



THE WISCONSIN FISHING REPORT



Spring 2020 An annual publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Management program Search "Fishing Wisconsin"

NEW IN 2020!

Catch and Release Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass Year Round

Effective April 1, 2020
dnr.wi.gov search "responsible release"

2020 SEASON DATES	
(Effective April 1, 2020)	
Early Inland Trout	January 4 (5 a.m.) to May 1
General Hook and Line Inland	May 2 to March 7, 2021
General Inland Trout	May 2 (5 a.m.) to Oct. 15
Largemouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest	May 2 to March 7, 2021
Smallmouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest	June 20 to March 7, 2021
Large and Smallmouth Bass Southern Zone	May 2 to March 7, 2021
Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass Catch-and-Release	At all other times of the year
Musky – Northern Zone	May 23 to Dec. 31
Musky – Southern Zone	May 2 to Dec. 31
Northern Pike	May 2 to March 7, 2021
Walleye	May 2 to March 7, 2021
Lake Sturgeon (hook and line)	Sept. 5 to Sept. 30
Free Fishing Weekend	June 6 - 7, 2020 summer January 18 - 19, 2020 winter January 16 - 17, 2021 winter

Dear WISCONSIN ANGLER

Another fantastic fishing season approaches. I hope you all are ready for it. I know I will be.

Please take a few minutes to read about how we put your fishing license dollars to work last year with many projects and fish surveys. Our fisheries biologists, technicians, hatchery and operations staff are committed to make fishing even better in Wisconsin, and we hope your time on the water reflects that in 2020.

Our world-class fishing opportunities make Wisconsin waters a special place, and one of the greatest gifts we can give someone is to connect them to the great outdoors. Take a friend fishing – it's a gift that will last a lifetime.

I'd like to ask all anglers to continue to care for our fisheries. By working together, we can keep Wisconsin fish and lakes healthy and reel in many, many more great memories.

Wishing you tight lines and full creels in 2020!

Justin H. Hg
Director,
Bureau of Fisheries Management

Want to catch more panfish? Give electronics a try

Early results show the use of electronics can benefit panfish anglers.

The Department of Natural Resources' Panfish Team spent much of 2019 analyzing statewide data and trends in panfish fisheries.

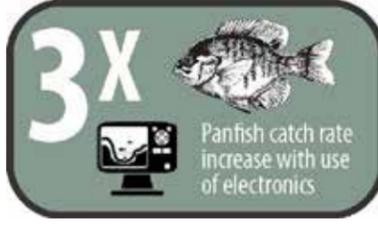
Over the last 30 years, most panfish populations have been shown to be relatively stable, with bluegill and crappies doing especially well. Previous studies have suggested that some lakes, especially those with 10-fish bag limits, have shown improved size structure in recent years.

Anglers are taking advantage of these changes,

- showing increasing angling effort over time (especially during the ice-fishing season),
- high and stable catch rates even in lower density waters, and

- more selectivity for larger fish in their harvests.

A recent analysis involved comparing catch rates among anglers who did or did not use electronics during the 2018-2019 ice fishing season,



and early results showed that these devices can be incredibly beneficial: anglers who used electronics while fishing had panfish catch rates up to 3 times higher than those who did not use electronics. Be on the lookout for these studies in the coming months, and for future analyses of the experimental regulations currently being tested across the state on 94 lakes.



Fishing Wisconsin and Instagram

Instant Classics!

Instagram: wi_dnr

Fabulous Fisheries Projects

Wilson Creek, Dunn County Habitat Improvements and Easement

Wilson Creek is a Class II brook trout stream with a perpetual fishing easement in this section located downstream of County Rd O just outside of Knapp, WI. Partnership funding and volunteer hours for this project were contributed by NRCS, Kiap-TUwish TU, ClearWaters TU, Dunn County Fish and Game and Dunn County Aids money.

Prior to this project, the stream featured a wide, shallow and silted bottom covered in a jungle of fallen box

elder trees and other invasive species making it unfishable with a lack of stable instream habitat. The raw banks were sloped back, the stream was slightly narrowed, and banks were rocked and covered with topsoil and seeded with native prairie species and cool season grasses for bank stability. A total of 4,740 feet of integrated bank treatment was completed and instream habitat included installation of 61 root wads, 45 bank boulders, 8 spawning riffles, 3 backwater refuges, 2 wildlife scrapes and 1 plunge pool. - Kasey Yallaly, fisheries biologist-Baldwin and Nate Anderson, trout habitat specialist-Eau Claire



Wilson Creek stream improvements created more instream, stable habitat.

Evaluation of the Oconomowoc River electrical barrier using acoustic telemetry

Project Update. - In June of 2019, an additional 14 common carp were collected, implanted with ultrasonic acoustic transmitters and released back into the Oconomowoc River. Acoustic telemetry technology allows fisheries researchers to track migration of individually numbered fish. The total number of acoustically tagged common carp, at large in the Oconomowoc River, is now up to 31. Acoustic receivers were str-



Researchers implant an acoustic transmitter into an adult common carp. Photo: Mark Baldock, fisheries technician, Horicon.

telegically deployed in the Oconomowoc River upstream of the confluence of the Rock River in 2018 and 2019. Preliminary data has indicated the electrical barrier has been effective in preventing the migration of common carp when operated during peak spawning migration in late spring and early summers of 2018 and 2019. More data will be collected once acoustic receivers are again deployed in the spring of 2020. Future data collection will further our understanding of the effect of various river conditions and the effectiveness of the barrier. 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. Contact Information; Benjamin Heussner, benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov (414) 303-0109

Trout can be an educational tool in the classroom - Phillips School District

In Phillips, WI students in pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 are tracking the development and growth of brook trout eggs and fry that they brought back to school after their class trip to DNR's St. Croix Falls Fish Hatchery last November. The trout are raised at the middle and elementary schools in two fully-equipped aquariums purchased with a grant from Phillips Plastic Corporation. Coolidge Springs Trout Ranch provides technical advice on water temperature and feeding rates for optimal survival and growth. Along with this fun, hands-on project, teachers emphasize a take-home message that rearing "trout in the classroom" cannot replace healthy streams



A Phillips Middle School student checks developing brook trout fry in their "Trout in the Classroom" project. Photo: Tammy Holman

where trout and other fish can thrive on their own. Students and teachers are planning another field trip in late spring 2020 to stock the brook trout fin-

gerlings into the Little Elk River nearby. - Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist

A Fabulous Fish Stick Project in Florence County

In the fall of 2018, Wisconsin DNR completed a fish habitat project on 145 acre Pine River Flowage in Florence County. The DNR received a \$15,000 grant from We Energies to fund this effort. The project entailed cutting, moving and anchoring 160 trees at desired locations along the north shore of this impoundment. We were able to accomplish this project during a We Energies maintenance drawdown of the flowage. This waterbody supports a diverse fishery composed of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and various panfish.

The goal of this project was to enhance shallow water habitat in areas that are optimal for smallmouth bass and black crappie spawning. Increased nesting and rearing habitat for these species should increase recruitment and increase adult abundance long term in the flowage as well as increase habitat diversity for all other species of fish within the flowage. We look forward to monitoring the success of this project with a comprehensive survey starting in the spring of 2020. - Katie Renschen, fisheries technician advanced, Florence



Pine River Flowage fish sticks project created to increase nesting and rearing habitat of near-shore fishes.

Black Earth trout habitat improvements

Black Earth Creek Fishery Area north of HWY KP, just west of Cross Plains-2/3 of mile of trout habitat improvements including boulders, brush and woody cover were added to the river to improve adult trout habitat. Old investments in trout habitat have deteriorated and were destroyed by recent floods. Parts of this project were designed to mimic the natural process of trees falling into the river and creating scour holes, undercut root wads and other complex habitats trout prefer to feel safe and feed in. Anglers will find new places to cast a fly, dunk a worm or plunk a spinner at nearly every bend. Work on the site continues spring 2020 with hundreds of hardwood tree plantings near the banks. - Dan Oele fisheries biologist, Dane County

Lake Holcombe Fish Cribs

Members of the Lake Holcombe Protection and Improvement Association organized a crib building project on the shore of Lake Holcombe in December of 2019. Along with assistance from DNR staff, 15 cribs were constructed out of oak logs and packed tightly with

brush. Once the ice was thick enough, the cribs were pulled out on the ice with specialized sleds to their final location. Deeper water habitat is particularly important in Lake Holcombe because there is a lack of deeper vegetation due to the stained water and sandy substrate. These cribs will provide refuge from predators for juvenile gamefish, panfish and forage fish species. The majority of the supplies needed to build the cribs were donated by local businesses near Lake Holcombe. A big thanks goes out to everyone in



Fisheries technician, Matt Andre, directs the placement of brush during a fish crib building day on the shore of Lake Holcombe.

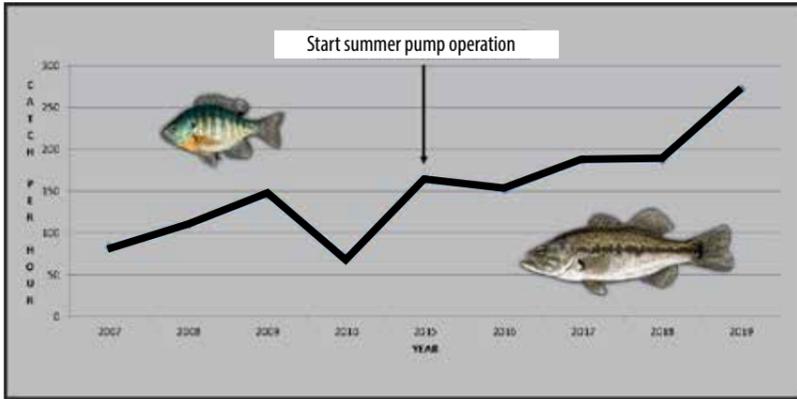
the Lake Holcombe area who helped make this project happen.

La Crosse County, Pettibone Lagoon Pump Project

Pettibone Lagoon is a 21-acre backwater located across the Mississippi River main channel from downtown La Crosse and is a popular shore angling and aquatic recreation destination. Over two-thirds of the fishery is bluegill and largemouth bass with black crappie and yellow perch making up less than 5 percent. Since the 1970's aerators have been run periodically to maintain dissolved oxygen and prevent fish kills, especially during the winter months. The aerators were marginally effective, and the lagoon still had near-annual winter kills. In 2010, the City of La Crosse decided to remove the aerators and install a pumping system to carefully meter, high oxygen main channel water into the lagoon during winter as part of an airport improvement project. Since this system was installed nine years ago, tangible improvements in water quality and angler success have been observed.

In 2015, the DNR asked the city to experimentally operate this system during summer. During the experimental period, DNR conducted studies to determine the optimal amount of main channel water to meter into Pettibone Lagoon during the winter and summer months. Since the studies, the City of La Crosse has operated the pumps in accordance with the DNR prescribed summer and winter settings. The DNR monitored summer fish usage since the management change and found significantly increasing numbers of game fish. Combined bluegill and largemouth bass numbers have increased nearly 90 percent since pumps were operated in summer. In addition, abundance of bluegill greater than 8 inches has increased 10-fold. Abundance of largemouth bass over 14 inches has increased nearly 2-fold. This project has created a high quality, urban fishing opportunity that can be easily utilized by the public, especially children and the elderly.

This project would not have been possible without the efforts and support of the La Crosse Regional Airport, the La Crosse Parks & Recreation Depart-



Pettibone Lagoon, Summer Abundance of Bluegill and Largemouth Bass Combined.

ment, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the DNR. This project demonstrated meaningful changes in a highly used urban fishery through a strong inter-governmental partnership. - David Heath, Mississippi River fisheries biologist and Shawn Giblin, Mississippi River water quality specialist. La Crosse.

Hunting River 2019, Pearson WI

The Hunting River is a trout stream with quality populations of naturally reproducing brook and brown trout. The Hunting River has been historically negatively impacted by logging, agricultural practices and beaver activity. Impairments of the Hunting River included: widening and shallowing of the stream channel causing water temperatures to increase and sedimentation causing siltation of trout spawning areas. This section of stream was also in need of large complex woody and rock habitat preferred by trout.

This project was 2,600 feet and included the following work: tag alder brushing, channel shaping to deepen and narrow the stream channel resulting in the creation of 13-point bars, the installation of 40 whole trees, the installation of 75 small rocks and 75 large rocks. This project was conducted on State Fishery Area and Langlade County Forest. The project can be accessed off Field Road north of County Highway T.



Hunting River in 2019

Goals of this project were: narrowing and increasing depth of the stream channel and increasing the amount of complex woody and rock habitat in the stream. This project increased resting and foraging habitat and improve spawning sites for trout. - Taylor J. Curran Fisheries Management technician advanced, Antigo

West Branch of the White River – Hwy Y

A multi-year project, completed in 2019 by DNR staff at Wild Rose Trout Habitat Station with the assistance of volunteers from local Trout Unlimited Chapters, promises to provide an outstanding trout angling opportunity. Combined with a habitat project completed in 2013, the West Branch has recently seen major improvements in trout habitat, streambank stability, and fishability along more than a mile and half of stream, starting at the Cottonville Ave bridge upstream throughout the entire 220-acre parcel of DNR Public Land to the parking area located on Hwy Y.

The West Branch is 7.9 miles long and located on the southwest side of Wautoma. It is a Class I trout stream with special regulations - 3 trout in total. rainbow trout must be at least 12" and brook trout and brown trout must be at least 8".

The West Branch, along with only a handful of streams across Wisconsin, has a documented population of naturally reproducing rainbow trout.

Angling on the West Branch is challenging due to the crystal-clear water

clarity. Fine line and natural colored baits are a must. To further increase your angling success, plan to fish the West Branch during low light conditions.



West Branch of the White River, Waushara County

ALL
GOOD THINGS
IN MODERATION.
EXCEPT FOR
FISHING.
takemefishing.org

Science in the spotlight

Fisheries Research Initiates Four New Research Projects in 2019-2020

The Fisheries Research Team in the Office of Applied Science began four new studies focused on high priority research needs of the Bureau of Fisheries Management in 2019-2020. The new studies focus on: 1) muskellunge; 2) panfish; 3) fish spawning phenology; and 4) lake whitefish in Lake Michigan.

Despite nearly an exclusively catch-and-release recreational fishery for muskellunge, muskellunge are harvested in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin by tribal members during spring and winter spearfishing. Along with collaborators Dr. Dan Isermann and Dr. Dan Dembkowski from the Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the **Evaluating Sustainable Muskellunge Exploitation in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin Project** will develop a statistical catch-at-age model to estimate a sustainable exploitation rate for muskellunge and use model results to reevaluate the muskellunge safe harvest model used in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin. The current safe harvest model is based on one muskellunge population. Long-term standardized monitoring of muskellunge populations across a number of lakes in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin will be used to inform the model and should provide for a more robust, regional

safe harvest model (Project Leads, Dr. Stephanie Shaw and Dr. Greg Sass, Boulder Junction).

As in the past, panfish (e.g., bluegill, crappies, yellow perch) represent a popular target for Wisconsin's anglers and panfish are the most harvested species in Wisconsin. **The Understanding Panfish Trends and Responses to Angling and Predator Populations in Wisconsin Lakes Project** addresses five high priority panfish research objectives. Those objectives include: 1) assessment of status and trends of Wisconsin panfish size structure and relative abundance; 2) characterization of trends, distribution, and stability of angler exploitation, efficiency, and size selectivity across seasons, gradients of panfish size and abundance, and regulations; 3) evaluation of panfish population responses to predator management (e.g., stocked and naturally recruiting walleye lakes, largemouth bass



regulations); 4) evaluation of methods for assessing yellow perch recruitment and determine environmental drivers of yellow perch recruitment and abundance; and 5) quantification of the influences of experimental panfish regulations on panfish size structure and abundance after 5 years of implementation. Collectively, these objectives will evaluate sustainable management of panfish to meet angler desires in Wisconsin (Project Lead, Dr. Zachary Feiner, Madison).

Environmental variation may result in changes to sportfish spawning phenology and recruitment success. **The Quantifying Shifts in Spawning Phenology and Recruitment in Wisconsin Fishes Project** will test for spawning phenology changes and recruitment effects focusing on three primary objectives. First by quantifying temporal shifts in spawning phenology of Wisconsin sportfishes and important environmental triggers for spawning activity, then by relating spawning phenology to recruitment success, and lastly by testing for the extent of non-stationarity in sportfish recruitment dynamics and potential synchrony in recruitment between and within fish species across Wisconsin waters. This project will provide a comprehensive evaluation of environmental change effects on sportfish spawning phenology and natural recruitment outcomes to continue to manage Wisconsin's fisheries within a safe operating space (Project Lead, Dr. Zachary Feiner, Madison). Commercially important lake whitefish in Lake Michigan have traditionally been managed within distinct management units. Because the food web of Lake Michigan has changed greatly over time due to invasive species introductions, the **Evaluating the Need for a Spatially-Explicit Assessment Model of North-Moonlight Bay and Green Bay (Lake Michigan) Lake Whitefish Stocks Project** will reevaluate lake whitefish management in light of these changes. The five objectives of the project are to: 1) evaluate changes in spatial patterns of North-Moonlight Bay and Green Bay lake whitefish spawning populations during non-spawning periods; 2) evaluate the need for spatially-explicit or separate assessment modeling for lake whitefish stocks in Green Bay and neighboring waters of Lake Michigan; 3) develop assessment modeling to address potential changes in spatial patterns of North-Moonlight Bay and Green Bay lake whitefish spawning populations during

LEAVE NO LINE BEHIND

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 recycle it into new products such as tackle boxes and fish habitat structures.



PVC monofilament collection bin

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

For more information: visit dnr.wi.gov and search "recycle"

non-spawning periods; and 4) evaluate appropriateness of existing management structure in light of potential changes in relative contributions of North-Moonlight Bay and Green Bay lake whitefish spawning populations. This project will inform sustainable management of commercially- and recreationally-exploited lake whitefish in Lake Michigan (Project Lead, Dr. Iyob Tsehaye, Madison).

Your fishing vision 2020: Focus on catching Fabulous fishing is a cast away this year.

Interested in a water? Want more information? Contact the local fisheries biologist at dnr.wi.gov, search "fisheries biologist."

WALLEYE



■ ASHLAND and BAYFIELD COUNTIES

Chequamegon Bay-Lake Superior ~ 34,000 acres. Chequamegon Bay has an excellent year-round walleye fishery. In the 2019 spring walleye assessment along the Ashland shoreline in Chequamegon Bay, 3,560 walleye were captured. Female walleye ranged in size from 12.4 to 31.9 inches with an average size of 21.9 inches while male walleye ranged in size from 10.9 to 28.8 inches with an average size of 19.2 inches. Chequamegon Bay walleye fishing is open year-round with a minimum length of 15 inches and a bag limit of 5 in total, with only one over 20 inches allowed. In the tributaries and connected sloughs of Lake Superior, the walleye season is open from May 2-March 7. The most popular access points for Chequamegon Bay are Kreher Park and Second Landing although there are additional access points at Bono Creek and Fish Creek. Information about Great Lakes access points can



Fisheries technician Randy Besonen with a walleye captured in a fyke net along the Ashland shoreline during the 2019 walleye spring survey.

be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Beaches/documents/BeachBoatLaunches.pdf>. Since 2009, walleye fingerlings have been stocked almost every year in Chequamegon Bay. This stocking effort has improved the walleye fishery in the bay which is evident by the high number captured in the spring assessment and the wide range of sizes and ages of the walleye sampled.

■ BROWN, MARINETTE and OCONTO COUNTIES

Fox River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Menominee River and Green Bay Wisconsin DNR assess walleye in the Fox River, Green Bay and other tributaries on an annual basis. Spring surveys evaluate the magnitude of walleye spawning migrations into tributaries by using daytime electroshocking. During 2019 electroshocking runs on the Fox River, DNR captured 494 walleye that ranged in length from 16" to 30" and had an average length of 21.5". Nearly 4% of the captured walleye were greater than 28" which is the minimum legal length for harvest on the Fox River during the spring run. Spring surveys conducted on the Fox, Oconto, Peshtigo and Menominee rivers since 2012 have shown that these rivers support large annual walleye runs. Anglers fishing any of these rivers can catch many walleye and take

either eater size or trophy walleye home. Summer fishing on Green Bay produces good catches of walleye with anglers focusing their fishing on structure along both the east and west shores of Green Bay. DNR also assess walleye during the fall to look for young of year (YOY) production and year class strength. In 2019, during our nighttime YOY walleye electroshocking surveys on the lower Fox River and on lower Green Bay, walleye from 6.5" to 24" were captured. The majority of captured walleye were 1 or 2 years old from the 2018 and 2017 year classes. YOY walleye were also captured, but in lower number indicating that 2019 was a fair to average year class for walleye. Difficult shocking conditions likely caused many small (YOY) walleye to be missed, reducing our 2019 YOY strength estimate. Walleye from the exceptionally large 2013 year class are now in the 22"-26" range and are commonly being caught by anglers. 2019 surveys indicate good survival of the huge 2018 year class indicating good future walleye fishing on Green Bay and its tributaries. Current regulation: The rules vary by location and anglers should check for walleye fishing rules in the Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary, Tributary Stream to Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for season and harvest rules. Access information: There are many good boat launches in the area. Good shore fishing opportunities exist on the Fox, Menominee, Oconto and Peshtigo Rivers. Check the Lake Michigan page for access information.

■ DODGE COUNTY

Fox Lake. - 2713 acres. 2019 spring netting surveys yielded high quality walleye catches. A total of 1687 walleye were captured with a length range of 9.5 to 28 inches and an average length of 19.7 inches. With the current 18-inch minimum length limit 66% of the catch was legal. Current regulation: Three walleye may be kept and they must be at least 18 inches. Clausen Park in the City of Fox Lake and Town Park on the northwest shore of Fox Lake offer public boat launches with trailer parking and shorefishing opportunities. There is also shorefishing opportunity with parking on the north side of HWY 33 near Fish Tales Bait and Tackle Shop. As a shallow impoundment, Fox Lake has a history of intense management. In 1966 and 1997 whole lake drawdowns and chemical treatments were conducted in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat.

■ DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres. Spring 2019 adult index survey of 1,000 fish showed a good population with signs of strong recruitment of 6 to 8-year-old walleyes entering the fishery; most male walleyes handled ranged in size from 16 to 21 inches with an average size of 19.5 inches and most female walleyes handled ranged from 21 to 28 inches with an average size of 24.8 inches. The largest walleye handled during the survey was a 31.7-inch female. Current regulation: Open May 9 through March 1; 15-inch minimum length with a daily limit of two fish. Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier: Located in the City of Superior where Belknap Street joins the river. Features paved parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, and portable restrooms. Oliver Landing: Located in the Village of Oliver, just south of Superior, at end of East Detroit Street, features restrooms and paved parking. Barker's Island Landing: Located in the City of Superior at the end of Marina Drive, features restrooms and paved parking. Loon's Foot Landing: Located in the City of Superior just west of the

Nemadji River, features restrooms and paved parking. Go to https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?viewer=Boat_Access for a digital map and complete information on these landings. Wisconsin DNR and Minnesota DNR will be working on a population assessment in the spring of 2020 using neon green Floy tags that feature a unique number to identify fish when they are recaptured by survey crews. Anglers are not required to report tagged fish from this assessment



Twin Ports Walleye Association volunteer Paul Solem with a trophy class walleye captured and released during the 2019 walleye index survey on the St. Louis River. Photo: Paul Piszczek

but can report them if they would like to know the capture history for the fish. Anglers that catch a tagged walleye and choose to release it should not remove the tag from the fish. Voluntary tag returns from anglers since the last tagging assessment in 2015 showed that a portion of the walleyes that spawn in the St. Louis River leave the estuary and migrate out to Lake Superior. Most walleye tag returns from Lake Superior are reported by anglers fishing near-shore areas of Wisconsin's south shore between the Superior Entry and the Apostle Islands, but anglers have recaptured these tagged walleyes as far away as Chequamegon Bay and even Agate Harbor in upper Michigan's Keewenaw Peninsula.



Zach Woiak, Fisheries biologist, with a 28-inch Walleye from a spring fyke netting survey, Oneida County. Photo: Chad Leanna.

■ FOREST COUNTY

Lake Metonga - 1,991 acres. In 2019, a walleye population estimate survey was conducted by DNR. Based on the survey, Lake Metonga was estimated to contain 7,627 adult walleye (3.8/acre) with 99% of the fish captured this spring being $\geq 15"$. Current Regulation: 3 bag; 15" minimum length, 20"-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" Access information: There is a very nice public boat landing on the north side of the lake. There is a large campground with a nice (but shallow) launch on the south side of the lake. The Mole Lake Chippewa Community has dedicated a tremendous amount of resources to rehabilitate this walleye population over the last decade. Without their efforts this population would have less quality. Greg Matzke Fisheries biologist - Florence

■ JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE and TREMPALEAU COUNTIES

Lower Black River (below the Black River Falls Dam). Catch rates are based on 2019 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of lake shoreline or river surveyed). Black River, Lower: Total catch rate was 7.9/mile, catch rate of 15"+ fish was 1.1/mile and maximum size captured was 24". In 2018, total catch rate was 18.2/mile, catch rate of 15"+ size fish was 3.1/mile and maximum size captured was 26". Regulation: Black River upstream of CTH OO (T26NR2W Sections 20 and 21 - Clark County) walleye from 15 inches but less than 20 inches may be kept, except 1 fish may be over 24 inches/ daily bag limit 3 fish (Ceded Territory standard walleye regulation). For the Black River downstream of CTH OO, Clark County, and Arbutus Lake minimum length is 15 inches and daily bag limit is 5 fish. Access Information: Upper Black River - Halls Creek Canoe Landing and Black River State Forest unimproved landings off Palm and Brickyard Roads (Jackson County), and DNR boat landing off Opelt Avenue (Clark County). Lower Black

River – 3rd Street Canoe Landing (City of Black River Falls), Perry Creek Landing, Mason's Landing, Irving Township Canoe Landing, Highway 108 Landing near Melrose, WI, North Bend Landing off CTH VV, and Highway 35 landing in Van Loon Bottoms. The lower Black River (downstream of the Black River Falls dam) has a continuous (year-round) fishing season for walleyes.

OCONTO COUNTY

Archibald Lake - 393 acres. In 2019, adult walleye density was 4.1 adults per acre. This was a significant improvement over what was observed in 2011 (1.9 adults/acre). Walleye ranged in length from 7.5 to 24.4 in and averaged 15.7 inches. Compared to other lakes in the area, walleye abundance was high. Large fingerling walleye stocking began in 2014 at the rate of 15/acre. These fish are now starting to enter the fishery. Current Regulation: 18-inch minimum length / 3 fish per day. There is a boat landing on west side of the lake. East side of lake relatively undeveloped because the shoreline is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Fish sticks – 100 trees were placed at 46 locations in 2009. Walleye spawning reefs were constructed; 2008 (600'), 2017 (600') and 2018 (2 reefs – 300' each). Water levels have increased approximately 3 to 4 feet since 2011.

POLK COUNTY

Wapogasset & Bear Trap lakes - 1,436 acres (both lakes combined) Adult walleye population estimates were completed in 2019 for these two lakes. Wapogasset Lake had 4.3 adults/acre and Bear Trap had 4.0 adults/acre. Both of which are quite impressive adult densities for stocked walleye lakes. Of the 1,651 walleye handled between the two lakes, the majority (69%) were between 15-20 inches. The walleye regulation for both lakes is a three fish daily bag limit and they must be between 15-20 inches except one may be over 24 inches. There are two public boat landings on Wapogasset and one on Bear Trap. The southernmost boat landing on Wapogasset Lake is operated by the town of Garfield and is the best option for handling larger boats. Both lakes are stocking-dependent walleye lakes but have responded well to recent large fingerling walleye stockings.

PORTAGE COUNTY

Biron Flowage - 2187 acres. A comprehensive survey was completed for Biron Flowage in the spring of 2019. Walleye ranged from 12.0" to 26.7". 61.7% of the walleye were less than 15", 31.6% were 15" to less than 20", and 6.7% were greater than 20". Current regulation: 15" minimum length limit with a 20-28" protected slot; daily bag limit of 5 fish, only 1 fish can be over 28". At least five boat launches are available at: Anchor Bay Bar and Grill, off Pierce Avenue, Galecke County Park, off Blue Heron Lane, and Rusty's Backwater Saloon

PRICE COUNTY

Butternut Lake - 1,006 acres. With an estimated density of 4 adults per acre in spring 2019, Butternut Lake's walleye population was at the lower end of the objective range (4-8 adults/acre) in the 2005 Fishery Management Plan. Most of the walleye captured in fyke nets were 11-14" with only 10% at least 15" long, so the population did not achieve the size structure that anglers said they wanted (30-50% ≥ 15"). Unlike many walleye populations with faltering recruitment in northern Wisconsin and neighboring states, the addition of young recruits to replace adults that die from angling and natural causes continues to be reliable and strong in Butternut Lake. A special harvest regulation in effect since 2008 aims to direct angling harvest toward the abundant walleye of small and intermediate size and to protect some fish over 14" that might grow larger. Three walleyes of any length

may be kept, but only one fish can be over 14". From the angler counts and interviews in a creel survey, we estimated that Butternut Lake anglers caught 5,582 walleye and kept 1,862 in May-October 2019. Harvested walleyes ranged 9-23" and averaged 12.7". DNR maintains the Hoffman Rocks boat landing off Lakeview Drive (formerly County Highway B), where renovations are planned in 2023-2025. The Town of Chippewa also offers a gravel boat ramp and boarding dock on the north end at the mouth of Butternut Creek. —Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls

RUSK COUNTY

Potato Lake, —From early spring 2019 netting and electrofishing surveys we estimated walleye population density at 1.8 adults per acre in 534-acre Potato Lake, located about 12 miles east of Chetek, WI. Our goal for walleye abundance is 1-2 adults per acre. Walleyes grow faster than the regional average rate in fertile Potato Lake. Rings counts on sectioned dorsal spines showed that on average males reached legal length (15") in 4-5 years, while females attain 19.6 inches by age 5. With 35% of walleye at least 20 inches, the population exceeded stakeholders' expectation for 10-20% to be 20 inches or longer. Potato Lake's walleye population will continue to rely on stocking to maintain the fishery. Fisheries teams from DNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission found no evidence of natural recruitment to the walleye population in eleven fall electrofishing surveys from 1997 to 2019. Electronic records of walleye stocking in Potato Lake date back to 1991. Since the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative began in 2013, DNR has



Fisheries biologist Jeff Scheirer emptying a fyke net full of walleyes from Potato Lake shortly after ice-out 2019. Photo: Kendal Patrie

stocked walleyes at 5 large fingerlings per acre in even-numbered years. Anglers may keep a daily bag limit of 3 walleye 15-20 inches long, except one may be over 24 inches. —Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls

SAUK and COLUMBIA COUNTIES

Lower Wisconsin River - 92.3 river miles. The Lower Wisconsin River supports a healthy walleye fishery from the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Mississippi River. Anglers can expect to see many walleye in the 14 to 18 inch range with some up to 23 inches present in the population. Electrofishing surveys during October of 2019 sampled a good adult population with an average size of 14.3 inches. Seven and a half percent of the adults were 18 inches or greater. Current Regulation: 18 inch minimum length with a daily bag limit of 3. Access information: Public boat launch and accessible bank fishing opportunities are located thru

out the Lower Wisconsin River way. There is a public boat launch close to the dam at Veterans Memorial Park. A daily or annual 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 Wyalusing River. It is believed that glaciers dammed the Wyalusing 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. Bradd Sims, Fisheries biologist – Dodgeville

VILAS COUNTY

Trout Lake - 3,816 acres. Trout Lake supports a good walleye population that provides excellent angling opportunities. In 2019, a walleye population estimate survey was conducted by DNR. Based on the survey, Trout Lake was estimated to contain 9,050 adult walleye or 2.4 per acre with 71% of those fish ≥ 15". The largest walleye captured was 30.2" and average walleye was 17.8". Current Regulation: 3 bag; 15" minimum length, 20"-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" There are two very nice public boat landings located on the North and South ends of Trout Lake. Trout Lake has a diverse fish community including lake whitefish and lake trout. Eric Wegleitner, Fisheries biologist – Vilas County

WASHBURN COUNTY

Lake Nancy - 757 acres. Lake Nancy in Washburn County is a low-density walleye lake (0.7 fish/acre). However, lower numbers typically mean greater size. This is the case with Lake Nancy. The average length of adult walleye was 17.7 inches and 41% of walleye sampled were greater than 18 inches. 25.5 inches was the biggest fish observed sampling. But anglers have reported catching walleye near 30 inches in recent years. Current Regulation: 18 inch minimum length limit, three fish daily bag limit Concrete boat launch located off Karling Ct on the Southeast side of the lake. Lake Nancy is a part of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative, those stocking occurred in 2014, 2016, and 2018. Based on aging, an estimated 65% of the walleye sampled are from 2016 and 2014.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Golden Lake - 250 surface acres. Average Length – 14 inches. Population estimate – 1.5 adults per acre. Current regulation: 18-inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 3. The DNR public boat launch is located on Hwy 18, west of Dousman. An adult walleye population estimate completed in spring of 2019 revealed good size structure and a strong 2015 year class. After just four years of growth, the 2015 year-class of walleyes in Golden Lake are averaging 17 inches, exhibiting above average growth and excellent health. Multiple year classes of walleyes have been stocked into Golden Lake in 2015, 2017 and 2019. Golden Lake lives up to the name having sandy substrate and excellent water clarity. Diverse aquatic plants and well protected wetlands on the north end of the lake provide excellent habitat for wildlife and fisheries.

MUSKELLUNGE



BAYFIELD COUNTY

Namekagon Lake - 2,724 acres in Bayfield County is a lake musky anglers already know produces large fish. In 2019 DNR crews worked to capture and tag muskellunge in Namekagon in the first year of an effort to get an estimate of how many musky are in the lake. In comparison to other lakes muskellunge are fewer in number but few if any lakes can match the size that Namekagon offers. The average length of musky handled during the survey was 38.6 inches and the largest was 50.5 inches. Of all musky caught in the netting survey 47% were 40 inches or longer. Stocking appears to be effective on Namekagon as evidenced by 36% of the musky surveyed had a hatchery fin clip that was given to stocked fish to determine stocking contribution to the population. Namekagon has a 50-inch minimum length limit for muskies. Anglers can access the lake from the National Forest campground on the northern end of the



Fisheries supervisor, Scott Toshner inspects a robust, 49-inch musky collected from Namekagon Lake during a 2019 survey.

lake, the state landing off County highway D and the Town landing located in Funnys Bay.

BROWN, DOOR, MARINETTE and OCONTO COUNTIES

Green Bay, Green Bay tributaries and bays and the Fox River. Annual assessments to determine the status of the Green Bay Muskellunge population have been conducted on the Fox River using fyke nets in spring and electroshocking in fall for many years. Fyke nets set in the Fox River this past May were filled with many large Musky. Female Musky averaged 50.8" and 38.8 pounds. The largest female Musky was 57" and weighed 52.1 pounds and was the largest musky caught by DNR assessment nets to date. Male Musky averaged 43.4" and 22.3 pounds. Fall electroshocking surveys on the Fox River captured many Musky in 2019 that were between 40" and 50". Musky anglers have reported catching legal size Musky greater than 54" from the waters of Green Bay this past summer and into fall. Current regulation: The regulation for musky on the Fox River, Green Bay tributaries and the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay is one fish with a 54 inch minimum length.

Access information: Most musky anglers launch their boat from the Fox Point Landing or the Metro Ramp on the Fox River, the Suamico Boat Launch on the Suamico River, Carmody Ramp on Little Sturgeon Bay, the ramp at Geano Beach or the Menominee River Ramp. Although surveys show Great Lakes Musky survive well and grow to large size, few naturally produced Musky have been captured necessitating an ongoing stocking program. During 2019, DNR stocked 4,838 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 2019. DNR also stocked 5,006 yearling Musky obtained from the State of Michigan in 2018 into Green Bay making the future of Musky fishing on the bay bright.



Fisheries technician, Andrew Notbohm, poses with a 45.4" Lake Wingra musky. Photo: Eric Struck

■ DANE COUNTY

Lake Wingra - 336 acres. Wingra boasts one of the highest musky densities in the state with 1.38 fish per acre, nearly 5x the median value for other A2 musky fisheries, so opportunities to hook a fish or multiple fish per trip are high. A great place to remind yourself what a musky looks like or take a novice angler out looking for their first bite. The size structure of musky in Wingra offers a diversity of angling opportunities; most fish range from 32-38" but fish over 40" are not uncommon either. The largest fish sampled in the spring of 2018 was 46". Current regulation: 50" minimum length, 1 daily bag limit. Excellent shore line fishing access along most of the lake, easiest access along the North shore near outfall into Wingra Creek along Arboretum Drive and near the Henry Vilas Zoo along Vilas Park drive. Two small boat ramps on the lake, Vilas Park Drive and end of Knickerbocker Street. Motor and wake restrictions active on the lake. No evidence of natural reproduction for musky has been documented in the Madison Chain of Lakes. The musky population in Wingra is maintained by DNR stocking fish annually with musky eggs sourced from the Madison Chain and raised at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery. Every fish stocked into Wingra also receives a PIT tag microchip to help track fish movement, age, and growth rates.

■ DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres Most recent population estimate completed in 2017 - adult population estimated at 1,703 adult muskies (0.17/acre). 255 muskellunge captured and released in the population estimate survey with an average length of 40.6 inches. The longest musky handled during the 2017 survey was 52.8" long. Current regulation: Open May 23 through November 30; 50-inch minimum length with a daily limit of one fish. Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier: Located in the City of Superior where Belknap Street joins the river. Features paved parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, and portable restrooms. Oliver Landing: Located in the Village of Oliver, just south of Superior, at end of East Detroit Street, features restrooms and

paved parking. Barker's Island Landing: Located in the City of Superior at the end of Marina Drive, features restrooms and paved parking. Loon's Foot Landing: Located in the City of Superior just west of the Nemadji River, features restrooms and paved parking. Wisconsin and Minnesota DNR have initiated a supplemental stocking program to try to boost the musky population in the St. Louis River Estuary. In 2019, a total of 4,450 Leech Lake strain muskellunge from Minnesota DNR hatcheries were stocked at several locations on the St. Louis River. These fish were measured and implanted with PIT tags to identify them in future adult assessments to monitor growth of individual fish and establish the contribution that a supplemental stocking program adds to the existing wild muskellunge population. Lake Superior Chapter of Muskies, Inc contributed funding for 2,500 PIT tags used to tag the muskies. Wisconsin DNR is working toward securing Great Lakes spotted strain muskellunge fingerlings for stocking the St. Louis River in the future. The next adult population estimate is scheduled for spring of 2023. - Aaron Nelson, Fisheries technician, Superior

■ FOREST COUNTY

Lily Lake, Roberts Lake, Silver Lake, Wabikon-Riley Chain, and Windfall Lake. Forest County may not have the number of musky waters that some parts of the state have, but the musky fisheries in Forest County should not be overlooked. These waters have something to offer all musky anglers. There have been extensive musky surveys conducted on all of the established musky waters in Forest County, below is a table that can help guide you on your next Forest County musky adventure. Regulation: 40-inch minimum length /

Musky abundance and size structure information on six Forest County lakes.

	Abundance		Size Structure				Category
	Adults/Acre	Category	Ave Adult Length	% ≥ 40"	% ≥ 45"	% ≥ 48"	
Lily	0.29	Moderate	39.7	42.5	22.5	5.0	Very Good
Riley	0.42	Abundant	37.8	23.8	7.1	2.5	Average
Roberts	0.09	Low	39.7	46.2	20.5	10.3	Very Good
Silver	0.12	Low	41.1	53.3	23.3	3.3	Very Good
Wabikon	0.11	*Low*	34.9	14.1	1.6	0.0	Poor
Windfall	0.23	Moderate	41.8	57.1	21.4	0.0	Average

While the density of muskellunge is low, the lack of water volume makes Wabikon a high action musky water

1 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: All of these lakes have boat access. To get to Riley Lake you must launch on Wabikon and walk your boat through a shallow channel (approx. 400 yds). The boat landing on Windfall Lake is gravel and steep (4WD recommended). Windfall Lake is "trolling motor only". Greg Matzke, Fisheries Biologist, Florence

■ GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Little Green Lake - 466 acres. Spring 2019 fyke net survey (recap survey), 67 muskies handled, average size of 37.9" largest fish was 48.5". Population estimate of just under .5 adult/acre. Current regulation: 40" minimum, bag of 1 Access information: Good, Numerous developed access sites around the lake.



Aaron and Samantha Schiller with a large Forest County musky captured during survey work. Photo: Greg Matzke.

■ JACKSON, LA CROSSE, MONROE and TREMPLEAU COUNTIES

Lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dam), Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties and **Potters Flowage** (255 acres, Jackson County) Catch rates are based on 2019 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of river surveyed) and fyke net surveys (expressed as average number of fish captured per net per lift). **Potters Flowage:** The fyke net survey yielded 0.7/lift and 0.03/lift greater than 40". The maximum length captured during the spring surveys was 40". There was a total of 36 net lifts in 2019. The last comparable year for surveys was in 2015. In 2015, the fyke net total catch rate was 0.3/lift, catch rate of 40"+ fish was <0.1/lift, and maximum length was 40". Black River, lower: Total catch rate was 0.6/mile, catch rate of 40"+ fish was 0.15/mile and maximum length captured was 43". In 2018, total catch rate was 2.6/mile, catch rate of 40"+ size fish was 0.7/mile and maximum length captured was 49". Regulation: 40 inch minimum length / 1 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: Lower Black River - 3rd Street Canoe Landing (City of Black River Falls), Perry Creek Landing, Mason's Landing, Irving Township Canoe Landing, Highway 108 Landing near Melrose, WI, North Bend Landing off CTH VV, and Highway 35 landing in Van Loon Bottoms. Potters Flowage - 2 boat landings, there is a campground on the northeast end and shore fishing opportunities on McKenna Rd and Larb Hill Road. The 4 mile stretch of the Black River downstream of the Black River Falls Dam consistently yields one of the highest densities of 40"+ muskellunge found in annual surveys. Potters Flowage and the lower Black River are stocked with large



Chad Leanna, Fisheries technician, with a mid-40-inch Muskellunge from a fyke netting survey in Oneida County. Photo: Hunter Lamer

■ PORTAGE COUNTY

Biron Flowage - 2187 acres. A comprehensive survey was completed for Biron Flowage in the spring of 2019. Muskies are challenging to survey in Biron Flowage, yet we did catch 19 fish. These fish ranged in length from 24.4" to 45.7". Sample size is too small to look at size distribution, but four of the fish were over 40". Two of the fish that we caught had a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag, PIT tags are like a microchip in your cat or dog, about the size of a long grain of rice. These tags are not visible, a special reader is used to scan the fish. One fish was tagged in a 2010 spring survey on the Stevens Point Flowage, a 39" male that didn't grow in length since it was tagged. The other fish was stocked into the Stevens Point flowage in 2013 at the Old Highway 10 boat launch, today this fish is a 31.5" six-year-old male. Growth for this male is average compared to an average musky in Wisconsin. Current regulation: 50" minimum length limit with 1 fish daily bag limit. Biron Flowage is a Class A1 musky water, these waters are known as "trophy waters" for their ability to consistently produce a number of large muskies, but overall abundance may be low. The population has no known natural reproduction of musky, stocking is required to maintain the population. Consolidated Musky Club, the Wisconsin League of Musky Anglers (WILMA), and the 12 Apostles Musky Club have been active with stocking muskies and PIT tagging muskies in the Biron Flowage or Stevens Point Flowage. WILMA is a musky fishing league and have purchased PIT tag readers for members to use when fishing out on the Wisconsin River and collect information for fisheries management. Check-out the websites of these great clubs! There are at least five boat launches for public use. Boat launch locations are: Anchor Bay Bar and Grill, off Pierce Avenue, Galecke County Park, off Blue Heron Lane, and Rusty's Backwater Saloon.

■ PRICE COUNTY

Butternut Lake, Price and Ashland counties - Prospects look good for 1,006-acre Butternut Lake to produce trophy-size muskies 50 inches and longer, like it did in the 1980s. Twenty years after DNR suspended musky stocking in Butternut Lake, adult population density is once again within the desired range of 0.2-0.3 adults per acre, as outlined in the 2005 Butternut Lake Fishery Management Plan. Using the mark-recapture method, fyke netting in spring 2018 and 2019 yielded a population estimate of 214 adults or 0.21 adults per acre. Estimated at 1.55 adults/acre in 2003, high musky density and intense food competition were blamed as the suspected causes for the declining musky size structure noticed in the mid- and late-1990s. Now back at moderate population abundance, musky size structure has rebounded to meet our goal that 25-50% should be 38 inches or longer. In two consecutive springs fyke netting captured 102 unique muskies that ranged 10-45.6 inches, and 39% of 100 muskies ≥ 20 inches were at least 38

fingerling muskellunge every other year.

■ MARINETTE COUNTY

Caldron Falls Reservoir 1,018 acres and **High Falls Reservoir** 1,498 acres. The musky fisheries are maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction. The density (fish / acre) of musky is higher in Caldron Falls than in High Falls but large fish are present in both flowages. Current Regulation: 50-inch minimum length / 1 fish per day Access information: There are 5 boat landings on Caldron Falls and 6 on High Falls. Shore fishing opportunities are excellent. Musky were stocked in High Falls for the first time in 2017. A 50-inch minimum length limit went into effect in 2018.

■ ONEIDA COUNTY

Squaw Lake - 758 acres, 9 miles of shoreline, 21 feet maximum depth. 2019 was the first year of a two-year mark-recapture Muskellunge population estimate survey and showed a healthy naturally reproducing population. The lengths of Muskellunge ranged from 23.9 to 41.1 inches with an average length of 34.1 inches. Squaw Lake is known as an action Muskellunge fishery and provides an opportunity for harvest with its special Muskellunge regulation of a daily bag limit of 1 which must be at least 28 inches. Squaw Lake is also home to a population of hybrid Tiger Musky which provides a unique angling opportunity. A concrete public boat launch with good access and ample parking is located off West Squaw Lake Road.



Hayward fisheries biologist, Max Wolter, displays a Lost Land Lake muskellunge during a 2019 lake survey.

inches. Natural reproduction is the sole source of new recruits to replace the adults that die to angling and natural causes. Most anglers probably release the muskies they catch. For now, the 28-inch minimum length limit remains in effect to accommodate the handful of anglers who expressed their preference to occasionally catch and eat a musky for a special meal. However, there is no longer a reason to continue promoting selective harvest of medium-size fish as a strategy to decrease musky abundance. Public support for applying the statewide 40-inch length on musky harvest in Butternut Lake could be gauged at the Wisconsin Conservation Congress's spring hearings. — Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls.

■ RUSK COUNTY

Potato Lake - 534 acres Musky anglers reported poor fishing success and low catch rates last season in Potato Lake, but our spring 2019 netting survey indicated a muskellunge population in moderate to high abundance. We captured 110 muskies in 88 net-nights of effort for a fyke netting catch rate of 1.25 muskies per net-night. The average fyke net catch rate in self-sustaining populations is about 0.9 musky per net-night. Of those 110 muskies, we measured 93 and PIT-tagged 92 unique fish, including 38 females, 33 males, and 22 fish of unknown gender. They ranged between 28.3 - 46.7 inches and averaged 36.5 inches. With 18% of muskies at least 42 inches, the population met the size benchmark that stakeholders helped us set (10 - 20% ≥ 42"). If our time and budget allow, we will return with fyke nets in spring 2020 to complete the 2-year population estimate for comparison with our goal to have 0.3 - 0.4 adult muskies per acre. DNR stocked muskies into Potato Lake at rates of 0.5 or 1 large fingerling per acre in odd-numbered years 1997-2019. From the last Saturday in May through December 31 anglers may keep one musky ≥ 40" per day, but we suspect that most anglers catch and release muskies. Boats ramps are available at two public landings and several resorts. Medium-size boats should be able to navigate the narrow, low-clearance passage beneath the County Highway D bridge. Beware of the trolls there! — Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls

■ SAWYER COUNTY

Lost Land Lake - 1,264 acres in Sawyer County is already a popular musky fishing destination, but anglers may have even more to get excited about over the next few years. In 2018 and 2019 DNR crews worked to capture and tag muskellunge in Lost Land to get an estimate of how many musky are in the lake. The intensive surveying effort yielded an estimate of 722 adult muskellunge, or 0.55 per acre. That's a fairly high rate, and it's reflective of the reputation of Lost

Land (and Teal Lake, which is connected by a navigable channel) as an action muskellunge fishery. It was particularly notable that a big chunk of the population was made up of muskies stocked by DNR in 2012. That year class is now in the 30-35 inch range and should be a lot of fun for anglers over the next few years as they add more size. Lost Land and Teal have a 40-inch minimum length limit for muskies and anglers can access the chain of lakes from a DNR launch on North Landing Camp Road.

■ WAUKESHA COUNTY

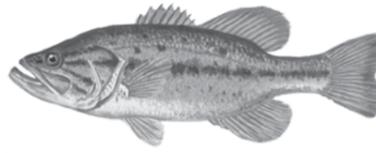
Pewaukee Lake - 2437 surface acres. Average length - 36 inches, population estimate - 0.5 adults per acre. Pewaukee lake is the largest muskellunge lake in Waukesha County and has experienced recent increases in northern pike and walleye abundance, improved panfish size structure, trophy smallmouth bass and trophy muskellunge potential making Pewaukee an exciting angling destination for all anglers. Current regulation: 40 inch minimum length, daily bag limit of 1. Access information: There are two boat launches found on Pewaukee Lake; the Nagawaukee County park boat launch on the west side and Smokey's Muskie Shop on the east side. Shore fishing can also be found at Nagawaukee County Park and the public fishing pier in downtown Pewaukee.

■ VILAS COUNTY

Kentuck Lake - Vilas and Forest. 958 acres. Kentuck Lake supports an excellent muskellunge population that provides tremendous angling opportunities. Fyke net surveys have been conducted yearly since 2014 in Kentuck Lake to estimate muskellunge abundance and produced 5 population estimates. Population estimates range from 236-475 (0.25-0.50 per acre) adult muskellunge with an average of 383 (0.40 per acre). The majority of muskellunge are 35"-45" but fish over 50" have been encountered. Current Regulation: 1 bag; 40" minimum length Access information: There are two very nice boat landings on Kentuck Lake, one on the northeastern shore in the National Forest campground and another provided by the town of Phelps on the southwestern shore. There is a National Forest campground located along the shore of Kentuck Lake with 31 campsites, hiking trails and boat launch. Eric Wegleitner Fisheries biologist - Vilas County



LARGEMOUTH BASS



■ ADAMS COUNTY

McGinnis Lake - 27 acres. An electrofishing survey was completed in the spring of 2019. Largemouth bass relative abundance was 71 fish per mile, which is very high (above the 90th percentile) compared to other bass populations in shallow lakes like McGinnis. Largemouth bass ranged from 6.0" to 17.6" with an average length of 12.5". 74% of all the fish caught were 12" or greater, and 42% were 14" or greater. Size structure is high (67-90th percentile) compared to other shallow lakes. Current regulation: 14" minimum and the daily bag limit is 5. A public boat launch is off CTH G. The Town of New Chester has an ordinance for motorboat prohibition on McGinnis Lake.

■ BARRON COUNTY

Upper Turtle Lake - 438 acres. Upper Turtle Lake has a high-density largemouth bass population, but also has plenty of quality-sized, heavy fish. Of the 68 bass collected during the fall 2019 electrofishing survey, 47% were at least 15 inches. The largest bass collected was 19.5 inches. Current regulation: No minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: There is one boat landing and fishing pier on the south end of the lake which is located off Highway 8. Because there is not a minimum length limit, Upper Turtle Lake is a good option for anglers interested in harvesting small (less than 14 inch) largemouth bass. However, it is also a good choice for anglers interested in catching larger bass.

■ BAYFIELD COUNTY

Middle Eau Claire Lake - 902 acres. The lake offers some fantastic opportunities for catching and harvesting largemouth bass. A DNR electrofishing survey in 2019 captured largemouth bass at a moderate rate of 12 per mile. Largemouth bass averaged 12.9 inches, the perfect size for putting a limit on ice and enjoying in the frying pan. With the no minimum length limit for harvest and a daily bag limit of 5 fish, those fish can provide a nice meal. In the 2019 survey 33% of all largemouth captured were over 14 inches. Several eclipsed 18 inches. Anglers can access the Lake from the state-owned public boat ramp located off of Hwy 27.

■ BUFFALO and JACKSON COUNTIES

Mirror Lake (19 acres, Buffalo County) and **Potter's Flowage** (255 acres, Jackson County). Catch rates are based on 2019 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of lake shoreline or river surveyed) and fyke net surveys (expressed as average number of fish captured per net per day or lift). **Mirror Lake:** The 2019 electrofishing catch rate was 38/mile, catch rate of 14"+ fish was 3/mile. The fyke net survey total catch rate was 2.9/lift with a catch rate of 0.7/lift for fish greater than 14". The maximum length captured during the spring surveys was 17". There was a total of 15 fyke net lifts in 2019. The last comparable surveys were conducted in 2011. Catch rate for the electrofishing survey was 73/mile, catch rate of 14"+ fish was 10/mile, and maximum length captured was 18". The fyke net survey in 2011 yielded 5.6/lift total and 1.7/lift greater than 14". The maximum length captured was 21". There was a total of

18 fyke net lifts in 2011. **Potters Flowage:** The 2019 electrofishing catch rate was 4/mile, catch rate of 14"+ fish was 2.3/mile. The fyke net survey total catch rate was 1.1/lift for total fish and 0.6/lift for fish greater than 14". The maximum length captured was 21". There was a total of 36 fyke net lifts in 2019. The last comparable surveys were conducted in 2015. The electrofishing catch rate was 6/mile, catch rate of 14"+ fish was 3.5/mile and maximum length captured was 20". The fyke net survey in 2015 yielded 1.6/lift with 1/lift over 14". Maximum length captured was 20". There was a total of 52 fyke net lifts in 2015. Regulation: 14 inch minimum length / 5 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: Mirror Lake - 1 boat landing, public park and ample shore fishing opportunity, no gas motor restriction. Potters Flowage - 2 boat landings, on the northeast end is a park and campground, shore fishing access on McKenna Road and Larb Hill Road. Other Information: Mirror Lake is stocked annually with yearling rainbow trout prior to season opener. A rainbow trout measuring 21" was caught during the spring fyke net survey. Potters Flowage is stocked annually with small fingerling largemouth bass, alternating years for large fingerling muskellunge and alternating years for large fingerling walleye (initiated in 2014).

■ CRAWFORD and VERNON COUNTIES

Mississippi River Pool 9 - 32,774 acres and 34 Miles of open water. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed backwater lakes in Pool 9 near Ferryville, WI from August to October in 2019 to determine the health of the fishery. Largemouth bass were abundant in this survey and ranged from 4 to 20 inches with the average length for largemouth bass at 12.6 inches. Approximately 50% of the largemouth sampled in this survey were larger than 14.0 inches and bass in the 3 to 5 pound range are not uncommon in Pool 9. Current regulation: Continuous Open Season, 14" minimum length with a 5-fish daily bag limit. There are many boat and shore fishing access locations along the Mississippi River. Check out the following websites for more details. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/> https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Upper_Pool_9.pdf https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Lower_Pool_9.pdf. The waters of Pool 9 are part of the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located in four states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois along the Mississippi River and was established in 1924 as a refuge for fish, wildlife and plants. The refuge encompasses one of the largest blocks of floodplain habitat in the lower 48 states. Bordered by steep wooded bluffs the Mississippi River corridor and refuge offer scenic beauty and productive fish and wildlife habitat unmatched in the heart of America. The refuge covers just over 240,000 acres and extends 261 river miles from north to south at the confluence of the Chippewa River in



Fisheries technician Jake Daugherty with a large largemouth bass captured from Seidel Lake during 2019. Photo: Greg Matzke

Wisconsin to near Rock Island, Illinois and has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar) and a Globally Important Bird Area.

■ DODGE COUNTY

Fox Lake - 2713 acres. 2019 spring electrofishing surveys yielded quality largemouth bass catches. A total of 159 largemouth bass were captured with a length range of 6.0 to 18.5 inches and an average length of 14.5 inches. The 2019 catch rate of 20 fish/mile is above average when compared with similar lakes in the state. Current regulation: One largemouth or smallmouth bass may be kept and it must be at least 18 inches. Access information: Clausen Park in the City of Fox Lake and Town Park on the northwest shore of Fox Lake offer public boat launches with trailer parking and shorefishing opportunities. There is also shorefishing opportunity with parking on the north side of HWY 33 near Fish Tales Bait and Tackle Shop. As a shallow impoundment, Fox Lake has a history of intense management. In 1966 and 1997 whole lake drawdowns and chemical treatments were conducted in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat.



Kyler Lukach with a largemouth bass caught while fishing on Cosgrove Lake in Florence County. Photo by Katie Rensch

■ FLORENCE COUNTY

Cosgrove Lake - 91 acres **Seidel Lake** - 55 acres. Florence County offers a wide array of fishing opportunities for largemouth bass. The 2019 surveys of Cosgrove and Seidel Lake are great examples of the diverse largemouth fisheries in this area. Cosgrove Lake is a true ACTION water with an adult population of approximately 20.6 largemouth per acre, making it a great place to take less experienced anglers fishing. A high density population comes at a price with 93.7% of the largemouth being less than 15 inches. However, not all of the fish are small in Cosgrove Lake, with largemouth bass up to 21.8" being captured during the 2019 survey. On the opposite end of the spectrum, Seidel Lake has a lower density population, estimated at approximately 2.0 adult largemouth bass per acre. Bass anglers fishing Seidel Lake might not have the intense action that they would have on Cosgrove Lake; but with over 60% of the bass > 16", and nearly 7% > 20" it should be on the short list for those anglers looking for big bass!. Current Regulation: Cosgrove: No Minimum Length, 14 to 18" protected slot, 5 fish daily bag limit (1 of which can be > 18"). Seidel: 14-inch Minimum Length, 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: There is a county owned boat launch on both of these lakes, the daily launch fee is \$3 or you can buy a season pass. The boat launch at Cosgrove Lake is located on the south end of Little Cosgrove Lake, and has limited parking. - Greg Matzke, Fisheries Biologist - Florence



Fisheries technician: Tanya Meives with a Largemouth Bass captured in a fyke net during the 2019 spring fyke netting survey on Wolf Lake. Photo by Addie Dutton

■ FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Wolf Lake - 75 acres. One hundred and ninety-five Largemouth Bass were sampled in Wolf Lake in 2019. The average length of Largemouth Bass sampled was 16.3 inches with a maximum length of 21.0 inches. Multiple Largemouth Bass over 20 inches were sampled throughout the 2019 fyke netting and electrofishing surveys. Trophy potential is high in this lake. Fishing pressure appears to be modest in the summer compared to other areas in southeastern Wisconsin and low during other seasons. Current regulation: 14 inch minimum length and 5 daily bag limit Access information: County run public boat launch located on the south end of the lake off County Highway WH. Eight Largemouth Bass sampled were at least ten years old with one 13-year-old fish!

■ IOWA COUNTY

Twin Valley Lake - 136 acres. Twin Valley Lake has a healthy and abundant Largemouth Bass fishery. In fact, there are approximately 38 bass per acre in the lake. These fish are naturally reproduced and recruited to the system and spring electrofishing surveys captured fish from 3 inches to 19.2 inches. Average size of Largemouth Bass captured was 11.6 inches, and 21% of these fish were greater than 14 inches. Anglers that choose to fish Twin Valley Lake should have plenty of fish to target and can expect to have a successful day on the water. Current Regulation: Largemouth Bass in Twin Valley Lake are managed under the general statewide regulation. Minimum length limit of 14 inches and a daily bag limit of 5 fish. Access information: Twin Valley Lake is located in Governor Dodge state park. A state park sticker or daily pass is required, and one public boat launch is available. Only electric trolling motors are permitted on Twin Valley Lake. Governor Dodge is the third largest state park in Wisconsin. Camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are permitted within the state park and a public beach and picnic area are provided. - Justin Haglund, Fisheries biologist, Dodgeville

■ IRON COUNTY

Wilson Lake - 166 acres. In 2019, crews documented good numbers of largemouth bass. Crews estimated the largemouth bass population to be 1,142 individuals (>8") or 6.9 adults/acre. All individuals sampled ranged from 5.2-19.6" and averaged 13.0". This largemouth population not only provides anglers with a good opportunity for quality largemouth action, but also a chance at a memorable specimen. Currently, only largemouth bass (and smallmouth bass) on Wilson Lake less than 12" or larger than 16" may be kept. There is good access located on Popko Circle East.

■ LA CROSSE, TREMPEALEAU AND VERNON COUNTIES

Mississippi River - 64,003 acres. Largemouth bass fishing on the Mississippi River near La Crosse is well known. There are professional bass tournaments almost every summer weekend, and some very large tournaments are scheduled annually. From 1993 to 2007, largemouth bass numbers steadily increased more ten-fold on this large river. Since 2008, numbers have varied, but remain higher than pre-2008 levels. Very high water levels during the past several summers and falls have hindered recreational bass fishing and our routine fall fish sampling. Therefore, recent local decreases in DNR abundance estimates may be caused by adverse sampling conditions, not a decline in fish. Fall 2019 electro fishing samples in pools 6, 8 and upper 9 from Trempealeau, WI downstream to Lynxville, WI showed recently declining numbers. In the reach of Pool 8 from La Crosse, WI downstream to Stoddard, WI, catchable-size bass have decreased from 14.2 fish per hour of electrofishing in 2011 to about 3.0 in 2016 and 2019. Average size of these fish (10.5 inches, n=78) has remained the same. A total of 13.4 percent of these fish were over 14 inches. This compares to 11.3 percent for other comparable Mississippi River surveys. The abundance of catchable-sized largemouth (3.0 fish per hour) was the same as 23 other comparable Mississippi River surveys, and less than 11. In the Wisconsin side of upper Pool 9, largemouth bass abundance has declined since 2011 from 50.8 fish per hour to about 8.8 per hour during 2015 and 2019. Average length of catchable size bass in 2019 (12.6 inches) was larger than 2011 (10.5 inches) and 2015 (9.6 inches). The percent of fish over 14 inches was 24.8 in 2019, 5.6 in 2015 and 9.4 in 2011. In the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, located between Trempealeau, WI and Winona, MN had very low largemouth bass catch rates in 2019. We caught 0.5 fish per hour, compared to an average of 16.4 in other similar surveys. This area had one of the lowest catch rates we've seen and could be due to periodic winterkills. A total of 13.4 percent of these fish were over 14 inches and the average size was 10.3 inches. Current regulation: In Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi River, five total bass at least 14 inches long can be kept daily. The season is year-round. Wisconsin and Minnesota fishing regulations will significantly change starting in 2020, but not for largemouth bass. Access information: The best way to find a boat landing is to go to the DNR's Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/> or the US Fish and Wildlife Service website and download the pool maps https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/map.html. Increasingly, river municipalities are charging boat access fees. -David Heath, Fisheries Biologist, La Crosse.

■ LINCOLN COUNTY

Lake Pesobic - 146 acres with a moderate to high density and good size quality largemouth bass population. Our 2019 comprehensive survey found good numbers of quality-sized bass with 33% 14" or longer and 4% at or over 17". We estimated the adult (8"+) population at 7 per acre. 14" minimum length limit, 5 daily combined with smallmouth bass. Good boat landing with parking on South Shore Drive. The USGS original topographic map had this lake incorrectly spelled as Pesabic, with an "A". There is a formal process to name and to change geographic names on topographic maps. The folks on this lake and in the Merrill area went through that process and now the lake is correctly spelled as Lake Pesobic. - Dave Seibel, Fisheries biologist, Antigo

■ OCONTO COUNTY

Reservoir Pond - 417 acres. Previous surveys showed that Reservoir Pond has a respectable largemouth bass population. The average length of bass collected during the last survey was 14

inches and fish up to 20 inches were collected. Sixty percent of largemouth bass collected were over the 14-in minimum length limit. Since Reservoir Pond is relatively shallow (average depth = 5 ft.) and there is a lot of aquatic vegetation and flooded timber, bass can hide and feed just about anywhere around the lake. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum / 5 fish per day Access information: There are 2 well developed boat landings and several undeveloped access points available for smaller boats/canoes. Anglers can access Horn Lake, Little Horn Lake and Explosion Lake from Reservoir Pond.

■ ONEIDA COUNTY

Squash Lake - 396 acres, 7.3 miles of shoreline, average depth of 22 feet. This is an action Largemouth Bass fishery with a high abundance. The size structure tends to run a little small with only 22% of the fish measured in the 2019 survey being over 14 inches, but bigger fish are present. The largest bass handled stretched to 18.5 inches. Squash Lake has a bass regulation that allows 5 bass of any length to be harvested, which differs from the standard statewide bass regulation. A public boat ramp is located off Long Lake Road, West of Rhinelander. Zach Woiak, Fisheries biologist, Rhinelander

■ RACINE COUNTY

Wind Lake - 936 acres - 14.6" average length, 19.5" maximum in 2019 spring survey. Current regulation: 14" minimum length limit, 5 daily bag Access information: A public boat launch on the southwest side of the lake provides the best boat access.

■ ROCK COUNTY

Clear Lake - 77 acres, public boat landing on west end of lake, 14-inch minimum, daily bag limit of 5 bass. This small Rock County lake features a healthy largemouth bass population with excellent trophy potential. According to recent spring survey data, the average length largemouth was 14.3 inches and



DNR Fisheries Management technician holding a healthy Largemouth Bass during a Spring Electrofishing survey on Wind Lake in Racine County.

over 56% of sampled bass were over the 14-inch minimum length limit. Several bass over 18 inches were captured including one over 21 inches. A catch rate of 34.2 bass/mile of electrofishing places Clear Lake bass abundance above the median when compared to other lakes with similar physical characteristics.

Gibbs Lake - 73 acres, public boat landing on north end of lake, 14-inch minimum, daily bag limit of 5 bass. Another possibly overlooked Rock County lake with nice largemouth. A 2019 spring survey revealed an average largemouth length of 11.7 inches. Almost 24% of sampled bass were over the 14-inch minimum length limit and bass up to 20.2 were observed. A catch rate of 102.8 bass/mile of electrofishing indicates high abundance and is well above the median when compared to other lakes with similar physical characteristics.

■ RUSK COUNTY

Potato Lake, 534 acres — Bass anglers looking for big fish should find them in Potato Lake. Our late spring electrofishing catch rates of 17.5 bass per mile or 37.5 bass per hour point towards the moderately low population abundance that is necessary to keep bass growing at a satisfactory rate and producing plenty of large fish. Electrofishing



Fisheries technician Chelsea Barnaby with a largemouth bass caught in our fall 2019 electrofishing survey on Connors Lake. Photo: Kendal Patrie

captured 70 bass that ranged 8.8 –19.0" and averaged 13.9". With 37% at least 15" long the population met our goal to have 30-50% that size or longer. Although it is not our standard method to evaluate largemouth bass population status, spring netting also captured high proportions of preferred-size bass $\geq 15"$ (51.5%) and even some memorable-size bass $\geq 20"$ (3%). Fyke nets captured 103 bass ranging 5.5 – 21.3" and averaging 14.3". We observed, but intentionally did not dipnet, many largemouth bass, including many large individuals, in our early spring electrofishing survey that targeted walleye. Five largemouth bass may be kept daily, but they must be at least 14". Anglers who fish from shore can use the public fishing pier at the end of Boat Landing Road south of County Highway F.—Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist Park Falls

■ SAUK COUNTY

White Mound Lake - 104 acres, maximum depth 27 feet. White Mound Lake is an impoundment of Shannahan Valley Creek located in west-central Sauk County. A comprehensive fishery survey of White Mound Lake in 2019 found largemouth bass present at the highest abundance of any lake in Columbia and Sauk counties, and higher than 99.9% of lakes across Wisconsin. A night electrofishing survey in late spring yielded a catch rate of 243 fish/mile for fish ≥ 8 inches. The population size of largemouth bass ≥ 8 inches was estimated at 5,998 fish or a density of 58 fish/acre. The catch rate of bass ≥ 8 inches increased by 27% over the previous survey in 2013. Around 90% of the bass sampled were between 8 and 14 inches, with a few specimens over 20 inches present. With such high abundance, bass grow more slowly in White Mound Lake compared to other area lakes with fewer bass, and White Mound Lake should be considered an "action" fishery. Because of the high abundance of largemouth bass, panfish densities are kept in check through predation and growth rates and population size structure of the bluegill population are very good as a result. Yellow perch and black and white crappies are also present at low abundance but provide anglers with the opportunity to catch larger fish. Current Regulation: Standard statewide regulations for all panfish and gamefish species. Access information: White Mound Lake is located approximately 5 miles northwest of the Village of Plain.

It is contained within the 1,100-acre White Mound County Park, managed by Sauk County. There is one public boat launch on White Mound Lake and it is maintained by Sauk County with a daily fee or season Sauk County Parks pass required to launch there. It is located on the north shore of the lake near the intersection of Lake Road and White Mound Drive. Much of the shoreline of the lake also offers an easy shore fishing opportunity with a walking trail tracing the length of the eastern shoreline. The park offers camping, walking trails, horse riding trails, hunting, and event spaces in addition to fishing. Gas motors are allowed but boaters must observe slow-no wake speed on the entire lake. Following the purchase of 5 farms along Shannahan Valley Creek by Sauk County, the White Mound Dam was constructed in 1969 to help alleviate frequent flooding issues in the valley, and the lake was filled in 1970. Shannahan Valley Creek below White Mound Lake is a tributary to Plain Branch Honey Creek and supports a small, self-sustaining brown trout population. Public access to the stream exists via the county park from the outlet of the lake downstream to County Highway GG.

■ VERNON COUNTY

Sidie Hollow Lake - 35 Acres (maximum depth: 22 feet) Sidie Hollow Lake is a small impoundment in the South Fork Bad Axe River watershed. A 2019 spring electrofishing survey produced good numbers of largemouth bass, bluegill, and black crappie. Largemouth bass up to 19.7 inches were captured in the survey. Current regulations: Gen-



Fisheries technician Evan Sniadajewski with hefty largemouth bass from Spring Lake, Sawyer County. Photo: Max Wolter

eral inland waters regulations apply. Access information: Boat landing located on Boat Landing Road off County Road XX. (See DNR Lake Finder). Sidie Hollow County Park surrounds the lake and offers multiple shore fishing opportunities. Brown, brook and rainbow trout can also be caught in the lake during the spring before water temperatures warm.

■ SAWYER COUNTY

Spring Lake - 202 acres. A DNR electrofishing survey in 2019 captured largemouth bass at a high rate of 45 per mile. Size of bass will often be poor in lakes with such a high density. Not the case in Spring Lake! In the 2019 survey 54% of all largemouth captured were over 15 inches. Several even eclipsed 20 inches. Regulations for largemouth are the statewide 14 inch minimum, 5-daily bag limit. But anglers should be aware that the exceptional nature of this fishery is likely a result of widespread catch-and-release ethic. Anglers can access the

Lake off of the public boat ramp at the intersection of County Highway E and Williams Road.

■ WASHBURN COUNTY

Lake Nancy - 757 acres. This lake holds an abundant largemouth bass population with trophy bass in the population. The 2019 catch rate was 34.7 fish/mile with an average length of 11.2 inches. Thirty seven percent of bass collected were over 12.0 inches. These numbers suggest Nancy is a consistent action lake for those looking to harvest small bass. DNR staff also observed two 19+ inch bass and a 21.0-inch fish. This lake offers a unique scenario where bass anglers can catch large numbers of bass but have the opportunity for a trophy fish. Current Regulation: no minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit Access: Concrete boat launch located off Karling Ct on the Southeast side of the lake. Almost all of the lakes in Washburn County have a no minimum length limit, five fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass. This regulation offers anglers the opportunity to harvest eating size bass and quickly have a large amount for a fish fry. Though not the most popular fish for eating, bass are good table fare.

■ WAUKESHA COUNTY

Big Muskego Lake - 2260 surface acres—Big Muskego is shallow lake averaging 3 feet deep, diverse aquatic plants and a robust largemouth bass population.

Chain O' Lakes supports a very healthy largemouth bass fishery. A total of 338 largemouth bass were captured, for a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 42.25 largemouth bass per mile of electrofishing. Anglers should have plenty of opportunities to catch both numbers and high-quality largemouth bass as the average size of the captured largemouth bass was 13.5 inches (range = 4.6 – 19.0 inches) and 175 largemouth bass (i.e., 52%) were ≥ 14 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 5 largemouth bass or smallmouth bass in combination with a minimum length limit of 14 inches for both species. Access information: 6 public boat landings are available throughout the various lakes. Many of the lakes are slow-no-wake. The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes supports a two-story fishery, meaning it has both cold-water and warm-water fish species present. As such, the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes is one of the few inland lakes in southern and central Wisconsin to support a healthy population of ciscoes, a cold-water fish species.

■ WAUSHARA COUNTY

Long Lake (Saxeville) - 272 acres. 2019 Spring electrofishing Survey; 19.6 fish/mile, average length 16.7" with a maximum of 19.5". PSD12=97 Current regulation: 14" minimum, bag of 5 Access information: One developed township landing

SMALLMOUTH BASS



■ BARRON COUNTY

Beaver Dam Lake - 1,163 acres. The late spring electrofishing catch rate was 6.4 fish/mile, which is good compared to other area lakes. The smallmouth bass population had good size structure, as 45% of the smallmouth bass handled were greater than 15 inches. Current regulation: Smallmouth bass are managed under the statewide regulation- 14 inch minimum length, 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: Beaver Dam Lake has a total of 5 public boat landings. There is also a fishing pier off Highway 63 on the north end of Cumberland. In addition, there is a campground owned by the City of Cumberland on Eagle Point. The maximum depth of Beaver Dam Lake is 106 ft., making it the deepest lake in Barron County and the sixth deepest lake in Wisconsin.

■ BAYFIELD COUNTY

Lake Owen - 1,323 acres The late spring electrofishing catch rate was 11.8 fish/mile, which is above average compared to other area lakes. 30% of the smallmouth bass handled were greater than 14 inches. The largest fish caught in the survey was 18.3 inches. Current regulation: Small-



A 19-inch smallmouth bass caught by Fisheries biologist Eric Wegleitner on Trout Lake in Vilas County. Photo: Steve Gilbert

■ WAUPACA COUNTY

Waupaca Chain O' Lakes - 22 interconnected lakes with a total surface area of 809 acres. Largemouth bass population information: In spring 2019, the DNR conducted an electrofishing survey to evaluate the current status of the largemouth bass population in the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes. Results from that survey showed that the Waupaca

mouth bass have an 18 inch minimum length, 1 fish daily bag limit Access information: Lake Owen has two public boat launches both are in the northern basin and on Chequamegon National Forest property. Lake Owen is a deep clear lake with an abundance of submerged woody habitat. The smallmouth regulation was implemented with the intention of increase numbers and size structure of the population. There is also a no minimum 5 fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass if anglers would like to harvest some fish for a fish fry.

■ COLUMBIA COUNTY

North Branch Crawfish River below Lazy Lake Dam - 2.6 river miles The North Branch Crawfish River is a 25-mile long tributary to the main branch of the Crawfish River in the Rock River system. The subject segment includes the 2.6 river



Wildlife Biologist Derek Johnson with a smallmouth bass from a late spring 2019 electrofishing survey on Lake of the Pines. Photo: Kendal Patrie

miles from the Lazy Lake Dam tailwater down to the confluence with the Crawfish River. Anglers will find easy fishing from shore or by wading in the Village of Fall River, especially in the first half-mile below the dam. This stretch of alternating rock riffles and shallow gravel runs is very angler friendly. A 2019 electrofishing survey of this excellent nursery water covered 0.5 mile of river and yielded a smallmouth bass catch rate of 1,068 fish/mile, with most of the catch composed of fish under 7 inches. Larger fish were not uncommon however, with catch rates of 78 fish/mile over 11 inches and 30 fish/mile over 14 inches, with a maximum length of 16.5 inches. Current Regulation: Largemouth and smallmouth bass 14-inch minimum length limit, 5 fish combined daily bag limit. Access information: In the Village of Fall River, anglers may access the river at Brayton Park (dam tailrace) with parking areas on both sides of the river; one at the end of Mill Race Street off South Main Street, and the other on Brayton Boulevard off North Main Street. Public access can also be found at Foster Park along Bradley Street just south of South Main Street, across from Fall River High School. Anglers fishing the tailrace below Lazy Lake Dam may also encounter keeper size largemouth bass, northern pike, and panfish.

■ DOOR COUNTY

Green Bay waters of Door County - The smallmouth bass fishery along the Green Bay waters of Door County is well known for its outstanding abundance and robust size structure. Although the 2019 creel data are not yet available, smallmouth bass sport fishing catch per effort rebounded in 2018 from a three-year decline that began in 2014. Angler catch rates increased between 2017 and 2018 from 0.58 to 0.89 smallmouth caught per hour fished; a level considerably higher than the previous 15-year average of 0.64. The most recent fyke netting surveys of the spawning populations in the Sturgeon Bay area in 2017 indicate mixed trends in catch per effort (measure of relative abundance). Recruitment, measured as first or second year spawning fish, was good in the Sawyer

Harbor/Sturgeon Bay area while the Little Sturgeon Bay population continued to struggle compared to several years previous. Overall, the Door County smallmouth meta-population is in relatively good condition in both numbers and size structure. Record high Lake Michigan water levels should provide more smallmouth spawning and nursery habitat that was lost during the record low levels recorded around 2012-2013. Current regulation: The rules vary by location and date; anglers should check the smallmouth fishing rules in the Tributary Streams to Green Bay and Lake Michigan and the Lake Michigan sections of the regulation pamphlet for season and harvest rules. Anglers should also note that a new rule is on track to begin in 2020 which would make the Mink River a Fish Refuge beginning with the normal March gamefish closure until June 15. Access information: There are many boat launches in the area including several in Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay; Peninsula State Park is one of the sites that provide access to areas in northern Door County. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess> for a listing of some of the launches in the area. One of the better shore fishing sites is the George K. Pinney County Park (formerly the Olde Stone Quarry Park) that is located at the north side of the mouth of Sturgeon Bay.

■ FLORENCE COUNTY

Lake Ellwood - 132 acres. A 2019 survey revealed that Lake Ellwood has the highest density of smallmouth bass in Florence County with an estimated 4.9 adults per acre. Our data estimates that approximately 34% of the smallmouth bass in this population are greater than 14 inches. Lake Ellwood currently has very little angling pressure, so don't be surprised if you are the only person fishing the lake!! Current Regulation: 14-inch Minimum Length, 5 fish daily bag limit Access information: The boat launch is located in the SW corner of the lake on West Lake Ellwood Road. - Greg Matzke, Fisheries biologist - Florence



Jennifer Bergman, fisheries biologist, with a smallmouth bass caught during the 2019 survey on the Biron Flowage.

■ IRON COUNTY

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage - During a 2019 spring electrofishing survey, crews captured a total of 287 smallmouth bass at a high rate of 24.0/mile. Individuals ranged in length from 6.0-18.2" and averaged 13.4". The TFF offers quality numbers of quality fish, and with 13,500 acres of water and 212 miles of shoreline, it provides endless nooks and crannies to cast for bronzebacks. Anglers should note that only smallmouth (and largemouth) bass less than 14" may be kept, except one fish over 18" may be kept. There is good access from 6 different public boat launches as well as many other private resort access points.

■ JACKSON, MONROE, LA CROSSE and TREMPLEAU COUNTIES

Lower Black River (below the Black River Falls dam, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, and Trempealeau Counties). Catch rates are based on 2019 electrofishing results (expressed as average number of fish captured per mile of lake shoreline or river surveyed). Black River, lower: Total catch rate was 7.1/mile, catch rate of 14"+ fish was 1.4/mile and maximum length captured was 18". In 2018, total catch rate was 9.8/mile, catch rate of 14"+ size fish was 0.6/mile and maximum length captured was 17". Regulation: 14 inch minimum length / 5 fish daily bag limit. Access Information: Lower Black River - 3rd Street Canoe Landing (City of Black River Falls), Perry Creek Landing, Mason's Landing, Irving Township Canoe Landing, Highway 108 Landing near Melrose, WI, North Bend Landing off CTH VV, and Highway 35 landing in Van Loon Bottoms. Other Information: The lower Black River (downstream of the Black River Falls dam) has a continuous (year-round) fishing season for smallmouth bass.



Fisheries technician Evan Sniadajewski with nice smallmouth bass from Round Lake, Sawyer County. Photo: Max Wolter

■ JEFFERSON and WAUKESHA COUNTIES

Oconomowoc River - approximately 17 river miles. Average Length - 14 inches. Current regulation: 14" minimum length, daily bag limit of 5 Access information: Access sites include numerous highway and road crossings where right of way public access rules apply including South Concord Road, Hwy BB, Morgan Road, Hwy F and West River Drive. The Oconomowoc River provides excellent opportunities for paddlers and in some reaches wading can be productive. Clear water and abundant woody structure provide excellent habitat for smallmouth bass.

■ MARATHON COUNTY

Mosinee Flowage / Halfmoon Lake - 933 acres 7.5"-19.0", average length = 12.4", 67% of fish over 11", 20% of fish over 14", 7.1 per mile (electrofishing) Better than average density for flowages Current regulation: Statewide 5 bag limit with no minimum length limit. Access information: Boat Access best from River Park or from the municipal boat launch off of River Rd in Mosinee. Boat access is also possible using the Half Moon Lake boat launch or the Domtar Boat Launch, near the dam in Rothchild. The Domtar boat launch may only be open during normal streamflows. Shorefishing opportunities available at Domtar Boat Landing and at River Park in Mosinee. Natural reproducing population that provides a bonus opportunity for the anglers targeting walleye tailwater below the Domtar dam in Rothschild and in the riverine portion of the Mosinee Flowage. This smallmouth bass population has become particularly popular with small vessel (kayak) catch and release anglers. Although only portions of the Mosinee Flowage will hold smallmouth bass, angling action and success seems consistent throughout the warmer months of the year.

■ MARINETTE COUNTY

Chalk Hills Flowage - 866 acres. Data collected in 2016 demonstrated an average length of bass 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. Current regulation: 14-inch minimum / 5 fish per day Access information: Anglers can choose from 4 boat landings from Pemene 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.



Smallmouth bass captured during an electrofishing survey on the Apple River. Photo: Barb Scott



DNR fisheries crew displays a measuring board full of nice smallmouth bass sampled from the lower Wisconsin River. Photo: Bradd Sims

and they must be at least 14 inches. DNR maintains a boat landing off County Highway W, and Price County has a shallow-water boat ramp on the northeast shore off County Highway S. - Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries biologist, Park Falls

ST CROIX COUNTY

Apple River - 70 river miles including Polk County The Apple River in northern St. Croix county near Somerset contains a great smallmouth fishery. Around 7 miles of river was sampled this year and yielded around 14 smallmouth per mile of river. Approximately 15% of fish sampled were 18+ inches with fish reaching up to 21 inches. The average length of smallmouth during the survey was 11 inches. There is great potential to catch a trophy size smallmouth in this stretch of river as well as the occasional musky and walleye. Despite a great smallmouth and musky population, the river likely receives very low fishing pressure. The Apple offers a great opportunity for kayaking and floating although the river is busy in the summer on weekends with tubing traffic. Current regulation: 5 in total (combined with largemouth bass); 14 inch minimum Access information: (best access point(s), shorefishing opportunities, etc.) There are take out points at the County Rd C bridge and 93rd bridge upstream of Somerset as well as a boat ramp in Riverdale Flowage. There are multiple tubing and camping businesses along the river with access points as well. Musky are stocked biannually in the Apple River and there is great potential for trophy musky. There are also classified rapids located near the town of Somerset!

SAUK, COLUMBIA, DANE and IOWA COUNTIES

Wisconsin River - 92.3 river miles The lower Wisconsin River supports a healthy smallmouth bass fishery from the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Mississippi River with trophy sized smallmouth available. Anglers can expect to see smallmouth bass in the 8 to 18-inch range with some up to 21 inches present in the population. Electrofishing surveys during October of 2019 sampled a good adult population with an average size of 14.6 inches. Thirty five percent of the adults were 16 inches or greater. Current Regulation: 14 inch minimum length with a daily bag limit of 5. Access information: Public boat launch and accessible bank fishing opportunities are located thru out the lower Wisconsin River way. There is a public boat launch close to the dam at Veterans Memorial Park. A daily or annual 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 Wyalusing River. It is believed that glaciers dammed the Wyalusing 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. - Bradd Sims, Fisheries biologist - Dodgeville

SAWYER COUNTY

It's very hard to find a better smallmouth population than **Round Lake** (3,294 acres) in Sawyer County. DNR surveys in 2019 reinforced the lake's reputation as a big smallie factory. Crews captured smallmouth at a higher rate than previously observed (37 per mile) but the population retained the excellent size structure that anglers expect from this waterbody. Around 80% of smallmouth captured in the survey were over 14 inches, and about one third were over 17 inches. If you've never caught a smallmouth over 20 inches this is a lake to check out. The fishing experience on Round is also exceptional, with crystal clear water that allows anglers 20+ feet of visibility on calm days and abundant structure to explore. Smallmouth on Round are managed with an 18-inch minimum length limit and one daily bag limit. The season is catch and release only until the third weekend in June. Catch and release is also encouraged at other times of the year to preserve this incredible population. Anglers can access the lake from public landings on Peninsula Road and Linden Road.

WAUPACA COUNTY

Waupaca Chain O' Lakes - 22 interconnected lakes with a total surface area of 809 acres. Smallmouth bass population information: In spring 2019, the DNR conducted an electrofishing survey to evaluate the current status of the smallmouth bass population in the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes. Results from this survey show that the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes supports a decent smallmouth bass fishery. A total of 37 smallmouth bass (4.6 per mile of electrofishing) averaging 12.4 inches (range = 7.2 - 18.0 inches) were captured. Anglers have the potential to catch some high-quality smallmouth bass as 7 (i.e., 19%) were ≥14 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of 5 smallmouth bass or largemouth bass in combination with a minimum length limit of 14 inches for both species. Access information: 6 public boat landings are available throughout the various lakes. Many of the lakes are slow-no-wake. The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes supports a lake run brown trout population. These brown trout spend much of the year in the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes, migrate into Emmons Creek in the fall to spawn, and then return back to the lake once spawning is completed.

NORTHERN PIKE



CRAWFORD and VERNON COUNTIES

Mississippi River Pool 9 - 32,774 acres and 34 miles of open water. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed backwater lakes in Pool 9 near Ferryville, WI from August to October in 2019 to determine the health of the fishery. Northern pike were common in this survey and fish ranged in size from 12 to 35 inches with the average length of 25 inches. Approximately 30% of the northern pike sampled were larger than 25 inches. However, anglers report catching northern pike larger than 35 inches during ice fishing season when they are easier to target and concentrated in backwater lakes. Current regulation: The Mississippi River is open year-round for northern pike. The daily bag limit is 5 northern pike with no minimum length. Access information: There are many boat and shore fishing access locations along the Mississippi River. Check out the following websites for more details. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/> https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Upper_Pool_9.pdf https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Lower_Pool_9.pdf The waters of Pool 9 are part of the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located in four states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois along the Mississippi River and was established in 1924 as a refuge for fish, wildlife and plants. The refuge encompasses one of the largest blocks of floodplain habitat in the lower 48 states. Bordered by steep wooded bluffs the Mississippi River corridor and refuge offer scenic beauty and productive fish and wildlife habitat unmatched in the heart of America. The refuge covers just over 240,000 acres and extends 261 river miles from north to south at the confluence of the Chippewa River in Wisconsin to near Rock Island, Illinois and has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar) and a Globally Important Bird Area.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

Halfmoon Lake - 135 acres. Halfmoon Lake is an oxbow of the Chippewa River located in the city of Eau Claire which provides a great urban fishing opportunity with the vast majority of the shoreline open to the public. Annual stocking of large fingerling (8"-9") northern pike started in 2012. According to data collected from a 2019 fisheries survey, early signs point to an emerging northern pike fishery with great potential. Over 100 northern pike were handled in the survey with the biggest being 37" and an average size around 23". Aging data shows that growth rates are fast, and given this is a young population of fish, there is excellent potential to have an urban fishery with trophy sized northern pike in the coming years. There are two boat landings, but the use of gas power motors is prohibited. The daily bag limit for northern pike is five with a no minimum length. - Joseph Gerbyshak - Fisheries biologist, Eau Claire



Jagger Lester and his dad Bruce caught this northern pike in Green Bay in June 2018. Photo: Mike Karempelis.

FLORENCE COUNTY

Twin Falls Flowage - 928 acres. Northern pike were the main target during early spring fyke netting efforts in 2019. A total of 831 different adults were captured during this survey. Data from this survey estimates the adult northern pike population to be approximately 2,229 fish or 2.4/acre. 36.1% of the fish sampled were >21 inches and 7.9% were >28 inches in length. The largest pike captured during the survey was 38.9 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag: 5. No minimum length limit Access information: There are multiple boat access points on this flowage, but the most improved access is in Vagabond Park, just off US Hwy 2 on the WI side of the flowage. The entire flowage is considered a WI-MI boundary water and can be fished with either state's fishing license. - Katie Renschen, Fisheries technician, Florence



DNR fisheries technician, Logan Hacker, displays a northern pike collected from Halfmoon Lake during a 2019 fisheries survey.

LANGLADE COUNTY

Greater Bass Lake - 258 acres but very convoluted with over 6.5 miles of shoreline to plug away at! Low to moderate density with good size quality. In 2019 we did a comprehensive fish survey here and estimated the adult (12"+) pike population to be about 1 fish for every 2 acres of water (0.5 per acre). 73% of the pike were at least 21" long and 11% were 28" or longer. The biggest pike captured in our survey was 32.3". No minimum length limit, 5 daily. Excellent boat landing with loading dock on Mill Road.. The locals refer to this lake simply as "Bass" Lake, but Langlade County has 2 other lakes with "Bass" in their name: Little Bass and Lower Bass. This one was probably named Greater Bass either because it is the largest of the "Bass" lakes in the county or because it had a reputation for producing big largemouth bass (there are some nice bucket mouths in here too!). - Dave Seibel, Fisheries biologist, Antigo

MARINETTE, OCONTO, BROWN and DOOR COUNTIES

Green Bay and tributaries. The late, wet springs of 2013 and 2014 provided favorable conditions for northern pike spawning. Those two excellent year classes continue to provide anglers an opportunity to catch memorable pike over 34 inches. In 2018, over 28,000 northern pike were caught by Green Bay anglers. This is the highest catch on record since the creel survey began in 1986. High water levels in Lake Michigan are providing additional nearshore habitat that was not previously available



Hunter Lamer, fisheries technician, with a 38-inch Northern Pike from an early spring electrofishing survey in Vilas County. Photo: Chad Leanna.

for pike to spawn in. In winter, using a tip-up with a large shiner or dead smelt fished just off the bottom in shallow water can work well. Current regulation for Green Bay and major tributaries: Open all year. Daily limit is 5. No minimum length limit. Current regulation for all other Green Bay tributaries: Open 1st Saturday in May to 1st Sunday in March. Daily limit is 5. No minimum length limit. Access information: There are numerous boat access and tributary access locations along Green Bay. See the following websites for detailed information. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/>; <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html>. In early spring, adult northern pike migrate from Green Bay in tributaries and ditches to spawn in shallow wetlands, often travelling dozens of miles. This makes pike very susceptible to poor year classes when water levels dry up too early in the spring. Habitat improvement projects such as shallow scrapes and culvert replacements have helped northern pike populations along Green Bay.

OCONTO COUNTY

Bear Lake - 78 acres and **Munger Lake** - 97 acres. In 2017, pike ranged in length from 9.4 to 31.4 inches and averaged 20.2 inches but only 5 pike over 26 inches were collected. Most northern pike



Fisheries technician Katie Renschen with a large northern pike captured during a spring netting survey on the Kingsford Flowage of the Menominee River in Florence County. Photo: Greg Matzke

collected were between 17 and 22 inches. Current Regulation: No minimum length / 5 fish per day Access information: Bear and Munger Lakes - A boat landing is located on Munger Lake off of Lake John Road. Bear Lake can be accessed through the channel connecting the lakes. The 26-inch minimum length limit was removed in 2019 because the special regulation, after 20+ years, had failed to produce many big fish.

POLK COUNTY

Magnor Lake - 229 acres. The Magnor Lake northern pike population has a moderate abundance with good size structure. Of the 71 pike handled during the 2019 netting survey, 21% were 24 inches or longer. The largest northern pike handled was 32 inches. Current regulation: Northern pike are managed under the statewide 5 fish limit, no minimum length limit. Access information: There is one boat landing on Magnor Lake, located off Highway 63. There is also a fishing pier at this location to accommodate shore anglers. Magnor Lake is a productive lake and is a good fishing lake for panfish and other gamefish species like largemouth bass and walleye.

RACINE COUNTY

Eagle Lake - 515 acres. Species population information: 28.6" average length, 35" maximum length (2019 spring survey) Current regulation: 40" minimum length limit, 1 daily bag. Access information: Public boat launch on the south side of the lake off Eagle Road. Public boat launches with ample parking located off Church Road at Eagle Lake County Park (northeast side) and off Minnetonka Drive (west side). Eagle Lake County Park provides shore fishing opportunities. Eagle Lake currently has restrictive harvest regulations for several species following a recent rehabilitation project. A protective 40" length limit allows northern pike to grow to trophy size.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Okauchee Lake - 1,257 surface acres-Northern pike are abundant in Okauchee Lake having a population estimate of 5 adults per surface acre. New regulations in 2020 for pike on Okauchee Lake will provide anglers with a harvest opportunity to promote the reduction of pike abundance and improved size structure. Average Length - 20 inches. Current regulation: New in 2020 - northern pike slot size. No minimum length limit, fish between 25 and 35 inches may not be kept, daily bag limit of two of which only one can be over 35 inches. Access information: There are two public launches on Okauchee Lake found at the Golden Mast Restaurant and the DNR launch. The DNR boat launch is located just east of the Okauchee Lake dam on Road T, north of Wisconsin Avenue. The Golden Mast boat launch is located off of Lacy Lane north of East Wisconsin Avenue. - Ben Heussner, Fisheries biologist, Eagle



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WAUPACA COUNTY

Manawa Millpond - 180 acres. Northern Pike population information: In spring 2019, the WDNR conducted a fyke netting survey on Manawa Millpond to evaluate the current status of the northern pike fishery. Results from the survey show that Manawa Millpond supports a healthy northern pike population. A total of 215 northern pike were captured in 43 net sets during the 8-day survey (catch per unit effort = 5 northern pike per net night). Using mark-recapture, the adult northern pike population was estimated to be approximately 747 fish, or 4.15 adult northern pike per acre. The average size of northern pike caught in the spring fyke netting survey was 20.8 inches (range = 10.2 - 37.6 inches). Plenty of harvestable sized fish were captured, with 32 northern pike being ≥ 26 inches and 14 northern pike being ≥ 30 inches. Current regulation: Daily bag limit of five and no minimum length limit. Access information: One public boat landing is available on the south side of Manawa Millpond of CTH N. Interesting fact: Two burbot, the only freshwater member of the cod family, were captured during the 2019 spring fyke netting survey of Manawa Millpond.



DNR Fisheries Management technician Josh Krall measuring a Northern Pike during a spring fyke netting survey on Eagle Lake in Racine County.

WAUSHARA COUNTY

Long Lake (Saxeville) - 272 Acres. 2019 spring netting survey; 574 northern pike handled, 10.2/net night. Average length was 22.4" max length 31.5" with 71% over 21". Current regulation: 26" minimum, bag of 2 Access information: One developed township landing

PANFISH



ASHLAND COUNTY

Lake Galilee. Although only 213 acres, Lake Galilee offers anglers a respectable panfish opportunity. Results from a 2019 fyke-netting survey suggest that panfish are present in decent numbers and some decent-sized fish are available. Bluegills ranged in length from 4.0-9.4", 90% of which were larger than 6". Black crappies ranged in length from 5.3-12.5", 17% of which were larger than 10". Anglers should note the 10-fish daily bag limit for panfish on the Lake Galilee. There is good access from public boat launch located just off Lake Galilee Road.

ASHLAND and BAYFIELD COUNTIES

Chequamegon Bay-Lake Superior ~ 34,000 acres. The Chequamegon Bay yellow perch fishery is popular during both the open water and ice seasons. In 2019, fisherman reported increased capture success of yellow perch when fishing in the bay and the sloughs. Chequamegon Bay yellow perch fishing is open year-round with a bag limit of 25 in total. The most popular access points for Chequamegon Bay are Kreher Park and Second Landing although there are additional access points at Bono Creek and Fish Creek. Information about Great Lakes access points can be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Beaches/documents/BeachBoatLaunches.pdf>. A recent yellow perch survey in Chequamegon Bay and Fish Creek Sloughs (an adjacent wetland complex) indicated that there is a higher density and higher growth rate of yellow perch in the Fish Creek Sloughs compared to the main bay. Yellow perch up to 9 years old were captured in the survey and lengths ranged from 3.4 to 11.5 inches.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Marshmiller Lake - 441 acres. Marshmiller is a 441 acre impoundment of O'Neil Creek located in north-central Chippewa County. Marshmiller is known locally for its largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie fisheries. The quality bluegill fishing is what keeps most anglers returning to Marshmiller Lake. According to 2019 fisheries survey data, the bluegill population remains healthy. Catch rates of bluegills remained high and size structure was good too. Many 'eater sized' bluegills were captured in the 7"-8" range, but a fair number of 9+" bluegill were captured, too. There are two access points on Marshmiller Lake. The daily bag limit for panfish is 25 and there is no minimum length.



A net full of Chippewa County bluegill captured during a 2019 fisheries survey. Photo: Joseph Gerbyshak

CRAWFORD AND VERNON COUNTIES

Mississippi River Pool 9 - 32,774 acres and 34 miles of open water. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed backwater lakes in Pool 9 near Ferryville, WI from August to October in 2019 to determine the health of the fishery. Electrofishing and netting surveys showed good populations of bluegill 5 to 9 inches, yellow perch 8 to 14.5 inches and crappie 7 to 13.5 inches. Although these species can be found throughout the backwaters of Pool 9 anglers should target areas such as Goose Carcass and Big Lake backwater complexes for some fantastic winter ice fishing opportunities. Efforts to enhance and rehabilitate backwater lakes in Pool 9 have greatly improved the fishery which makes these backwater complexes a great place to fish year-round. Current regulation: Continuous open season for panfish with daily bag limit of 25 bluegill, 25 yellow perch, 25 crappie, and no minimum length limits. Ac-



A netful of nice crappie from a spring netting survey of Round Lake, Sawyer County. Photo: Max Wolter

cess information: There are many boat and shore fishing access locations along the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River in Pool 9 offers a variety of unique fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. The river lies in a valley which is surrounded by majestic bluffs. This valley was scoured out by floodwaters that were released from melting glaciers thousands of years ago. Those floodwaters created a mosaic of habitats which are constantly changing as the river meanders downstream through the main channel and into side channels, sloughs, backwater lakes. Navigating the river can be a little intimidating at first with the mix of habitats, varying water depths and flows, islands, wing dams, closing dams, mud flats and sand bars. However, it's worth the effort to get out and see the mighty Mississippi River.

■ DODGE COUNTY

Fox Lake - 2713 acres. 2019 spring netting surveys yielded high quality bluegill catches. A total of 1879 bluegill were captured with a length range of 3.5 to 8.5 inches and an average length of 6.6 inches. 80% of the fish measured were at least 6 inches. Current regulation: The daily bag limit for panfish is 25 with



Fisheries technician Katie Renschen with a large black crappie caught during a spring netting survey in Florence County. Photo: Greg Matzke

no length. Clausen Park in the City of Fox Lake and Town Park on the north-west shore of Fox Lake offer public boat launches with trailer parking and shore-fishing opportunities. There is also shorefishing opportunity with parking on the north side of HWY 33 near Fish Tales Bait and Tackle Shop. As a shallow impoundment, Fox Lake has a history of intense management. In 1966 and 1997 whole lake drawdowns and chemical treatments were carried out in efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat.

■ FLORENCE COUNTY

Twin Falls Flowage - 928 acres. Bluegill is the most abundant panfish in Twin Falls Flowage with a catch rate of over 70 bluegill per net-night during the 2019 survey. The size structure of the bluegill population is respectable with approximately 33% of the fish being > 7 inches. Black crappie was the next most abundant panfish species with a catch rate of over 10 crappie per net-night. Approximately 53% of the crappie captured were > 8 inches in length. Current Regulation: Twin Falls Flowage is a WI-MI boundary water that can be fished with either states fishing license. Panfish Regulation: 25 fish daily bag limit. Access information: There are multiple access sites, but the most improved boat landing is at Vagabond Park, located just north of the highway on the WI side of the flowage. - Greg Matzke fisheries biologist - Florence

■ JACKSON AND BUFFALO COUNTIES

Potters Flowage (255 Acres, Jackson County) and **Mirror Lake** (19 Acres, Buffalo County). Species population Information: based on spring 2019 netting results and catch rates expressed as average number of fish captured per net lift.

Black Crappies - Potters Flowage: Total catch rate was 35.3/net lift, catch rate of 9"+ fish was 0.7/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.3/net lift, and maximum length captured was 12". There was a total of 30 net lifts in 2019. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2015. Total catch rate was 37/net lift, catch rate of 9"+ fish was 1.2/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.6/net lift and maximum length captured was 12". There was a total of 28 fyke net lifts in 2015. **Mirror Lake:** Total catch rate was 4.8/net lift, catch rate of 9"+ fish was 0.8/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was <0.1/net lift, and maximum length captured was 10". There was a total of 15 net lifts in 2019. The last comparable netting survey was conducted in 2011. Total catch rate was 1.5/net lift, catch rate of 9"+ fish was 0.4/net lift, catch rate of 10"+ fish was 0.1/net lift and maximum length-captured was 10". There was 18 fyke net lifts in 2011.

Bluegills

Potters Flowage: Total catch rate was 52.7/net lift, catch rate of 7"+ fish was 3.3/net lift, no 8"+ bluegills were captured, and maximum length was 7.5". In 2015, total catch rate was 52/net lift, catch rate of 7"+ fish was 1.6/net lift, catch rate of 8"+ fish was <1/net lift, and maximum length captured was 8". **Mirror Lake:** Total catch rate was 37/net lift, catch rate of 7"+ fish was 26.5/net lift, catch rate of 8"+ fish was 10.3/net lift, and maximum length captured was 10". There was a total of 15 net lifts in 2019. In 2011, total catch rate was 22/net lift, catch rate of 7"+ fish was 16/net lift, 8"+ catch rate was 9/net lift, and maximum length captured was 10". There was a total of 18 net lifts in 2011. Regulation: Potters Flowage - no minimum length/25 daily aggregate bag limit and Mirror Lake - no minimum length/25 aggregate bag limit. Access Information: Mirror Lake - 1 boat landing, public park and ample shore fishing opportunity, no gas motor restriction. Potters Flowage - 2 boat landings, on the northeast end is a park and campground, shore fishing access on McKenna Road and Larb Hill Road. Other Information: Accessible fish facilities in our area are available at Lake Wazee, Black River Flowage, and Teal Flowage in Jackson County, Mead and Arbutus Lakes in Clark County, and

Second Lake, Arctic Springs Pond, Lake Henry, and Bugle Lake in Trempealeau County.

■ MARATHON COUNTY

Halfmoon Lake - 933 acres White crappie: 4-14.5", average length = 9.5", 92% of fish over 8", 14% of fish over 24", 2.3 per net-night (fyke netting) Current regulation: Statewide 25 bag limit with no minimum length limit. Access information: Boat Access best from River Park or from the municipal boat launch off of River Rd in Mosinee. Boat access is also possible using the Half Moon Lake boat launch or the Domtar Boat Launch, near the dam in Rothchild. The Domtar boat launch may only be open during normal streamflows. Shorefishing opportunities available at Domtar Boat Landing and at River Park in Mosinee. Natural reproducing population that is considerably unique for its distribution. Typically found in more turbid rivers and reservoir environments, and they are typically more prevalent in larger river environments that are closer to the Mississippi River. Additionally, few white crappie populations tend to persist this far north, this population is the



Timothy Long with a yellow perch caught in the lower Peshtigo River. Photo: Chip Long

edge of their distribution. Anglers can target these fish for quality opportunities in backwaters and bay areas in the Mosinee Flowage.

■ MARINETTE COUNTY

Big Newton Lake - 69 acres. Population information: Big bluegill can be found in Newton Lake located just north of Crivitz. In 2019, 36% of the bluegill collected were over 8 inches. The lake is relatively clear but weed growth and some undeveloped shoreline provide good habitat for panfish. Most of the bigger panfish move of into 8 to 10 feet of water post-spawn. Current Regulation: 25 panfish in total (bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, crappie) Access information: Newton Lake can be accessed from a boat ramp located on the west side of the lake on Newton Lake Rd.

■ MARINETTE, OCONTO, DOOR and BROWN COUNTIES

Green Bay. Yellow perch - In recent years, high water levels on Lake Michigan means more habitat for fish. This has led to improved perch angling in nearshore, protected areas such as Duck Creek, Oconto Park II, and Seagull Bar. If decent ice forms on the Bay early and lasts into March, ice fishing for perch should be good. Up to date fishing information can be found at on the DNR website, keywords 'Green Bay fishing

report'. Current regulation: Open May 20 to March 15. Daily limit is 15 yellow perch. No minimum length. Access information: There are dozens of boat and shore access locations to fish for yellow perch on Green Bay. It can be tricky to tell how old a fish is just based on its length. Fish scales or fin rays can help determine a fish's age, similar to reading rings on a tree. Two yellow perch that were similar in length and caught on the same survey turned out to be very different in age. One perch was 13 inches and 4 years old, while the other was 13.8 inches and 11 years old.

■ POLK COUNTY

Magnor Lake - 229 acres. Good catch rates of bluegill (183/mile) black crappie (49/mile) were observed during the 2019 late spring electrofishing survey. Both species had respectable size distributions. Bluegills up to 9.5 inches and crappies up to 10.5 inches were collected. Current regulation: Panfish are managed under the statewide 25 fish limit, no minimum length limit. There is one boat landing on Magnor Lake, located off Highway 63. There is also a fishing pier at this location to accommodate shore anglers. Magnor Lake is a productive lake and is a good fishing lake for gamefish species like largemouth bass, walleye, and northern pike.

■ PORTAGE AND WOOD COUNTIES

Biron Flowage - 2187 acres A comprehensive survey was completed for Biron Flowage in the spring of 2019. We caught 951 black crappies during fyke netting. Fish ranged in length from 2.7" to 14.4" with an average of 9.7". 76% of the crappies caught were 8" or greater, 59% were 10" or greater, and 31% were 12" or greater. Fish were in great condition. Current regulation: 25 panfish daily bag limit. Access information: There are at least five boat launches for public use. Boat launch locations are: Anchor Bay Bar and Grill, off Pierce Avenue, Galecke County Park, off Blue Heron Lane, and Rusty's Backwater Saloon.

■ PRICE COUNTY

Butternut Lake, -Fyke nets specifically set to gauge black crappie abundance and size captured only 19 crappies in fall 2008 and only 5 in fall 2013—disappointing prospects for good crappie fishing in 1,006-acre Butternut Lake at that time. More recently, however, the incidental catch in our spring 2018 and 2019 netting surveys targeting muskellunge revealed excellent opportunity



An 11-inch crappie caught by Gami Miller on a Vilas County lake. Photo: Steve Gilbert



A trio of nice Wind Lake Bluegills ready to be measured during a DNR spring electro-fishing survey.

to catch big crappies. In 2018 fyke nets caught 212 crappies ranging 6.3–14.1 inches and averaging 9.9 inches. In spring 2019 fyke netting captured 99 crappies that ranged 6.3 – 13.4 inches and averaged 10.4 inches. The share of crappies 10 inches and longer in our samples was 43% in 2018 and 62% in 2019. Nearly one in five crappies in our spring 2019 sample was at least 12 inches, and 15% were 12 inches or longer in spring 2018. Low catch rates of crappies in fyke nets suggest that the population currently has low to moderate abundance, which is essential for the fast growth rate needed to produce big fish. Under experimental harvest regulations in effect since 2016, Butternut Lake anglers may keep a daily bag limit of 25 panfish combined, but no more than 10 of any one species. –Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist, Park Falls

■ RACINE COUNTY

Wind Lake - 936 acres. Bluegill: 6.9" average length, 9" maximum in 2019 spring survey Current regulation: No minimum length limit, 25 daily bag Access information: A public boat launch on the southwest side of the lake provides the best boat access.

■ SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Gerber Lakes (Big and Little connected) - 23 acres. Bluegill size and abundance was impressive in Gerber Lakes with 132 Bluegill sampled per mile in 2019, with an average length of 6.1 inches. 38% of the Bluegill sampled were at least 7.0 inches. The maximum length of Bluegill sampled was 9.0 inches. In addition, numerous large Black Crappie were observed; however, they were difficult to net due to the steep drop offs in Big Gerber Lake. Current regulation: Any combination of species, 25 daily bag limit. Access information: A county operated boat launch is located on the north side of Little Gerber Lake. The lake does not allow gas operated motors at any time. An ADA accessible fishing pier is located next to the boat launch. In addition, a walking trail also leads down to the water on the west side of Big Gerber Lake for potential shore fishing opportunities. Gerber Lakes also have Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass that offer good predator fishing opportunities as well!

■ TREMPEALEAU, LA CROSSE and VERNON COUNTIES

Mississippi River, pools 6, 8 and 9 - 64,003 acres. In general, since 1993, Pool 8 bluegill abundance has increased over 21 percent possibly due to a resurgence of aquatic plants. However, since 2011, abundance has dropped 65 percent, but is still above 1990's levels. Yellow perch have dramatically increased about 13-fold since 1993. This increase has moderated since 2011. Localized sampling during fall 2019 may have shown a similar trend. Electro fishing samples in pools 6, 8 and upper 9 from Trempealeau, WI downstream to Lynxville, WI showed recently declining numbers. Although very high water levels during the past several summers and falls have hindered recreational fishing and our routine fall fish sampling. Therefore, recent local decreases in DNR abundance estimates may be caused by adverse sampling conditions, not a decline in fish. Overall, catchable size panfish abundance in the fall has declined since last sampled in 2011 using electro fishing. The greatest fall bluegill abundance was seen in the Wisconsin side of upper Pool 9 (5.0 fish per hour). Followed by the Goose Island area south of La Crosse located in Pool 8 (4.0 per hour) and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, located between Trempealeau, WI and Winona, MN in Pool 6 (0.5 per hour). Since 2011, bluegill numbers have steadily decreased in upper Pool 9 from 65.4 to 9.7 to 5.0 fish per hour in 2011, 2015 and 2019, respectively. Similarly, bluegill numbers have steadily decreased in the Goose Island from 20.2, to 6.1 and 4.1 fish per hour in 2011, 2015 and 2019, respectively. The greatest yellow perch abundance was seen in the Goose Island area (4.4 per hour) followed by the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge (3.4) and the Wisconsin side of upper Pool 9 (0.5). Black crappie abundance was the same in all three of the areas (0.14-0.36 per hour). In the Goose Island area, average size of catchable bluegill stayed the same (5.1 inches) since last sampled in 2011 and 2015, and two percent were over 7 inches. Average size of 2019 bluegill in the Wisconsin side of upper Pool 9 (4.9 inches) has generally remained stable since 2011 and 2015 and eight percent were over 7 inches. Yellow perch average size stayed the same in the Goose Island area (about 7.6 inches) from 2011 to 2019 and decreased by 1.2 inches in Wisconsin side of upper Pool 9 to 5.9 inches. Average size of yellow perch in the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge was 5.8 inches. In the Goose Island area, a total of 22.4 percent were over 8 inches and 2.4 percent were over 8 inches in upper Pool 9. No perch were over 8 inches in the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Current regulation: Panfish regulations are likely to change starting April 1, 2020 for pools 3-9. The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 15 sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed and green sunfish combined), 15 crappie and 15 yellow perch with no length. The current regulation is 25 each of sunfish, crappie and yellow perch with no length. The season will continue to be year-round. Access information: The best way to find a boat landing is to go to the DNR's Boat and Shore Fishing Access Website to search for access information <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/> or the US Fish and Wildlife Service website and download the pool maps https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/map.html. Increasingly, river municipalities are charging boat access fees. David Heath, fisheries biologist, La Crosse.

■ WAUKESHA COUNTY

Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes - 483 combined surface acres Species population information: Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes provide a unique pan-fishing opportunity as a result of above average hybridization of bluegill, warmouth bass, pumpkinseed and other sunfish species. Recent electrofishing surveys confirm continued hybridization is occurring, resulting in a variety of unique colors and patterns. Current regulation: No minimum length limit, daily bag limit of 25. Access information: A recently renovated boat launch and shore fishing opportunities are found in the Phantom Glen city park on

Andrews Street in the city of Mukwonago.

CATFISH



■ DUNN COUNTY

Red Cedar River (downstream from Menomonie) - 15 river miles. The Red Cedar River downstream of Menomonie Dam to Dunnville was sampled for flathead and channel catfish. Flatheads up to 40 inches and channel catfish up to 30 inches were captured. Catch rates of channel catfish were around 3 per river mile with densities higher in areas with better habitat. Flatheads were low density but high quality with the potential for a trophy size fish. Average length of channel catfish was 19 inches while average length of flathead catfish was 28 inches. This stretch of the Red Cedar River offers great opportunity for a scenic float with access and boat ramps at Menomonie downstream to Downsville and then downstream to the town of Dunnville. Current regulation: 10 in total Boat ramps exist at the Hwy 29 bridge in Menomonie, Downsville and Dunnville. The Red Cedar State Trail runs the length of the river for shore-fishing opportunities. There is the potential for trophy size flatheads and channel catfish in this stretch of the Red Cedar with great habitat a very scenic float along the bluffs of the river.



Fisheries technician, Kallie Thompson, with a flathead catfish captured during a hoop netting survey on the Red Cedar River. Photo: Kasey Yallaly

■ MARATHON COUNTY

Mosinee Flowage / Halfmoon Lake - 933 acres 12-30", average length = 21.7", 98% over 16", 14% over 24", CPE = 27.8 fish per net night (unbaited hoopnet) Current regulation: 10 daily bag limit, No minimum length limit. Boat Access best from River Park or from the municipal boat launch off of River Rd in Mosinee. Boat access is also possible using the Half Moon Lake boat launch or the Domtar Boat Launch, near the dam in Rothchild. The Domtar boat launch may only be open during normal streamflows. Shorefishing opportunities available at Domtar Boat Landing and at River Park in Mosinee. Natural reproducing population that could probably use some harvest. The turbid backwater areas and upstream river channels are highly productive habitats for these fish. Channel catfish are a numerically dominant sportfish species in this system, yet they seem to be seldomly targeted. Being that this channel cat-

fish is high density with a low-moderate size-structure and received limited angling pressure, this population presents a unique harvest opportunity.

■ PORTAGE and WOOD COUNTIES

Biron Flowage - 2187 acres. A comprehensive survey was completed for Biron Flowage in the spring of 2019. We caught 473 channel catfish during fyke netting. Fish ranged in length from 10.2" to 29.2"



Fisheries technician Kendal Patrie and her nephew Cooper Liebszeit with a channel catfish captured while gillnetting for sturgeon in Hunter Lake. Photo: Jeff Scheirer

with an average length of 20.9". 99% of the channel catfish caught were 16" or greater, 8% were 24" or greater, and 0.3% were 28" or greater. Current regulation: 10 fish daily bag limit. There are at least five boat launches for public use. Boat launch locations are: Anchor Bay Bar and Grill, off Pierce Avenue, Galcke County Park, off Blue Heron Lane, and Rusty's Backwater Saloon.

■ RACINE COUNTY

Fox River - 6.5 miles from Waterford upstream to the county line. Average length, 23.4" average weight, 5 lbs. Maximum length, 31.6" Maximum weight, 12.6 lbs. in 2019 summer survey. Current regulation: No length limit, 10 total catfish. Access information: Public boat launches at the Waterford Dam



DNR Fisheries Management technician deploying a baited hoop net during a summer catfish survey on the Fox River in Racine County

off North River Road and upstream of the impoundment off Bridge Road. Village Hall Park, located immediately upstream and downstream of the Waterford Dam offers excellent shore fishing access and a canoe/kayak launch.

LAKE STURGEON



■ BURNETT COUNTY

Upper St. Croix River. River segment: Upper St. Croix River-between Confluence with Namekagon River and St. Croix Falls (Burnett County and WI/MN border). Lake Sturgeon sampled in 2019 ranged from 17.7 to 59.8 inches. The average length was 27.0 inches. 95% of the sturgeon sampled in 2019 were juvenile sturgeon (less than 45 inches). The Upper St. Croix River offers a good opportunity to catch lake sturgeon. Most fish are 20 to 30 inches, but large adults over 60 inches are present. Anglers who fish



Fisheries technician Chelsea Barnaby with a sturgeon captured in the Chippewa River below Arpin Hydroelectric Dam. The dam operator closed a spillway gate to temporarily suspend flow, while staff and volunteers dip-netted sturgeon that were concentrated in the pool downstream. Photo: Max Wolter

during the sturgeon catch and release season should take special care while handling a fish once landed. Land the fish, photograph it (if you choose to), and release it quickly to reduce stress and ensure survival. Lift sturgeon horizontally (not by the tail or gill covers) under the belly to avoid damaging these living dinosaurs. Current Regulation and Season: catch and release only. June 16 – March 1. Access: There are several boat and canoe launches on the Upper St. Croix River. Visit the National Park Service website for more information: <http://www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/maps.htm> Interesting Fact: Wisconsin DNR and Minnesota DNR both use yellow dangler tags on the Upper St. Croix River (pictured on fish below) to mark fish that have been sampled. These marked fish allow DNR staff to track fish movement and growth. Wisconsin anglers are encouraged to report tagged Upper St. Croix River sturgeon to Wisconsin DNR in Spooner. Please report the 5 digit dangler tag number, total length of the fish, approximate location caught, and date caught to Craig Roberts- Wisconsin DNR Fisheries biologist: 715-416-0351 or craig.roberts@wisconsin.gov.

■ PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, IRON AND VILAS COUNTIES

Flambeau and Chippewa rivers—With the help of citizen volunteers and DNR staff from several programs, five Fisheries Management Teams used gillnets, dipnets, and angling to capture 161 lake sturgeon at 15 free-flowing and impounded reaches of the Chippewa and Flambeau rivers. They injected a coded microchip, called a PIT tag, into 91 sturgeon captured for the first time, and they gathered valuable information about the population's survival, growth, and movements from the 70

fish PIT-tagged previously and recaptured in 2019. Sturgeon ranged 18–75 inches and averaged 50 inches. Most were mature fish that typically channel more of their food calories toward reproduction than to gains in length or weight. The five sturgeon with the greatest gains grew 15.7–32.2 inches over 10–17 years, but most (91%) of fish that grew at all gained only 0.2–9.7 inches in 4–18 years. Tag detections revealed upstream movement through the nature-like fishway at a hydropower dam on the East Fork Chippewa River. Tag recaptures also documented sturgeon from the Chippewa River recolonizing the Couderay River, following the 2011 removal of Grimh Hydroelectric Dam that blocked fish movements for 77 years. Seven tagged sturgeon passed downstream through 2, 3, 4, or 5 dams on the Flambeau River with no avenue to return upstream. The highest catches were 35 sturgeon captured in the year-round fish refuge that extends 500 feet downstream of the Arpin Dam on the Chippewa River, 32 caught in Turtle-Flambeau Flowage where there is no open season for hook-and-line sturgeon fishing, and 29 sturgeon captured at the popular sturgeon fishing spot below Crowley Dam on the North Fork Flambeau River. Floods in 2016 and 2018 severely damaged the stairway and riverside area that provided shorefishing access to the Crowley Dam tailwaters. To avoid the risks for personal injury and more erosion, anglers are cautioned not to use this public access site until the dam owner completes the necessary repairs. In the Chippewa-Flambeau River Basin hook-and-line anglers registered 8 legal sturgeon ≥ 60 " harvested in the 2019 open season, which runs from the first Saturday in September to September 30 each year. — Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist, Park Falls

THE NEXT BEST THING TO FISHING IS TALKING ABOUT FISHING. takemefishing.org



Forester Kristina Wells wrangling a lake sturgeon captured in the North Fork Flambeau River below Crowley Dam. Photo: Kendal Patrie

INLAND TROUT



■ BARRON COUNTY

Brill River. - There's a three mile stretch of the Brill River, near the village of Brill, that is classified as trout water. The Brill River has a lower density brown trout population but is a good place for anglers interested in targeting large brown trout. The electrofishing catch rate during the 2019 survey was 303 fish/mile, but 30% of the brown trout were 10 inches or larger, with the largest being 18.0 inches. Current regulation: Trout are managed with a 12" minimum length limit and two fish daily bag limit. Access information: Anglers can access the Brill River from the stream crossings at 30th Ave, 29th Ave, County Highway V, and 27 1/2 Ave. The Brill River is considered Class II trout water, meaning there is some level of trout natural reproduction, but not enough to utilize available food and space. Consequently, wild strain brown trout are stocked into the Brill River each year.

■ BUFFALO, JACKSON AND TREMPLEAU COUNTIES

Area Trout Streams – This report is based on results of 38 trout stream survey sites that were electrofished in summer of 2019. Reproduction: 60% of surveyed streams showed a decreased level of brook trout reproduction. Brown trout reproduction was generally stable. Adults: 64% of surveyed streams showed stable to increasing catch rates of adult brook trout. Brown trout adult catch rate was stable to increasing in 82% of surveyed streams. Legal: Most area streams converted to a no-length regulation in 2016. However, pre-2016 legal size regulations per individual stream are used to evaluate changes in current catch rates of legal size brook and brown trout. For brook trout, 82% of streams showed stable or increasing numbers of legal size fish and for brown trout, 77% of streams showed stable numbers of legal size fish with 10% increasing. Other Information: Area adult trout populations were generally in good shape in 2019 with plenty of adult and legal size fish heading into the 2020 season. Decreased reproduction rates were likely due to abnormal spring weather events. Survey results indicate stable to increasing numbers of adult and legal sized fish heading into the spawning season. Supplemental trout stocking from DNR and Cooperative hatcheries continues to help bolster trout populations throughout the area. Habitat restoration projects were continued on Waumandee Creek, Buffalo County, and Elk Creek, Trempealeau County this past year. Many thanks to our partners in the Cooperative Trout Rearing program and Habitat Restoration program for providing more stocked fish, fishing access, and better habitat for our area streams! Regulation: Please see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicable size and bag limit restrictions for the streams you fish.

■ COLUMBIA COUNTY

Bohlman Branch - 4.7 miles. Locally known as Bohlman Branch or the east branch of Spring Creek, this tributary to Spring Creek in Lodi is a Class 2 trout fishery that supports mixed brown and brook populations with brown trout being most abundant. The lower end of the creek where it crosses the DNR fishery area is exclusively brown trout and a 2019 electrofishing survey there yielded a total brown trout catch rate approaching 1,000 fish/mile with a catch rate of quality trout ≥ 12 inches approaching 140 fish/mile and a maximum length of 16.4 inches. An electrofishing survey closer to the headwaters found trout

abundance to be about half of what was found further downstream, and the catch included brown trout over 15 inches and brook trout in over 12 inches. Current Regulation: Brook, brown, and rainbow trout 8-inch minimum length limit and a 3 fish daily bag limit. Access information: The stream is accessible via Spring Creek Fishery Area from the small gravel parking lot on the east side of Lodi along Highway 60. Access is also available where Mack Rd. crosses the creek along County Highway K east of Lodi, although the lands along the creek upstream and downstream of this crossing are private. A DNR Trout Stamp funded habitat improvement project on the fishery area in 2008 helped to greatly increase brown trout abundance on the lower end of Bohlman Branch.



Fisheries biologist, Greg Matzke, with a brown trout captured during a 2019 survey of Woods Creek. Photo: Katie Renschen

■ DODGE COUNTY

Gill and Irish Creeks - 10.1 miles of Class II brown trout water. 2019 surveys yielded an average length of 9.0 inches, with a maximum length of 15.2 inches at Gill Creek and an average length of 7.5 inches, with a maximum length of 13.1 inches at Irish Creek. The average catch rate of the Gill Creek surveys was 144 fish per mile which ranks it around the 51th percentile when compared with other all other Class II brown trout waters statewide. The average catch rate of the Irish Creek surveys was 461 fish per mile which ranks it around the 76th percentile when compared with other all other Class II brown trout waters statewide. Current regulation: Both streams have a daily bag limit of 3, a minimum length limit of 8 inches and no gear restrictions. Access information: Road crossings offer the only public access to either stream. Based on the 2019 surveys Farmersville Road offers the best opportunity. Both streams are stocked annually with Timber Coulee strain brown trout.

■ FLORENCE COUNTY

Woods Creek - All 16 miles of Woods Creek are designated as class 1 trout waters. Population Information: Woods Creek is a major cold-water tributary of the Popple River with an excellent natural brook trout population and a low density brown trout population. Three stations located within the Woods Creek Fishery Area were surveyed during 2019, producing 807 catchable sized brook trout per mile ranging from 4.5-14.1 inches. Current regulation: Downstream of Hwy 101 - 2 trout over 12". Upstream of Hwy 101 - 3 trout over 8". Access information: The Woods Creek Fishery Area is an 80 acre parcel located off of Hwy 101 on Town Hall Road which gives excellent in stream and shoreline access to over a 2,500 ft section of stream. There is also access at the Hwy 101 crossing. The Woods Creek Dam, located downstream of the Hwy 101 crossing was removed in 2002. The habitat in the former flowage area has changed and improved drastically over time. Future habitat work in this area is planned to create more pool-riffle-run features and to increase holding capac-



Wausau fisheries biologist, Tim Parks, holds a nice brown trout caught on spring coulee.

ity for larger fish. *Katie Renschen, Fisheries technician, Florence*

■ GRANT COUNTY

Millville Creek - 5.5 miles of classified trout water. Millville Creek supports a healthy population of brown trout. Recent surveys sampled an overall relative abundance of 231 adult brown trout per mile. Adult brown trout ranged in length from 8 to 16.7 inches with an average length of 11.5 inches. Forty percent of the adult brown trout sampled were 12 inches or greater. Current Regulations: 2 trout over 12 inches may be kept. Access information: There are approximately 4.95 miles of public fishing available via public fishing easements and Lower Wisconsin Riverway property. Remaining trout water may be accessed by gaining permission from landowners or by accessing the stream from road right of ways. Located in northwest Grant County, many folks consider the Millville Creek area prime timber rattlesnake country. Anglers may get a glimpse at one of Wisconsin's rare reptile species. - *Bradd Sims, fisheries biologist, Dodgeville*

■ MARINETTE COUNTY

North Branch Pemebonwon - Approximately 6,000 yearling brook trout (8-inch average) are stocked at 6 locations. These fish are produced by a local cooperator (Niagara Sportsman's Club). Total stream length = 23.4 miles (17.9 miles - Class 2, 5.5 miles - Class 3) Current Regulation: Opening day to October 15 = 3-fish/bag; 8-inch minimum length limit. Access information: Almost all of



Fisheries biologist Greg Matzke with a nice brook trout from the Little Popple River in Florence County. Photo: Katie Renschen
Photo by Katie Renschen

the NBPBW is within public, Marinette County Forest lands. While numerous road/stream crossings provide good access, anglers can also access the stream at Smalley Falls, Long Slide Falls, and Morgan Park.

■ MARQUETTE COUNTY

Tagatz Creek - 16.2 miles of Class I. 2019 Stream surveys (7 stations); 433-1552/mile, Mean Length - 4.5"-8.0", Max Length - 10.0"-12.5" Current regulation: No length, 5 bag Access information:

Good access, road crossings and State Lands. Some areas will be more difficult to access, but anglers may be rewarded with better size structure.

■ ONEIDA COUNTY

Noisy Creek - Noisy Creek contains roughly 5 miles of Class II and 6.25 miles of Class III trout waters in southern Oneida County. Three 300 meter stretches of the Noisy were sampled for Brook Trout in 2019. The overall size structure was small with most fish between 5 to 10 inches but fish up to 13.9 inches were handled. Noisy Creek provides a good opportunity for anglers who want to take a break from the lakes of Oneida County and try their luck on a creek. The current regulation is an 8-inch minimum length with a daily bag of 3. Roadside access to the creek can be found along Bowmen, Camp Six and Shingle Mill roads in the Oneida County Forest. - *Zach Woiak, fisheries biologist, Rhinelander*

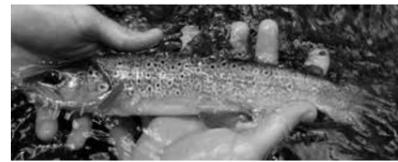
■ PORTAGE COUNTY

Tomorrow-Waupaca River - 33.2 miles of trout water in Portage County. Brown Trout 2.0"-19.0", average length = 7.9"-9.8", % of fish over 9" varies 31%-79%, 319-1063 fish per mile, above average to exemplary densities as compared trout classification standards for this ecoregion Brook Trout - mainly prevalent in reaches upstream of the Amherst Millpond 2.0"-12.5", average length = 5.7"-6.6", % of fish over 8" ~3%, 0-77 fish per mile, poor to fair densities as compared trout classification standards for this ecoregion Current regulation: Above Clementson Rd - 3 daily bag limit with 8" minimum length limit for Brook Trout and 12" minimum length limit for Brown Trout Above the Amherst Milldam to Clementson Rd - 2 daily bag limit with 12" minimum length limit, Artificial Lures Only Below the Amherst Milldam to Durant Rd - 3 daily bag limit with 8" minimum length limit for all trout (yellow base reg), Early Catch and Release Season available in this reach Durant Rd to River Rd (Waupaca Co) - 1 daily bag limit with 18" minimum length limit, Artificial Lures Only Access information: Numerous access points and public parking areas available for trout anglers, especially throughout the Richard Hemp Fishery Area and along stream-crossings from public roads. Additionally, there is a boat launch where trout anglers can access the Amherst Millpond portion of the Tomorrow River. Tomorrow-Waupaca River contains some of the most prominent trout water in Central Wisconsin. Highly popular amongst avid trout anglers in the region and owes much of its notoriety to natural productivity. Populations of brook and brown trout upstream of the Amherst Milldam are entirely self-sustained through natural reproduction. Brook trout occur mainly above the Milldam in Amherst, and few brook trout can be found below the dam. Downstream the Amherst Milldam, the temperature regime changes and tends to primarily mainly natural reproducing brown trout that are supplemented with some stocking. Supplemental brown trout stocking in the lower reaches of the Tomorrow-Waupaca can enhance these population, but stock contribution is minimal, especially with populations in close proximity to the Amherst Milldam. Further downstream, stocked brown trout may contribute more to these populations, but success is variable. Regardless of stocking, these trout populations are

highly productive and tend to produce a variety of angler opportunities. An angler can encounter numerous prospects throughout the river to catch larger fish, but larger water may be ticket when finding the "Manatee-sized" browns. Much of the success of the trout fishery has to do with natural environmental conditions of the river, the connectivity of the river, and the habitat enhancement/restoration performed on the river. Numerous restoration and improvement projects conducted by the DNR and Trout Unlimited intend to benefit local trout populations and improve angler access. These habitat improvements have certainly improved brown trout populations, but unfortunately, some of these habitat enhancements were more favorable to brown trout which eventually dominated brook trout. Our current management strategies aim to maintain and enhance coldwater habitat to benefit both species of trout while also maintaining popular angling opportunities.

■ PIERCE COUNTY

Cady Creek - 9.3 miles of Class 1 water. Cady Creek was historically a brook trout stream; however, brown trout have moved in in recent years following stocking of feral strain brown trout in a nearby stream. In an effort to try to preserve the native brook trout population, the regulations have been recently changed and will go into effect in 2021 to promote brown trout harvest and a brown trout removal project began in 2018 along with a stocking change in the nearby stream from brown trout to brook trout. A great harvest opportunity exists in Cady Creek for brown trout with around 2500 browns per mile in the lower sections of stream with fish reaching over 20 inches! Harvest of brown trout is highly encouraged! Current regulation: 3 in total; brown and rainbow trout over 12"; brook trout over 8" Access information: (best access point(s), shorefishing opportunities, etc.) The majority of the lower reach (al-



A Brown Trout collected on Mill Creek during a 2019 electrofishing survey. Photo: Justin Haglund

most 4 miles) of Cady Creek is in public fishing easements. There are multiple access points along 50th St including a parking lot. Intensive trout habitat work has been completed on Cady Creek for over 3 miles of stream making fishing access much easier and plenty of space for fly fishing. In stream habitat includes LUNKER structures, instream boulders, rootwads and spawning riffles. Fishing paths are mowed annually along the stream where habitat work has been done.

■ RICHLAND COUNTY

Mill Creek - 14.3 miles. The mainstem of Mill Creek is classified as class 2 trout water with class 1 tributaries, which help support a naturally reproducing population of Brown Trout. Stream surveys conducted at four locations upstream of state highway 14 along CTH E indicated a total catch of 285 adult trout (>8 inches), estimating the relative abundance at 777 adult Brown Trout per mile. Average length among the four sites was 8.6 inches with a maximum of 17.5 inches. Mill Creek hosts a plethora of public access with over 5 miles of easements. Current Regulation: USH 14 upstream to Quarry Hill Road: All trout caught shall be immediately released. All other Mill Creek waters: 3 trout in total over 8". Access information: Streambank easement access on over 5 miles of Mill Creek. - *Justin Haglund, fisheries biologist, Dodgeville*

Cazenovia Branch - 3.75 miles (Upstream of Lee Lake) This stretch of Cazenovia Branch is classified as Class 1 trout water

with natural reproduction and recruitment of Brown Trout. A recent stream survey downstream of CTH II indicated a total catch of 144 trout, estimating the relative abundance at 501 Brown Trout per mile. Average length was 9.2 inches with a maximum of 16.4 inches. A habitat improvement project was recently completed at this site below CTH II, allowing for easy access and greater fish-



Kristina Pechacek holds a large brown trout captured in a small tributary to the West Fork Kickapoo.

ability along this stretch of streambank easement. Various in stream habitat structures were also installed to increase suitable habitat for Brown Trout. Current Regulation: 3 trout in total over 8". Access information: Streambank easement access along .5 miles of Cazenovia Branch at this site. - *Justin Haglund, fisheries biologist, Dodgeville*

■ SHAWANO COUNTY

West Branch Red River - 29.6 miles of Class I and Class II trout water. Brook trout population information: In 2019, the DNR completed electrofishing surveys at nine locations along the West Branch Red River. Catch per unit effort (CPUE as the number of brook trout per mile of electrofishing) at these nine sites averaged 897.6 (range = 311 - 1,604) brook trout per mile of stream. Densities were highest in the middle and upper sections, near Spruce Road, River Road, and CTH D. Brook trout between 1.9 - 12.6 inches were captured with the average length being 5.4 inches. Anglers will have plenty of opportunities to catch harvestable size brook trout in this river as CPUE of brook trout ≥8 inches averaged 92.4 (range = 5 - 158) per mile of electrofishing at these nine sites, brook trout ≥10 inches were captured at 8 sites, and brook trout ≥12 inches were captured at 3 sites. Current regulation: Green stream with a daily bag limit of 5 trout in total and no minimum length. Access information: Anglers can access the West Branch Red River at 12 public road crossings. Also, the West Branch Red River flows through 40 acres of DNR owned land on the south side of Boehm Road that is accessible via a ¼ mile long access lane off Boehm Road. The West Branch Red River has excellent water quality and abundant spawning gravel for brook trout. As such, the brook trout population in the West Branch Red River is sustained solely through natural reproduction and no trout have been stocked in this river since 1975.

■ VERNON COUNTY

West Fork Kickapoo River and tributaries West Fork Kickapoo River, Knapp Creek, Seas Branch, Maple Dale, Harrison Creek, and Unnamed Tributaries Species population information: The West Fork Kickapoo River and its

tributaries provide exceptional opportunities for anglers to catch naturally reproduced brown and brook trout. 2019 surveys indicate that populations have not significantly declined despite several recent floods. Upper Seas Branch, a tributary to the West Fork, provides a unique catch-and-release opportunity for brook trout in the absence of brown trout. A successful brown trout removal in the late 1990s has allowed brook trout to thrive. Recent electrofishing surveys found adult abundances exceeding 1,000 catchable size brook trout per mile, with some brook trout exceeding 12 inches. Current regulation: Varies by waterbody, see the trout regulation pamphlet Access information: The DNR holds several miles of streambank easement as well as state owned properties in the West Fork Kickapoo River watershed. To view access points and locations of public lands go to dnr.wi.gov and search "Public Access Lands Map". Brown trout removal efforts began in Maple Dale Creek, a small tributary to the West Fork, in early 2019 in hopes of replicating the success in Seas Branch. Removal efforts will continue in 2020 and 2021 to further reduce brown trout abundance and provide a competitive advantage for native brook trout.

■ VERNON, LA CROSSE and-MONROE COUNTIES

Coon Creek and tributaries. Coon Creek, Bohemian Valley Creek, Rulland's Coulee Creek, Spring Coulee Creek, and Timber Coulee Creek. The Coon Creek watershed is well known for its habitat restoration efforts, angler access and an abundance of trout. Historic flooding in 2018 along with a significant flood event again in 2019 have severely impacted streambanks throughout the watershed. Many of your favorite holes may no longer look familiar or be gone altogether. Despite the flooding, recent electrofishing surveys have shown that numbers of adult trout have remained relatively stable. Although young of the year fish hatched in the spring of 2018 were reduced due to flooding, the 2019 year class showed very good survival and should provide ample opportunities for anglers in the future. Recent surveys found trout abundances frequently exceeding 1,000 trout per mile. In 2020, the DNR La Crosse area trout habitat crew plans to continue restoring trout habitat work that was damaged by the 2019 flood. Current regulation: Varies by waterbody, see the trout regulation pamphlet Access information: The upper



Wausau fisheries biologist, Tim Parks, holds a nice brown trout caught on spring coulee.



DNR Fisheries Management technician Josh Krall holding a Brown Trout captured during a wadable stream monitoring survey on Bluff Creek in Walworth Co.

Coon Creek Watershed has many miles of angler streambank easement, which provide fantastic access to most of the streams in the watershed. Streambank easements are purchased by the DNR from private landowners and provide angler access along the stream banks and the DNR access to complete trout stream habitat restoration. To view the locations of public streambank easements in Wisconsin go to dnr.wi.gov and search "Public Access Lands Map" or "TROUT 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 the 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 length) to evaluate whether anglers could reduce densities and improve growth rates of trout.

■ VILAS COUNTY

Deerskin River - 9-mile segment from St. Louis Rd downstream to Deerskin Road located in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Deerskin River is the finest inland trout stream that Vilas County has to offer. In 2019, electrofishing surveys were conducted at two sites. A total of 350 brook trout were sampled (628 per mile). They ranged from 2"-11.8" with an average length of 6.4" and 13% ≥ harvestable size. Current Regulations: 3 trout daily bag limit over 8" Access information: This segment is located entirely within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest where there are multiple road crossings. There is little fishing pressure on the Deerskin, as few people visit Vilas County to fish trout streams, so nary a soul shall you see. - Eric Wegleitner fisheries biologist - Vilas County

■ WALWORTH COUNTY

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

Geneva Lake - 5401 acres. A Fall 2018 survey of Lake Trout on Geneva Lake has produced good catch rates and size structure, including a 30" average length and 34" maximum length. Current regulation: Daily bag and length limit: 2 Lake Trout over 17". Access information: Six public boat launches

are available on Geneva: Lake Street in Fontana (west side), E Geneva Street in Williams Bay (north side), Chapin Road (north side - no parking), Wrigley Drive in Lake Geneva (northeast side), Hillside Road (southeast side) and Linn Road (south side). Shore fishing opportunities are available at several parks and municipal fishing piers across the lake.

■ WAUPACA COUNTY

South Branch Little Wolf River upstream from Iola Millpond (locally known as Mack Creek) - 3.9 miles of Class I trout water upstream from Iola Millpond Brown trout population information: In 2019, the DNR completed electrofishing surveys at two locations along the South Branch Little Wolf River upstream from Iola Millpond. Catch per unit effort (CPUE as the number of brown trout per mile of electrofishing) at these two sites averaged 762 (range = 241 - 1,283) brown trout per mile of stream. Brown trout densities were significantly higher in the upper reaches near Paulson Road. Brown trout between 1.6 - 20.3 inches were captured with the average size being 7.5 inches. Anglers will have plenty of opportunities to catch harvestable size brown trout in this river as CPUE of brown trout ≥ 8 inches averaged 260.5 (range = 139 - 382) per mile of electrofishing across the two sites, brown trout ≥ 12 inches were captured both sites, and seven brown trout ≥ 15 inches were captured at the Madson Rd site, including one > 20 inches. Current regulation: Yellow stream with a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total and a minimum length of 8 inches. Access information: Anglers have exceptional access to the South Branch Little Wolf River upstream of Iola Millpond via five road crossings as well nearly half of the stream corridor in stream bank easements. Significant trout habitat enhancements were completed throughout the stream bank easements in 2011, including restoring failing overhead bank covers, stabilizing eroding banks, and installing rock vortex weirs, wing dams, plunge pools, and additional overhead bank covers. The South Branch Little Wolf River also supports a brook trout population, although densities of brook trout were found to be much lower than brown trout densities in 2019 surveys.

■ WAUSHARA COUNTY

White River - 2.6 miles, Class I. 2019 stream surveys (3 stations), one with a mini-boom shocker on the lowest, deepest stretch of stream just upstream of the lower millpond. 161-967 fish/mile. Mean length - 8.6"-10.9", Max length - 17.5"-23". Better size structure in the deeper, lower density portions of the stream Current regulation: 12" minimum, bag of 2, Artificial baits only. Access information: Good, Numerous road crossings and State Fishery Areas This short stretch of stream originates at the confluence of the Soules Creek and numerous other springs. A dam in the city forms a small impoundment and the outlet stream (White River) runs directly through and out of the city of Wautoma. The West Branch of the White River and Bird Creek join the River and contribute cold water and are the main areas for trout spawning. It rapidly widens and deepens to where it comes to a second millpond (Lower White River Millpond). Deeper, downstream areas provide overwintering areas for trout and hold some of the largest fish of this system. There is a substantial and very popular "Hex" hatch that occurs each spring. There are also naturally reproducing Rainbow Trout present in this system.

ROUGH FISH



■ DOUGLAS COUNTY

St. Louis River and Estuary - 12,000 acres Current regulation: Year-round season with no length or bag limit. Arrowhead Landing and Fishing Pier: Located in the City of Superior where Belknap Street joins the river. Features paved parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, and portable restrooms. Oliver Landing: Located in the Village of Oliver, just south of Superior, at end of East Detroit Street, features restrooms and paved parking. Barker's Island Landing: Located in the City of Superior at the end of Marina Drive, features restrooms and paved parking. Loon's Foot Landing: Located in the City of Superior just west of the Nemadji River, features restrooms and paved parking. The St. Louis River Estuary is home to several "rough fish" species including



Fisheries technician Aaron Nelson with a big freshwater drum captured and released during a recent musky netting survey on the St. Louis River Estuary. Photo: Paul Piszczek

white and longnose suckers, silver and shorthead redhorse, common carp, and freshwater drum. Anglers pursuing these species can use the same tackle commonly used for small-to-medium sized channel catfish; a medium to medium-heavy power fishing rod with a spinning or bait-casting reel spooled with 12 to 15 lb. monofilament line. A simple, low cost slip-sinker rig and single hook baited with a nightcrawler can be used to catch rough fish. Anglers should cast their lines out and allow the sinker rig to settle on the bottom, then wait for a bite. While they may not be the most glamorous fish, carp in the St. Louis River can reach 40 pounds and would test the tackle and skill of any angler. Several areas are available on the Wisconsin or Minnesota side of the St. Louis River Estuary that offer a great opportunity for anglers to fish from shore for rough fish as well gamefish or panfish. - Aaron Nelson, fisheries technician, Superior

■ EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

Halfmoon Lake - 135 acres. Halfmoon Lake is an oxbow of the Chippewa River located in the city of Eau Claire which provides a great urban fishing opportunity with the vast majority of the shoreline open to the public. A 2019 fisheries survey showed a healthy bowfin population. Bowfin, a native species to Wisconsin, are a primitive fish and are also referred to as dogfish. Bowfin can survive in oxygen depleted water by gulping air from the surface into their swim bladders. Bowfin are aggressive feeders that provide a good



Fisheries technician, Logan Hacker, shows off a male bowfin, signified by the spot on the tail, during a 2019 fisheries survey of Halfmoon Lake in Eau Claire.

fight and can be caught with lures that mimic bait fish. Bowfin are common in some areas of the state, but in the Eau Claire area this is a unique fishing opportunity with the potential to catch bowfin up to 30". There are two boat landings, but the use of gas power motors is prohibited. There is no length or bag limit for bowfin. - Joseph Gerbyshak - fisheries biologist, Eau Claire

LAKE WHITEFISH



DOOR, KEWAUNEE and BROWN COUNTIES

Green Bay waters . Lake whitefish continue to provide great action for ice anglers on Green Bay since their impressive entry into the sport fishery over 10 years ago. Much of the action takes place along the east shore at locations between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Although angler harvest dropped considerably during the 2019 ice fishing season, 2018 was among the highest on record at an estimate of over 198,000 fish. Recent recruitment surveys suggest we can expect a good supply of fish entering the adult population with the 2015 and 2017 young-of-year survey indices being the first and third highest on record, respectively, since the survey began in 2006. Current regulation: The bag limit for lake whitefish is 10 fish with no length. Access information: There are a number of access points between Dyckesville and Sturgeon Bay. Anglers can refer to a map of the area for boat launch sites or go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess> for a listing of some of the launches in the area. Anglers are advised to check ahead locally for ice conditions before venturing out. In 2017 and 2018 more than 8,600 whitefish from several stocks were tagged during the November spawning season in the Fox and Menominee Rivers, North/Moonlight Bays areas off Door County, and Big Bay de Noc in northern Green Bay. Tag recovery data will provide several pieces of important information including seasonal movement patterns, stock mixing, spawning site fidelity, and exploitation rates. In addition, acoustic transmitters were implanted in 400 whitefish to further evaluate this information.



GL SALMON & TROUT



ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, IRON and DOUGLAS COUNTIES

Lake Superior - Lake Trout continues to be the primary target species in the Apostle Islands and Western Arm regions of Lake Superior, and anglers kept reeling in plenty in 2019. Although total harvest dropped slightly from a peak in 2018, Lake Trout sport harvest still held above the previous 10-year average, and Lake Superior charter captains caught more "lakers" than any year in the past decade. Lake Trout harvest has been on an upward trend since a low in 2016, and we expect that trend to continue in 2020. Due to size regulations outlined below, the average length of harvested Lake Trout in the 2019 open-water season was 22.1 inches, but 35 and 40-inch Lake Trout are often caught and released in Lake Superior. July and August serve as the most popular months to troll for Lake Trout. During the early spring and fall months, trolling and casting for Coho Salmon and Brown Trout in Lake Superior is also very popular. 2019 was a banner year for Coho harvest in Lake Superior; however, this population is dependent on natural reproduction and is generally cyclic in nature. Seeforellen Brown Trout have been consistently stocked by the DNR since 2011, and creel reports have shown anglers continuing to catch more (and bigger) Browns each year. Brown Trout fishing through the ice or trolling during the spring and fall has been very productive in the Chequamegon Bay area, but anglers can also catch them anywhere from the Duluth/Superior to Saxon areas. Current regulation: Lake Trout only: The Lake Trout season is open from December 1 through September 30. 15 inch minimum length, but only 1 over 25 inches. East of Bark Point: bag limit of 2; West of Bark Point:



A family enjoying a beautiful summer day on Lake Superior trolling for Lake Trout.

bag limit of 3. Trout (Rainbow, Brown, Brook, Splake) = 5 in total of which only 1 may be rainbow trout, 1 may be brook trout. Rainbow Trout must be greater than 26 inches, Brook Trout must be greater than 20 inches, and all other trout must be greater than 15 inches. Salmon (Coho, Chinook, Pink, Atlantic) = 5 in total with no minimum length limit and no closed season. Access information: Public Boat Landings can be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Beaches/documents/BeachBoat-Launches.pdf> - Dray Carl, fisheries biologist, Lake Superior

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Bois Brule River - 44 miles total, 24.5 miles downstream of U.S. Highway 2 6,404 wild Steelhead were counted passing the Brule River Sea Lamprey Barrier / Fishway from Fall 2018 through Spring 2019. The fall migration makes up the majority of the steelhead run and peak steelhead migration

occurred in mid-October of 2018. Fifty-five percent of the total ranged from 20 to 25 inches and weighed three to five pounds. 8% exceeded the minimum length limit of 26 inches. Annual size and timing of the steelhead run varies relative to conditions on the Brule River and Lake Superior, especially in spring with lake and river ice-out. Current regulation: Season is different for lower and upper river. Lower River: Downstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open March 28 through November 15; Minimum length: 26 inches; Daily bag: 5 trout and salmon in total, only one may be a rainbow trout. Upper River: Upstream from U.S. Highway 2; Season: Open May 2 to September 30. Access information: All access points only at designated areas in the Brule River State Forest. Easy



LTE Fisheries Biologist Lydia Doerr with a Lake Superior steelhead caught and released during survey work on the Bois Brule River in November 2019.

access at many points, especially U.S. Highway 2, High Landing angler lot, Copper Range Campground, Pine Tree Canoe Landing, and State Highway 13. The Bois Brule River is a popular destination to fish for migratory trout and salmon returning from Lake Superior during their respective spawning runs with steelhead remaining the favorite target of anglers. Wisconsin DNR completed a creel survey on the lower Brule from the fall run of 2016 through the spring run of 2018 fishing seasons to document fishing effort and harvest. Preliminary results from the survey indicate approximately 85% of the angling pressure coincides with the fall and spring steelhead runs with an average of 40,808 hours of fishing effort each year during these time periods. Despite substantial fishing pressure, harvest of legal-size steelhead was estimated at 142 fish during the 2016-17 season and 86 fish during the 2017-18 season. Even when legal size steelhead were caught, anglers reported more than 90% of legal sized steelhead they caught were voluntarily released. A full report with results of the 2016-2018 Bois Brule River creel survey and angler questionnaire will be available soon. - Aaron Nelson, fisheries technician, Superior

MARINETTE, OCONTO and DOOR COUNTIES

Green Bay and tributaries. Fall 2019 shocking surveys in the lower Menominee River resulted in higher numbers of brown trout compared to recent years, with 25% being over 29 inches. 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. Lake Michigan harvest estimates for 2019 will be available in early 2020. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily limit is 5 trout/salmon in total. Minimum length is 10 inches. Access information: Anglers can troll for browns in the spring and summer months. There are numerous boat access locations along the shores of Green Bay. Brown trout make fall migratory runs into the Menominee, 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/lake-michigan/TributaryAccess.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. Fish and Wildlife Service/Green Bay Mass Marking Project. Also, beginning in 2017, Wisconsin only stocks seeforellen (German) strain of brown trout into the Great Lakes. The seeforellen strain is a "wild" strain, meaning that the broodstock (parents) are not held captive at a hatchery year-round. Instead, DNR fisheries crews collect broodstock from several tributaries to Lake Michigan each fall. These prospective parents are hauled to Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility in Kewaunee where gametes are collected weekly from mid-November into early December. After gametes are collected, adult brown trout are released into the Kewaunee River. Fertilized and disinfected eggs are brought to Wild Rose Hatchery, where they will be raised until stocking.

Lake Michigan and tributaries

CHINOOK SALMON

Chinook salmon play an important role in Lake Michigan's ecosystem and fishery, and with recent improvements in size, Chinooks provide great opportunity to catch big fish! During 2018, over 1.6 million Chinooks were stocked lake-wide and over 60% of the Chinook population at age-1 were wild (2019 data is still being compiled). On the lake, more than 160,000 Chinooks were harvested during 2018 (all states), including over 74,000 from Wisconsin waters. Although Chinook harvest and abundance have come down recently, following ecosystem and management changes including stocking adjustments to balance predators with prey to improve and sustain the fishery, many Chinooks are still stocked, caught, and fish size has improved. Lake-wide biomass of alewife, the Chinook's primary forage, increased slightly since 2015 but remains historically low. Above average year-classes of alewife were measured in 2010 and 2012, along with moderate year-classes in 2015 and 2016, with several below average year-classes in-between. Even with an overall low forage biomass, these moderate alewife year-classes and past stocking adjustments have contributed towards current conditions with fewer but bigger Chinooks and an improved predator/prey ratio. The average weight of age-3 female Chinook at the Strawberry Creek spawning facility in Sturgeon Bay was high during 2016 (19.0 pounds), 2017 (18.4), and 2018 (22.4). These weights were up compared to low or highly variable weights during 2004-2015, including a low 10.7 pounds in 2007. The average length of an angler-caught Chinook from Wisconsin during 2018 was 30.6 inches and average weight was 13.1 pounds (across all



A Chinook salmon measuring 34.4 pounds and 41.7 inches held by DNR fisheries technician Jacob Steckmesser at the Strawberry Creek salmon spawning facility on October 2, 2019. Eggs are collected from Chinook each fall and transferred to the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery to produce Chinook for stocking into Lake Michigan tributaries.



Fisheries biologist Laura Schmidt with a wild lake trout caught during a Wisconsin DNR spawning survey on Lake Michigan.

ages). At salmon spawning facilities during autumn 2019, several Chinook over 30 pounds were processed. The opportunity in 2020 to catch a large and possibly trophy size Chinook salmon is a very good possibility. So make sure to plan at least a couple of fishing trips on Lake Michigan this year and get in on the outstanding action for Chinook salmon. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit. Access information: Many boat shore access locations are available (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/boataccess/>, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/TributaryAccess.html>). Nick Legler – fisheries biologist in Sturgeon Bay

COHO SALMON::

The coho fishing season typically starts off in the warmer southern waters of Lake Michigan and then progresses northward all the way to Sheboygan waters. Coho fishing was above average in 2018 when anglers harvested 85,411 (10-year average harvest of

76,937). In 2019, coho were quality size with reports of several large fish. Weather patterns caused coho to be in deeper water than normal during their migration North in 2019. Coho salmon are spawned at both the Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) in Racine and the C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility (BAFF) in Kewaunee. In 2019, approximately 1,200 coho were captured at the RRSF and 602 were captured at BAFF. Between the 2 facilities, over 1.6 million eggs were taken to help achieve the 2020 and 2021 goals of stocking 500,000 coho each year in Wisconsin waters. Anglers can look forward to improved coho numbers for 2021 as a result of the increased stocking. Current regulation: Open all year. Five fish daily bag limit (total trout and salmon). Ten inch minimum length limit.

LAKE TROUT

Lake Michigan provides fantastic fishing opportunities for salmon and trout, including lake trout, supported by stocking and natural reproduction. A total of 26,747 lake trout were harvested in 2018 lake-wide, which was almost 20% over the ten-year average harvest. Anglers from Kenosha to Sheboygan reported high catches of lake trout, accounting for 82% of the total lake trout harvest for Wisconsin in Lake Michigan for 2018. The average size of lake trout harvested in 2018 was 27.2 inches and 8.5 pounds. Current regulation: Open all year. Daily bag limit is 5 trout/salmon in total. Minimum length is 10 inches. The 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. For the past two fall seasons, anglers have had success catching lake trout in the Milwaukee and Sheboygan Rivers. In 2006, lake trout that were intended to be stocked on offshore spawning reefs were stocked near-shore due to high wind conditions on the lake. These fish were marked with

a fin-clip, which has allowed biologists to determine that anglers catching lake trout in the river in the fall are catching this year class of lake trout. These fish are now 14 years old, and will likely continue to return to Lake Michigan tributaries in the fall under high water.

STEELHEAD:

Steelhead rainbow trout contribute to Lake Michigan's diverse fishery and provide great opportunity for lake and stream anglers to catch big trout, many of which are now clipped and tagged. Steelhead are stocked annually into over 20 streams flowing into Wisconsin's shoreline of Lake Michigan. Lake anglers commonly catch steelhead during summer months, while stream anglers commonly target steelhead

during spring spawning runs. Starting in 2018, steelhead stocked throughout Lake Michigan were fin clipped (with the adipose fin removed) and tagged internally with a tiny coded wire tag by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This clipping and tagging effort is part of a collaborative and lake-wide program to evaluate steelhead wild production, movements, growth, and stocking methods. In Wisconsin, steelhead are stocked into big and small rivers, regionally (north, south, and Green Bay), and different strains are stocked (currently Chambers Creek and Ganaraska). Tag recoveries will allow evaluation of these management actions, including which efforts are contributing best to the fishery. Steelhead yearlings stocked in 2018 and 2019 were clipped and tagged, and efforts are underway for clipped and tagged steelhead to be stocked again in 2020 and 2021. Chinook salmon were previously clipped and tagged from 2011-2016. Chinooks continue to be clipped lake-wide, but not tagged. Lake trout clipping and tagging has been ongoing lake-wide since 2011. Wisconsin creel data from 2019 is being compiled, but from 2018 the average length of an angler caught steelhead was 25.6 inches, the average weight was 6.5 pounds, and over 57,000 rainbow trout were harvested. 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/TributaryAccess.html>). Nick Legler – fisheries biologist, Sturgeon Bay



Steelhead measured by fisheries biologist Nick Legler at the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility in Kewaunee. Eggs are collected from steelhead each spring and transferred to the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery to produce steelhead for stocking into Lake Michigan tributaries.



With the 2020 fishing season just around the corner, the Department of Natural Resources is asking anglers to document their fishing experiences with the launch of the #IGotOne photo campaign. The campaign celebrates the three most anticipated words in Wisconsin fishing. All year, anglers throughout the state are invited to share their "I Got One" memories as a way for people to come together and celebrate the joy and excitement of Wisconsin fishing.

What kind of photos should you send? How about big fish photos, little fish photos, lots of fish photos, kids and fish photos, dogs and fish photos, and fish and fish photos. Get the picture? All things fish. And if you weren't able to utter the campaign slogan, no problem. Beautiful fishing scenery would be just as good. We all know that we've got a great state to fish. Let's show it.

A few things to consider - Your fish should be legally caught in Wisconsin waters. Not all photos submitted may be selected for inclusion and only those photos appropriate for all age groups will be considered.

Send your photos to:

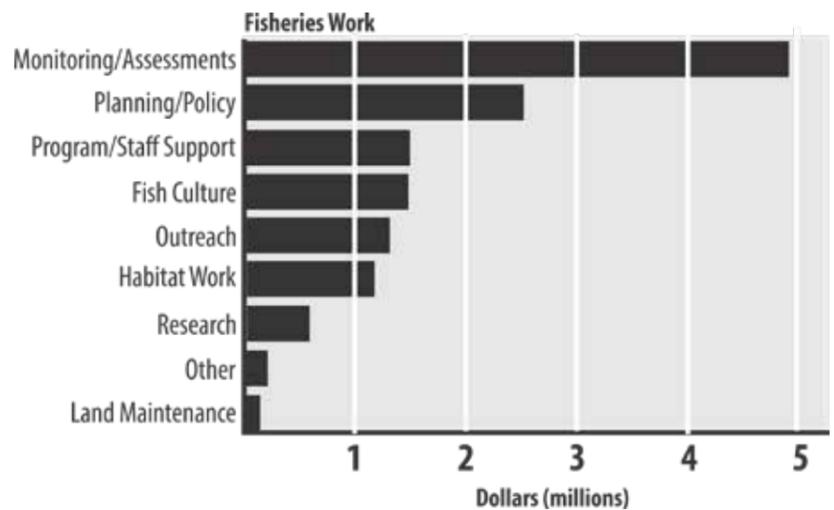
dnrwifishphotos@wisconsin.gov

Your email should include:

- the photo (the higher the resolution, the better),
- the species (if known), date of catch, and location of catch,
- if at all possible, a length and/or weight of the fish,
- photographers name, and
- a short description of the photo - one or two sentences is fine.

Note: Please be aware that by submitting a fishing photograph, you are granting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources a non-exclusive license to use and reproduce the photograph for all such purposes as the department may deem appropriate.

Your Fishing License At Work



Safe-eating guidelines -
for most of Wisconsin's inland (non-great lakes) waters

<p>Women of childbearing years, nursing mothers and all children under 15 may eat:</p> <p>1 meal per week - Bluegill, crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads and inland trout;</p> <p>and</p> <p>1 meal per month - Walleye, pike, bass, catfish and all other species.</p> <p>Do not eat - Muskies.</p>	<p>Women beyond their childbearing years and men may eat:</p> <p>Unrestricted* - Bluegill, crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads and inland trout;</p> <p>1 meal per week - Walleye, pike, bass, catfish and all other species;</p> <p>and</p> <p>1 meal per month - Muskies.</p>
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There are 154 waters where exceptions to this advice apply, including the Great Lakes. More stringent consumption advice applies where fish have higher concentrations of mercury, PCBs or other chemicals. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/consumption/index.html>



Get the lead out!
Please consider using non-lead tackle.

dnr.wi.gov for more information

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, Greenfield Park, Holler Park, Humboldt Park, Jackson Park, Juneau Park, Kosciuszko Park, McCarty Park, McGovern Park, Miller Park, Mitchell Park, Oak Creek Parkway, Saveland Park, Schoetz 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, Pucketts Pond, Schowalter Park, Willow Brooke Park; Racine County: Gorney Park, Johnson Park, Lockwood Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake, Reservoir Park; Rock County: Lions Park Pond Sheboygan County: Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond, Sheboygan Quarry, Memorial Park, River Park Lagoon; Walworth County: Ceylon Lagoon, Congdon Park Millpond Park Pond; Washington County: Boot Lake, Hartford Millpond, Homestead Hollow Park, Kewaskum Millpond, Regner Pond Sandy Knoll Park, Wells Lake, Wiedenbach Park Pond; Waukesha County: Calhoun Park, Delafield Rearing Pond, Foxbrook Pond Heyer Park North and South, Lapham Peak Pond, Lepper Dam Millpond, Lions Park-Overland, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Muskego Park, Nixon Park, Regal Park, and Woodfield North and South. County: Waukesha Lake size: Urban fishing waters are small lakes and ponds under 25 acres. Species population information: Average Length - 8 inches. Current regulation: Designated urban waters have a year-round season, no length limits, and

a special season (March 14 thru April 24, 2020) for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers. They also have a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) gamefish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead) Access information: Shore fishing opportunities are found at all urban ponds. Stocking information is available seasonally on the Urban Waters Fishing Hotline at 414-263-8494 or toll free at 888-347-4563. 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

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.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Mirror Lake - City of Tomahawk - 4 acres. Only juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers may fish. Stocked with rainbow trout in the spring and brook trout in the fall. 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

Thousands of people visit Hayward, Wisconsin each summer. Many are serious anglers, but some may be beginners or just curious about fishing. **Shue's Pond** is in a small park located adjacent to downtown Hayward on 3rd and Kansas Street. There are picnic tables, a gazebo, and plenty of fishing access to the pond. Shue's Pond is connected to Smith Lake Creek and Lake Hayward and it's always full of panfish that are willing to bite. Shue's is a great location for kids or families that want to try fishing in an easily accessible spot with good odds of catching some fish. There are several bait shops within a few blocks of the pond. Kids under 16 can fish for free, anyone 16 and older needs a license to fish.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Regner Park Pond - 2 acres The pond is stocked annually with rainbow trout from the state hatchery system. The City of West Bend also regularly stocks other species. Current regulation: Year-round season, no length limits, and a special season (March 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 point(s), shore-fishing opportunities, etc.) Regner Park, 800 N Main Street, West Bend, WI 53090 Regner Park Pond was recently dredged and fish habitat was added to improve the angling experience. Other park amenities include trails, sports facilities and play areas, plus a summer swimming pond and winter ice rink.



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 harbor mouths 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 fall, 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 and search "close to home"

2020 Wisconsin Fishing Report
Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
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Basic Tackle Box Checklist

