The WDNR surveyed backwaters and sloughs in the Reno Bottoms, Pool 9 of the Mississippi River in fall 2018. We used electro-fishing equipment to determine the health of the fishery. The study area included all waters downstream from Lock and Dam 8 dike to 2 miles south of New Albin, IA (Figure 1).

A total of 651 fish representing 40 species were captured. Emerald shiner was the most abundant followed by gizzard shad, largemouth bass, common carp, longnose gar, and bluegill.

Similar sampling was done in 2013. Since then, abundance all game fish remained the same except for juvenile and adult bluegill. The bluegill catch rate decreased by about 70 percent. Average lengths of juvenile and adult bluegill remained at about 6 inches. Average size largemouth bass were 2 inches greater in 2018 (14.4 inches).

In comparison, Reno bluegill abundance was the same as 22 other Mississippi River surveys, and the lower than 9. Largemouth bass was the same as 21 other surveys, and less than 10. Abundance of combined game fishes during 2018 was the same as 17 other surveys, and less

Contact Information: A complete report is available from David Heath - Fisheries Biologist; 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.; La Crosse, WI 54601; Telephone: 608-785-9993. David.heath@Wisconsin.gov
than 14. These combined data suggest that there is a relatively low abundance of gamefishes in Reno.

In summary, the Reno area has a relatively poor abundance of game fishes.