Catch and Release... Responsibly

Catch and release has become popular with many anglers, but it only works if the fish is around for the next hook set.

Catch-and-release fishing has been an important part of recreational fishing for quite some time, and the practice continues to increase in popularity with many state anglers. As anglers have come to value many fish species more for their sporting qualities than as table fare - including trout, bass and muskellunge - catch-and-release fishing has grown immensely.

There are waters that are managed with catch and release regulations to improve the fishery, but, for the most part, fisheries programs don’t actively promote catch and release fishing. They leave that decision to the angler. Of course, there are occasions — such as during a closed season or with fish that do not meet the minimum length required — the release decision is made for them.

Fish responsibly. Alter your method or your gear to minimize hooking mortality. That may mean going to different hook, or setting the hook a little sooner. Apply deeply hooked fish to your bag limit and release the fish that have a good survivable hookup.

In some cases, if fish are badly hooked (for instance, in the gills) or are obviously stressed, you may not be able to successfully release them. However, every attempt should be made for a positive release.

Please follow these guidelines to improve the health of your released fish:

1. **Fishing Conditions:** Please consider
   The stress extreme water temperatures have on fish if you plan on releasing your catch.

2. **Reeling in the Fish**
   Fish should be retrieved as quickly as possible.

3. **Handling the Fish**
   Use wet hands or wet gloves to handle the fish.

4. **Unhooking the Fish**
   If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line and release the fish.

5. **Reviving the Fish**
   Gently rock the fish from side to side until it can maintain its balance. When the fish begins to struggle, let it swim away.

Following the above guidelines will help improve the fish’s chance of survival after release and allow another angler to enjoy the thrill of catching a quality Wisconsin fish.

For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “responsible release.”

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**Welcome to the 2019 Wisconsin Fishing Report.** Please spend a few minutes and review this publication. You’ll learn how the men and women in the fisheries program take pride in making your fishing better. The fabulous fisheries projects highlight many of the interesting and lesser known projects that our staff work on and many of these are in partnerships with external groups that are instrumental in completing this critical work around the state.

In 2019, the fisheries program will be focusing on enhanced communications to you, our stakeholders. Social media has become an important tool in distributing our messages. You can tune in to Facebook and watch our staff in real time as they work and you can learn more about the resources you use. You can follow our tweets to get up to date information on events and activities. We’ll also be adding some podcast materials.

Finally, we will be embarking on a new Fish On...Wisconsin! initiative that has been developed to build participation in the sport by engaging new and existing anglers and to increase public awareness of the fisheries program and available fishing opportunities. Look for it!

Good luck with your 2019 fishing!

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**WISCONSIN ANGLER**

**Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management**

**Spring 2019**

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

**fishingwisconsin.org**

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**2019 SEASON DATES**

- **Early Inland Trout**
  January 5 (5 a.m.) to May 3

- **General Hook and Line Inland**
  May 4 to March 1, 2020

- **General Inland Trout**
  May 4 (5 a.m.) to Oct. 15

- **Largemouth Bass**
  Northern Zone Harvest
  May 4 to March 1, 2020

- **Smallmouth Bass**
  Northern Zone Catch-and-Release
  May 4 to June 14

- **Smallmouth Bass**
  Northern Zone Harvest
  June 15 to March 1, 2020

- **Largemouth Bass**
  Southern Zone
  May 4 to March 1, 2020

- **Musky – Northern Zone**
  May 25 to Nov. 30

- **Musky – Southern Zone**
  May 4 to Dec. 31

- **Northern Pike**
  May 4 to March 1, 2020

- **Walleye**
  May 4 to March 1, 2020

- **Lake Sturgeon (hook and line)**
  Sept. 7 to Sept. 30

- **Free Fishing Weekend**
  June 1 – 2, 2019 summer
  January 18 – 19, 2020 winter

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**Find links to fishing licenses, season dates, regulations, where to fish and more at:**

- fishingwisconsin.org
- Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/wiDNR)
- Watch us on YouTube (youtube.com/user/WIENRTV)
- Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/dnr_wi

**SIGN UP for Fisheries Updates. Go to fishingwisconsin.org to sign up and stay informed on fisheries issues.**
Evaluation of the Oconomowoc River electrical barrier using acoustic telemetry

Electrical fish barriers have been proven effective in reducing the spread of invasive species including Silver and Bighead carp. Acoustic telemetry technology enables fisheries researchers to track movement of individually numbered fish. In June of 2018, 17 common carp were collected, implanted with ultrasonic acoustic transmitters and released back into the Oconomowoc River. Acoustic receivers were strategically placed in the Oconomowoc River upstream of the confluence of the Rock River. The goal of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the electrical fish barrier located on Northside Drive in the Isanti Township. Objectives include preventing the upstream migration of common carp in spring and promoting downstream migration in fall. Common carp are a highly invasive, non-native fish species that is detrimental to water quality, native aquatic plants and native fish species. This project is a cooperative partnership with the DNR, the Lac La Belle Lake Management District and the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, Cooperative Fisheries Unit. The electrical barrier has been maintained and operated by the DNR fisheries staff for over 30 years. Annual survey data indicates a long-term downward trend in common carp abundance in Lac La Belle. Contact Information: Benjamin Heussner, benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov (414) 303-0109

Lake Superior nearshore fishery evaluation

The Lake Superior fisheries team has gained a new project biologist to aid ongoing projects and begin leading monitoring and research efforts of the nearshore, coastal fishery of Lake Superior. Specifically, we will be collecting information on walleye, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, northern pike, and brown trout. This project is largely focused on the Chequamegon Bay area, and during 2018 sampling efforts, we tagged over 2,200 fish of these species and intend to tag even more in 2019. We ask anglers fishing the Chequamegon Bay area to be on the lookout for tags, record the tag color and code, and report it to staff at the Bayfield office. This information is extremely valuable to us and will be instrumental in developing and carrying out our Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan. > Deep Cery, fisheries biologist - Bayfield

Sand Creek trout habitat improvement project

Phase II of the Sand Creek trout habitat improvement project was completed upstream of the town of Sand Creek in the summer of 2018. Sand Creek is a coldwater stream that originates in Chippewa County flows west into Winnebago County prior to emptying into the Red Cedar River 9.5 miles later. Phase II, led by Trout Habitat Specialist, Nate Anderson, consisted of two, 1980s making for 4,700 ft of continuous stream connects with a project done in the 1980s making for 4,700 ft of continuous stream. The goal of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the electrical fish barrier located on Northside Drive in the Isanti Township. Objectives include preventing the upstream migration of common carp in spring and promoting downstream migration in fall. Common carp are a highly invasive, non-native fish species that is detrimental to water quality, native aquatic plants and native fish species. This project is a cooperative partnership with the DNR, the Lac La Belle Lake Management District and the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, Cooperative Fisheries Unit. The electrical barrier has been maintained and operated by the DNR fisheries staff for over 30 years. Annual survey data indicates a long-term downward trend in common carp abundance in Lac La Belle. Contact Information: Benjamin Heussner, benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov (414) 303-0109

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Put and take trout stocking creel project

In the Spring of 2018, ten streams with the DNR’s stocks catchable-sized rainbow trout were evaluated for angler participation, catch and harvest. The best shoreline angling opportunities at Asylum Bay on Lake Winnebago. The project included constructing 15 fish stick complexes along Asylum Bay Point Park. The park is one of the most heavily used shoreline fishing area and provides some of the best shoreline angling opportunities around Lake Winnebago. The DNR and Winnebago County have maintained a cooperative agreement to ensure that the property is open to the public and provides adequate access to Lake Winnebago. The fish sticks project should provide valuable spawning habitat and refuge for various fish species, particularly largemouth bass and panfish. Wood will also serve as habitat for a variety of wildlife species such as turtles, waterfowl, and herons that use aquatic plants and native fish species. This project is largely focused on the Chequamegon Bay area, and during 2018 sampling efforts, we tagged over 2,200 fish of these species and intend to tag even more in 2019. We ask anglers fishing the Chequamegon Bay area to be on the lookout for tags, record the tag color and code, and report it to staff at the Bayfield office. This information is extremely valuable to us and will be instrumental in developing and carrying out our Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan. > Deep Cery, fisheries biologist - Bayfield

Catchable-sized trout are stocked in some streams that are able to support trout populations throughout the year because they get too warm in the summer, and in some streams to increase the trout abundance for opening day. We wanted to measure the amount of angler use of these stocked fish and answer the question does catchable sized trout stocking increase the chance of having a successful fishing trip. We conducted angler creel surveys on 1 stream in Rock County, 4 streams in Green County and 5 streams in Columbia County. We made counts of anglers and vehicles in parking lots along lakes on the opening weekend effort at 5 angler hours/mile of stream per day. That is relatively low compared to opening day efforts on some of our more famous trout streams but is about average for er creel surveys that were conducted in Wisconsin from 1965-2015 where the average catch rate was 0.3 trout per hour for opening weekend. So, if you want an opening weekend trout fishing spot that is not too crowded, and your chances of catching trout are 4 times better than the average stream, consider a stream with catchable-sized trout! A list of these streams is published on the DNR website: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/catchabletrout.html.

Musk tagging project provides a better understanding of fish behavior

Hayward is known for big muskies, so it is appropriate that they are the focus of several research projects in the area. Over 24,000 muskellunge have been tagged with tags called PIT tags (these are the same tags used to track lost pets). DNR crews have been using these tags for decades, but in recent years anglers and guides in the Hayward area had a chance to be involved as well. Muskie lure and vented fishers, and other anglers were given scanners to check for tags in muskies they captured while angling. To date, those anglers have been responsible for 10% of the over 900 captures of tagged muskellunge in Hayward area lakes. Starting in 2018, several guides were also permitted to tag muskies that they caught with their clients. Guides tagged enough muskies last year to supplement DNR tagging efforts by 48%. Alredy, the project has yielded interesting information on fish movements, growth, and catch and release effects. For example, one guide caught the same fish twice in the span of three days with different clients. That stands as testament that proper handling of musky can make the experience of being caught easy on the fish since it started feeding again almost immediately. It’s also a nice reminder that catch and release provides opportun

An angler fishing with a guide on a Sve- yer County lake shows off his catch. This musky, along with thousands of others, was tagged so information can be collected on it in the future. Guides and anglers have teamed up with the DNR to increase numbers of tagged fish and tag return data.

Researchers implant an acoustic transmitter into an adult common carp. Photo: Mark Balduck, fisheries technician, Horicon.
The DNR has partnered with local groups and agencies to pursue removal of the 45-foot high South Shore Railroad bridge over Nebagamon Creek, a classified trout stream and major tributary to the Bois Brule River. Due to declining demand for rail service to the area, this rail line was abandoned and stopped receiving maintenance, leading to delamination of the concrete culvert and earthen embankment of the crossing. Failure of the downstream wing-walls has created a pile of concrete debris in the culvert outlet that blocks upstream fish migration and could potentially lead to a catastrophic failure of the embankment that would compromise downstream habitat in Nebagamon Creek and the Brule River.

- Aaron Nelson, fisheries technician

The DNR staff then worked with the Menomonee River downstream of the former barrier. DNR staff then constructed a FTA barrier on the river assess passage through the reconstructed section. Fish detected moving about included northern piké, white sucker, smallmouth bass, and golden shiners. Brenda Carter, Schmitt, fisheries biologist – Milwaukee

Records are meant to be broken - many in 2018

The Wisconsin record fish program saw considerable action in 2018. Twenty-two records were either broken or found their way on the list for the first time. Four fish records were from the traditionally “by weight” category, 6 fish records were from the newly created “live release” category and 12 fish records were from the alternate method category (most of these by bow and arrow or spear gun).

There is usually some kind of story to tell with a record fish. For some of the more interesting stories from 2018, read on...

All in the Family

Erika Carter of De Pere bettore the pumpkinseed sunfish record with a 5.75-inch fish caught and released on July 4, 2017 from Lake Noquebay in Marinette County. Not to be outdone, Brenda Carter (Erika’s mother) from DePere caught and released up 27 kilometers to migrating fish.

Déjà vu all over again

Dale Fabrichi of Arena, WI enjoyed the holiday season in 2015 when he used a bow and arrow to take a 23-1/2”, 4 lbs. 8.6 oz spotted sucker on December 26 from the Wisconsin River in Richland County. Fast forward to 2018...Fabiachi shot a 22-8”, 5 lbs. 6.7 oz spotted sucker on April 21 from the Wisconsin River in Richland County that bettered the 2015 record by almost half a pound.

Records ARE meant to be broken

Record duration: 2-1/2 hours

Michael Mahnke of Waukesha shot a 38-1/4”, 34 lbs. 7.2 oz grass carp on August 4 from the Mississippi River in Grant County. The fish broke the current record by over a pound and a half.

Tim Hill of Lancaster shot a 40-3/4”, 39 lbs. grass carp on August 5 from the Mississippi River in Grant County. Hill’s record bested Mahnke’s record, set 2-1/2 hours earlier, by about four and half pounds.

For more information on record fish, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/recordfish/

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

LEAVE NO LINE BEHIND

For more information: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Recycling/FishingLine.html

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

3
Catch memories that you’ll never release!
Find your fish and water in 2019.

Interested in a water? Want more information? Contact the local fisheries biologist dnr.gov/topic/fishing/people/fisheriesbiologist.html

WALLEYE

BROWN, MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTIES

Fox River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay. Since 2012, the DNR has assessed the magnitude of walleye spawning migrations into the Fox River located in southern Green Bay and into the Oconto, Peshtigo and Menominee Rivers found along the west shore of Green Bay by using daytime electroshocking, Electrofishings.org.

“Electrofishing in these rivers to capture fish. During 2018 electrofishing runs, DNR sampled 1,828 Walleye that were captured in "length that ranged from 14 inches to over 26 inches. This year’s spawn was later than normal and was very short in length likely due to an unusually cold spring with a fast warm-up. Look for Walleye in these rivers shortly after ice-out into the spring until water temperatures are consistently above 50°F. DNR also assesses the Walleye population during the fall to look at young of the year (YOY) production and year class strength. In 2018, during our nighttime YOY electrofishing surveys on the lower Fox River and on lower Green Bay, Walleye from 5” to 26” were captured. The majority of captured Walleye were YOY walleye indicating that 2018 was a very good year for Walleye production. Early indications are that the 2018 year class will surpass the record 2013 year class as measured in the fall of the first year for the most YOY captured. Walleye access information. www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakeshakeup/Tributary-Access.htm. Since 2007 by only one year class was the 2012 year class. Responsible anglers continue to catch good numbers of Walleye from Green Bay and its tributaries.

BURNETT/WASHBURN COUNTIES

Middle McKenzie Lake. Middle McKen-enzie Lake on the Washburn/Burnett County line is a low-density walleye lake (~1 fish/acre). However, lower numbers typically mean greater size. This is the case with Middle McKenzie Lake. The average length of adult walleye was 20 inches and 75% of walleye sampled were greater than 18 inches. No minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit. Access: Concrete boat launch located off of Rive Drive on the Northwest side of the lake.

CALUMET, FOND DU LAC, GREEN LAKE, OUTAGAMIE, SHIBE, OSHKOSH BURLING, BURNETT, OCONTO AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES

The Winnebago System includes the four lakes (Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Foygan) along with all their tributaries from their mouths upstream to the first dam including the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. The walleye fishery here flies under the radar as bluegill and largemouth bass dominate. Walleyes are typically captured in 1-2 foot depths. Walleyes during the last three years, we’ve averaged 15 inches and daily bag limit is 5 fish. There is no minimum size limit for either species. There are numerous access points around the Winnebago system. Consult a map of the system to see where access is near you and where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat Access Website to search for access information (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess). DNR fisheries staff has tagged 700 Walleye on the Winnebago System since 1993. The program relies on anglers to report any tagged Walleye they catch by mailing them to the Odiorne DNR of-fice (PO Box 65 East County Road, Oshkosh WI 54901) or emailing them to drwinewedebagouyestagreport@dnr.wi.gov. Anglers are encouraged to check their Walleye catch and report them properly. Anglers that return tags can expect a mailed certificate that provides information about the tagged fish they caught. (Adam Nikiel, Fisheries Biologist, Oshkosh)

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Otter Lake - 661 acres. The walleye population in Otter Lake in eastern Chippewa County is in good condition thanks to the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative. (2018 spring electrofishing results, 2019 summer sampling results) Otter Lake has been stocked with 6,600 extended growth walleye (6-8”) bi-annually. A walleye population esti-mate was conducted in the spring of 2018 and it was calculated that there were 73 adult walleye per acre, which is about double the statewide average for lakes containing walleye. Since there is no documentation of natural reproduction, stocking walleye for the main rea-son for the robust walleye population. The walleye fishery here flies under the radar as Bluegill and largemouth bass are the primary target fish. Most the walleye were between 12” and 17”, which is a great eating size. The walleye regulation for Otter Lake is a three fish bag limit and they must be between 15-20 inches in length, but not one may be over 24 inches. Joseph Gerbyshak – fish-eries biologist, Eau Claire

CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE AND TREMPLEAU COUNTIES

Arbets Lake - 840 acres and the upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dam), and lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dam). Catch rates and fish size are based on 2018 electrofishing results summary: Total catch rate was 41.5/mile, catch rate of 15”+ fish was 4.7/mile and maximum length captured was 28”. In 2019, total catch rate was 26.4/mile, catch rate of 15”+ fish was 1.0/mile and maximum length captured was 24”.

Black River, upper - Total catch rate was 15.5/mile, catch rate of 15”+ fish was 0.4/mile and maximum length captured was 24". Black River, lower - Total catch rate was 10.5/mile, catch rate of 15”+ fish was 0.4/mile and maximum length captured was 24”.

Gizzard shad can often drive walleye fishing success on this system and the year’s weak hatch could set up for a productive 2019 walleye bite. 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 size limit for either species. There are numerous access points around the Winnebago system. Consult a map of the system to see where access is near you and where you want to launch, or go to the DNR’s Boat Access Website to search for access information (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess). DNR fisheries staff has tagged 700 Walleye on the Winnebago System since 1993. The program relies on anglers to report any tagged Walleye they catch by mailing them to the Odiorne DNR of-fice (PO Box 65 East County Road, Oshkosh WI 54901) or emailing them to drwinewedebagouyestagreport@dnr.wi.gov. Anglers are encouraged to check their Walleye catch and report them properly. Anglers that return tags can expect a mailed certificate that provides information about the tagged fish they caught. (Adam Nikiel, Fisheries Biologist, Oshkosh)

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Lake Koshkonong/Rock River - 10,000 acres and 22+ river miles. 2018 spring electrofishing surveys yielded high quality adult walleye catches. A total of 802 walleye were captured with a length range of 11.5 to 22 inches and an average length of 14.7 inches. With the current 15-inch minimum length limit 25% of the catch was legal. There is a 20 inch and open season on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all gamefish except muskellunge. 15- inch minimum length and 5 fish daily bag limit on walleye. Access informa-tion: Dalmann County Park, Grovel Road, Klement Park, City of Jefferson below Jefferson Dam. With assistance of Captain Joe Wanteck, the DNR’s Bark River Hatchery stocked 4.9 mil-lion walleye into Lake Koshkonong/Rock River in 2018.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Mississippi River, Pool 8 – 22,696 acres. 2018 harvest was 4,730 walleye. Harvest monitoring through 2018 through 2019 in the tailwater of Pool 8 near La Crosse shows some improvement from the previous years. During the last three years, we’ve av-
eraged 79 walleye per hour of electrofishing. From 2018 through 2015, we saw an average of 25 per hour for half of later years. This recent increase is likely due to higher harvest in 2016-2018. This recent increase suggests that walleye are more abundant now than before. Walleye have been harvested to help control populations and conserve resources. This conservation effort has likely contributed to the recent increase in walleye abundance.

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY**

Yellowstone Lake - 450 acres - The walleye population in Yellowstone has been stable over the past 15 years. It still offers anglers an opportunity to catch trophy-sized walleye as well as table-sized fish. Spring netting surveys in 2018 revealed a good adult fishery. Eight- to twelve-inch adults and trophy walleyes were sampled. They ranged in size 11.0 to 29.8 inches and averaged 16.8 inches. Eleven percent were within the 15 to 18 inch slot size range. Forty percent were greater than 18 inches, whereas 4% were over 21 inches. Yellowstone supports a trophy walleye fishery with 15 percent of the fish greater than 24 inches. Large walleye are protected to help prevent overfishing. A 15 walleye are counted in the 19 to 24 inch slot. The number of walleye sampled was 105,000. The daily bag limit is 5. A creel survey will be conducted to determine if the fishery is being fished at an optimal rate. Walleye populations should be managed to prevent overfishing.

**MARATHON COUNTY**

Lake Wausau and Big Eau Pleine Reservoir Lake Wausau: 181 acres which is characteristic of the Big Eau Pleine River and eventually feeds into the Wisconsin River. Largemouth bass are common. About 15% of adult walleyes were caught. The length frequency distribution was bimodal, with the most common length being 15 inches. A maximum length was observed at 27.5 inches. The average depth of Lake Wausau is less than 5 feet. The walleye fishery has been primarily maintained through stocking by the Wisconsin River Sportfishermen's Club. Anglers are asked to report their catches to the Wisconsin DNR to assist with management decisions.

**OCONTO COUNTY**

White Potato Lake - 978 acres. During the last survey, 1,005 walleye were collected. Walleye ranged in length from 7.9 to 24.5 inches and averaged 15.9 inches. Walleye were reaching legal size (15 in) by age 4. Compared to other lakes in the area, whitefish growth was about average. Good growth was observed. Fifteen-inch minimum length / 5 fish per day. Anglers can choose from 6 boat landings to access White Potato Lake. The average depth of White Potato Lake is less than 5 feet. The walleye fishery has been primarily maintained through stocking. There are also a bait shop with boat rental located lakside. - Brad Sims, Fisheries Biologist - Dodgeville

**ONEIDA COUNTY**

Manson Lake - 236 acres. A recent survey shows a relatively low-density walleye population. The majority of walleyes sampled were legal size with the largest measuring just over 27 inches. Manson Lake does have its fair share of rock hazards to be aware of, most are depicted on the lake map in the kiosk at the public boat launch. The public boat launch is located just off Hwy 8.

**POLK COUNTY**

Big Butternut Lake - 384 acres. In a 2018 fisheries survey, the population of adult walleye (231) was estimated to be 65,000. This is considered very good for a stocked population. The size structure of the walleye population was also good. Of the 322 walleyes handled during the survey, 60% were 18 inches or larger. Larger walleye feed on cisco and eulachon which, in this case, was present in the lake. The average length of walleye sampled in 2018 measured over 28 inches. A special length regulation is in place which consists of a minimum length of 18 inches. A public boat launch is located with excellent fishing opportunities.

**PRICE COUNTY**

Pike Lake Chain of Lakes - 3,005 acres. Adult walleye density fell short of the goals that stakeholders helped to develop in the 2015 Fishery Management Plan for the Pike Lake Chain, located just north of State Highway 70 midway between the towns of Fillmore and Minoqua. Our targets were 4-6 adults per acre in Round, 2-4 adults per acre in Pike and Turner lakes, and 1-3 adults per acre in Amik Lake. By comparison, estimated population density in spring 2018 was 2 adults per acre in Round Lake and about 1 adult per acre in the other lakes. Although fisheries monitoring surveys suggest that lower-than-expected populations are stable and production is adequate, reduced walleye density has prompted concern about the future productivity of the Pike Lake Chain.

**RACINE COUNTY**

Tildigan Lake/Fox River - 230 lake acres and 7 river miles. The 2013 Tildigan Lake walleye survey showed a population of 1,000,000 walleyes with a 17.8" average length and maximum length of 31.5". The Tildigan chain has two stocking points and two monitoring stations. Recent monitoring surveys indicate a strong population of walleyes in Tildigan Lake and the connected reaches of the Fox River. Multiple boat launches on the river and a small carry-in access on the lake make Tildigan an attractive destination. Whitefish and Northern Pike are the other species. 18" minimum length limit, 3

**WISCONSIN FISHING REPORT - 2019**

**FYI:** Orchard and chicken wire are being sold at the Old Orchard Farm Stand on Hwy 8 near Nokomis. Orchard opens mid-May and early June before the water warms and aquatic vegetation makes trolling difficult. The live fish jamboree in January draws a very large crowd.

Hayward fisheries biologist, Max Walter displays a nice-sized White Potato Lake walleye.

average production and/or survival of young walleyes in 2013, 2014, and 2015 did not contribute enough young replacements to the adults that died from angling and ecological causes. This 3-year gap in walleye recruitment is now affecting adult populations. In Round Lake, 28% of walleyes in fyke nets were 21 inches, exceeding our goal to have 20-40% at least that long. Higher proportions of large fish (45-50%) in Amik, Pike, and Turner lakes at first glance would seem good, but in this case ex- ceeding our size objectives reflects a shortage of young fish coming into the adult population. Stronger year classes produced in 2016 and 2018 offer promising signs for improvement. With walleye populations sustained without stocking, Pike and Round lakes serve as “experimental controls” to measure year-to-year variation in natural walleye recruitment in the ongoing evaluation of stocking under the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative. A creel survey will estimate fishing pressure and harvest in the 2018-2019 season. Anglers may keep walleye of any size, but only one individual of 3 walleye from Pike, Round, Turner, and Amik lakes combined. The U.S. Forest Service maintains a landing suit- able for most boats on the west shore of Round Lake. DNR offers a shallow-water access landing on the east side of Round Lake and an unpaved carry-in access on the east side of Pike Lake.

On Lake Wausau, many folks tend to fish in the kiosk at the public boat launch.

**FISHING TIPS FROM THE FISH COMMISSIONER**

- Check out the fish for size and structure. Some structures, such as brush piles and rock piles, can be beneficial to walleye populations.
- Walleye are known to be up-and-down feeders. They can be found at various depths throughout the water column.
- Use live bait, such as minnows or night crawlers, to attract walleye.
- Consider using artificial baits, such as plastic minnows or spinners, which can be effective in different situations.
- Be patient and willing to change tactics when walleye are not biting.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Wisconsin's walleye populations, feel free to contact me at 608-254-7494. I look forward to hearing from you and addressing any issues you may have.

**WISCONSIN FISHING REPORT - 2019**

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Hayward fisheries biologist, Max Walter displays a nice-sized White Potato Lake walleye.
Fish Wisconsin! fishingwisconsin.org

**TAYLOR COUNTY**

Chequamegon Waters Flowage (also called Miller Dam Flowage) – 274 acres. Though we typically gauge the abundance and size structure of walleye populations by early spring netting at ice-out, we also catch walleye stockings in Miller Dam Flowage from an incidental catch of fyke nets targeting black crappies there in fall 2017. We determined and published a bonus fishery for walleye in an impoundment with habitat better suited for other species, the Miller Dam Watershed Association has purchased and stocked walleyes at a rate of 0.5 large fingerling per acre annually since 2007, nearly 16,000 fingerlings per year. The walleye catch included fish in many length and age classes suggesting that fish stocked as fingerlings are surviving and growing to the sizes that anglers like to catch and release or keep. The 40 walleyes in our crappie sample ranged from 14.5 to 26.5 inches and averaged 21.3 inches long. Additional predation from walleyes will help control abundant bluespotted and keep bluegills and crappies growing at satisfactory rates.

Anglers may take 3 walleyes per day from 15” but less than 18” in length, except one fish may be over 24”. — Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist

**RUSK COUNTY**

Amacy Lake – 267 acres. From netting and electrofishing surveys at ice-out in April 2017, DNR conservation staff estimated the Amacy Lake fish community was made up of multiple species. In 2017 DNR surveys, walleye abundance was the size. Of all walleye captured, 93% were over 15 inches and abundance was the size. Of all walleye captured, 93% were over 15 inches and abundance was the size. Additional predation from walleyes will help control abundant bluespotted and keep bluegills and crappies growing at satisfactory rates. Anglers may take 3 walleyes per day from 15” but less than 18” in length, except one fish may be over 24” — Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Whitefish Lake is known locally for its unique bathtoym (it’s 110 feet deep!) and rare fish species (it has lake whitefish!). A 2018 DNR fyke netting survey found that the walleye population is doing quite well too. Crews captured an average of 32 adult walleye per net, a higher relative abundance than what is normally expected in the area. But more impressive than the abundance is the size of the population. An average of 32 adult walleye per net was captured, 92% were over 15 inches and 34% were over 20 inches. With the most recent walleye stock, walleye abundance is currently in place on the lake, a large portion of the walleye population captured was over 20 inches. Despite the strong survey numbers, catching walleye in Whitefish can still be challenging. The lake is also home to one of the densest coho populations in northwest Wisconsin. Walleye keying in on these coho should be different than one way in not seeing coho. Anglers willing to put in the time to explore Whitefish’s puzzle can be rewarded greatly! There is a town boat ramp on Maiden Lake off of State Highway 27.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

Random Lake – 209 acres. During 2018 spring fyke netting and boom electrofishing surveys a total of 282 Walleyes were captured and marked. The mark and recapture samples yielded an adult Walleye population estimate of 2.0 Walleye per acre with a minimum length limit and 3 fish daily bag limit. As an average of 32 adult walleye per net was captured, 92% were over 15 inches and 34% were over 20 inches. With the most recent walleye stock, walleye abundance is currently in place on the lake, a large portion of the walleye population captured was over 20 inches. Despite the strong survey numbers, catching walleye in Whitefish can still be challenging. The lake is also home to one of the densest coho populations in northwest Wisconsin. Walleye keying in on these coho should be different than one way in not seeing coho. Anglers willing to put in the time to explore Whitefish’s puzzle can be rewarded greatly! There is a town boat ramp on Maiden Lake off of State Highway 27.

**MUSKELLUNG**

Green Bay, Green Bay tributaries and bays and the Fox River. Annual assessments determine the status of the Green Bay Muskellunge population and its interactions with other waterbodies in the region. anglers should check for the latest status. The Fox River captured many Musky in length and 35 pounds in weight. The largest female Musky was 55” in length and weighed 42.5 pounds. Male Musky averaged 44.1” in length and 19.9 pounds in weight. The largest male was 49.6” in length and 33.7 pounds in weight. The electrofishing survey was conducted on the Fox River near the mouth of Lake Michigan in 2018 that were between 40” and 50” in length. Musky anglers have reported catching legal size Musky greater than 4’ in length from the waters of Green Bay this past summer and into fall. The regulation for musky on the Fox River, Green Bay tributaries and the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay is one fish with a 44 inch minimum size. Most musky anglers report their boat from the Fox Point Landing or the Metro Ramp on the Fox River, the Suamico Boat Launch on the Suamico River, Carmony Ramp on Little Sturgeon Bay, the ramp at Geano Beach or the Menominee River Ramp. During 2018, DNR stocked 1,600 fingerling Great Lakes Strain Musky into the Fox River and Green Bay from eggs that were collected from Musky captured in the Fox River in May 2018. Since stocking resumed in 2018, DNR has stocked 33,852 fingerling and 16,121 yearling Musky into Green Bay making the future of Musky fishing on the bay bright.

**CLARK, JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MORGAN, and TREMPLEAUME COUNTIES**

Upper Black River (above the Black River Falls dam), Clark County, and lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dam), Jackson, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties. Catch rates are based on 2018 electrofishing results. Black River, upper: Total catch rate was 2.6/mile, catch rate of 40” + fish was 0.7/mile and maximum size captured was 49”. In 2017, total catch rate was 3.7/mile, catch rate of 40” + fish was 0.9/mile and maximum size captured was 54”. Musky into Green Bay making the future of Musky fishing on the bay bright.

Fisheries technician Marco Duke with a 49.5” St. Louis Musky captured and released during the 2018 survey.

There is a public boat launch close to the dam at Veterans Memorial Park. A fee is required to use the launch at this park. Boaters should use caution near the dam as many rock bars, wing dams, and shallow sand breaks are present in the river channel. Geologist have found that over a million year ago the Wisconsin River flowed east to the Atlantic Ocean Drainage. This east flowing version of the Wisconsin was named the Wisconsin River flowed east to the Atlantic Ocean Drainage. This east flowing version of the Wisconsin was named the Wisconsin River. It is believed that gla
diers dammed the Wisconsin River in the Prairie du Chien area diverting the flow to the west and south as we know it today. The Lower Wisconsin River includes 92.3 miles from the Prairie du Sac dam to the Mississippi River. - Brad Sims, fisheries biologist – Dodgeville

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

St. Louis River and Eaujay, 12.0 acres, 230 fish, mostly fingerlings, captured and released in 2018 fyke net survey; average length of 40.5 inches, with a range of 20.4 to 52.5 inches. 45 individuals (20%) were
DOUGLAS COUNTY

LOWER EAU CLAIRE LAKE - 794 acres. Lower Eau Claire Lake offers a low-density trophy muskie fishery. Seventeen muskies were sampled netting in the spring of 2018. They ranged in length from 31 to 60 inches. The largest muskie surveyed weighed 38 pounds. Thirty-eight percent of the fish sampled were greater than 40 inches in length. Muskies anglers willing to put in hours on the water can expect to catch muskies of trophy potential. The regulation is one fish at least 40" may be kept daily from the last Saturday in May to November 30.

Lower Chippewa River - 307 miles. The Lower Chippewa River is second to none with moon-eye, shad and numerous sucker species readily abundant. It is not surprising that stockings are operating on the lower Chippewa River and producing very nice muskies. Stocking the river in the lower Eau Claire area has been so successful that it has been expanded to Caryville and Durand. Check the river level prior to embarking to ensure it is at a safe level. The daily bag limit is one fish and it must be at least 40" - Jeff Gerbyshak, Fisheries biologist, Eau Claire.

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Little Green Lake - 404 acres. This stocked muskie fishery is one of the few in the state. The regulation is the state limit of one fish at least 40" may be kept daily during the open season.

LINDSAY LAKE - 64 acres. The Lindsay Lake is located on the east side of the city of Superior. Farmers have provided volunteers to assist with field work the duration of the study.

IOWA COUNTY

Twins Valley Lake - 136 acres. The Muskellunge population in Twins Valley Lake is classified as a trophy fishery and anglers can expect higher catch rates of fish in this classification. Survey yields yielded a total catch of 71 fish with a mean length approaching 37 inches. In fact, 18% of Muskies surveyed were over 40" with a maximum length of 47". With the steady stocking of Muskies in Twins Valley Lake, anglers can be sure that exciting musky angling will continue in 2019 and beyond. Minimum length limit of 40 inches with a daily bag limit of one fish daily bag limit. Concrete launch located on the southwestern end of lake at Mooney Dam County Park.

IRON COUNTY

Pine Lake: Those who are looking to tangle with their first musky or are seeking a good musky action lake in the Northwoods might consider Pine Lake. Located a few miles north of Mercer, Pine Lake is situated on 312 acres and has a nice boat landing just off Hwy G. Recent surveys indicate strong natural reproduction and above average adult muskellunge densities. While only 4% of the adults surveyed in 2018 were larger than 38", there are good numbers of fish in the mid-30" range, and a few larger fish are present. The smaller lake size helps shorten the learning curve for new anglers and can be a good choice for windy days. Currently, there is a 40" minimum length limit, 1 fish daily bag limit.

LANGLADE COUNTY

Summit Lake - 292 acres. This high density stocked muskie fishery; 40" minimum length limit, 1 daily. Most fish are in the 20-40" range with some males reaching the mid to upper 40". The shallow water boat landings on the east shore probably keep the bigger boats away. It would be a good place to try out that new fishing kayak and land a nice muskie while sitting on the water!

LINCOLN COUNTY

Squaw Lake - 79 acres. The adult population is high density but fish tend to top out in the mid 40-50" range, 40" minimum length limit, 1 daily. Good boat landing with parking on the northeast shore. Don’t let him small size of the lake discourage you, it fishes much larger with lots of aquatic vegetation, several points with deep rock, an inlet and an outlet, and other structure to fish.

M ARINETTE COUNTY

Caldron and High Falls. The muskie fishery is maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The density (fish per acre) of muskie is higher in Caldron Falls than in High Falls but large fish are present in both. Muskies have been stocked in High Falls for the first time in 2018. A 50-50 size minimum length limit went into effect in 2018.

OISEDA COUNTY

Haskbrook Lake - 307 acres. 2018 Spring surveys showed a healthy naturally reproducing muskellunge population with an average size near 40 inches. The largest muskellunge sampled stretched to 48 inches. The regulation is the state limit of one fish at least 40" may be kept daily on the southeast end of the lake off Haskbrook Road.

North Nokomis Lake - 476 acres. Recent surveys captured a good 44 muskellunge and showed good size structure. The average length of adult muskellunge sampled was 38.5" with the largest measuring just over 47".

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

muskies handled ≥ 30 inches, 26" were ≥ 40 inches, with fish up to 45.5” present. Bone Lake musky are managed the 50" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily bag limit. There are two public boat landings. The north landing is off 250th Avenue and is the better of the two. The south boat landing also has a fishing pier, picnic shelter, and restroom. The south boat landing is off Daubachun Drive. Muskellunge were introduced into Bone Lake in 1935, and the lake has been managed for muskellunge since then.

The lower Chippewa River from Eau Claire to the Mississippi River, has the potential to produce trophy caliber musky.

ONEIDA COUNTY

Haskbrook Lake - 307 acres. 2018 Spring surveys showed a healthy naturally reproducing muskellunge population with an average size near 40 inches. The largest muskellunge sampled stretched to 48 inches. The regulation is the state limit of one fish at least 40" may be kept daily.

OCONTO COUNTY

Fisheries technician Kristina Pechacek, with a tank Oneida County musky captured during a spring fyke net survey.

POLLK COUNTY

Bone Lake - 1,791 acres. In the 2017-2018 survey, the adult (≥30") musky population for Bone Lake was estimated to be 0.36 fish/acre. This is considered a moderate density. Size structure of Bone Lake musky was good. Of the 354

SHAWANO COUNTY

Shawano Lake and Washington Lake. Shawano Lake was 6,215 acres; Washing- ton Lake was 1,600 acres. 2018 Spring surveys indicated a comprehensive fisheries survey of the 1,600-acre lake. Washington Lake was sampled using fyke nets and electrofishing in spring 2018. A total of 39 different muskies

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

CISCO are part of the forage base and help to add on the pounds for producing trophy muskies. The regulation is the state limit of one fish at least 40" may be kept daily and fishing heavy fish. The regulation is the state limit of one fish at least 40" may be kept daily on the southeast end of the lake off Haskbrook Road.

Oneida County musky captured during a spring fyke net survey.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

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Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

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were captured during the spring comprehensive fisheries survey ranging in length from 18.3 to 30 inches with an average length of 26.8 inches. Shawano Lake is classified as an 11 muskie lake fishery, meaning it is considered a low density, trophy fishery. Results from the 2018 survey suggest that Shawano Lake is living up to its trophy potential. While catch rates of muskellunge were low, anglers should have the opportunity to catch a fairly large muskie in these lakes as just over half of the fish captured were ≥ 40 inches and five muskies were ≥ 45 inches with a maximum length limit of 5 feet 4 inches. Fifty-nine percent of the fish sampled were greater than 40 inches in length. Thirty-four muskie were sampled netting surveys and spring fyke netting surveys captured a low-density trophy muskie fishery. The 2018 spring netting survey on Lake Hallie is to provide a low-density, fast growing musky fishery where anglers have the opportunity to catch fish up to 50 inches or larger.

**Random Lake** - 209 acres. During 2018 spring netting survey and spring electrofishing surveys 38 muskellunge were captured. Lengths ranged from 27.5 inches to 41.0 inches with an average size of 34.5 inches. While trophy potential is limited, Random Lake offers excellent musky action. 40 inch minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. There is a public launch and shore fishing opportunity at Lake View Park, Random Lake, WI.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

**Shell Lake** - 2,513 acres. Shell Lake offers a low-density trophy muskie fishery. Thirty-four muskie were sampled netting this spring. They ranged in length from 24 to 50 inches and averaged 40 inches. Fifty-nine percent of the fish sampled were greater than 40 inches in length. Muskie anglers willing to put in many hours could be rewarded with a rare trophy. Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

**Pewaukee Lake** - 2,427 surface acres

Average Length – 34 inches, population estimate – 63 adults per acre. Current regulation: 48 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. There are two boat launches found on Pewaukee Lake, the county park launch on the west side and Smokee’s Muskie Shop on the east side. The 2018 spring netting survey on Pewaukee Lake revealed ample opportunity for muskie anglers to fish these waters. The population is limited and only a few medium large muskies were captured, with the five fish daily bag limit and five fish daily bag limit. Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Pewaukee Lake.

**VILAS COUNTY**

**High Lake** - 794 surface acres, Veteran and novice muskellunge anglers alike should anticipate good action on High Lake. A spring 2018 net and electrofishing survey targeting gamefish was conducted to evaluate the muskellunge population. From this sampling, 36 muskellunge were captured with a average length of 29.1 inches. Of those 36 muskellunge captured approximately 16% were greater or equal in size to 40 inches, average length captured was 36 inches. Although no large fish were sampled stocking, some limited natural reproduction and an exceptional forage base, all factor in to provide solid muskellunge fishing. Current management action 40 inch minimum length limit, 1 fish daily bag limit and five fish daily bag limit. Public access located on County Highway B, approx. 7 miles west of the Town of Boulder Junction.

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Staples Lake** - 340 acres. Staples Lake has an abundant largemouth bass population with good size structure. The catch rate of largemouth bass was high (80 fish/minute) during the 2018 spring netting and spring electrofishing survey. However, unlike most small lakes with high largemouth bass catch rates, the size structure of was also good, 51% of the bass had length was 14 inches or larger, and the largemouth bass was 26.5 inches Largemouth bass in Staples Lake are managed with a 17 inch minimum length limit and five fish daily bag limit. There is one boat landing on the northwest corner of Staples Lake of County O. This lake has a 17 inch (1.7 ft. max.) and fertile lake. Anglers should anticipate good action on High Lake. While trophy potential is limited, Shallow Lake is a good lake for those looking to catch fish or harvest bass for a meal. No minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit. Public boat launch located at the Mooyum Dam County Park on the southwest end of lake.

**COCHRANE COUNTY**

**Mississippi River** - 6,380 acres. The Mississippi River is the longest river in North America, with a length of 2,320 miles and a width of approximately 1 mile at its mouth. The river flows through 11 states and is one of the most important waterways in the country. It is a popular destination for fishing and other recreational activities.

**LA CROSSE, TREMPEAULEAU AND VERNON COUNTIES**

**Mississippi River** - 9,302 acres. The Mississippi River flows through the states of Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, and is known for its abundant fish population. It is a popular destination for fishing and other recreational activities.

**CHIPEWA COUNTY**

**Lake Hallie** - 79 acres. Lake Hallie is situated between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls in southwestern Chippewa County. This lake offers a healthy largemouth bass population with many fish near or exceeding the 17 inch mark. Since Lake Hallie is only 79 acres, it should make locating these "bucket mouths" a little easier. Lake Hallie is a fertile body of water making aquatic vegetation abundant in the summer months, so top-water lures may be a necessity for putting fish in the boat. The largemouth bass population on Lake Hallie is a five fish daily bag limit with a 14 inch minimum length limit. "Joseph Gehryak. - Fisheries Biologist, Eau Claire."
水库对水体的管理。水库养殖管理则更加专注于保持水体的健康与生态平衡，确保水质不因养殖活动而受到负面影响。水库的管理还包括对水质的监测和净化，以确保其适宜于鱼类和其他水生生物的生存。

水库的经济价值主要体现在其作为旅游资源、渔业资源和供水资源的多重作用。通过合理的开发和管理，水库不仅可以为人们提供休闲娱乐的机会，还能够支持渔业生产和水资源的可持续利用。

水库的生态功能则表现在其对当地生物多样性的贡献。水库为多种鱼类和其他水生生物提供了栖息地，有助于保护和恢复一些稀有的物种。

然而，水库的管理和利用也要面对一些挑战。例如，水库的水位可能因降水变化而波动，这对鱼类的生存和水库的管理都提出了要求。此外，水库的水质也可能受到污染的影响，这需要进行有效的监控和管理。

总的来说，水库是一个多功能的生态系统，其管理需要综合考虑经济、社会和环境的需要，以确保其能够持续为人们提供服务。

**Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019**

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**SMALLMOUTH BASS**

Chequamegon Bay - Lake Superior - 34,000 acres. Chequamegon Bay deserves its reputation as a trophy smallmouth fishery. Smallmouth bass caught in spring by fisherman average about 17.5 inches with about 10% of those fish measuring over 19 inches. Many year-class populations contribute to the population and we consistently see fish older than 20 years. May through June is a great time to harvest. From June 15 to March 1 fish over 22 inches can be kept. Second Landing and Kreher Park are the most popular access points. Prior to the current regulation, size structure of Chequamegon Bay off Bass landing is much shallower, and fish had much shorter average life spans. The current fisheries have greatly increased abundance, average size, and lifespan of these fish and gives anglers a greater opportunity to fangle with trophy fish!

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**BARRON COUNTY**

Red Cedar River - Red Cedar River from the Rice Lake Dam to the Barron-Dunn County line (~30 river miles). The Red Cedar River has a respectable smallmouth bass fishery that is often overlooked by anglers. The river contains a good population of smallmouth bass, but not as large as in some other regions. The river has good spawning potential. No special regulations apply. From June 15 to March 1 fish over 22 inches can be kept. Second Landing and Kreher Park are the most popular access points. Prior to the current regulation, size structure of Chequamegon Bay off Bass landing is much shallower, and fish had much shorter average life spans. The current fisheries have greatly increased abundance, average size, and lifespan of these fish and gives anglers a greater opportunity to fishangle with trophy fish!

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**ASHLAND and BAYFIELD COUNTIES**

Leather and BAYFIELD COUNTIES

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**LANGLADE COUNTY**

When targeting smallmouth bass think big water and rocky cover. Smallmouth bass prefer boulder and rocky habitat, and in Langlade County, the Wolf River has 46 miles of rocky substrate. Anywhere downstream from the Post Lake dam east into Cummaquid all the way downstream to the Menominee County line is prime smallmouth habitat. Parts of the Wolf River grade to coldwater and are better suited for bait. But warmer stretches hold plenty of smallmouth. Most fish are in the 10-16" range, but there are smallmouth up to 20" present. 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. Right below the Post Lake dam along the Platte River (County Road J) (with a fishing dock and plenty of shore fishing opportunities). There is also a boat ramp to launch small boats and canoes and kayaks. Throughout the county, the Upper Wolf River Fishery Area provides ample public walk-in access to the Wolf River.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

The Wisconsin River and its impoundments cut the county in half and provide 50 miles of river and 5,000 acres of top-notch brown bass fishing opportunities. The Wisconsin River system through the county produces high density and high size quality populations. Most of the majority of fish are in the 12-18" range, but over 20" are caught. There is a 14" minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 50 bass. Harvest season north of STH 64 starts the third Saturday in June, and south of STH 64 starts the first Saturday in May. Right below the Post Lake dam along the Platte River (County Road J) (with a fishing dock and plenty of shore fishing opportunities). There is also a boat ramp to launch small boats and canoes and kayaks. Throughout the county, the Upper Wolf River Fishery Area provides ample public walk-in access to the Wolf River.

**MARINETTE COUNTY**

Chalk Hills Flowage - 866 acres. Data collected in 2016 demonstrated an average length of the fish collected 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. 14-inch maximum 5/3 fish per day. Anglers can choose from 4 boat landings from Menominee Falls to the Chalk Hills dam. This section of the Menominee rivers supports diverse habitat with shallow river water (less than 5 feet) above Chalk Hills. The impoundment has a maximum depth of 30 ft and 80% of the impoundment is greater than 3 ft.

**MONROE COUNTY**

Hasbrook Lake – 307 acres. Smallmouth bass are abundant in Shell Lake. Spring sampling yielded 260 smallmouth bass with an average length of 12 inches and a catch rate of 31 fish/mile of shoreline. The maximum size was 19 inches and 35% were greater than 14 inches. No minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit. Concrete boat launch and public fishing pier near Hwy 63 in town of Shell Lake.

**OCEANA COUNTY**

Oconomowoc River - 17 river miles. Average length – 13 inches. Minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. Numerous rural and urban road crossings downstream of La. Belle provide public access with right-of-way rules applying. This is a shallow river with savers canoe and kayak anglers, resulting in less angling pressure and a quality smallmouth angling opportunity. The seventeen miles of river provide a diversity of habitat resulting in excellent wildlife viewing and fishing. For paddlers required at Northside Drive.

**PEWAULKEE COUNTY**

Average length – 15 inches. Maximum length 23 inches. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 5. There are two boat launches found on Pewaukee Lake. The county park launch is on the west side and Smoky’s Muskie Shop launch is on the east side. Smallmouth bass potential, Pewaukee Lake also provides above average large-mouth bass angling.

**SAWYER COUNTY**

Grindstone Lake (3,076 acres) in Sawyer County is home to a popular smallmouth bass fishery. The fishery is in part due to anglers catching them at a high rate of one smallmouth per every hour fished. Remarkably, in Grindstone anglers catch more smallmouth than bluegill! Size of smallmouth is excellent as well. Of all adult smallmouth captured in a DNR shocking survey in 2016, 65% were over 14 inches and 22% were over 17 inches. The largest smallmouth observed in the survey were over 20 inches. DNR crock data tells us that most anglers fishing Grindstone are releasing smallmouth voluntarily. A recent regulation change put even more emphasis on catch and release with the hopes of further improving size of this already impressive population. Starting in 2019, the minimum length limit for smallmouth was increased 18 inches and the daily bag limit was reduced one. There is a state owned launch to access the lake off County Hwy K.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**

Shell Lake - 2,513 acres. Smallmouth bass are abundant. The lake bottom in shallow water can work well. Current regulation for Green Bay and major tributaries: Current regulation for Green Bay tributaries: Open 1st Saturday in May to 1st Saturday in June. Daily limit is 5. No size minimum. Current regulation for Green Bay tributaries: Open 1st Saturday in May to 1st Saturday in June. Daily limit is 5. Minimum length is 8 inches. There are numerous public access and roads to access locations along Green Bay. See the regulations current regulation for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. See the regulations for Green Bay tributaries. 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water. Current regulation: no minimum length, daily limit 5 public boat launch off the southeast side of the lake. Ice fishing is open. Keeping pike may not be everyone’s fancy, but it’s a good way to help the fishery while also supplying some extra fish fry or stock up on pike! We particularly encourage hard water residents to avoid harvesting, as the chance to catch a memorable size is very strong forage base of panfish and other family activities. Eagle Lake currently has restrictive harvest regulations for several species following a recent chemical treatment. This allows northern pike to grow to trophy size of 40” and beyond.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Lake Koshkonong - 10,000 acres. 2018 spring netting surveys of Lautz Bay on Lake Koshkonong yielded some quality northern pike catches. A total of 430 northern pike were captured with a length range of 8.2 to 34.7 inches and an average length of 21.1 inches. With the current 26-inch minimum length limit 16% of the catch was legal. There is a year-round open season for this body of water. Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all gamefishes including muskellunge both have southern pike spawning along marshy shoreline areas throughout the estuary. The walleye and musky fisheries in the St. Louis River may receive more attention from anglers, however, the northern pike fishery provides a additional open water and ice fishing opportunities for anglers wanting to keep fish for consumption or sport anglers looking for quality to trophy sized pike. The St. Louis River pike fishery has not been sampled intensively, but northern pike over 40” have been documented in fisheries surveys dating back to the mid-1970’s. – Amen Nelson, Fisheries technician

**RACINE COUNTY**

Eagle Lake - 315 acres. A spring netting survey in 2017 produced a very strong catch rate of northern pike in Eagle Lake, with a 26-inch minimum length and 36.1” maximum length. The lake is clearly capable of furnishing big pike at a 40” 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. 40” minimum length limit. 1 daily bag. A public boat launch with a large parking lot on the northside of the lake off Church Road at Eagle Lake County Park, another public boat launch with a large parking lot on the west side of the lake off Minuettka Drive, and a third public boat launch on the south side of the lake off Eagle Road. The County Park provides showcasing facilities and other family activities, Eagle Lake currently has restrictive harvest regulations for several species following a recent chemical treatment. This allows northern pike to grow to trophy size of 40” and beyond.

**JUNEAU COUNTY**

New Lisbon Lake (Lemonweir River) - 122 acres. A fyke-net survey was conducted in the spring of 2018 to target northern pike. Overall the lake has a low to moderate density high quality northern pike fishery. During the survey, 66 northern pike were caught, and one was a recapture. Relative abundance was 2.1 fish per net lift. Fish ranged in size from 20.3” to 37.4” with an average size of 26.5”. 40.9% of the fish were of size 21” or larger, 31.8% were preferred size (28”) or larger and 6.1% were measurable size (24”) or larger. 51.5% were 28” or larger. Statewide regulation: 26” minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 2. A public boat launch and shore fishing opportunities are available at the City of New Lisbon’s Riverside Park & Campground off Hog Island Road. Northern pike are the first gamefish to spawn in the spring and can begin to immigrate to spawning habitat when water temperatures are very cold, 33°F, often before the ice goes off the lake. The Lemonweir River has extensive backwaters and islands. Aldo Lemonweir has backwaters with northern pike spawning habitat. This survey focused on wa ters near the I-94 bridges and the New Lisbon dam. Likely fish were missed due to their immigration behavior and survey nets had to be pulled twice due to a cold front that froze the lake for a week and prior to a snowstorm that brought up to 20” of snow in the area.

**ST CROIX COUNTY**

Squaw Lake - 129 acres. Squaw Lake is a fertile seepage lake located in western St. Croix County. The spring netting survey resulted in a very good catch rate of northern pike with an average of 18 fish per net lift. Pike ranged in size from 15” to 25 inches with an average length of 23 inches. 31% of the pike captured were over 25 inches. With a decent size structure and an abundant forage base there is plenty of harvest opportunity as well as the chance to catch a quality sized northern pike in Squaw Lake through the ice or on open water. Squaw Lake is aerated during winter, however, a winter kill occurred in 2014 leaving mostly pike and crappie remaining. Shallow weeds and boat dock and boat ramp are reCond and still have viable populations. Previously, the pike population relied almost completely on fishery in the future. Pike on the Chip are being encouraged to catch and keep pike in an effort to control their abundance and hopefully improve pike handling a good-sized northern pike can be a challenge, but it’s a challenge that is often met.

**WAUCONDA COUNTY**

Weyauwega Millpond - 253 acres. The DNR conducted a spring fyke netting survey of the Weyauwega Millpond from March 20 – April 2, 2018, primarily targeting northern pike. A total of 389 northern pike were captured during the fyke netting survey, ranging in length from 9.1 to 31.1 inches and averaging 19.6 inches. Given that it has only been five years since Weyauwega Millpond was drawn down for an extended period of time, it is likely that the number of larger pike in the millpond will only increase in the future. Anglers can expect more pike in the fishery only getting better in the future. More northern pike will be the future in size as more northern pike in the future will have time to grow to larger sizes following the drawdown. 5 northern pike with no length limit. Weyauwega Millpond is served up to 40 inches. Current regulation: no minimum length limit and a 5-fish daily bag limit. A public boat launch off the southeast side of the lake from 100th st

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Big Muskego Lake - 2200 surface acres Average Length – 22 inches with fish over 40” and beyond common. Average Length – 22 inches with fish over 40” and beyond common. Average Length – 22 inches with fish over 40” and beyond common. Average Length – 22 inches with fish over 40” and beyond common. Average Length – 22 inches with fish over 40” and beyond common.

**WISCONSIN FISHING REPORT**

Oshkosh Biologist, Adam Nickel, with a chunk of a northern pike from a recent netting survey. whepwa Flowage! Pike are certainly well known in the area, but it’s a good way to help the fishery while also providing a great way to keep pike in an effort to control their abundance and hopefully improve pike

**THE BUSINESS END**

Close up of a St. Louis River northern pike caught and released during 2018 field work.
**PANFISH**

**BARRON COUNTY**

Chetek Chain of Lakes. The Chetek Chain of lakes is one of the most productive "panfish factories" in Wisconsin. In 2014, total catch rate was 4.6/net lift, catch rate of 10" fish was 0.6/net lift, and maximum size captured was 12". Annual blooms during summer. The Chetek Chain is an extremely productive "panfish factory" that commonly underlies heavy algae blooms during summer.

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

Green Bay. Year class strength for yellow perch has been good in recent years, with moderately strong year classes since 2015 represented in southern Green Bay surveys. A mix of small, younger fish and larger, older fish in the 10-13 inch range will provide fishing opportunities throughout the upcoming season. Sport fishing harvest is estimated from an annual creel survey. Open water harvest of yellow perch was 117,412 fish, from 72,223 fish in 2016. Much of the open water harvest (45%) was by boat anglers launching at ramps in Door and Kewaunee Counties, followed by boat anglers in Oconto County (26%). The mean length of open-water harvested yellow perch was 8.6 inches in 2017. Open water harvest estimates for 2018 will be available in early 2019. Winter harvest is influenced largely by ice conditions, daily bag limits, angler effort, and abundance of adult perch. The winter of 2018 was the best year for perch fishing in the last years. An estimated 39,966 yellow perch were harvested between January 1 and March 15, 2018. If decent ice forms early and lasts into March, ice fishing for perch should be just as good or better than last winter. Anglers often have good luck catching perch in harbors or river mouths in the fall months, with Oconto Park II and Oconto Harbor being hotspots in October 2018. Up to date fishing conditions. From a fishing report at the DNR website, "Green Bay fishing continues to be public on Tuesday, May 29 at 2019. DNR data indicates that perch are increasing their sizes, up to 8" in Lake Winnebago. However, the depth of the fish varies with quality panfishing opportunities in 2019, largely due to strong year classes of yellow perch, bluegill, crappie, and bluegill. Trolling is a very productive method to fish for yellow perch and largemouth bass. The best black crappie fishing is generally runs high. Black Crappie sampled in 2014 averaged 11.3" and Bluegill had an average size of 7". Fish can be difficult to find and most are targeted through the ice and in the spring just after ice out. No length limit, 25 in total. Numerous are popular, developed access sites. Most require a fee.

**DANE COUNTY**

Lake Winnebago - 336 acres, max depth 14 ft. Fish populations considered sufficient, our recent survey indicates the bluegills are increasing their sizes, up to 8" in Lake Winnebago. The crop removal efforts have increased water clarity, which allows a side feeder like the bluegills to forage more efficiently and with the crop reduced, the places for the fish to hide from predators has increased with the aquatic plants now thriving. It is very likely that a number of bluegills out there, so if catching a few fish with young kids or constant action is what you’re after, consider panfishing on Lake Winnebago. Regulations are no minimum length limit, daily bag of 25 for all panfish, open all year.

**FISHERIES technician Kendal Patrie with a black crappie from a fall netting survey. Photo: Jeff Schiefer**

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

Green Lake - 7,346 acres. Panfish populations are difficult to sample in Wisconsin's deepest inland lake and though sample sizes were small, size structure generally runs high. Black Crappies sampled in 2014 averaged 11.3" and Bluegill had an average size of 7". Fish can be difficult to find and most are targeted through the ice and in the spring just after ice out. No length limit, 25 in total. Numerous are popular, developed access sites. Most require a fee.

**IOWA COUNTY**

Twin Valley Lake - 136 acres. Twin Valley Lake yields a high-density population of panfish including Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed and Yellow Perch. The study area, conducted in August, yielded a catch rate of 755 Bluegill per mile. Overall, Bluegill size structure has changed, with fish growing to an average length of 4.5 inches in the mid 2000s, to a mean length of 6.5 inches (mean length of 7.8 inches) in 2018. Black Crappies, Pumpkinseeds and Yellow Perch, although in lower numbers, were also present during spring surveys. Anglers can expect good angling opportunities for panfish, especially during the fall fishing season. Previous regulations allowed for the unlimited harvest of channel catfish, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass statewide. The regulatory change (25 fish in total, no minimum, no length limit). As of January 1, 2019, Twin Valley Lake is located in Governor Dodge state park. With Governor Dodge, the third largest state park in Wisconsin. Camping, fishing,
Perch fishing is popular all year, with anglers targeting them in both open water and ice fishing seasons. Black crappies and the 10-fish daily bag limit for panfish on the TFF. There is a year-round open season on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all gamefish except muskellunge. No minimum size limit and 25 daily fish may be taken with a length limit on panfish. Royce Dalmanyan County Park, Crocker Road.

Shawano Lake and Washington Lake
Shawano Lake is 6,233 acres and Washington Lake is 75 acres. Results from the 2018 spring netting survey for a CPUE of 2.67 bluegill per net night. The average size of 1.68 black crappies caught were in the spring fyke netting survey for a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 1.72 per net night. The average size of black crappies caught in the spring fyke netting survey was 7.3 inches, with 37% of the fish captured being ≥ 6 inches and 2% being ≥ 9 inches. Black crappies and yellow perch as large as 12.4 inches captured. These results show there are good numbers and sizes of black crappies for anglers to target. A total of 2,532 bluegill were also captured in the spring fyke netting survey for a CPUE of 2.67 bluegill per net night. The average size bluegill captured in the fyke netting survey was 6.4 inches with 74.7% being ≥ 6 inches, 23.6% being ≥ 7 inches, and the biggest bluegill captured being 8.5 inches. Additionally, Bluegill CPUE in the spring electrofishing survey was 284.04 bluegills per mile of electrofishing. A total of 291 bluegills were captured in the spring electrofishing survey being just under 5 inches. 25 fish aggregated bag limit at all fish species. There are 11 boat access and canoe access points for ice fishing during the winter. Over the past couple of years, many anglers have also reported catching good numbers of yellow perch with plenty of fish being harvestable size.

TRASH Pickup
A pair of crappies from a 2018 night survey on Lake Butte des Morts.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

Miller Dam Flowage may keep 15 panfish, but only 5 of any one species. During the remainder of the season, a daily bag limit of 25 panfish may be kept in any combination, including minnows. Panfish maintain a boat ramp, pavilion, swimming beach, playground, toilets, and parking off County Highway G near the dam, and the U.S. Forest Service has a campground and fishing pier on the east side. Miller Dam Lake Association operates a lake aeration system to provide an open-water refuge to reduce the risk and severity of winterkill—fish mortality from dissolved oxygen depletion in the overwinter season. - Jeff Scheier, fishery biologist, Pitts Falls

**WALWORTH COUNTY**

Delavan Lake - 1,906 acres. Black crappie averaging 10” (max of 11.5”) and bluegill averaging 7.1” (max of 19”) - 2022 survey. No minimum length limit, 25 daily bag. A public boat launch on the east side at Lake of the Flats Highway 78 and 5 Shore Drive (very large parking lot, but spots fill up quickly on the weekend), another public boat launch on the southwest side of the lake at Big Bluff Road (smaller parking lot about 800’ away from the launch), and a canoe access on the northwest side of the lake at N Shore Drive. Shorefishing is available at the 16 acre Town of Delavan park at the State Highway 50 boat launch.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Big Cedar Lake - 937 acres. During 2018 spring electrofishing surveys a total of 414 channel catfish were captured. Which is equivalent to 69 Bluegill/mile. Lengths ranged from 1.0 inches to 9.0 inches with an average size of 5.3 inches. Anglers willing to target Bluegill will be rewarded with lots of action and some larger potential since 33% of the Bluegill captured were 6 inches or larger! No minimum length limit, 25 panfish may be kept, but only 10 of any one species. Many public boat launches are around the lake, but the most popular launch can be found off Gonring Drive in West Bend. With the new experimental panfish regulation, Big Cedar Lake is seeing increased panfish recruitment and allowing anglers the opportunity to catch larger fish throughout the year.

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Pewaukee Lake - 3,247 surface acres across the 1,188 acres that is used for a variety of panfishing opportunities. No minimum length limit, 30 panfish with a daily bag limit of 10. 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. Pelagic and electrofishing surveys on Pewaukee Lake indicated excellent spawning and rearing conditions for many fish populations. In 2018, 39” and 85” catfish were captured indicating growth opportunities are present for a diversity of panfish in Pewaukee Lake.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Swan Lake (Upper fox river) - 407 acres, maximum depth 82 feet. Swan Lake on the upper Fox River in Columbia County, provides quality fishing opportunities for several species. A comprehensive fishery survey of Swan Lake in 2018 found channel catfish present at greater abundance than other lakes in Columbia County. The 2018 spring netting set on the Fox River near the highway 92 bridge, the pre-spawning size for channel catfish, are kept at a rate of 2.2 fish/net night. During the later spring netting portion of the survey in late April 2018, channel catfish were caught at a rate of 2.2 fish/net night. Some channel catfish sampled ranged from 7.9 to 29.9 inches. Of 41 sampled, 36 were larger than 11 inches, 32% were larger than 24 inches and the largest catfish sampled weighed 13.6 pounds. In 2018, anglers reported that fishing for channel cats really picked up as spring transitioned into summer, with fishing near the bottom in 15–20 feet of water the most productive catches. Swan Lake is also known for producing larger panfish; the most common being the channel catfish through the ice, particularly late ice.

**COLUMBIA, DANE AND SAUK COUNTIES**

Lower Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac - The Prairie du Sac Dam tailwater area of the lower Wisconsin River from the Prairie du Sac Dam downriver to the old railroad bridge in Sauk City provides a quality catfish angling opportunity. During a fall 2017 netting survey at Prairie du Sac Dam, DNR collected 65 flathead catfish ranging from 23 to 46 inches in length and 5 to 52 pounds in weight. Flathead catfish numbers in the Prairie du Sac area of the lower Wisconsin River increase each fall as the water cools and the fish move up from deeper areas to reach deeper wintering habitat closer to the dam. Live fish are the best bait and should be fished near the bottom in deeper holes in the fall. Fishing for channel catfish can also be very good in the Prairie du Sac Dam tailrace. Target the fast water at the base of the riffle below the discharge from the power house. Channel catfish congregate and feed in this area right below the outfall from the power turbines. Cast bait or sink bait are the best options. Boat access and shore fishing are provided year-round at VFW Park in Prairie du Sac. Shore fishing access is also provided directly below the dam by Alliant Energy. Please note that below the dam there is a sign of a healthy sturgeon population. Information: In 2018, a summer electrofishing survey of the Prairie du Sac Dam downstream to the Atlantic Ocean Drainage. This east flowing version of the Wisconsin was named the Wyawatiting River. It is believed that glacially dammed the Wyawatiting River in the Prairie du Chien area diverting the flow to the west and south as we know it today. The Lower Wisconsin River includes 92.3 miles from the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Mississippi River – Brad Simms, fisheries biologist, Delafield.  

Garrett and Sam Sims with a trophy flathead catfish typical of the Lower Wisconsin River near Lone Rock, Wisconsin. Photo: Brad Simms.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Rock River - From the mouth of Lake Winnebago upstream to I-43. During 2018, bait netting surveys a total of 232 channel catfish and 27 flathead catfish were captured. Channel catfish lengths ranged from 9 to 31 inches with an average size of 23.8 inches. Flathead catfish lengths ranged from 22 to 43 inches with an average size of 35.2 inches. There is a year-round open season for the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong for all gamefish except muskie-lunker. The minimum length and 10 fish daily bag limit on catfish. There is a public boat launch at Groeler Road.

**KENOSHA AND RACINE COUNTIES**

Fisheries technician Chelsea Barnaby with a channel catfish captured in Butterfield Lake. Jef Simms in May 2018. Photo: Jeff Scheier

**LAKE STURGEON**

The Lower Chippewa River (Lake Holcomb) downstream to the Mississippi River offers anglers an opportunity to harvest a lake sturgeon greater than 60 inches during the hook-and-line season, which runs from the first Saturday in September through the end of the month. If an angler intends to harvest a lake sturgeon, they must first purchase a harvest tag and, if successful, register their catch. Thirteen lake sturgeon were harvested in the 2018 season, which is slightly above the long-term average of ten since the 60” minimum has been in place. The majority of the harvest was downstream of the Dells Pond Dam. Anglers also reported catching numerous sublegal fish, a sign of a healthy sturgeon population. Night crawlers, natural fish and chicken liver were caught in deep holes of the river in a good combination for a successful sturgeon fishing trip. Joseph Gerybash – Fisheries biologist, Eau Claire

**CHIPPENEAU, EAU CLAIRE, DUNN AND PEPIN COUNTIES**

The Lower Chippewa River (Lake Holcomb) is a downstream to the Mississippi River, and offers anglers an opportunity to harvest a lake sturgeon greater than 60 inches during the hook-and-line season, which runs from the first Saturday in September through the end of the month. If an angler intends to harvest a lake sturgeon, they must first purchase a harvest tag and, if successful, register their catch. Thirteen lake sturgeon were harvested in the 2018 season, which is slightly above the long-term average of ten since the 60” minimum has been in place. The majority of the harvest was downstream of the Dells Pond Dam. Anglers also reported catching numerous sublegal fish, a sign of a healthy sturgeon population. Night crawlers, natural fish and chicken liver were caught in deep holes of the river in a good combination for a successful sturgeon fishing trip. Joseph Gerybash – Fisheries biologist, Eau Claire

**SAUK AND DANE COUNTIES**

The Lower Wisconsin River - 92.3 The Lower Wisconsin River supports a healthy population of lake sturgeon. Anglers can expect to see many average catfish fishing opportunities for flatheads in the lower Wisconsin River. Hoop net surveys during July of 2018 sampled a good adult population with an average size of 37.8 inches. Sixty-one percent of the adults were 30 inches or greater. Fourteen percent were 40 inches or greater. No length limit with a daily bag limit of 10 catfish. Public boat launches and accessible bank fishing opportunities are located across the Lower Wisconsin River. The Lower Wisconsin River has a braided sand channel navigable by shallow draft boats. Boaters should use caution as many sand bars and shallow sand breaks are present in the river channel. Geologist have found over a million year ago the Wisconsin River flooded east to the Atlantic Ocean Drainage. This east flowing version of the Wisconsin was named the Wyawatiting River. It is believed that glacially dammed the Wyawatiting River in the Prairie du Chien area diverting the flow to the west and south as we know it today. The Lower Wisconsin River includes 92.3 miles from the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Mississippi River – Brad Simms, fisheries biologist, Delafield.

**KOSHERNOS AND RACINE COUNTIES**

Fishing for Lake Sturgeon is prohibited in the following areas: along the old railroad bridge in Sauk City producing channel catfish through the ice, particularly late ice.

**PORTAGE AND WOOD COUNTIES**

Biron Flowage - 2,187 acres. Species population estimates reported that fishing for channel cats remained steady. A comprehensive fishery survey of Swan Lake. For more information please contact the Department of Natural Resources. For more information please contact the Department of Natural Resources.
The stream has naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. Since 2007, the stream has been surveyed annually at a site in the Class 1 section. Adult brown trout catch rates fluctuate annually; average is 422 per mile. In 2018, the adult catch rate was 28 fish per mile and this is below the 33rd percentile compared to other streams with brown trout. Catch rates of memorable (15") size brown trout over 12 per mile and a moderate to high catch rate compared to brown trout streams in Wisconsin. Early catch and release season. Inland trout season is a bag limit of 3 in total with a minimum length limit of 8". Anglers have access to the stream with Big Rock Creek State Fishway Access, 813 acres of State owned land, and multiple road crossings. Locations of parking can be found on the Department’s website: https://dnr.wi.gov/pal/application.html. A trout habitat enhancement project was completed in the summer of 2015 off of Archer Drive. This project replaced 25 overgrown covers and improved the 4,700-foot section of stream with the addition of 24 logs, 30 boulders, 2 rock deflectors, 6 root wads, 2 digger logs, 5 plunge pools and 3 half log flips. In addition, 13 Channeled tree bundles using 95 trees were installed to modify the section of stream. Brown trout stocking was discontinued in 2016 due to evidence of natural reproduction and for the protection of the brook trout population.

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Upper Pine Creek**
The 6.5 mile stretch of Upper Pine Creek from its headwaters (west of HWY 39 near the Dallas Flowage) is Class I trout water for both brown and brook trout. Electrofishing surveys on Upper Pine Creek found 1,000-3,000 brook trout/mile and 1,000-2,000 brown trout/mile. Highest trout densities are found in the headwaters. Lower densities and larger fish are found as you go downstream. Upper Pine Creek trout are managed with a no minimum length limit and a five fish daily bag limit. There are several public fishing access points on this portion of Upper Pine Creek off CTH U, 369 St., and 4 ½ Ave. Anglers can also access the stream from other road crossings. Upper Pine Creek is typically one of the best streams in Barron County for trout natural reproduction.

**BUFFALO, JACKSON AND TREMPEALEAU COUNTIES**

**Area Trout Streams** - 81% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing brook trout reproduction. Brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: 62% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing catch rates of adult brown trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 86% of surveyed streams. Largest area streams converted to a no-size-limit regulation in 2016. However, pro-2016 survey and angler results indicated an increase in size limit regulations. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries continued to help bolster trout populations throughout the area. A habitat restoration project was completed in Eagle Creek, Buffalo County, this past year. Many thanks to our partners in the Cooperative Trout Rearing program and Habitat Restoration project for providing more stocked fish, fishing access, and better habitat for our area streams! Please see the Guide for Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicable size and bag limit restrictions for the streams you fish.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY**

**Copper Creek** (including its north and south branches). Entire length of Copper Creek (4.3 mi) and North Branch Copper Creek (6.1 mi) and South Branch Copper Creek (5.35 mi). Copper Creek (including North and South Branches) supports high densities of brown trout (up to 1,200 brown trout >5 inches per mile) and lower densities of brook trout (up to 600 brook trout >5 inches per mile). Brown trout up to 17 inches and brook trout up to 12 inches were captured in electrofishing surveys since 2017, 3 trout in total, no minimum length limit. The DNR owns 3.1 miles of public streambank access along streambank access and purchase of lands along the Copper Creek (North and South Branches included) to view the locations of public land and public streambank easements on Copper Creek go to dnr.wi.gov and search "Public Access Lands Map" or "TRICK tool".

**Bear’s Grass Creek** - Bears Grass Creek originates in southeastern Eau Claire County and meanders north for 9 miles before emptying into the Eau Claire River. Bears Grass Creek hosts the Class II trout stream and the best stream in Eau Claire County for trophy brook trout. A 2018 fisheries survey shows that portions of Bears Grass Creek contain 100 brook trout per mile over 12" and 2-3 brown trout per mile over 14". Easements that allow for fishing are present in the headwaters, but access downstream is limited along road crossings. The current regulation is designed to foster the growth of these trophy trout. The regulation stipulates that brook trout over 9" cannot be kept, so those large fish can be caught again and the bag limit is five trout. - Joseph Gersbach – fisheries biologist, Eau Claire

**GRANT COUNTY**

**Borah Creek** - 6.0 class sized trout water. Borah Creek supports a healthy population of brown trout. Recent surveys sampled 304 adult brown trout per mile ranging from 7 to 16.4 inches with an average size of 9.1 inches. Ten percent of the brown trout sampled were 12 to narrow up total of 462 feet. Borah Creek is considered a Class I trout stream and maintains a fishable population of trout through

**Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019**

A nice brown trout caught and released by a local fly angler on Borah Creek during the summer of 2018. Photo by Brad Simů

**ADAMS COUNTY**

**Big Roche a Cri Creek** - Big Roche a Cri Creek is a Class 1 trout stream from the headwaters to CTH W and Class 2 trout water down to Big Roche a Cri Lake. The stream has naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. Since 2007, the stream has been surveyed annually at a site in the Class 1 section. Adult brook trout catch rates fluctuate annually; average is 422 per mile. In 2018, the adult catch rate was 28 fish per mile and this is below the 33rd percentile compared to other streams with brown trout. Catch rates of memorable (15") size brown trout over 12 per mile and a moderate to high catch rate compared to brown trout streams in Wisconsin. Early catch and release season. Inland trout season is a bag limit of 3 in total with a minimum length limit of 8". Anglers have access to the stream with Big Roche a Cri Fishway Access, 813 acres of State owned land, and multiple road crossings. Locations of parking can be found on the Department’s website: https://dnr.wi.gov/pal/application.html. A trout habitat enhancement project was completed in the summer of 2015 off of Archer Drive. This project replaced 25 overgrown covers and improved the 4,700-foot section of stream with the addition of 24 logs, 30 boulders, 2 rock deflectors, 6 root wads, 2 digger logs, 5 plunge pools and 3 half log flips. In addition, 13 Channeled tree bundles using 95 trees were installed to modify the section of stream. Brown trout stocking was discontinued in 2016 due to evidence of natural reproduction and for the protection of the brook trout population.

**BARRON COUNTY**

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**BUFFALO, JACKSON AND TREMPEALEAU COUNTIES**

**Area Trout Streams** - 81% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing brook trout reproduction. Brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: 62% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing catch rates of adult brook trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 86% of surveyed streams. Largest area streams converted to a no-size-limit regulation in 2016. However, pro-2016

**BUFFALO, JACKSON AND TREMPEALEAU COUNTIES**

**Area Trout Streams** - 81% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing brook trout reproduction. Brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: 62% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing catch rates of adult brook trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 86% of surveyed streams. Largest area streams converted to a no-size-limit regulation in 2016. However, pro-2016
provide fantastic access to most of the streams in the watershed. Streambank easements on private lands and the DNR’s ability to complete access to the streams, and the DNR’s ability to continue stream restoration projects. The locations of public streambank easements in Wisconsin are on dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Lands Map” or “DNR Tool”. A variety of angling regulations are in place in the Coon Creek Watershed. These regulations are aimed at providing a variety of trout angling opportunities and the DNR’s ability to evaluate the effectiveness of various trout regulations. In 2016, the DNR enacted an experimental regulation on Bohemian Valley Creek (10 bag, no minimum size limit to evaluate whether anglers could reduce densities and improve growth rates of trout.

**LA CROSSE COUNTY**

Mormon Coulee Creek - 16 miles from its origin at the confluence of the Mississippi River. Mormon Coulee Creek supports a variety of trout species. The density in the region, with several surveys including electrofishing for longest trout. The best option for fly fishers would be McGee Lake, which would be a great place to catch trout of a lifetime from a kayak or small boat.

**MARATHON COUNTY**

Flume River - The Flume River contains 28 miles of Class II and II trout water supporting both brook and brown trout. It extends from CTH 153 to its headwaters in Langlade County. Recent electrofishing surveys on the Flume River support highest brown trout densities between Hatley and Hwy N, whereas brown trout densities were greatest north of CTH N. In 2018, surveys near CTH 71 found an opening day hot spot for rainbow trout and brown trout densities were greater than 1,000 adult trout per mile, so even if you’re not successful with the brook trout, the brown trout densities are so robust, anglers are currently able to catch trophy sized brown trout, Pine Creek is a great option with other great trout fishing opportunities. The Flume River supports one of the highest densities of brown trout populations in Monroe County with electrically catching brown trout >5 inches up to 2,000 fish per mile. In addition to high densities of brown trout, the stream also supports good numbers of larger fish (trout exceeding 15 inches). 10 trout in total, no minimum length. Over the past several decades, the DNR has purchased 7.8 miles public streambank access through streambank easements and purchase of lands along the stream. To view the locations of public land and public streambank easements on the Little Plover River go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Lands Map” or “DNR Tool”.

**MARINETTE COUNTY**

Thunder Lake (353 acres) and the Peshtigo River (above Caldron Falls) DNR stocks brown trout, brook trout, and brown trout, the Peshtigo River contains 2.6 miles long. Pine Creek is a Class I trout stream located in south-west Pierce County near Maiden Rock, WI and contains both brook and brown trout. If you’re looking for a rural and scenic location with the opportunity to catch trophy sized brown trout, Pine Creek is a great option with other great trout fishing opportunities. The Flume River supports one of the highest densities of brown trout populations in Monroe County with electrically catching brown trout >5 inches up to 2,000 fish per mile. In addition to high densities of brown trout, the stream also supports good numbers of larger fish (trout exceeding 15 inches). 10 trout in total, no minimum length. Over the past several decades, the DNR has purchased 7.8 miles public streambank access through streambank easements and purchase of lands along the stream. To view the locations of public land and public streambank easements on the Little Plover River go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Lands Map” or “DNR Tool”.

**PIERCE COUNTY**

Pine Creek - 2.6 miles long. Pine Creek is a Class I trout stream located in south-west Pierce County near Maiden Rock, WI and contains both brook and brown trout. If you’re looking for a rural and scenic location with the opportunity to catch trophy sized brown trout, Pine Creek is a great option with other great trout fishing opportunities. The Flume River supports one of the highest densities of brown trout populations in Monroe County with electrically catching brown trout >5 inches up to 2,000 fish per mile. In addition to high densities of brown trout, the stream also supports good numbers of larger fish (trout exceeding 15 inches). 10 trout in total, no minimum length. Over the past several decades, the DNR has purchased 7.8 miles public streambank access through streambank easements and purchase of lands along the stream. To view the locations of public land and public streambank easements on the Little Plover River go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Public Access Lands Map” or “DNR Tool”.

**PORTAGE COUNTY**

Flume Creek - Recent electrofishing surveys in Flume Creek near Roschild indicate high brown trout densities 778 fish/mile, whereas brown trout densities were 302 fish/mile. Brown trout ranges from 2-11.5” (average = 5”) and 21% of adults were 8” or greater. Sizes (brown trout range = 2.20–11.00” (average = 5.8”)) and 48% of adults were 9” or greater.

**RICHLAND AND SAUK COUNTIES**

Bear Creek - Bear Creek rises in Sauk County and flows southward, then south before joining the Wisconsin River in Richland County. Bear Creek offers approximately 12 miles of Class 2 trout water, beginning 0.3 mile south of the intersection of State Highway 154 and State Highway 120 (T1N, R6E, sec. 29) and ending at the second Richland County crossing of State Highway 130 (T9N, R6E, sec. 25). The lower 8 miles of Bear Creek is considered a warm-water fly fishery. Upstream of Croal Hollow Road, Bear Creek is a mixed brook and brown trout fly fishery with trout streaking more abundant than brown trout. From Croal Hollow Road downstream to the end of classified trout water, brown trout are

**LANGLADE COUNTY**

McGee Lake - Super high size quality brookies. Most are over the legal limit (10-16”). Favorites are over the legal limit (10-16”). 12” minimum length limit, 2 daily, artificial lures only. Carry in boat access on the east and south ends with parking. The entire shoreline is state owned and available to shore fishers but the south shore probably presents the best options for fly fishing types. McGee Lake would be a great place to catch trout of a lifetime from a kayak or small boat.

**Taylor Curran, Antigo Fisheries technician on the left holding a dandy female brook trout, and Dallas Moε, seasonal Fisheries technician on the right, holding a brilliant male brook trout from McGee Lake in Langlade County. The trout were surveyed in late October 2018.**

**RICHLAND and SAUK COUNTIES**

Bear Creek - Bear Creek rises in Sauk County and flows southward, then south before joining the Wisconsin River in Richland County. Bear Creek offers approximately 12 miles of Class 2 trout water, beginning 0.3 mile south of the intersection of State Highway 154 and State Highway 120 (T1N, R6E, sec. 29) and ending at the second Richland County crossing of State Highway 130 (T9N, R6E, sec. 25). The lower 8 miles of Bear Creek is considered a warm-water fly fishery. Upstream of Croal Hollow Road, Bear Creek is a mixed brook and brown trout fly fishery with trout streaking more abundant than brown trout. From Croal Hollow Road downstream to the end of classified trout water, brown trout are

dominant with occasional brook trout present. Trout populations are most abundant between Croal Hollow Road and County Highway N. In this section, the banks of approximately 4.3 miles of Bear Creek are open to public fishing via easements on private lands and these easements saw habitat improvement projects completed in several phases between 2011-2015. Fishery surveys conducted annually at multiple points in this section indicate steady increases in overall brown trout abundance as well as abundance of larger trout since habitat work was completed. Bear Creek has a minimum length limit of 12 inches and a daily bag limit of 2 trout. The four classified tributaries of Bear Creek all follow county base regulations (8-inch minimum, 3 fish daily bag). Bear

**Fisheries supervisor, Al Neehar with an 18-inch brown trout collected from the Flume River. Photo: Tim Parks**
Bears Grass Creek in Eau Claire County is an undervalued resource that contains excellent brook trout stream structure.

**Sawyer County**

Have you ever wanted to try spring pond fishing for trout but don’t want to slash through brush to get there? Stress Springs Fishery Area just south of Hayward (on Stress Road) offers anglers a unique fishing experience with superior access. In fact, despite the name, there’s really no stress involved. The spring ponds are right next to the road and DNR crews recently created additional trails around the ponds to allow good shore access at several casting spots. In the crystal-clear water of the springs, you’ll find native brook trout, some of them up to 14 inches. You’ll have to leave the stringer at home though. You may land a fish but no catch-and-release only fishery, and only artificial baits are allowed. This regulation is in place to preserve this unique fishing opportunity.

**Shawano County**

Middle Branch Embarrass River upstream from Homme Pond - 25 miles of Class I trout streams. Biser Creek is a Class 1 trout stream upstream from Homme Pond. The DNR also owns 90 acres of land on the north side of KTY HWY Z that provides access to this stream. The DNR stocks yearling rainbow trout and brook trout immediately before the opener in Homme Pond as well as in the park off Hemlock Road just down stream from Homme Pond and the small roll stop on the west side of CTY HWY Q. The Village of Wittenberg also purchases yearling rainbow trout from a private hatchery and stocks them in Homme Pond every year.

**Sheboygan County**

Ben Nutt Creek - 4.5 miles of Class I trout water is wading in 2018 summer. Electrofishing surveys conducted downstream of Summit Road, as well as 119 Brown Trout were captured. These equate to around 145 trout per mile. The high density of Brown Trout ranks Ben Nutt Creek in the 91st percentile for Brown Trout streams statewide! Brown Trout lengths ranged from 4.3 inches to 13.6 inches with an average length of 8.3 inches. Although the trophy potential is limited, Ben Nutt Creek provides an action Brown Trout fishery with many access points and shorefishing opportunities for anglers hoping to fish with artificial lures. 12-inch minimum length limit 2 daily bag limit. Artificial lures only. Ben Nutt Creek is streambank protection easements or on private land, other restrictions apply. From downtown, WAUWAHAN River - 8 miles, Class I trout streams. The stream corridor has been cleared of brush allowing the opportunity for fly fishing in this Class I trout stream.

A nice brown trout from a Adams County trout stream arrives at the measuring board.

**Walworth County**

Bluff Creek - 1.75 miles. 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 reach upstream and downstream of County Highway P. 2018 minimum length limit, 2 daily bag. Public access and parking is available off County Highway P south of the intersection with Reliance Road. Stretch of Bluff Creek was included within the Ketle Moraine State Forest, allowing users open access to the stream. Multiple stretches of habitat are on this road project, including the trout bands of 15 feet of recently remodeled stream channel, providing excellent fishing opportunities.

**Waupaca County**

Waupaca River - 15.5 miles of Class II trout water in Waupaca County from where Royalton Strip crosses the river just east of the town of Waupaca, up stream to the Waupaca County/Lincoln County border. In 2018, the DNR completed electrofishing surveys at seven sections along the Waupaca River upstream from the Waupaca Millpond to downtown Waupaca. Brown trout were captured at all seven stations. Mean brown trout catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 3.04 with CPUE ranging from 2.71 – 3.574 brown trout per mile stream length with the highest densities found in the upper sections of the river above US HWY 10. The Waupaca River is known for producing large brook trout with the average length of trout captured in all electrofishing surveys being 16.4 inches. 279 brown trout ≥ 12 inches captured, 48 brown trout ≥ 15 inches captured, and 2 brown trout ≥ 20 inches captured. Current regulations: Red from River Road upstream to Downtown Road in Portage County. This section has a daily bag limit of 1 trout, a minimum length limit of 18 inches, and only artificial lures can be used. All other sections in Waupaca County are open year-round with a daily bag limit of 3 trout and minimum length limit of 8 inches. The Waupaca River from Frost Valley Road to WI HWY 34 is also open to catch and releasing angling using only artificial lures during the early catch and release season which runs from the first Saturday in January at 5:00 AM to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May at midnight. There are many ways to access the Waupaca River including 10 public road crossings, four properties owned by the DNR, multiple fishing access easements, and six different city park county parks. The DNR has completed multiple habitat projects along various stretches of the Waupaca River including 8.4 miles of river. Trout fishing is becoming more and more popular with Wisconsin anglers. Trout stamp sales have been consistently on the rise.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

Tightline fishing is becoming more and more popular with Wisconsin anglers. Trout stamp sales have been consistently on the rise.
Lake, this fish measured 87lbs 2 oz. and was 51.75 inches long. The state record quillback carp sucker using alternative methods was shot with a bow in 2016 on Petenwell Lake, this fish measured 12lbs 4.8 oz. and was 26.0 inches long.

SAWYER, WASHBURN and BURNETT COUNTIES

Ok, this one’s only for the hard-core Freshwater Fisherman looking to try something completely new should visit the Namekagon River in Sawyer, Washburn, or Burnett Counties to try for the Redhorse Grand Slam. The Slam consists of catching all four of the redhorse species known to inhabit the Namekagon River in a single day. The four redhorse species include Shorthead, Silver, Golden, and the mighty Greater. Catch a brown. White sucker on the same day and you enter truly rarified air with the Sucker Super-Slam. Good areas to target are deeper holes or runs in the reaches below Hayward and Trego. Fishing for redhorse and suckers does not require a tremendous amount of skill or expertise, but it typically does the trick. But catching and catching browns, especially the Golden is a challenge. Another bonus is that rise can be enjoyed any time of year. There are no seasons, size, or bag limits for redhorse, but aren’t known to be great table-fare). Be sure to send some pictures of you with your Redhorse Grand Slam to the local fish biologist!

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ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, DOUGLAS and IRON COUNTIES

Lake Superior. After a few years of reduced catches, the Lake Trout population has rebounded and 2019 should continue to rebound. The Lake Trout quota increased for the 2018 season and will be slightly higher for sport fisherman in 2019. In 2018, 14,281 Lake Trout were harvested in the Apostle Islands Region, the highest number since 2014 and anglers had their greatest success during the month of July. The average size of Lake Trout has increased over the last few years and is about 20 inches in DNWR assessments, but fish exceeding 40 inches are caught, demonstrating true trophy potential. The Lake Trout season is open from December 1 through March 30, 35 inches minimum length, but only 1 over 25 inches. East of Bark Point bag limit of 2; West of Bark Point bag limit of 5. Trout (Rainbow, Brown, Brook, Splake) + 5 in total of which only 1 may be brow and 1 may be brook trout. Rainbow Trout must be greater than 26 inches, Brook Trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other trout must be greater than 15 inches. Salmon(Coho, King, Pink, Atlantic) + 5 in total with no minimum length and no bag limit. Season Access Information: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/DNRManagedLands/index.htm?ID=BFish

DOOR, MARINETTE and OCÓNTO COUNTIES

Red Gun and tributaries. Species population information (length range, average length, _“over a specified length”_ adult densities - relationship to statewide avg., etc.). Brown trout stocked into the productive waters of Green Bay grow quickly. Most of the brown trout harvested by anglers are 2 or 3 years old. By autumn, a 2-year old brown would be around 23 inches, while a 3-year old brown would be around 29 inches. A rare brown trout over 32 inches may be 4-6 years old. An estimated 2,181 brown trout were harvested in Green Bay in 2017. Green Bay is slated to receive an additional 20,000 yearling brown trout annually beginning in 2019. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily limit is 5 trout/salmon. Minimum length is 10 inches. Anglers can troll for browns in the spring and summer months. There are numerous boat access locations along the shores of Green Bay. Check out this website for details. http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/boataccess/brown trout make fall migratory runs into the Menomonee, Peshtigo, and Oconto Rivers. From late September into the winter months, shore anglers may have luck catching browns in these major tributaries. Here is the website to find detailed tributary access information. http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakeMichigan/Tributary-Access.html. Beginning with yearling brown trout stocked in 2017, all brown trout that are stocked into Wisconsin waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan receive an adipose fin clip. This is in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and Wildlife Service/Green Bay Mass Monitoring Project. Additionally, 2017 Wisconsin only stocks seeforellen (German) strain brown trout into the waters of Green Lakes. The seeforellen strain is a “wild” strain of salmonid that the broodstock (parents) are not held captive at a hatchery year-round. Instead, DNRF fisheries crews collect broodstock from several tributaries to Lake Michigan each fall. These reproductive parents are hauled to Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility in Superior, where gamefish are collected weekly from mid-November into early March. After gamefish are collected, adult brown trout are re-introduced into the Bois Brule River. Fertilized and disinfected eggs are brought to Wild Rose Hatchery, where they will be raised until stocking.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Bois Brule River - 44 miles.

WHRMOT pups are smelted for passing the Sea Lamprey barrier/fishway in Fall 2017. 71% of all brown trout in 2017 ranged from 18 to 24 inches, and the run peaked during early-August. In the upper river, the most recent survey (Summer 2016) found nearly 14% of resident brown trout were 12 to 20 inches long. Current regulation: Season is different for lower and upper river. Lower River: Downstream from U.S. Highway 63 to Season: Open March 30 through November 15; Daily bag: 5 trout and salmon in total, only two may be brown trout over 15 inches. Upper River: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open May 4 to September 20. Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/seaLamprey/brulefishway and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forest. Easy access at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Brown trout are native to Europe and were and initially im- ported over 100 years ago after the five brown trout fishery declined with timber harvest, forests, and loss of regional land use changes. Today, lake-run and stream-routed brown trout in the Bois Brule River sustain themselves by re- producing naturally in the tributaries; no hatchery fish are added, a rarity for many of today’s fisheries. Since these “wild” stocks respond strongly to their environments, such as the tempera- tures of the river and the flow of the river, their migration numbers and timing can change depending on all skill levels. The lake-run brown trout count fluctuated between 3,000 and 4,400 for the last 14 years. Lake-run brown trout is the first of the three major fall migrato- ry runs on the Brule and presents an early opportunity for anglers to fish the lower Brule River for fly anglers are out. Fly anglers target lake-run brown trout by fishing streamers that imitate baitfish or sculpins, while gear anglers often use 12 or 44 Mepps or Blue Fox spinners, Little Cleo spoons, or Rapala-type stickbaits. Night crawlers are a popular option for fly. "Aaron Nelson, Fisheries Technician"

COHO SALMON

Total of 4,482 were counted passing the Sea Lamprey barrier/fishway in Fall 2017. 70% of Coho salmon were 19 to 22 inches long, and 14% were between 26 and 28 inches long. The peak of the coho salmon run occurred between mid-September through mid-October. Current regulation: Season is different for lower and upper river. Lower River: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open March 30 through November 15; Minimum Length: 12 inches; Daily bag: 5 trout and salmon in total. Upper River: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open May 4 to September 20. Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/seaLamprey/brulefishway and click on the “Maps and Pubs” tab. All access points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forest. Easy access at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, Copper Range Campground, and State Highway 13. Coho salmon are nu- tive to the Pacific Coast, and they first established reproducing populations in the Bois Brule River in the 1970s from stocks introduced elsewhere in Lake Superior. Today, the stock is self- sustained by reproducing naturally in Lake Superior south shore tributaries, including the Bois Brule and its tribu- taries. Coho salmon migrate to the Bois Brule river, which was the largest salmon based on length and fourth largest by weight processed at Cranberry Creek during 2014.

Brule primarily in the fall and early winter when there is a strong migratory par- tition, during the late summer. Environ- mental factors such as river and lake levels, water temperature, and sometimes significant changes to the numbers of salmon

GLASS & TROUT

Dray Carl, Lake Superior fisheries biologist with a 40-inch lake trout.

Fisheries biologist Ericka Massa with a 20-inch lake brown trout captured and released during a 2018 survey. (Photo: Maria Duke)
stream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open March 20 through November 15; Minimum length: 26 inches; Daily bag: 5 trout and salmon in total, only one may be a rainbow trout. Upper Brule River: Upstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open May 4 to September 30. Go to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stats/tomahawk/broaditch.html and click on the “Maps and Pulls” tab. All access points only at designated areas in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Furthermore, evidence of natural reproduction has been documented through DNR surveys as well as in the sport fishery. Anglers caught 20,345 lake trout were harvested in 2017 lake-wide, which was considered the ten-year average. Anglers from Kenosha to Sheboygan reported good catches of lake trout; accounting for 86% of the total lake trout harvest in Lake Michigan in 2017. The average size of lake trout harvested in 2017 was 25.9 inches and 6.8 pounds. Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon); 10 inches of larger in total length. This Mid-Lake Reef Complex is a refuge for lake trout. No lake trout may be targeted or possessed within the boundaries of the Mid-Lake Reef Complex. There are many boat and shore access locations locally. This is being stocked into Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. We anticipate that the brown trout will continue to provide anglers a quality fishery for both shore and boat anglers in 2019. Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/fallfishing.html), http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutActuals.html.

COHO SALMON:

The exciting news for steelhead, is that Skamania are once again being produced and stocked in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. Over 70,000 Skamania were stocked in 2018 into the Kewaunee and Root Rivers, which is the first local stocking of Skamania since 2008 following the discovery of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. With anticipation of new salmon populations to accommodate future steelhead production and fish health, Skamania are currently being produced with eggs from Indiana with intentions on expanding Wisconsin’s local stock to expand future production of this steelhead strain. This is encouraging for anglers, because different genetic strains of steelhead run upstream at different times, thus expanding the overall spawning run and opportunities to go stream fishing. Skamania steelhead generally run early summer through fall, Chambers Creek late fall to spring, and Ganaraska during spring, although run times vary depending on conditions. Also exciting and beginning in 2019, all steelhead stocked into Lake Michigan were marked with adipose fin clips and coded wire tags as part of a collaborative and lake-wide project to evaluate steelhead wild production, movements, and steelhead stocks. 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/fallfishing.html), http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutActuals.html.

STEELHEAD:

Safe Eating Guidelines for Most of Wisconsin’s Inland (Great Lakes) Waters.

Exceptions to the safe-eating guidelines apply to a number of watersbodies including the Great Lakes, larger rivers, and some inland lakes where fish have been found to have high concentrations of contaminants. For more information go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/consumption.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

Fisheries technician Branden Wambach with a 40.5-inch 27-pound female lake trout captured during Egg Harbor lake trout assessment. This fish had a coded wire tag inserted prior to being stocked. From the number on the coded wire tag, we know this fish is a Lake Ontario Strain lake trout. It hatched in 1991 and was stocked in 1992 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 6 Fathom Bank which is in Michigan waters of Lake Huron. That makes this fish 27 years old and over 350 miles away from its original stocking location!

Fisheries technician Katie Ailionen with a 28.2-inch, 8.2-pound Lake Superior steelhead caught and released during a survey on the Bois Brule River. Photo: Paul Pozzobon.

Fisheries Technician Aaron Wilson with a 20-inch Lake Superior Coho salmon caught and released during survey work on the Brule River.

Lake Michigan and Tributaries

Approximately 300,000 lake trout are stocked in Lake Michigan annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Green Bay Mass Marking Project, all Brown Trout stocked into Lake Michigan received an adipose fin clip. Also beginning in 2017, only the see- forellen (German) strain of brown trout is being stocked into Wisconsin waters. Of Lake Michigan. The seeforellen strain stockings have remained consistent with 346,292 stocked in 2016, 368,509 stocked in 2017, and a 2018 goal of about 362,000 being stocked into waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. We anticipate that the brown trout will continue to provide anglers a quality fishery for both shore and boat anglers in 2019. Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/fallfishing.html), http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutActuals.html.

Brown Trout:

Brown trout fishing in 2017 remained consistent with previous years with 20,398 fish and salmon anglers experiencing many days of great brown trout fishing; fishing for brown trout and shore fishing should remain productive in 2019 from Milwaukee harbor being the most popular and productive brown trout fishing areas. Milwaukee harbor provides an abundant food source, brown trout show good growth rates and many reach the 15 to 20 pound range. Beginning in 2017, in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Green Bay Mass Marking Project, all Brown Trout stocked into Lake Michigan received an adipose fin clip. Also beginning in 2017, only the see-forellen (German) strain of brown trout is being stocked into Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. The seeforellen strain stockings have remained consistent with 346,292 stocked in 2016, 368,509 stocked in 2017, and a 2018 goal of about 362,000 being stocked into waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. We anticipate that the brown trout will continue to provide anglers a quality fishery for both shore and boat anglers in 2019. Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/fallfishing.html), http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutActuals.html.

Chinook Salmon:

Lake Michigan provides fantastic fishing for salmon and trout, including Chinook salmon spawning facility in Sturgeon Bay during October 2018, a total of 3,866 Chinooks were processed including several 200 pounds. Current regulations: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat and shore access locations are available (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/fallfishing.html), http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TroutActuals.html.

Wisconsin Fishing Report - 2019

Safe Eating Guidelines for Most of Wisconsin’s Inland (Great Lakes) Waters.

Exceptions to the safe-eating guidelines apply to a number of watersbodies including the Great Lakes, larger rivers, and some inland lakes where fish have been found to have high concentrations of contaminants. For more information go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/consumption.
Getting Hooked on Wisconsin Fishing
Community/urban fishing program provides access to fishing fun!

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

Urban Fishing Waters
Include the following: Kenosha County: Anderson Park, Bong Children’s Pond, Milwaukee County: Brown Deer Park, Dineen Park, Estabrook Park, Franklin High School, Greendale Park, Heller Park, Humboldt Park, Jackson Park, Juneau Park, Kosciusko Park, McCarthy Park, McGovern Park, Miller Park, Mitchell Park, Oak Creek Parkway, Saveland Park, Schoettl Park, Scout Lake, Sheridan Park, Washington Park, Wilson Park, Outagamie County: Appleton Memorial Pond, Ozaukee County: Harrington Beach Quarry, Mequon Rotary Park East and West, Packets Pond, Shoreview Park, Waukesha County: Comor Park, Johnson Park, Lockwood Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake, Reservoir Park, Rock County: Lions Park Pond Sheboygan County: Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond, Sheboygan County: Union Park, River Park Lagoon; Walworth County: Ceylon Lagoon, Congdon Park Millpond Pond; Washington County: Boot Lake, Hartford Millpond, Homestead Hollow Park, Kinzle Mill Pond, Regner Pond Sandy Knoll Pond, Wells Lake, Wodenbach Park Pond; Waukesha County: Calhoun Park, Delafield Rearing Pond, Foshbrook Pond Heyer Park North and South, Lapham Peak Pond, Lepper Dam Millpond, Little Mill Pond, Neenah Park, Muskego Park, Nixon Park, Regal Park, and Woodfield North and South, and County lakes: 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 19 thru April 26, 2019) 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 (800) 347-4633. Kids Clinics: Urban fishing waters are a great place to take kids fishing and many host free kids fishing clinics for both ice fishing and open water. For clinic information, visit the angler education page on the DNR website (https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/AnglerEducation/), Laura Schmidt, fisheries biologist, Milwaukee 2019 Wisconsin Fishing Report Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707-7921

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln Park – 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. 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.

SAWYER COUNTY

Regner Park Pond – 2 acres. The pond is stocked annually with rainbow trout from the state hatchery system. The City of West Bend also regularly stocks other species. Current regulation: Year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 9 thru April 26, 2019) for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers. There is also a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) gamefish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead). Access information: (best access points(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 trails, sports facilities and play areas, plus a summer swimming pond and winter ice rink.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Shue’s Pond – City of West Bend – 6 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.

Close to Home series promotes shore fishing fifty places to fish from shore within 60 minutes of Milwaukee.

Fall may be the last thing on many anglers’ minds this time of year, but when summer winds down, we don’t want you to forget about the famous trout and salmon spawning run that takes place every year in and around Milwaukee’s harbors and rivers.

To make sure you get the most of your fishing experience, we’ve got information for anglers looking to fish the spectacular runs that highlight 50 places to fish from shore within 60 minutes of downtown Milwaukee.

And although it’s not full, you certainly don’t need to wait for the leaves to change color to take advantage of these hotspots. They’re great places to fish year-round.

Publication: dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/Documents/LakeMichigan/close-to-home_letters.pdf

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For more information, please visit fishingwisconsin.org/fishing alleen.