The WDNR surveyed backwaters and sloughs in the Lansing, Iowa Area, Pool 9 of the Mississippi River in fall 2017. We used electrofishing equipment to determine the health of the fishery. The study area included all backwaters downstream the Upper Iowa River outlet to the City of Lansing, IA (Figure 1).

A total of 1156 fish representing 37 species were captured. Bluegill was the most abundant followed emerald shiner, gizzard shad, largemouth bass, shorthead redhorse, freshwater drum, yellow perch and rock bass.

Similar sampling was done in 2009. Since then, abundance, as measured by catch per hour (CPH) of all game fish combined remained the same (82.7 per hour). The bluegill catch rate was steady (36.5 per hour) and largemouth bass decreased 60.5% to 16.7 fish per hour. Yellow perch remained the same (3.8 fish per hour). Average lengths of juvenile and adult bluegill increased from 2009 to 2017 by 1.3 inches to 5.0 inches. Average size largemouth bass were 1 inch larger in 2017 (10.7 inches). Yellow perch average size decreased 0.7 inches to 8.8 inches.

Compared to other surveys with similar sampling methods, 2017 Lansing Area ranked in the lower-middle tier of combined game fish abundance (17.4 per hour) (Figure 5). This lake unit ranks statistically similar to 21 surveys, which was below the top tier of 6 surveys. This suggests a slightly below average relative abundance of game fish during 2017. Similarly, bluegill was lower than 7 surveys and the same as all remaining surveys and largemouth bass.

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were lower than 10 surveys and the same as the remaining 21 surveys. Yellow perch had below average relative abundance. It was lower than 9 other surveys and the same as 21.