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5th Annual GLSF

FREE SEMINAR

Saturday, March 29th, 2025 See details on page 22! New Berlin Ale House from 9 am to 4 pm **Bucket Raffles, Fishing Gear**

Advanced Registration Required

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

GLFS is looking for volunteers to help with the various activities our booth will be doing. We are looking for people who can help with demonstrating knot tying, water safety, equipment, fly tying or other activities we are looking at. At this time we will be needing 4 people per shift. I will take the requests on a first come first served basis. When volunteering you agree to stay at the booth for your shift and agree to enter the facility at the correct entrance. I will be sending out more information as the Sports Show updates their exhibitor portal. Presently we are looking for people to volunteer the following times: (I will have a sign-up sheet at the Club meeting on February 11th!)

Wednesday, March 5 or Thursday March 6- Set-Up Friday, March 7 - 12:00 - 3:30 and 3:30 - 7:00 Saturday, March 8 - 10:00 - 2:30 and 2:30 - 7:00 Sunday, March 9 - 10:00 - 1:30 and 1:30 - 5:00 Sunday March 9 - 5:00 - 6:00 Cleanup

All Meetings are the second Tuesday of the Month. New Berlin Ale House 16000 W. Cleveland Ave, New Berlin

Membership Meeting Tuesday, February 12 Jason Woda - Lakeshore **Business Association** and Arnie

Will discuss what they are doing to protect our fish and advocate for the sport fishery.

> **Club Events** Page 3

Membership Dues Page 6

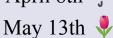
More Club News www.GLSFCLUB.com

Upcoming Meetings

March 11th 💝



April 8th



June 10th 🔆





G L S F — MILWAUKEE

From the President's Tacklebox



Brian Haydin

Dear Fellow Anglers,

As we hit the midway point of the off-season, it's time to start casting our thoughts forward to the fishing days ahead. Is your boat ready to make a splash? Do your reels need a little fine-tuning? Remember, a squeaky reel won't seal the deal when you're battling that trophy fish—so don't get caught unprepared!

First, let's celebrate a whopper of a success: last weekend's Kids Fishing Clinic was an absolute blast! Over 20 eager young anglers joined us, and the fish must've been feeling generous because most kids reeled in panfish, with a couple even landing trout. Better yet, two new families joined our club. That's what we call building our school! Thank you to everyone who helped make the event so memorable.

Now, don't let your calendar get tangled—there are plenty more events on the line. The Journal Sentinel Sport Show is coming up fast, running from March 7–9. This is a prime opportunity to showcase our passion for fishing and reel in even more kids for this year's clinics. Let's aim to make a big splash—your participation will make all the difference!

Next, mark March 29 for our annual Fishing Seminar. It's sure to be a reel-y good time, filled with valuable tips, camaraderie, and maybe even a fish story or two. We could use a few extra hands to help pull it off, so if you're willing to volunteer, don't be koi! Most importantly, spread the word and bring a friend. The more, the merrier—and you might even hook someone new to the joys of fishing.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of March 13. At 3 p.m., the first Open Public Comment session will take place, and it's critical that we have a strong showing to voice our concerns. When the DNR presented this issue to the NRB last month, it was shuffled onto the "consent agenda," leaving no room for discussion. Now's our chance to be heard. If you're planning to make a public comment, don't forget to pre-register so you can speak. Together, we can make waves and ensure our voices are part of the conversation.

As the season inches closer, remember why we do this: the thrill of the catch, the serenity of the lakes, and the joy of sharing it all with our friends and families. Let's make this year a keeper!

Tight lines and big smiles,

Brian Haydin

President, Great Lakes Sport Fishermen "Where every angler has a porpoise!"



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Please contact any of the directors regarding any information or issues of the coordinating activities.

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Tightline Newsletter Editor – Joelle Curro

joelle.curro@glsfclub.com

All articles published are ideas and thoughts of the writer and don't necessarily reflect the ideas or beliefs of the GLSF Club or Foundation.

The Tightline February 2025 · Page 3



The WCC annual Convention will be held May 9th and 10th at a location to be determined

All the Committee meetings did not complete by October 12th. As a result, many of the submitted resolutions will be discussed at the DLC Meeting over January 10-11 at a place TBD.

The Wisconsin DNR Natural Resources Board will be meeting in Madison on Jan. 20-21 in Madison. At this meeting, the DNR is going to request approval from the NRB, to go forth and start the Scope Statement process. It is importand all sport fishermen wanting to protect the Lake Michigan Fishery step up and make their voices heard. If the Commercial Fishermen are allowed to start fishing for Lake Trout, it may have an impact on Lake Michigan Sport Fishing!

How many members are aware that there is a Youth component to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress called the Youth Conservation Congress? Their Charter is the same as the WCC and their members are mentored by members of the WCC. To learn more, click the link below and read their newsletter. You might be amazed!

https://widnr.widen.net/s/ch7jdkmghc/2025_january_newsletter_ycc

YCC DELEGATES IN ACTION



Brody (left), YCC delegate from Racine Co. enjoyed a successful goose hunt with family and friends.



CALENDAR CORNER

www.glsfclub.com

Membership Meetings are normally held at the **New Berlin Ale House** – And Open to the Public 16000 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin at 7pm

February 2025

1 - Kid's Ice Fishing Clinic - Greenfield Park

11 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm New Berlin Ale House, 7pm, Program: Jason Woda - Lakeshore Business Association and Arnie will discuss about what they are doing to protect our fish and advocate for the sport fishery.

March 2025

7-9 - Milwaukee Sports Show – State Fair Park

11 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm Program: Laura Schmidt, WI DNR Fisheries Biologist, will present her annual reports New Berlin Ale House

29 - 5th Annual FREE Fishing Seminar – at the New Berlin Ale House 9am to 3pm on Saturday

April 2025

1 - GLSF Board Meeting - 6:00pm

8- Annual Members' Swap Meet, 4p-6:30pm **- GLSF Membership Meeting** – 7pm,
Program: TBD, New Berlin Ale House, NORTH HALL

May 2025

13 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm **GLSF Membership Meeting** – 7pm Program: TBD, New Berlin Ale House, NORTH HALL

17 - Vessel Safety Check – In the parking lot Point Burger Bar just off I-94 in Waukesha at Hwy F. This is conjunction with the Wisconsin Boating Club and USGC Auxilary



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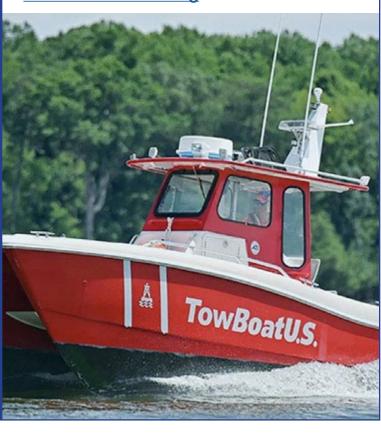
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https://www.boatus.com/products-andservices/boat-towing





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Membership and 2025 Membership Dues

As of this newsletter, We currently have 121 regular and 42 senior members.

At the December 2023 Board Meeting, the Board voted to reduce our annual dues to \$20 for all memberships. There is no practical way to update our website, so it continues to send our reminders at your original price. I found a way to offer a discount down to \$20 if I see your renewal notice, so you can renew at the \$20 price, starting in January 2024. If you renew at your original price, I will contact you and offer a partial refund, or to extend your membership appropriately. If you have questions, send me an E Mail at bob@glsfclub.com, or call me on my cell phone – 414-217-9752. You, the membership of this organization, are the life and blood that keep it alive. Please renew when notified. All new membership starting in December, are priced at \$20 per year, and that is the amount charged on-line for new members.

To renew, use the form on the back of the Tightline and send in, or hand in your check or cash at our meetings, pay with a credit card at our meetings, or renew on-line by logging in with your personal login and select the membership option.

If you joined or renewed in October 2023, you will not see your reminders until September 2024. There are a few known bugs in our membership program which we hope will be resolved soon. There have been some inconsistencies with our membership module on our website, so if you believe our data is incorrect, contact me, I can give you your exact expiration date. I do keep a manual spreadsheet to track all memberships.

Why a GLSF Membership!

- 1. Supporting the sport fishery in Lake Michigan and looking out for sport fishermen. The club works with the DNR on the fish stocking program, works with Milwaukee County Parks such as providing updates to the fish cleaning station and is very active in the advocacy arena as well.
- For the community, we facilitate many fishing clinics throughout the year, mostly geared towards kids, but also for adults.
- **3. Annually, we have a FREE fishing clinic** with recognized experts in the field, such as Keating and Woda. This free clinic is for members and anyone who has donated to the club in the last year.



- **4. An opportunity to meet and network with other fishermen in the area**, this is a great place to talk about what's working and what isn't. Learn from others who want to pass on their knowledge.
- **5. Annual fishing contest** running from spring through the fall, with an opportunity to win \$\$\$!
- 6. Monthly fishing events and our fish-ins, with prizes awarded for the top captains and free food!
- 7. Monthly newsletter to keep you informed on the latest news impacting us as fishermen.
- **8. Monthly meetings** to learn from experts, whether that is the DNR, Weather Service, or from expert fishermen to improve your skills and techniques.

The Tightline February 2025 · Page 7

GLSF Ongoing Fishing Contest 2024 – Final Standings

Adult Division				
Brown Trout over 6 lb				
1st	Steve Lipski	18.6 lbs		
2nd	Dave Halter	14.15 lbs		
3rd	Robert Kracek	13.71 lbs		
Lake Tro	ut over 10 lb			
1st	Dave Halter	16.84 lbs		
2nd	Dominic Federighe	15.8 lbs		
3rd	Dave Bowe	13.73 lbs		
Rainbow	Trout over 8 lb			
1st	Steve Schmitt	15.16lbs		
2nd	Steve Lipski	14.88 lbs		
3rd	Jim Czysz	12.02 lbs		
Coho Sal	lmon over 7 lb			
1st	Robert Kracek	12.24 lbs		
2nd	Christine Droukas	11.24 lbs		
3rd	Dave Halter	10.5 lbs		
King Salı	mon over 19 lb			
1st	John Wierzba	28.3 lbs		
2nd	Dave Halter	22.7 lbs		
3rd	Jay Mathwick	22.6 lbs		
Junior D	Division			
Brown Tr	rout over 3 lb			
Brown Tr	rout over 3 lb Ethan Flohr	9.6 bs		
		9.6 bs		
1st		9.6 bs		
1st 2nd 3rd				
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st	Ethan Flohr — —	20.55 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd	Ethan Flohr — —	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — —	20.55 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — Trout over 5 lb	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt Elaina Lubecke	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs 8.2 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd 3rd	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd 3rd	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt Elaina Lubecke Quintin Witt	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs 8.2 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd 3rd Coho Sai	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt Elaina Lubecke Quintin Witt	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs 8.2 lbs 7.93 lbs		
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1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd 3rd Coho Sal 1st 2nd 3rd King Salı 1st	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt Elaina Lubecke Quintin Witt Imon over 5 lb Ethan Flohr Kaylee Witt Quintin Witt Maylee Witt Quintin Witt Maylee Witt And	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs 8.2 lbs 7.93 lbs 7.66 lbs 6.9 lbs 6.15 lbs		
1st 2nd 3rd Lake Tro 1st 2nd 3rd Rainbow 1st 2nd 3rd Coho Sal 1st 2nd 3rd King Salı	Ethan Flohr — ut over 5 lb — — Trout over 5 lb Kaylee Witt Elaina Lubecke Quintin Witt Imon over 5 lb Ethan Flohr Kaylee Witt Quintin Witt unon over 12 lb	20.55 lbs 16.1 lbs 15.7 lbs 8.44 lbs 8.2 lbs 7.93 lbs 7.66 lbs 6.9 lbs 6.15 lbs		

Fish of the Month/Biggest Fish of the Month				
April	FOTM (Brown Trout)	Dave Halter – 14.15 lbs		
	Biggest Fish	None Caught		
Мау	FOTM (Brown Trout)	Steve Lipski – 18.6 lbs		
	Biggest Fish, Chinock	None Caught		
June	FOTM (Coho)	Steve Todd – 8.0 lbs		
	Biggest Fish, Chinock	Jerry Kozar – 20.3 l		
July	FOTM (Rainbow)	Steve Schmitt - 15.16 lbs		
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	Jerry Kozar- 25.15 lbs		
August	FOTM (Lake Trout)	Dave Halter – 16.84 lbs		
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	John Wierzba – 28.3 lbs		
September	FOTM (King Salmon)	Dominic Federighe- 22.4 lbs		
	Biggest Fish	None Caught		
October	FOTM (King Salmon)	Robert Kracek - 11.6		
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	Jay Mathwich - 11.6		
2024 GLSF FISHERMAN OF THE YEAR				

Dave Halter, 75.05 lbs

Brown Trout (14.15), Lake Trout (16.84), Rainbow (10.86), Coho (10.5), and Chinoch (22.7)

2024 CAPTAINS CATCH

John Wierzba, 91.68 lbs

Brown Trout (18.6), Lake Trout (22.44), Rainbow (10.34), Coho (12.0), and Chinoch (28.3)

Honorable Mention: Jay Mathwick, 63.26 lbs



Dave Halter won the 2024 Fisherman of the year with 75.05 lbs!!



John Wierzba won the 2024 Captains Catch with 91.68 lbs!!



ICE FISHING TECHNIQUES

Fishing Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, bluegill, perch, walleye and northern pike are the most sought after species in winter. Bluegill and perch are the most commonly caught. Minnows are preferred bait for many of the fish listed below. When fishing minnows, remember there are restrictions designed to prevent the spread of VHS.

BLUEGILL



Try fishing in shallow bays where the water is about four to eight feet deep. For bait, try a teardrop lure tipped with live insect larvae. Gently jig the lure up and down.

YELLOW PERCH



Jig for perch at 35 feet. For bait, try small, live minnows or weighted ice flies and insect larvae. (Minnows are illegal on some lakes -- check the fishing regulations for a summary of Wisconsin fishing laws and fishing regulations.

WAI I FYF



This schooling fish is found along the shorelines and in shallow bays. As with northern pike, tip-ups rigged with minnows are the best technique. (Minnows are illegal on some lakes -- check the fishing regulations for a summary of Wisconsin fishing laws and fishing regulations.)

NORTHERN PIKE



Fish shallow bays with large live minnows on a tipup in four to 12 feet of water. (Minnows are illegal on some lakes -- check the fishing regulations for a summary of Wisconsin fishing laws and fishing regulations.)

2025-2026 FISHING SEASON DATES

(Effective Date: April 1, 2025; Dates Inclusive)

Early Inland Trout (catch and release) January 4, 2025 (5 a.m.) - May 2, 2025

General Inland Trout May 3, 2025 (5 a.m.) - Oct. 15, 2025

General Inland Fishing May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Largemouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Smallmouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest June 21, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Large And Smallmouth Bass Southern Zone Harvest May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Large And Smallmouth Bass Catch And Release At all other times of the year

Musky Northern Zone Harvest May 24, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025

Musky Southern Zone Harvest May 3, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025

Northern Pike

May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Walleye

May 3, 2025 - March 1, 2026

Lake Sturgeon

Feb. 8 - Feb. 23 (Winnebago System spearing)

Sept. 6 - Sept. 30 (hook-and-line)

Free Fishing Weekends

June 7-8, 2025 Jan. 17-18, 2026

February Fun Facts & Trivia: - Answers on page 14 (No Peeking!)

- 1. February comes from the Latin word februa, which means what?
- 2. It was named after Februalia, the Roman festival of what?
- 3. While February is the second month in our Gregorian calendar today, it was originally when?
- 4. On average, February is the United States snowiest month. True or False
- 5. What is February's symbolic flowers?
- 6. What is February's Birthstone?
- 7. On February 4 of which year did the Electoral College unanimously elect George Washington as the first U.S. president? a. 1777 b. 1779 c. 1782 d. 1789
- 8. In celebration of Valentine's Day, which English poet wrote a sonnet that includes the famous line, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways"? a. Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–61) b. Lord George Gordon Byron (1788–1824) c. William Shakespeare (1564–1616)
- 9. February is the only month that can pass without a full moon. True or False



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Kid's Fishing Clinic

Kids Ice Fishing Clinic was held Saturday, February 1st at Greenfield Park. There were 31 kids and 16 volunteers. All kids caught fish, even if they were little bluegills and sun fish. Over 100 fish were caught, so there was lots of action after we figured out where the fish were and what they wanted to eat. Two big rainbow trout were caught that the Hunger Task Force planted that were 18+ inches and a few pounds.





Young Salmon May Face Hungry New Competition from Juvenile Sablefish along Northwest Coast

Sablefish eat larger prey for their size than salmon, and a lot more of it.



Scientists examined the stomach contents of juvenile sablefish in coastal waters, finding evidence of their voracious appetite including other fish almost as big as they are. Photo by Elizabeth Daly/CIMERS.

There is a new mouth to feed in the coastal waters of the Northwest where juvenile salmon first enter the ocean, and it's a hungry one. Over the last two decades large numbers of juvenile sablefish have increasingly spread into coastal waters from central Oregon north to northern Washington. New research published in the journal Marine and Coastal Fisheries shows the influx follows the warming of ocean temperatures off the West Coast. It matches reports of fishing boats catching more small sablefish closer to shore.

The finding means that salmon may face new competition from sablefish at a critical time in their life cycle, which is already at risk from climate change. Adult sablefish live for many years in deep offshore waters along the ocean floor. Juvenile sablefish—like young salmon—first feed and grow along the highest layers of water near the surface that teem with life. Sablefish are voracious eaters, often consuming large prey and lots of it.

"They are around the same size as juvenile salmon, but they can eat bigger prey and much more prey than salmon can at the same size," said Elizabeth Daly, an ecologist with the joint NOAA-Oregon State University Cooperative Institute for Marine Ecosystem and Resources Studies in Newport, Oregon.

Eating Bigger, and More

The young sablefish eat much the same thing as juvenile salmon do, but a lot more of it, Daly said. She and her team discovered this by examining their stomach contents. For instance, even small sablefish consumed several times more krill than yearling Chinook salmon. The scientists did not find clear evidence of sablefish consuming young salmon, but based on the size of their other prey, they certainly could.

Other research has documented a similar influx of juvenile sablefish in waters off Alaska, although the new study did not include Alaska.

Salmon numbers and survival vary so widely from year to year that it's difficult to detect a specific impact from sablefish competition on salmon survival. However, the scientists suggest that the direct overlap of sablefish in the waters where young salmon first feed and grow may put salmon at a competitive disadvantage. That would be especially true if continued ocean warming makes food harder to find.

Salmon spend most of their lives in the ocean, which remains the most unpredictable chapter in their life cycle. The competition from sablefish comes during their first risky months at sea, when they are trying to eat and grow fast enough to stay ahead of predators.

"We now know that prey resources are extremely important for salmon growth and survival during this critical early marine period," said Brian Burke, research scientist at NOAA Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and coauthor of the research. "But unraveling the impact of competition on salmon is extremely difficult. This new data helps us understand how species interact in our coastal environment. They also point to potential changes from continued ocean warming due to climate change."

Sablefish Outnumbering Salmon

Juvenile sablefish were most numerous in coastal waters off Oregon and Washington in 2020, which was a boom year for the species. They outnumbered juvenile salmon so much that year that sablefish were approximately:

- Four times more numerous than subyearling Chinook salmon
- 32 times more numerous than yearling Chinook salmon
- 13 times more numerous than coho salmon
- · The sablefish also had significantly more food in their stomachs at the time

Salmon consumed significantly less food in areas with numerous sablefish, said Brandon Chasco, a coauthor and research scientist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Quantitative Synthesis and Reporting Unit. "When sablefish were there, juvenile salmon ate less," he said. "Whether they're disrupting salmon feeding, or if salmon avoid them as potential predators, we are not sure."

Climate change projections have indicated a rising risk to salmon in the ocean, since higher ocean temperatures often reduce salmon survival. The additional competition from sablefish could make things even rougher. Sablefish, in contrast, could benefit if the juveniles that have expanded into coastal waters grow into adults that add to the population.

Fishing crews have recently reported catching many smaller adult sablefish, likely the result of more juveniles joining the populations. "Regardless of what happens to the sablefish, we know they are increasingly competing with salmon in these waters," Daly said.

The Tightline

Great Lakes Basin Report

Lake Superior **Fisheries Management Outreach Update**

The Wisconsin DNR's Lake Superior Fisheries Management Team recently hosted an informational public meeting to discuss recent evaluations of splake and brown trout stocking programs, future Lake Superior stocking plans and walleye regulations in western Lake Superior. A recording is now available on the Lake Superior Fisheries Outreach webpage.

This meeting covered successes and lessons learned from recent stocking evaluations that will be used to continue enhancing the successful Seeforellen brown trout fishery in Lake Superior.

The discontinuation of stocking splake was presented. Concerns over the continued stocking of splake potentially leading to introgression and population genetics problems for its parent species, lake trout and brook trout in conjunction with the recently adopted DNR statewide guidelines for the genetic management of fisheries, led to the decision to discontinue the current splake stocking.

In addition, the management team evaluated walleye regulations in western Lake Superior and the St. Louis River Estuary. It developed a regulation proposal with public input provided during a previous public meeting. St. Louis River walleye commonly migrate into Lake Superior. but walleye regulations currently differ between the lake and river. The proposed regulation would be applied to the St. Louis River and management unit WI-1 and is intended to address that need for consistency while also integrating angler preferences to protect more of the spawning stock from harvest. The public will be able to vote on the proposed regulation (15in. minimum length limit with a bag limit of two, but only one over 20 in.) during the 2025 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing.

If you have questions, contact Brad Ray, DNR Lake Superior Team Bradley.Ray@ Supervisor. at

Upcoming Programs to Expand Your **Outdoor Skills**

Outdoor skills programs offered by the Wisconsin DNR provide great opportunities to gain hunting. trapping, shooting and fishing experience. These programs are open to the public and cater to a variety of skill levels, schedules and interests.

Upcoming Programs

Fishing Programs

- Jan. 25: Angler Education **Instructor Training And** Certification, DNR La Crosse Service Center (La Crosse)
- March 15: Angler Education **Instructor Training And** Certification, Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit (Campbellsport)
- March 16: Learn To Fish Clinic, Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit (Campbellsport)

Hunting and Shooting Programs

- Jan. 18: Pass It On Youth **Pheasant Hunting** Opportunities, Cackle Creek Hunt Club (Ashippun)
- Feb. 23: Pass It On Youth **Pheasant Hunting** Opportunities, Cackle Creek Hunt Club (Ashippun)
- March 22: Spring Youth Archery, MacKenzie Center (Poynette)

Learn more and find instructions to register for classes on the DNR's Events page. Make sure to check back often throughout the season – new events are added as they are scheduled.

If you'd like to host an outdoor skills program, please reach out to:

- Hunting, Trapping and Shooting: Emily Iehl at Emily.Iehl@wisconsin.gov
- Fishing: Theresa Stabo at Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.g ov 💠

Inland trout early catch and release season opened Jan. 4

The Wisconsin DNR reminds anglers that they will be able to target any of Wisconsin's inland trout species using artificial lures only starting Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, through May 2, 2025, on designated early season trout streams. Any trout caught during this time will need to be immediately released. All anglers are encouraged to continue to practice responsible catch and release and reduce their reel and handling time with the fish as much as possible. Tips on how to release your catch responsibly can be found on the DNR's Responsible Release webpage.

Anglers will be able to keep the trout they catch once the general hook and line season opens on May 3, 2025. Check the Guide to Wisconsin's Trout Fishing Regulations for specifics. \diamondsuit

Sorting Eggs



This photo, from the former Cape Vincent National Fish Hatchery in Cape Vincent, New York, is known as a cyanotype. Developed in the mid-1800s, cyanotypes were originally used to reproduce notes and for plant specimens. This cyanotype highlights one of the various activities done by hatchery workers. The men are picking out, by hand, the eggs that hadn't been fertilized from the ones that had. It is a very important task when raising fish because dead and nonviable fish eggs are susceptible to saprophytes (ubiquitous water molds) that can rapidly proliferate over an entire incubation tray causing mortality to good eggs. Today, unfertilized eggs can be sorted by machines, though eggs from more sensitive or rare species are still picked out by hand. (TAYLA BAHR, MUSEUM TECHNICIAN, NATIONAL FISH &

AQUATIC CONSERVATION ARCHIVES)

A Reminder from our Great Lake Fisheries Manager of Southern Lake Michigan – Cheryl Masterson

For all the conscientious Fishermen wanting to help science in a big way for tracking our Lake Michigan Fish, the DNR in conjunction with Sea Grant has deployed an App Called the Great Lakes Angler Diary. The details on the Great Lakes Angler Diary and registration info can be found here –

https://www.michiganseagrant.org/topics/fisheries-and-aquaculture/angler-citizen-science/great-lakes-angler-diary/

Your Help is needed and appreciated as a volunteer to accurately fill out this Diary for every Lake Michigan Trip you take! It easy, fast, and free and helps the Sport Fishermen! Think about this for 2025!







The Tightline February 2025 · Page 13

Great Lakes Basin Report

Learn about Fisheries management in NE Wisconsin at Upcoming DNR meetings

The Wisconsin DNR announced it will host a series of informational meetings across the state's northeast region to educate anglers on various fisheries management and habitat topics. The meetings are part of a spotlight series highlighting various fisheries in Green Bay, the Winnebago System and inland waters in northeast Wisconsin. Over the next few months, the sessions will be held both in person and virtually via Microsoft Teams from 6 to 8 p.m., giving the public a chance to meet and learn from their local DNR fishery resource specialists. For more information, go to: DNR's Meetings and Hearings calendar.

Event Details

The Winnebago System: **History And Status Of Lake Sturgeon And Walleye** Management

Presenters: Margaret Stadig, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist and Angelo Cozzola, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: Jan. 22, 2025

Where: Fox Valley Tech College **Room 133**

150 N Campbell Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Northeast Wisconsin Trout Habitat Management

Presenters: Jonathan Pyatskowit, DNR Habitat Specialist and Kyle Kossel, DNR Habitat Technician When: Jan. 28, 2025 Where: Shawano Middle School, LGI Room

1050 South Union St, Shawano,

WI 54166

Wautoma Area Fisheries **Updates**

Presenter: Scott Bunde, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: Feb. 5, 2025

Where: Wautoma High School

514 S. Cambridge St, Wautoma,

WI 54982

Shawano Lake Walleye **Movement & Survey Results** Of 2024 Area Surveys

Presenter: Elliot Hoffman, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: Feb. 11, 2025 Where: Shawano Middle School LGI Room 1050 South Union St, Shawano, WI 54166

Where Do Fish Go, The Peshtigo River Array And High **Falls Walleye Movement Projects**

Presenter: Chip Long, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: Feb. 19, 2025 Where: Peshtigo DNR Field 101 N Ogden Rd, Peshtigo, WI 54157

History And Status Of Brown Trout On Green Bay

Presenter: Tammie Paoli, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: Feb. 26, 2025 Where: Peshtigo DNR Field Office 101 N Ogden Rd, Peshtigo, WI 54157

Green Bay Walleye And Muskellunge Management

Presenter: Jason Breeggemann, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist When: March 3, 2025 Where: Green Bay DNR Svc 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313

Habitat Management Of Central Wisconsin Trout Streams

Presenter: Shawn Sullivan, DNR Fisheries Habitat Specialist When: March 10, 2025 Where: Waushara WWII Vets Memorial 440 W Main St, Wautoma, WI 54982 ♦

Summary of the Bender Park meeting on 1/19

Milwaukee has secured all the necessary permits to move ahead with the dredging process except for one from the DNR. Once the permit is issued it will be examined to determine if the DNR has included any additional conditions which have to be met. If there are additional conditions which require engineering and bids this work will have to be completed before the dredging can be started. It is estimated that the dredging will take place for 2 months and during that time no boats will be allowed to use the launch. It is very possible that the project may not be completed by the start of this year's fishing season.

It was suggested that the electorate call the DNR and their elected representatives in the area to expedite the permit process for the project.

It is estimated that the dredging will allow the boat launch to be functional for 10 vears. Consultants will be monitoring the dredging water depth by examining the site on a yearly basis. Once the dredging is completed the boat launch area and gap out to the lake should be 8' deep. Approximately 1000 truck loads of silt will be removed from the lake.

Park officials explained that this dredging operation will remove 3x more silt than each of the other two attempts. This is because they are going to dredge a larger area than previous attempts. The spoils from the dredging will be moved to higher ground above the park where it will be deposited and eventually covered with grass.

The money for the dredging (800K) was in '24 budget and is still available for use. Completely reengineering the break walls to permanently stop the silting would cost over 8 million dollars. Currently the county has 1.3 billion dollars in deferred maintenance of that .5 billion is for the parks alone.

The county has no established plan for taking the monies generated by launch fees and putting them directly back into the park. All monies generated by all Milwaukee County properties go back into the general

In '26 the road leading to the launch will be rebuilt. It is estimated that this project will cost over 2 million dollars.

February Trivia Answers

(Continued from page 9)

- 1. Februa means to cleanse.
- 2. The Roman festival of purification, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year
- 3. It was originally the very last month added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC)! Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.
- 4. True, according to data from the National Weather Service.
- 5. The violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. The primrose lets someone know that you can't live without them.
- 6. Amethyst, this gem is a form of quartz; which is said to symbolize love. .
- 7. D. George Washington, February 4, 1789. Congress certified the vote on April 6. Washington took the oath of office on April 30, 1789.
- 8. a. Elizabeth Barrett Browning: The poem "How Do I Love Thee?" is Sonnet 43 in Browning's book Sonnets From the Portuguese, which she dedicated to her husband, poet Robert Browning.
- 9. True. This last happened in 2018 and will happen again in 2037.









Andy Curro andy.curro@kircheninsurance.com

McKinley Marina Upgrade Phase 2

Project construction began on May 15th, 2023, and is progressing on schedule. A new curb and gutter, and some paving work have been completed at the new boat storage area and west side of the main boat trailer parking area. As work switches to the east side of the lot in mid-August, there will be temporary, intermittent closures of the government pier while construction work in the area near the entrance to the pier occurs. In August Parks began work on the new public walkway along the seawall near the Roundhouse building and marina offices. The boat launch ramps will continue to remain operational throughout the project.







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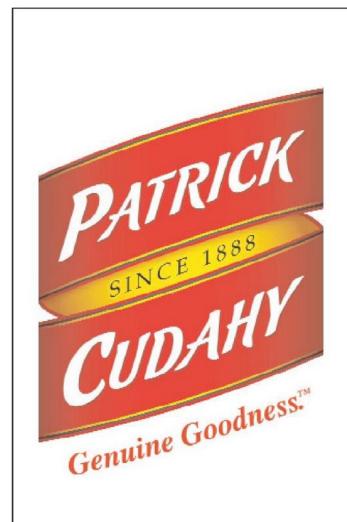
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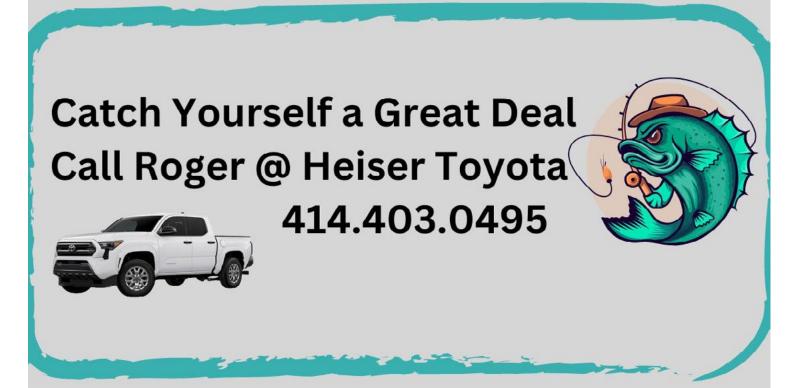
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- Silver Includes one Standard Membership for the named individual, plus a one line listing in The Tightline, the GLSF website's Sponsor's Page (with a link to your website, if desired) and the GLSF Members' Handbook. (NO Logos or ads will be listed for this price) (\$100)
- Gold Same benefits as the Silver Membership, plus a small (Business Card size) ad someplace in The Tightline and the GLSF website. (\$200)
- Platinum Same Benefits as the Gold Membership, plus a quarter page ad in The Tightline and the equivalent sized ad on the GLSF website. (\$500)
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milwaukee journal sentinel

No sturgeon have spawned in the Mllwaukee River since 1843. Now, they may return. How?

Paul A. Smith

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Lake sturgeon were found in relative abundance in Lake Michigan and nearshore waters of Milwaukee when European immigrants settled the area. However, the fish were extirpated over much of their range in the last 200 years due to unregulated killing, pollution and dams that blocked spawning migrations.

That included the Milwaukee River, where it's likely no sturgeon spawning has taken place since 1843, when a dam was built across the river near North Avenue.

Fortunately, the species fared much better in other parts of the Upper Midwest, including Lake Winnebago in central Wisconsin, where the population was never blocked from its spawning grounds in nearby Wolf River and, despite fears of exploitation in the early 1900s, was buoyed by protective regulations.



Donnie Herman of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wrangles a sturgeon into a net on the Wolf River beneath the dam in Shawano in 2019.

With the Winnebago System sturgeon population thriving, fisheries managers recognized the need to spur recovery of the species in the Milwaukee River and in select other sites around the Great Lakes.

In 2006, Rick Flood, former director of Riveredge Nature Center in Saukville, worked with federal and state agencies to initiate the Milwaukee River sturgeon rehabilitation project.

The goal is to restore a wild, self-sustaining lake sturgeon population in the urban river that runs up the northeast side of the metro area. Its primary partners are Riveredge, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Riveredge serves as host for a hatchery trailer. It is run by Riveredge staff and volunteers with technical supervision by DNR fisheries personnel. The process starts in spring when DNR fisheries employees obtain fertilized sturgeon eggs, typically from fish in the Wolf River, and deliver them to Riveredge. The fish are reared in the trailer on water pumped in from the Milwaukee River.

In a proven fisheries management strategy, the young sturgeon "imprint" on characteristics in the river water and establish it as their home. The fish are grown for about five months and typically released in September during Sturgeon Fest, part of Harbor Fest in Milwaukee. The public can participate in the process. A donation of \$15 for each sturgeon released helps support the Riveredge sturgeon-rearing program.

Since 2006 about 22,000 young sturgeon have been stocked in the Milwaukee harbor or river, according to the DNR.

Several male sturgeon reared at Riveredge have returned to the river as adults. But since it takes about 20 years for female sturgeon to achieve maturity, no sturgeon spawning activity has been observed on the Milwaukee River. However, sturgeon experts predict it is only a matter of time.

"I fully expect you will see sturgeon spawning in the Milwaukee in the near future," said Ron Bruch, retired DNR sturgeon biologist. "And if work done in other areas is any indication, over the coming decades it's very likely they'll spread out and migrate into the Menomonee River, too."

Recent work such as the 2024 opening of the Kletzsch Falls fish passage in Glendale and the planned installation of a fish passage at Estabrook Falls further strengthen the odds of successful sturgeon spawning in the Milwaukee River, Bruch said. The Kletzsch Falls fish passage allows fish to migrate into 25 additional miles of the state's most urban river as well as 29 miles of upstream tributaries.

The Milwaukee River sturgeon project is "just another valuable dividend" of the successful sturgeon management program in the Winnebago System, Bruch said.

Wisconsin Natural Resources

Depending on the type of lure you want to make, you'll need materials like pliers, wire, metal beads and spinner blades.

Think SPRING FISHING with DIY lure making

GARRETT DIETZ

INTER CAN BE A FRUSTRATING SEASON for anglers who don't ice fish. The lakes freeze over and the snow piles up, making opportunities to cast a line few and far between.

Don't let the lack of open water get you down. Instead, view this time as a chance to prepare for the coming season. One great way is lure making.

Fish often enough, and you're guaranteed to lose some lures. Cold winter nights are the perfect time to hunker down and restock your tackle box before spring. Building lures also helps you think more deeply about fish behavior and stay excited in the off-season.

People have been making lures for thousands of years. Evidence suggests ancient cultures used materials like bone, bronze and feathers to catch fish.

If you're new to lure making, getting started can be intimidating — but it shouldn't be. Homemade lures don't need to be overly complicated; they just need to get the job done.

JIGS

Great for fish of all shapes and sizes throughout the Great Lakes region, jigs can be as easy or complex as you want. For someone dipping a toe into the waters of lure making, consider simply buying plain-colored jig heads and painting them.

Once that's done, add feathers or soft plastic bodies to make fish-attracting machines. If you want to get more involved, you can jump into the world of small-scale smelting and pour your own jigs. This gives you more control over the size, shape, weight and action of what you're casting.

SPINNERS

These require a bit of hardware to make but are great for a variety of gamefish species that bite aggressively. You'll need round-nose pliers, wire, metal bodies and spinner blades. A quick twisting tool or lure jig will help increase your efficiency.

CRANKBAITS AND STICKBAITS

Some of the most versatile lures in the world, these hard-bodied beauties catch it all. Most people who make these at home use light, highly buoyant wood, like balsa, and carve them by hand. If you're focused more on color pattern than shape or action, you can buy premade blanks or revive old lures by simply painting them.

FLIES

Traditionally associated with trout fishing, flies most closely flirt the line between angling and art. They can be tied in thousands of patterns to target nearly every fish species. Fly-tying might seem overwhelming due to the vast number of patterns and materials available, but online resources are plentiful.

If just starting out, the wooly bugger looks downright "fishy" and works for a variety of species. It's also easy to tie. All you need is a vice, a bobbin holder, a few materials and an internet connection to search for instructions online and you can start creating alluring works of art with feather and string.









Spend time this winter crafting your own fishing lures.

WORTH THE EFFORT

Don't let this winter pass you by. Make the most of Wisconsin's cold season and prepare for spring fishing by exploring the exciting world of lure making.

Fishing with a homemade lure can add an extra layer of satisfaction to each catch. Not only did your skills allow you to hook and land a fish, but your planning, foresight and understanding of fish behavior allowed you to create a pattern that enticed a bite in the first place.

There's a learning curve to lure making to be sure, but the results will enhance your fishing experiences for seasons to come. •

Garrett Dietz is a public information officer in the DNR's Office of Communications.

MAKE YOUR OWN INLINE SPINNER

This little lure is great for tons of species, and the design can be scaled up with larger components to target bigger fish or deeper water.

Materials

- A Spinner blade
- B Stirrup clevis (optional)
- C Solid metal bead
- D Nontoxic lure body
- E Twisted wire
- F Treble hook

Tools

- G Round-nose pliers
- H Needle-nose pliers
- I Side cutter



Homemade spinners and other fishing lures can be worth the extra effort

Directions

- If you are using a French blade, put the stirrup clevis through the spinner hole. If you are using an inline spinner blade, simply slide the spinner blade, solid metal bead and lure body onto the twisted wire.
- Use the round-nose pliers to bend a circle roughly a half-inch from the bottom of the spinner body.
- 3. Slide the treble hook into the circle and use round-nose or needle-nose pliers to wrap the wire loop closed.
- 4. After closing the loop, trim any excess wire with the side cutter.

5th Ever Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen "Thank You" Salmon School

Saturday, March 29th 9am to 4:00pm New Berlin Ale House

16000 W. Cleveland Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151
Seminars conducted by - Captain Kurt Pokrandt of Silver King Charters in the AM, And a Special Surprise in the PM
Presenting some his famous ways to catch more fish!

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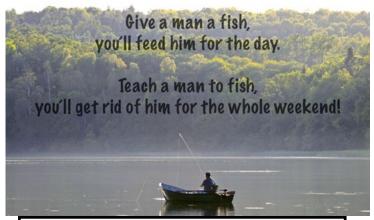
*(Admission is free for all current members and anyone who has donated in the last year (raffles). \$20 GLSF membership fee for all others!)

Doors Open at 8am

Lunch is "on your own." The Ale House has great food and you will have time to order and eat, and not miss any of the seminar! Carry-Ins are NOT allowed!

Free Coffee and rolls will be available at 8:00
There will be a cash bar in the room throughout the day
For more information see

https://glsfclub.com/ or call Ron @ 262-337-2225, or Bob @ 414-217-9752
Look for the info on our updated website soon!
See us on Facebook at
Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fisherman –
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A record amount of \$1.09 billion dollars is being distributed to the states for conservation purposes through the Federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs. Under those programs, sportsmen and women pay 11% excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and fishing equipment. Wisconsin will be receiving \$32.4 million this year, \$19.6 million for wildlife restoration and \$12.8 for fish restoration efforts. That is a 10% increase in funding over the previous year. For additional information on the funds and their use. Click Here for more....





Current Dates for 2025 SW Lake Michigan Tournaments

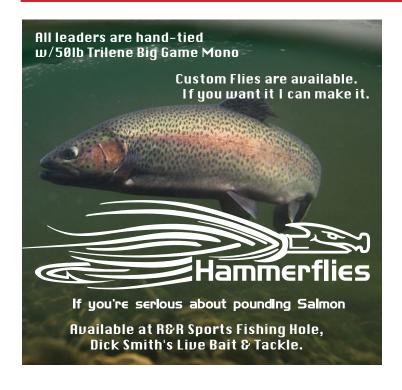
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Tournament	Port	Date			
SU WI Open	Racine	TBD			
SU IL Open	Northpoint	TBD			
Kenosha Classic	Kenosha	TBD			
SU IL Pass the Passion	Northpoint	TBD			
Salmon a Rama	Racine	07/11-20/2025			
Two in a Boat	Racine	TBD			
Super Sweepstakes	Racine	TBD			
Brew City					
Brew City Pro/Am	Milwaukee	8/2/25			



Operation Manager

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Fishing Hotline: (414) 481-9090





TRAP SHOOTING on Tuesday Evenings

At Schultz Gun Club Every Tuesday Evening, Weather Permitting

This Event is OPEN to ALL!

Whether you're at a Beginner, Intermediate, or at an Advanced Level, Everyone is Welcome!

Time: 5:00 рм to 8 рм

Cost: \$7.00 per Round

Bring Your Shotgun and Shell's

We ask that you please bring cash in \$7 dollar increments for the number of rounds you wish to shoot, (i.e., \$7, \$14, \$21, etc.) sorry, cash only.

Beginners and/or Handicapped are most welcome and encouraged to attend. Even if you've never shot trap before, we will take the time to teach and help you learn the basics. This is a casual event with no pressure or hurry. There are no trap leagues on Tuesday evenings so just relax; enjoy this sport and have fun! When finished, feel free to socialize with your fellow trap shooters over a cold beverage, snacks, and pizza in the clubhouse!



- If you're new to this sport, please bring your gun "cased" to the line and wait for instructions from the Range Safety Officer.
- If you are an experienced trap shooter, bring your shotgun, action open per Club Rules, to the trap area and place your gun in the wooden gun racks.

Check our website if in doubt of the weather, www.schultzgunclub.com

Where:

Schultz Resort, Rod & Gun Club W146 S8025 Schultz Lane Muskego, WI 53150



Questions? Call Jeff at 414-366-5501



Fishing bluegills and panfish through the ice

"Hard water" fishing for panfish is fun and easy and may result in a fine dinner when the winds blow cold. Here are some basic tips and considerations to improve chances of success.

Where to fish

Know the locations where bluegills will be. Often time, winter fishing is a return to the familiar haunts of summer. Bluegills associate with weeds, finding green, standing vegetation is often key to finding fish. Don't overlook woody debris either: tree crowns and fish cribs attract panfish. Also, small nuances in depth such as dropoffs, breaks, and bars are fish holders.

Use all the tools. Some anglers use fish locators to hone in on fish or to put their bait in the fish holding areas. Others consult local on-line forums for location, time and bait details from other successful anglers. On the ice, cell phones between fishing pals has helped to turn a so-so day into a memorable trip.

Bait use

Make it tasty. Baits vary as much as fishermen but mousies, wax worms, and spikes (all larva of insects) typically grace the business end of ice fishing jigs. Don't be shy about using a small plastic "wedge" or teaser to attract attention or trigger a strike. Have a selection of colors available to work with changing water clarities. And check your knot! There are methods of tying on jigs and baits that create "bounce' or wiggle that entice hesitant fish into biting.

Line and hook tips

Keep it light. Bluegills are dainty sight feeders. Keep your line light (2- to 4-pound test monofilament) and the terminal tackle small: rat finkys, marmooskas, tear drops and ice jigs need to be kept to scale with a bluegills mouth, such as # 12. The same goes for floats or spring bobbers...keeping them sensitive and offering minimal resistance means more bites. But if the bite isn't happening, don't be afraid to switch it up and offer up a big meal....sometimes big aggressive fish will take a large flashy lure.

More tips

Be quiet. More often than not, it's the quiet focused anglers that fill their pails. Fish spook and avoid vibration and noise. A stealthy approach pays its own dividends. To keep disturbance to a minimum drill extra holes when you first arrive so when the bite gets hot you can maximize the potential of the area you are fishing.

Move! If fish aren't biting, take a walk and see if others are enjoying any success. Hole –hopping, even small distances, can produce fish. A hole that isn't fishy isn't going to put dinner on the table. Also, fish the entire VERTICAL water column. Often 'gils and crappie may "hold" in a narrow band within the depth range. Cover the depth by slowly and completely jigging from top to bottom through the entire profile.

And last but not least, GO! Stop wishin' and go fishin'!

- Kurt Welke, longtime fisheries biologist for Dane County (including the Madison lakes)

Notice of Preliminary Hearing on Statement of Scope

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a preliminary public hearing on Statement of Scope SS 114-24 which affects ch. NR 20 and 25 and is related to the establishing a Lake Michigan lake trout commercial harvest, at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: February 13, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Rule Information:

This rule will primarily seek to establish a commercial bycatch fishery for lake trout in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan as part of Lake Whitefish fishing. Topics which may be addressed as part of this rulemaking include but are not limited to: lake trout management zones; locations where harvest may or may not occur, such as restricted fishing areas and refuges; season dates; size limits; total allowable catch (TAC) of lake trout; allocations of the TAC between the commercial and recreational fisheries; allocation of the TAC between individual commercial fishers; tagging requirements; reporting requirements; and potential lake trout tag transfers. This rule may additionally update lake trout sport fishery regulations, as needed, including individual bag limits, and sport fishing seasons. The rule may include a sunset date.

The scope statement may be viewed at: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent

Comments can be made at: <u>DNRAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov</u>

The scope statement may be reviewed, and comments made at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/scope statements/comment

It looks like the 13th (Next Week Thursday) at 3pm is the first of the Open Public Comment opportunities that the Sport Fishermen will have to voice our concerns in-person. When the DNR presented this to the NRB last month, someone made sure it ended up on their "consent agenda" so there was no chance for input or discussion. (I do not know why and refuse to speculate.)

If you wish to make a public comment, remember you are highly encouraged to pre-register if you wish to speak. Please feel free to share this information with all of the Lake Michigan Fishermen you know that might want to make a public statement.

Thank You,

Bob

Robert (Bob) Wincek

President - Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing

The Tightline

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