**WATERBODY:** Mississippi R. Trempealeau Lakes Area  
**COUNTIES:** Winona, MN, Trempealeau and La Crosse, WI.  
**YEAR:** 2017

The WDNR surveyed backwaters and sloughs in the Trempealeau Lakes Area, Pool 7 of the Mississippi River in fall 2017. We used electro fishing equipment to determine the health of the fishery. The study area included all backwaters downstream from Lock and Dam 6 dike to river mile 710.3 (Figure 1).

A total of 1715 fish representing 38 species were captured. Bluegill was the most abundant followed by largemouth bass, spotted sucker, gizzard shad and yellow perch.

![Figure 2](image)

Similar sampling was done in 2013. Since then, abundance, as measured by catch per hour (CPH) of all game fish combined increased 360%. The bluegill catch rate increased 815% and largemouth bass increased 340%. Yellow perch remained the same. Average lengths of juvenile and adult bluegill declined from 2013 to 2017 by 1.2 inches to 5.0 inches. Average size largemouth bass were 1.6 inches smaller in 2017 (9.8 inches). Yellow perch average size remained the same (7.7 inches).

Compared to other similar surveys, 2017 Trempealeau Lakes Area ranked in the middle tier of combined game fish abundance (49.5 per hour) (Figure 5). This lake unit ranks statistically similar to 21 surveys, which was below the top tier of 3 surveys. This suggests an average relative abundance of game fish during 2017. Similarly, bluegill (27.3 per hour) and largemouth bass (15.8 per hour) abundance estimates were average. Yellow perch (6.1 per hour) had below average relative abundance. It was lower than 8 other surveys and the same as 23.

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Figure 3. Trempealeau Lakes Lengths, Fall 2017. largemouth bass

Figure 4. Trempealeau Lakes Lengths, Fall 2017. yellow perch

Figure 5. Abundance (catch per hour) of combined age 1 plus game fishes, Lake Unit surveys from 2011-2018