Several fish between 25 and 30 inches were collected. No minimum length/5 fish per day. Access information: There are 2 boat landings on the flowage; one is located in the Town of Peshtigo and the other is north of highway 64 in the Peshtigo River State Forest. The bowage offers both moving and still water habitats making pike easier to target during the summer.

**MONROE COUNTY**

Lake Tomah - 245 Acres. Lake Tomah supports an impressive northern pike population with high trophy potential. A spring population estimate revealed a density of 1.9 pike per acre, 20% of which were greater than 32”. The largest pike caught was just under 40” and 17.25 lb. Current regulation: Only 1 Northern Pike may be kept and it must be 32” or larger. Access information: Multiple boat landings. See DNR Lake Finder. Due to extremely high densities of common carp, Lake Tomah was treated with rotenone in 2009, killing the carp and limited gamefish populations, and re-stocked with northern pike, black crappie, largemouth bass and bluegill between 2010 and 2012. Since the initial stocking, impressive populations of each species have emerged and are now naturally reproducing. - Kirk Olson, fisheries biologist, La Crosse

**PIERCE AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES**

Lake George - 335 acres. Also known as the Watling Valley-Rosedale recreational area. This lake is located at the south end of the village of Marquette and 2 developed landings on the north shore. Several landings can be tricky when water levels drop in the summer months. The lake can also be accessed from several landings on the river both up and downstream of the lake. The state record northern pike of 38 lbs. was reported to have been caught on Lake Poygan in 1952.

**RACINE COUNTY**

Eagle Lake - 515 acres. A spring netting survey in 2015 produced an incredibly high catch rate of northern pike in Eagle Lake with 21” average size pike and 36.1” maximum length. The lake is clearly capable of producing big fish at a 48” minimum length limit, with a very strong forage base of panfish and pike spawning habitat throughout the lake. Ice fishing action is off the charts, though the lake is very popular during hard water so get there early. Current regulation: 40” minimum length limit, 1 daily bag Access information: A public boat launch with a large parking lot on the northeast side of the lake off Church Road east of Eagle Lake. Of the 450 northern pike captured in a recent spring netting survey offshore in 2016, 79% were between 20-30 inches, 13% were over 30 inches. Current regulation: Northern pike in Long Lake are managed with a 26” minimum length limit and two fish daily bag limit. Access information: Anglers can access Long Lake by the boat landing on the west side of the lake near 180th St. There is also a nice fishing pier near the boat landing for shore anglers. Long Lake is a productive, shallow (17 ft max) lake.
Provides shorefronting opportunities and other family activities. Eagle Lake currently has restricted harvest regula-
tions for several species following a recent restocking project. This allows
northern pike to grow to trophy size of 40" and beyond.

Waukesha County

Big Muskego Lake - 2200 surface acres
Species population information: Age range is 12 inches with fish ob-
served to up 40 inches. Current regulation:
Northern Pike: no minimum length and a daily bag limit of 10.
LA CROSSE, TREMPALEAU AND VERNON COUNTIES

Mercury Lake, Arctic Springs Pond and Lake Lakes in Clark County, and Second in Jackson County, Mead and Arbutus our area are available at Lake Wazee, -rate was 2.9/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ captured was 11". In 2010, total catch fish was .05/net lift, and maximum size was 8". Lake Michigan and tributaries - In 2017 fish was collected during a 2017 fyke net survey on Blackhawk Lake, Iowa County. A bluegill displays its characteristics on the measuring board before being returned to the water.

LA GAN COUNTIES

Emerald: Total catch rate was 18.9/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.3/net lift, and maximum size captured was 14.9". Michigan: Total catch rate was 10.0/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.1/net lift, and maximum size captured was 12.5". White Creek Flowage: Total catch rate was 0.5/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.1/net lift, and maximum size captured was 11.5". Lake Alice - 1,369 acre impoundment on the Wisconsin River, Fly: Bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, and perch. Water is typically stained through much of the season. Although this regulation has yet to be counted and measured.

LAKE COUNTY

Lake Noquay - 2,398 acres. Big bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, and perch can be found in Lake Noquay located just northeast of Crivitz. Bluegill over 8 inches and crappie over 10 inches are not uncommon. Lake Noquay has good weed growth in certain areas of the lake and water is moderately stained. Consistent regulations: 25 total (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, crappie) access information can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the north shore. One in ten yellow perch size increased by 1 inch since 2013 and one in ten bluegill size increased by over 1.3 inches and one in ten perch size increased by 0.5 inches. In the Trempealeau area of Lake 7, combined panfish number increased 180 percent since 2013. Bluegill numbers increased over seven-fold while black crappie and yellow perch were unchanged.

MADISON COUNTY

Big Eau Pleine Flowage - 6,348 acres, cap. depth 40 ft. Total catch of 92 black crappies were captured during a 2017 comprehensive spring survey to provide a relative abundance of 46.7 fish per net-night. Crappie rapped in size from 4 to 14.3 inches, with an average length of 9.7 inches. Nearly one hundred percent of the black crappie caught were over 8 inches, with twenty-eight percent being over 10 inches. Observed growth was consistent with the state average; on average a 4-year-old crappie was 8.8 inches. Current Regulation: Current statewide panfish regulation, daily bag limit, season. Big Eau Pleine Flowage that provide ample access throughout the fishing season. Boating access and camp sites are also available at the Big Eau Pleine County Park which was located in the center of the flowage on the north shore. The Big Eau Pleine Flowage is a very popular fishing destination in Marathon county. Two very high fish counts of 58,370 crappies (3.7 million crappies) and 10,960 crappies in 1996 were both produced following notable winterkill events on the flowage and boats/accesso/boatinfomation. Other species targeted by anglers include walleye, yellow perch and northern pike. The Big Eau Pleine Flowage is host to the 2013 World Ice Fishing Championship, which is an annual international tournament considered to be the Olympics of ice fishing.

MARQUETTE COUNTY

Lake Noquay - 2,398 acres. Big bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie and perch can be found in Lake Noquay located just northeast of Crivitz. Bluegill over 8 inches and crappie over 10 inches are not uncommon. Lake Noquay has good weed growth in certain areas of the lake and water is moderately stained. Current regulations: 25 total (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, crappie) access information can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the north shore. One in ten yellow perch size increased by 1 inch since 2013 and one in ten bluegill size increased by over 1.3 inches and one in ten perch size increased by 0.5 inches. In the Trempealeau area of Lake 7, combined panfish number increased 180 percent since 2013. Bluegill numbers increased over seven-fold while black crappie and yellow perch were unchanged.

MARTIN COUNTY

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A haul of big bluegills captured during a 2017 electrofishing survey on Delavan Lake.

**POLLK COUNTY**

**Bone Lake** - 1781 acres. Bone Lake offers a diverse fishery to the public and is a popular spot for crappie fishing. Good numbers of bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and green sunfish were captured in recent surveys. All species had moderate size distribution. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: There are two public boat landings on Bone Lake. The northern landing is off 250th Avenue and is the better of the two landings. The northern landing also has a fishing pier, picnic shelter, and restroom. The south boat landing is off Dewholm Drive. In addition to the popular species Bone Lake also has good numbers of musky, largemouth bass, and northern pike populations.

**PRICE COUNTY**

**Musser Flowage** - 563 acres. Musser Flowage boasts high numbers of bluegills with fair size structure. Yellow perch, and green sunfish were captured in recent surveys. All species had moderate size distribution. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: There are two public boat landings on Musser Flowage. The northern landing is off the dam. The southern landing is off County Road C. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: There are two public boat landings on Musser Flowage. The northern landing is off the dam. The southern landing is off County Road C.

**WAWESHA COUNTY**

**Okauchee Lake** - 1157 acres. Crappie averages range from 6-8 inches. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: The public boat launch for Okauchee Lake is located at the Golden Mast Restau- rant and the WINLR launch. The DNR boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road 7, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Mast boat launch is located off of LaCyg Lake north of East Wisconsin Avenue. Look for a public boat landing with a long dock near a small shallow bay when the water temperatures rise to the low to mid-80s degrees. A comprehensive spring netting survey implemented in 2013 and 2014 revealed excellent black crappie size structure and abundance.

**Lower Genesee Lake** - 98 surface acres. Black crappie average from 6-8 inches. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: The public boat launch for Lower Genesee Lake is located at the south end of the lake. This smaller kettle lake can provide a nice crook of bluegills. Lower Genesee Lake is listed annually with trout in spring.

**SAVIER AND WASHBURN COUNTIES**

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**Crawford and Grant Counties**

**Lower Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac Dam**

Located at 14007 County Road B, (1,338 acres) and 366 acres. One of the few lakes that offers an opportunity for trout fishing. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: There are two public boat landings on Lower Clam Lake and Upper Clam Lake. Upp- er Clam Lake has one landing on the west end of the lake near the Clam Lake Drive. The other landing is on the SW side at the end of Cumberland Point Rd. The launch for Lower Clam Lake is on the SW side of the lake at Hwy 30. Several panfish are one of the most widespread fish in North America, ranging south to the Florida and north to Canada. They are adaptable to a variety of living in riv- ers, lakes, or artificial impoundments.

**COLUMBIA, CRAWFORD AND SAUK COUNTIES**

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Anglers that are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history. Anglers are crazy about panfish need to know about Big Chetac and Birch Lake! (expected) that resemble the line between Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The two lakes total 2,764 acres, with Chetac accounting for 2,400 of those acres. These lakes are very productive and have a lot of history.
sho fishing opportunities, and one carry-in/kayak ramp are located along the Wolf River between Lake Poygan and the town of New London. One or two calls come in each year from anglers who report catching a “blue cat.” However, these are likely medium to large channel catfish that don’t have any spots on their body. The confirmed capture of a blue catfish from Wisconsin waters was from the Mississippi River near Bellevue, Iowa, some 20 miles south of the Wisconsin-Illinois border in 1997. They are not seen in the Mississippi above the juncture with the Missouri River.

PRICE COUNTY

South Fork Flambeau River – When compared with their larger counterparts the smaller northern Wisconsin’s medium-size rivers are far less populated and hold more channel catfish. Nonetheless, those with patience and persistence can find angling and harvest opportunity for channel catfish in the deeper spots of the South Fork Flambeau River near the northern extremity of the species range in the state. During May and August 2017, we fished five hoop-net sets baited with soybean in deep-water sites in the South Fork Flambeau between its origin at the Round Lake Dam and the warehouse landing about 20 river miles downstream. Our 104 nights of survey yielded 19 channel catfish that were 18 – 32 inches long. Our low catch rate indicated low population abundance, but 63% of the catfish in our sample were 24 inches or longer. Not all river pools produced catfish—the two uppermost and streamflow-most nets accounted for 95% of the catch. A handful of anglers deliberately seek out catfish using night crawlers, cut-bait, or stink-bait, often from shore, or in daylight from canoes or kayaks in both the North Fork and South Fork of the Flambeau River. Their success seems better in the middle and lower river reaches versus the headwater segment. Carry-in access is available at several developed and makeshift sites on public land and at road crossings, but Beware that low streamflow can make downstream navigation difficult in summer. Motorized access is not not recommended. Catfish season is open year-round with a daily bag limit of 10 and no minimum length limit. — Jeff Schenck, fisheries biologist, Park Falls

WAUPACA AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES

Wolf River – 32.55 miles from the mouth of the Wolf River where it enters Lake Poygan to the town of New London. Channel catfish population information:

2017. The DNR completed an early spring (i.e., early June) netting survey of the Wolf River in Waupaca County near Weyauwega. While the primary objective of the netting survey was to assess the flathead catfish population in the Wolf River, three hoop nets were specifically set to assess the channel catfish population. These three hoop nets were baited with soy and meal and were set out for six nights for a total of 18 net nights specifically targeting channel catfish. A total of 497 channel catfish were caught in these nets for an average of 274.7 channel catfish per net night. Catches ranged from 0 – 78 channel catfish per net night in the baited hoop nets. The catch rate showed plenty of harvestable size channel catfish in this stretch of the Wolf River with channel catfish averaging 18 inches and ranging from 11.1 to 33.3 inches. The Wolf River provides for often overlooked lighted channel catfish fishery with potential for catching plenty of harvestable size fish. Current Regulation: Channel catfish season is from April 15 to June 30. The total length with 11 fish larger than 60 inches. Additionally, seven lake sturgeon were harvested during the September 2017 hook and line fishing season. Over the past couple of years anglers have also reported catching large numbers of sublegal sturgeon, so there is the potential for good catch-and-release action in addition to a harvest opportunity. Again, the preferred bait for lake sturgeon is nightcrawlers. The sturgeon regulation for both areas of the Wisconsin River describes a 60-inch minimum length with a one fish season bag limit. Anglers who intend to harvest a sturgeon must first purchase a harvest tag and must register their catch if successful.
ing, Lake Sturgeon are jointly managed by Wisconsin DNR and Minnesota DNR and were nearly extirpated from western Lake Superior during the late 1980s or early 1990s due to overharvest and habitat and water quality degradation. The Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 paved the way for dramatic water quality improvements to the St. Louis River, particularly with construction of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in Duluth, Minnesota, which began operating in 1979. Improved water quality prompted Wisconsin DNR and Minnesota DNR to re-establish the Lake Sturgeon population by stocking 762,000 fry, 143,000 fingerlings, and 500 yearlings into the St. Louis River between 1983 and 1985. Many of these stocked fish were Wolf River fish strain from eastern Wisconsin, and that ancestry was documented in recent genetic analyses of spawning adults. Throughout the years, Lake Sturgeon use the river and Lake Superior. Recent tagging studies documented in recent genetic analyses of spawning adults. Throughout the years, Lake Sturgeon use the river and Lake Superior. Recent tagging studies documented.

**Buffalo, Jackson, and Trempealeau Counties**

### Area trout streams

Information is based on results of 38 trout stream survey sites that were surveyed in both 2017 and 2018. Reproduction: 50% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing trout reproduction while the reproductive ratios of the other 50% providing brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: Approximately 4% of surveyed streams showed a reduction in catch rate of adult brown trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 75% of surveyed streams. Local: Most area streams converted to a no minimum length limit 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 brown trout, 66% of streams showed stable/increasing numbers of legal size fish. More Brook trout streams of streams showed stable/increasing numbers of legal size fish. Area trout populations were generally rebounding in 2016 coming out of past drought conditions. However, severe flooding that occurred this year may have negatively affected trout reproduction and densities in some streams. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries continues to help bolster harvest populations throughout the area. Habitat restoration projects in 2017 improved stream conditions and angler access to the North and South Branches of Beaver Creek in Trempealeau County and Stevens Valley and the Munamede Creeks in Buffalo County. Many thanks to our partners in the Cooperative Trout Rearing program and Habitat Restoration projects and for the assistance of many stocked fish, fishing access, and better habitat for our area trout stream. Please see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicability of law and minimum length restrictions for the streams you fish.

### Ashland County

#### Augustine Creek and Silver Creek

Trout anglers looking to get off the beaten path or for a wilderness experience might consider the Augustine/Silver Creek duo. There are 7.7 miles and 4.2 miles of trout water on Augustine Creek and Silver Creek, respectively. These two systems are by no means easy to get to, but provide a great day-trip scenario for the adventurous type. Anglers can stop by Silver Creek (off of Silver Creek Road), and try their hand at fishing for abundant 4.9" brookies. After, they can head north to Augustin Creek (on Augustine Creek Road), where they can catch the brook trout that are resident along with memorable size brook trout in this lower order stream, but much more quality size structured (10-15) trout stream. Both streams are currently managed with no minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit.

### Barron County

#### Yellow River

Much of the upper Yellow River is accessed through the Sand Creek Access (on Plum Creek Road), and offers many additional trout fishing opportunities. There are two systems used to evaluate changes in current catch rates of legal size brown and brook trout. For brown trout, 66% of streams showed stable/increasing numbers of legal size fish. Area trout populations were generally rebounding in 2016 coming out of past drought conditions. However, severe flooding that occurred this year may have negatively affected trout reproduction and densities in some streams. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries continues to help bolster harvest populations throughout the area. Habitat restoration projects in 2017 improved stream conditions and angler access to the North and South Branches of Beaver Creek in Trempealeau County and Stevens Valley and the Munamede Creeks in Buffalo County. Many thanks to our partners in the Cooperative Trout Rearing program and Habitat Restoration projects and for the assistance of many stocked fish, fishing access, and better habitat for our area trout stream. Please see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicability of law and minimum length restrictions for the streams you fish.

**Burnett and Polk Counties**

#### Sand Creek

Cty EE crossing south of Plum Creek and County Forest. The stream meanings. There is also the DNR-owned

**Buffalo, Jackson, and Trempealeau Counties**

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trot. Stocked Lakes – Crooked (brooks), Jack (rainbows), Pence (brooks), Rogers (browns), and Toumine (rainbows); 5 daily and no length limit.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Brook Trout – Big Pine Creek, Prairie River, and New Wood River. Brown Trout – South Branch Upper Coon, Richland County. Rainbow Trout – South Branch Prairie River, Stocked Lakes – Ament (brown trout), and North Branch Prairie River. Stocked Lakes – Ament (brown trout), Mairaine (rainbows), and Taibo (rainbows); 10-inch minimum length limit; Ament and Taibo lakes are both now open EVERY YEAR!

**MARTINE COUNTY**


**ONCOT COUNTY**

South Branch Oconto River – Hwy T. Upstream of the bridge crossing (Lat: 45.0589, Long: -89.4207) downstream to Hwy E (Lat: 45.1980, Long: -88.8477) – 5.5 miles of trout water. Current regulations: No bag limit and length limit: 3 trout of any size or species may be kept.

**RICHLAND COUNTY**

Camp Creek – 5.5 miles of trout water. Camp Creek supports a healthy population of brown trout. Recent surveys showed 265 spring and adult prime trout per mile and 9.5 to 18.1 trout per mile ranging from 5.9 to 18.1 trout per mile. Approximately 10 percent of the brown trout per mile may be kept. Access information: There are approximately 3.75 miles of public fishing access, 2.6 miles of public fishing access and easements properties along Camp Creek. Remaining trout water may be accessed by gaining permission from landowners or by accessing the stream from road right of ways. Camp Creek is considered a class one trout fishery and is maintained as a fishable population of trout through natural reproduction and instream trout habitat projects were completed downstream of County L. – Broadn Sons fisheries biologist, Dalgliesh.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Onion River and its tributaries, 10 miles of Class I brown trout waters. 2017 surveys yielded an average length of 7.4 inches and a size range of 2-20 inches. A survey at one popular access site (230opoly Rd) – 5.5 miles of fishable water, which ranks it around the 97th percentile when compared with other all other brown trout waters in the state. Current regulation: Upstream of CTH E – daily bag limit and length limit: 3 trout of any size or species may be kept. Access information: 18 public road crossings provide access points along with 40 acres of DNR owned land just north of the town of Bowler. The DNR Ranger Station located just west of the town of Bowler post offer a great place for the public to access the North Branch of the Embarrass River as well as a place where anglers can shore fish for brown trout.

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Looking for a fishing adventure where your effort may be rewarded with big trout? Vernon River (14.5 miles long) in Sawyer Co. may be worth a try. Vernon lies just northeast of the Chippewa Flowage and can be accessed from Vernon Creek Road and Forest Road 304. But even though the roads may get you close, you’ll still need to do some exploring to find prime fishing areas. Once you arrive, you have a shot at some truly special brook trout. A 2017 survey found brook trout over 10 inches to be common with some approaching 15 inches in certain reaches of the stream. The best bet in the historic fishery is that stained water have a very distinctive appearance and will be a good indicator of a unique photo opportunity if you can bag a trophy.

**SHAWANO COUNTY**

North Branch Embarrass River – 33.9 miles of Class II, III, and III trout water. In 2017, the DNR completed electrofishing runs at 11 sites along the North Branch Embarrass River upstream from where the river intersects Schoolehouse Rd, southeast of the town of Bowler. Average catch per unit effort (CPUE) as the number of brook trout per mile of electrofishing) at the 11 sites was 735 brook trout per mile of stream. CPUE ranged from 174 – 1,980 brook trout per mile of stream. The highest densities of brook trout were in the upper reaches of the river. The mean length of brook trout captured was 5.9 inches with brook trout ranging in size from 1.9 – 12.3 inches captured. The average catch per mile of stream. The brown trout should provide anglers with a lot of action, especially along stretches around the town of Bowler. For best results, anglers should find stained water have a very distinctive appearance and will be a good indicator of a unique photo opportunity if you can bag a trophy.

**TAYLOR COUNTY**

Big Rib River – County highway C to State Highway 64. The Falls Park Fish Team surveyed 6 sites along this stretch of river and found an average of 798 brook trout per mile and 91 brown trout per mile. Big Rib River was just over 11 miles and the largest brook trout we captured was just under 10 inches. The Big Rib showed very good signs of natural reproduction in many of its segments. Surveys also indicated a slightly higher hatch in this segment for both brook and brown trout. The current harvest regulations in this reach is a daily bag limit of 3 trout with a minimum length limit of 8 inches. The small brook trout were predators and kept together along the shores of Chal Leena, fisheries tech for Park Falls.

**VERNON COUNTY**

Upper Coon Creek Watershed – Coon Creek is a tributary of the Chippewa River running through property owned by Shawano County, located just off CTH HWY D, northwest of Bowler, and southeast of the town of Almon. Brown trout population information: In 2017, The DNR completed electrofishing runs at 11 stations along the North Branch Embarrass River, the same stream from where the river intersects Schoolehouse Rd, southeast of the town of Bowler. Brown trout were captured at nine of the 11 stations that were sampled. Mean brown trout growth was just over one inch of effort (CPUE as the number of brook trout per mile of stream measured) at these nine sites was 219.7 brown trout per mile of stream; CPUE ranged from 10.5 – 75.3. A brown trout per mile of stream varied the highest at 15 sites, which were captured at six sites and brown trout > 18 inches were captured at four sites. Current regulation: 8 Daily bag limit and length limit: 3 trout of any size or species may be kept. Access information: 18 public road crossings provide access points along with 40 acres of DNR owned land just north of the town of Bowler. The DNR Ranger Station located just west of the town of Bowler post offer a great place for the public to access the North Branch of the Embarrass River as well as a place where anglers can shore fish for brown trout.

**MARQUETTE COUNTY**

Chaffee Creek – 14 Ave. – A large-scale project conducted by the DNR’s Wild River team in 2009 added new habitat improvements to this river. The project started at the bridge crossing on 14th Ave and continued for one mile upstream. Fishability is excellent with some good structures, some overhead bankcover, two riffles and numerous brush bundles and log sills.

**PEPIN COUNTY**

Plum Creek – 201 miles of classified trout water. Plum Creek supports a healthy population of brook trout in a 100 mile length from the Little Bay State Park to blowing into the Clippewa River. Plum Creek is ‘good sized’ trout water by the time it reaches Pepin County and there are numerous brush bundles and log sills outlining opportunities to be had there. Plum Creek has a moderately high density of both brook trout and brown trout, with good size structure, which makes of a nice mixed bag. Because of our fairly even mix of both brook trout and brown trout, tiger trout (brook trout brown trout hybrids), are a regular occurrence in fisheries surveys and are another draw for anglers to Plum Creek. The daily bag limit and length limit trout and brown trout must be 12 inches and brook trout must be 8 inches. Access. In Pepin County access to the stream can be found off of numerous properties along the river. – Joseph Gehrysh, fisheries biologist, La Crosse.

electrofishing surveys in the watershed revealed high densities of brown trout in most streams. The proportion of larger brown trout (>12”) in Timmern Creek, which is sampled on an annual basis, has increased over the past four years. Current regulation: Varies by waterbody, see trout regulation pamphlet. Access information: The upper Coon Creek Watershed boasts miles of streambank exceed, which provide fantastic access to most of the streams in the watershed. Streambank easements are purchased by the DNR from private landowners and provide angler access along the stream banks in perpetuity. To view the locations of public streambank easements in Wisconsin go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Maps”. The Coon Creek Watershed was the site of the nation’s first watershed project in 1933. The project helped local farmers employ practices to reduce erosion, such as contour strips, which have greatly improved water quality in the watershed. These efforts were very successful and continue to be used by farmers in the watershed with great benefit to the fishery.

**WALWORTH COUNTY**

Bluff Creek - 1.75 miles of trout water. Annual trout monitoring on Bluff Creek results in very high catch rates of adult brown trout up to 19”. Ongoing habitat restoration projects continue to provide high quality, fishable stream reaches upstream and downstream of County Highway F. Current regulation: 12” minimum length limit 2 Saily Bag. Access information: Public access and parking is available off County Highway F south of the intersection with Reliance Road. Nearly all of Bluff Creek is contained within the Kettle Moraine State Forest, allowing users open access to the stream. Multiple stretches of habitat enhancement projects, including thousands of feet of recently remeandered stream channel, provide fantastic brown trout fishing opportunities.

**WAUPACA COUNTY**

Waupaca River – Hwy Q 6.4 miles of trout water. Annual trout monitoring on Waupaca River recently remeandered stream channel, multiple stretches of habitat enhancement projects, including thousands of feet of recently remeandered stream channel, provides fantastic brown trout fishing opportunities.

**WAUSASHA COUNTY**

Pine River - 14.6 miles of Class I trout stream. 2017 surveys showed moderate to high abundance, in all stations sampled, with average size of fish ranging from 7.2” to 12.7” and up to 23.5”. Pine River is in a series of small systems, where stream width and water temperatures tend to increase further downstream and peak densities decrease with an increase in average size and trout density. Current regulation: Yellow, 3 Bag, 8” minimum length limit. Good access with numerous road crossings and acres of State Owned Fisheries Land mostly in the Township of Springwater. These are native trout in a stream with extensive undeveloped banks and numerous habitat improvement projects.

Sugar Creek, Sugar Creek is a Class III trout stream for the lower 2.5 miles and Class II upstream for 7 miles. Recent surveys have found high densities of brown trout with the occasional brown trout >15 inches. Current regulation: Five trout of any size may be kept (Green) Access information: The DNR holds several miles of streambank easement along Sugar Creek. To view access points and locations of public streambank easements go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Maps”. Sugar Creek supports a fantastic brown trout fishery through almost its entire length. Brown trout populations in this stream have benefited from almost 4 miles of trout habitat restoration activities over the past 10 years. The stream provides anglers an opportunity to catch good numbers of midsize brown trout, with the occasional fish over 15 inches. Anglers thank you for choosing the tic Africa trout also have the opportunity to take up to five trout of any size. — Kirk Olson, fisheries biologist, La Crosse

**ASHLAND AND BAYFIELD COUNTIES**

Lake Superior - Lake whitefish are abundant throughout Wisconsin. Anglers of Lake Superior and have increased significantly in recent years. Anglers have had success targeting Lake Whitefish, particularly through the ice in January through March. Lake Whitefish is the most popular fish during the spring fishing season and the average size has increased 15% over the past 5 years. Current regulations: Yellow, 3 Bag, 8” minimum length limit. Access information: Access is available through DNRs online boating access site. http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/ and search “Public Access Maps”. Numbers for bigmouth buffalo and quillback carp are held in waters of the Wisconsin River. The state record bigmouth buffalo by hook and line was caught in Petenwell Lake, this fish measured 76.5 lbs 8 oz and was 49.5 inches long. The state record bigmouth buffalo using alternative methods was shot with a bow in 2013 in Castle Rock Lake, this fish measured 87 lbs 2 oz and was 51.75 inches long. The state record bigmouth buffalo using alternative methods was shot with a bow in 2016 on Petenwell Lake, this fish measured 12 lbs 4.8 oz and was 26.0 inches long.

**CHIPPENWA, DUNN, KIewe LAKE, ST. CLAIR AND PEPIN COUNTIES**

Chippewa River - Sucker fishing is a popular spring time activity for many anglers along the Chippewa River. During the spring, suckers migrate upstream to spawn so small suckers are common places like dams, are popular sucker fishing locations. Suckers are best fished with a crawler with a small hook and split shot is a popular technique. The Chippewa River holds robust population of suckers and many folks catch either white suckers, silver redhorses or golden redhorses. If anglers are fishing downstream of the Dells Pond Dam on the Chippewa River, they must be aware of certain threatened suckers or suckers of special concern such as the river redhorse, greenback shiner and blue suckers which must be returned to the river if caught. Joseph Gerkens - fisheries biologist, Eau Claire.

**BROWN, DOOR AND KEWAUNEE COUNTIES**

Green Bay waters - Lake whitefish continue to provide great action for ice anglers on Green Bay since their introduction into the sport fishery 10 years ago. Much of the action takes place along the east shore at locations between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Whitefish account harvest of 2017 the ice fishing season was the second highest harvest ever. The 2017 annual harvest survey indicates that whitefish are entering the adult population and there are indications the record high 2015 class may have resulted in any fish sets. Current regulation: The bag limit for lake whitefish is 10 fish with no length limit. Current regulation: There are a number of access points between

**ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, DOUGLAS AND IRON COUNTIES**

Lake Superior - Brown trout make up about 10% of angler catch in Lake Superior, however they are often caught as the second most harvested fish behind lake trout. The average size of brown trout in Lake Superior is under 10 inches, trophy trout in excess of 20 inches have been caught in the year. Current regulation: Trout (Rainbow, Brown) no length limit for any trout. Trophy fish in excess of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, brown trout must be greater than 26 inches, brook trout also must be greater than 26 inches, brown trout and splake must be greater than 15 inches. Access information: DNR manages the Superior because they are very popular with anglers and 2) live longer than most pacific salmon, meaning there is a greater probability for the stocked fish to eventually be caught by anglers.

**DOOR, MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTIES**

Green Bay and tributaries - Brown trout stocked into the productive waters of Green Bay grow quickly. Most of the populations in Green Bay are between 2 and 3 years old. By autumn, a 2-year old brown trout weighing 0.35 pounds would be a 4.5 pound fish, while a 3-year old brown would be about 7 pounds. Open all year. Daily limit is 5 trout/28” per angler, no minimum length limit. Access information: Anglers should head downstream from the City of Waupaca, a project was made up the majority of commercial species in the Great Lakes and 883,000 acres of commercial species in the Great Lakes and tributaries. DNR manages the Superior because they are very popular with anglers and 2) live longer than most pacific salmon, meaning there is a greater probability for the stocked fish to eventually be caught by anglers.
winter depending on conditions. Different genetic strains of steelhead run upstream at different times, including Skamania which generally run early during the summer through fall, Chumine Creek (late fall to spring), and Canazansara (spring to fall). These runs have not been stocked in Wisconsin due to fish with concerns. At first the lack of new hatchery space to accommodate Skamania and associated health risks, the DNR recently acquired Skamania eggs and plans to stock Skamania into the area and Trout Rivers again starting spring 2018. After ten years without Skamania, Chinook Cutler Creek, this stocking in 2018 will be an exciting initial step towards rebuilding Wisconsin's Skamania program. Also beginning in 2018, all steelhead stocked into Lake Michigan will be marked with adipose fin clips and coded wire tags as part of a collaborative and lake-wide project to evaluate production, growth, and stocking methods. Current regulation: Open all year. Five daily fish 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/lands/boataccess/, http://dnr. wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/FrileyAccess.html). - Nick Legler, fisheries biologist, Sturgeon Bay

CHINOOK SALMON

Chiinook salmon were processed at the Strawberry Creek Salmon Spawning Facility near Sturgeon Bay, only on Octo- ber 23-19 of 2017, and a total of 4,191 Chinook salmon were counted passing the facility. This total is just under the long term annual average of 4,700 for Strawberry Creek, but is above recent low totals of four thousand for the years of 2016. These returns commonly fluctuate due to various environmental factors including rainfall, temperature, wind, currents, water quality, and fishing pressure. Chinooks length and weight ranged from 8-31.9 pounds (average 18 pounds). Many of the Chinnooks are just 2-3 years old, but can live up to 21 years and are one of the largest salmonid species in the Lake. Chinook salmon are a highly marketable fish for fishing, and the Chinook fishery is supported by stocked and wild fish. Chinook salmon spawn all throughout Lake Michigan, and anglers in Wisconsin commonly catch Chinooks stocked in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Many of the Chinooks are caught by Wisconsin anglers too, most of which likely originated from the State of Michigan and Canadian waters of Lake Huron. For 2017, gen- eral reports indicated an ok season for Chinook salmon fishing, with many anglers finding a mixed bag of several species and decent sized fish, but with variable success due to factors including temperature, wind, and wind, currents, water quality, and fishing pressure. 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/lands/boataccess/, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/FrileyAccess.html). - Nick Legler, fisheries biologist, Sturgeon Bay

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Lake Superior - Lake Trout still make up the bulk of anglers catch in the in Lake Superior, yet as always have de- clined in recent years. This has led to a serious of efforts by the Apostle Island Region (East of Bark Point). Population surveys have shown this decrease has reversed due to the effectiveness of the Emergency Rules and numbers have increased. The Apostle Island region supports popula- tions of naturally reproducing lake trout, while the western end still needs stocking to maintain high catch rates. However, 80% of Lake Trout harvested in the Western end are naturally produced and not from hatchery opera- tions. Today, fish are stocked into Apostle that throughout the year is about 21 inches, but fish exceeding 40 inches are caught, demonstrating good growth potential. Current regulation: Lake trout only: the regular season opens on October 23 through December 1 through September 30. Weekday catch limit, 10 inch minimum length, bag limit of 3, but only 1 over 25 inches. Check Regulations for Emer- gency Rules for Lake Trout in waters east of Bark Point. Trout (Rainbow, Brown, Brook, Splake) = 5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brook trout. Rainbow Trout must be greater than 26 inches, Brook Trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other must be greater than 15 inches. Salmon (Coho, Chinook, Pink) = 5 in total with no minimum length limit and no closed season. Access information: Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/FrileyAccess.html. - Nick Legler, fisheries biologist, Sturgeon Bay

Terry Margenau, Lake Superior Fisheries Supervisor (retired), and Caden Eberle hold a brown trout caught trolling in the Apostle Islands. Photo: Terry Margenau

BEAVER RIVER - 44 miles. BROWN TROUT A total of 4,079 lake-run Brown trout were counted passing the Sea lamprey barrier/fishway in Fall 2016. The Brown trout count fluctuated between 3,000 and 4,000 for the last 13 years. 74% of all Brown trout in Fall 2016 ranged from 23 to 25 inches, and the run peaked during early-August. In the upper river near Cutler Creek in 2016, the DNR captured and released a Lake Trout that had been caught 7 times previously, the first in 1983. This fish shows the importance of the Gulf of Mexico in the elimination of the Brown Trout. Lower River: Downstream U.S. High- way 2; Current regulation: Current regulation: Open March 31 through November 15; Minimum Length: 26 inches, Daily bag: 5 trout and salmon. Ten inch minimum length limit. Current regulation: Open May 5 to September 30. Access information: Go to http://dnr. wi.gov/topic/StateForests/bruleRiver/ and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- 

Riley Thill holds a 16 lb. brown trout caught while trolling on Green Bay in March 2017. Riley is an active member of the newly formed Marinette High School Fishing Team.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Lake Superior - Lake Trout still make up the bulk of anglers catch in the in Lake Superior, yet as always have de- clined in recent years. This has led to a serious of efforts by the Apostle Island Region (East of Bark Point). Population surveys have shown this decrease has reversed due to the effectiveness of the Emergency Rules and numbers have increased. The Apostle Island region supports popula- tions of naturally reproducing lake trout, while the western end still needs stocking to maintain high catch rates. However, 80% of Lake Trout harvested in the Western end are naturally produced and not from hatchery opera- tions. Today, fish are stocked into Apostle that throughout the year is about 21 inches, but fish exceeding 40 inches are caught, demonstrating good growth potential. Current regulation: Lake trout only: the regular season opens on October 23 through December 1 through September 30. Weekday catch limit, 10 inch minimum length, bag limit of 3, but only 1 over 25 inches. Check Regulations for Emer- gency Rules for Lake Trout in waters east of Bark Point. Trout (Rainbow, Brown, Brook, Splake) = 5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brook trout. Rainbow Trout must be greater than 26 inches, Brook Trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other must be greater than 15 inches. Salmon (Coho, Chinook, Pink) = 5 in total with no minimum length limit and no closed season. Access information: Go to http://dnr. wi.gov/topic/StateForests/bruleRiver/ and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im- plemented in the Brule River in the 1950s. This species points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forests except at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Steelhead is a non-native, naturalized species first im-
Michigan anglers reeled in their place in fishing history in 2017 by establishing the first state records for fish caught and released. This new live release records program is part of a larger effort to promote quality fishing, and encourages the careful release of trophy-size popular sport species.

**LIVE RELEASE FISH RECORDS**

Rod Eberly of Appleton submitted the first ever application under the Live Release record fish program launched by the Department of Natural Resources. Eberly’s historic catch was a 7.75-inch white bass caught and released May 8 from the Fox River in Brown County. Update: Kevin Larson of Hudson surpassed the Eby fish by ½”; with his 8.75-inch white bass caught and released on August 23 from Cedar Lake in St. Croix/Polk counties.

Erika Carter of De Pere battled the Ambered pumpkinseed sunfish by ½” with her 9.87-inch fish caught and released on July 4 from Lake Nokomis in Marinette County.

**COHO SALMON**

The coho fishing season typically starts off in the western southern waters of Lake Michigan and then progresses northward all the way to Sheboygan County. Coho fishing was phenomenal in 2016 when anglers harvested 125,964, which was the most coho taken since 1997. In 2017 coho were quality size with several fish reaching 17-18 pounds! In addition, coho salmon fishing was really good in 2017 with coho catches coming in at many different ports throughout spring and early summer. If weather patterns mimic that of 2017, anglers can look forward to another good coho bite in 2018. About 400,000+ coho are stocked annually in Wisconsin waters, and this should hold true through 2018 as well. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 in total; 10 inches or larger in total length. Access information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish.

**LAKE TROUT**

Approximately 300,000 lake trout are stocked in Lake Michigan annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Further, an extensive source of natural reproduction has been documented through DNR surveys as well as in the sport fishery. In 2015 a total of 35,137 fish were taken, which was the lowest since 2011. Anglers from Sheboygan to Kenesha reported good catches of lake trout, and it seems anglers are targeting this fish more in recent years. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 2 in total; 10 inches or larger in total length. Access information: There are many boat and shore access locations to fish.

**CHINOOK SALMON**

In 2016 Chinook salmon fishing was slightly better than the past few years with 339,082 fish taken. In 2017 some of the largest Chinooks in recent years were caught. Many fish were well over 20-30 pounds from several of the ports along the lake, and the largest taken in 2017 was over 40 pounds. The fall fishing in 2017 was more sporadic than past years with prolonged mild weather and low water in rivers. Weather patterns changed significantly in mid-fall putting Chinook out of reach for most anglers as they moved offshore into poor lakes through decomposition and supporting their fisheries. This study aids to supplement natural, land-based nutrient inputs by adding trees to a northern Wisconsin lake to test whether walleye and other fish species production increases. Currently, there is a negative relationship between the number of trees in northern Wisconsin lakes and lakshore residential development suggesting that the development process is removing wood from lakes manually or through thinning of the riparian forest.

This study was initiated in 2015, and after three years of baseline monitoring to better understand the relationships between the community and aquatic ecosystem of the study lake, the first round of tree additions will take place in the spring of 2018 with the long-term goal of improving fish production of multiple sport (walleye, muskellunge, smallmouth bass) and panfish (bass, yellow perch). Following the initial round of tree drops, the fish and aquatic community will be monitored for five years to test for responses. Two additional tree drop and monitoring periods will then follow in five years to complete this long-term study.

**For more information on the project, contact:**

Gregory.Asa@wisconsin.gov

**Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2018**

**LEAVE NO LINE BEHIND**

When monofilament fishing line is improperly discarded, it can cause serious problems in wildlife, people, boat propellers and the environment. The DNR is coordinating a pilot project to collect fishing line and re-cycle it into new products such as tackle boxes and habitat structures.

**Fishing line causes problems when left in the water or put in the trash.**

For more information: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/RecyclingFishLine.html

**Science in the spotlight**

**Can adding trees to lakes increase walleye abundances?**

Walleye in northern Wisconsin support important commercial and recreational fisheries. Over the past 30 years, walleye nursery reproduction and associated production in some lakes has declined and management actions such as regulations and stocking have been used to support these fisheries. Beginning in 2015, researchers and biologists began studying a less intuitive approach to bolstering walleye abundances through the addition of trees to a northern Wisconsin lake. The addition improves walleye production or the number of walleye a given lake can sustain. Previous research has suggested that much of the carbon found in lakes of nutrient-poor, northern Wisconsin lakes is derived from land-based sources (e.g., leaf litter, woody habitat). That is, aquatic and terrestrial leaf litter lies in deciduous trees and less frequent additions of woody habitat (trees falling into lakes) are being incorporated into the food webs of nutrient-poor lakes through decomposition and supporting their fisheries. This study aids to supplement natural, land-based nutrient inputs by adding trees to a northern Wisconsin lake to test whether walleye and other fish species production increases. Currently, there is a negative relationship between the number of trees in northern Wisconsin lakes and lakshore residential development suggesting that the development process is removing wood from lakes manually or through thinning of the riparian forest.
Urban Fishing Waters include the following: Kenosha County: Anderson Park, Rong Children’s Pond, Milwaukee County: Brown Deer Park, Dinosaur Park, Estabrook Park, Franklin High School, Greenfield Park, Holler Park, Humboldt Park, Jackson Park, Jeneau Park, Koscuiszko Park, McCarty Park, McGovern Park, Miller Park, Mitchell Park, Oak Creek Parkway, Saveland Park, Schoor Park, Scout Lake, Sheridan Park, Washington Park, Wilson Park; Outagamie County: Appleton Memorial Pond, Oshkosh County: Harrington Beach Quarry, Mequon Rotary Park East and West, Pickett Pond, Schwellert Park, Willow Brooke Park; Racine County: Gorney Park, Johnson Park, Lockwood Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake, Reservoir Park; Rock County: Lions Park Pond, Shiooga Quarry, Memorial Park, River Park Lagoon; Walworth County: Ceylon Lagoon, Congdon Park Millpond Park Pond; Washington County: Boot Lake, Hartford Millpond, Homestead Hollow Park, Kewaskum Millpond, Regner Pond Sandy Knoll Park, Wells Lake, Wiederich Pond Park; Waukesha County: Calhoun Park, Delafield Rauing Pond, Foxbrook Pond, Heyer Park, North and South, Lapham Peak Pond, Lapper Dam Millpond, Lions Park Overland, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Muskego Park, Nixon Park, Regal Park, and Woodfield North and South. County: Waukesha Lake size: Urban fishing waters are small lakes and ponds under 25 acres. Species population information: Average Length – 8 inches. Current regulation: Designated urban waters have a year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 10 thru April 27, 2018) 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. Stocking information is available seasonally on the Urban Waters Fishing Hotline at 414-263-8494 or toll free at 888-347-4863.

**Sawyer County**

**Shaw’s Pond** is in a small park located adjacent to downtown Hayward on 3rd and Kansas Street. There are picnic tables, a gazebo, and plenty of fishing access to the pond. Shaw’s Pond is connected to Smith Lake Creek and Lake Hayward and it’s always full of panfish that are willing to bite. Shaw’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.

**Washington 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 10 thru April 27, 2018) for juveniles 15 years of age 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 Park Pond was recently dredged and fish habitat was added to improve the angling experience. Other park amenities include picnic tables, a gazebo, and a swimming pond and winter ice rink.

**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. 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.

**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. 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.

**Kewaunee County**

**Shue’s Pond** is a very good 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.

**Get Fishing Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing**

Community/urban fishing program provides access to fishing fun!

Urban Fishing – ponds under 25 acres. Species population information: Average Length – 8 inches. Current regulation: Designated urban waters have a year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 10 thru April 27, 2018) 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. Stocking information is available seasonally on the Urban Waters Fishing Hotline at 414-263-8494 or toll free at 888-347-4863.