

READER'S GUIDE to USING this PUBLICATION

Your fishing map guide is a thorough, easy-to-use collection of accurate contour lake maps along with geographic and biologic statistical information to help you locate a lake and enjoy a successful day out on the water of one of Wisconsin's excellent fisheries.

The heart of this book is the **contour lake map**. Copyrighted maps are used with permission from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and are not intended for navigation. The lakes selected for this guide are confined to those that are accessible to the public.

Each map is accompanied by a **detailed write-up**. In each piece, you'll find fishing tips and hot spots specific to the body of water you're planning to fish.

Lake **stocking records** and **management comments** are provided courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and summarized to reflect management trends and objectives for each fishery represented. Please keep in mind that annual fish stocking aspirations are directly affected by state hatchery production levels and sometimes the numbers available for stocking fluctuate considerably.

Detailed **area road maps** and **lake access** information is provided to help you plan your route to the lake. If there is more than one access point on a body of water, the GPS coordinates refer to the primary access. To locate a lake on these road maps, simply use the alphabetical lake listing on the back cover. Turn to that page to find the area road map page and coordinates for the lake. As a cross-reference, the area road maps include numbers on or adjacent to featured lakes, which designate the pages of the lake maps and information. Streams and rivers are also referenced in these area road maps.

While every effort is made to create the most accurate maps possible, the process of merging existing DNR maps with the latest GPS information will cause some slight differences to occur. (Especially on larger, more complicated lakes.) Please use the GPS grids provided in this book only as a guideline.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Gill net: This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, cisco, whitefish, trout, and salmon. The standard gill net is 6 feet tall by 250 feet long, with 5 different mesh sizes. Gill nets are generally set in off shore areas in water deeper than 9 feet. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the net and becoming entangled. Fisheries workers record length and weight data from each fish, determine the sex, look for parasites or disease, and remove several of the fishes scales for determining the fishes age. Most of the fish taken in gill nets are

killed, but only a small portion of the lakes fish population is sampled during an individual survey event. The number of gill nets set during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

Trap net: This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling bluegill, crappie, and bullheads. The standard trap net is 4 feet tall by 6 feet wide with a 40 foot lead. Trap nets are generally set perpendicular to shore in water less than 8 feet in depth. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the lead and following it towards the trap. Most of the fish collected in trap nets are returned back to the water as soon as the necessary biological data is recorded. The number of trap net sets during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

Electrofishing: This is a specialized type of equipment that is most often used for sampling largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and young of the year walleye. A boat-mounted generator is used to induce electrical current into the water that stuns the fish, allowing fisheries workers to net the fish for placement in live wells. Most of the fish caught by electrofishing recover rapidly and are promptly returned to the water after the necessary biological data is recorded.

CPUE: An acronym representing "Catch Per Unit of Effort," a way of representing the density of a species population. Readings are in fish captured per hour or minute of surveying. The higher the CPUE value, the greater the number of fish present.







































PSD: An acronym for "Proportional Stock Density," which is a way of representing the size structure of fish populations. It represents the percentage of "quality-size" fish within a given population. In arriving at this figure, one considers only fish of "stock" length (the size at which members of a given species reach sexual maturity) or greater. Young-of-year fish are not included in the calculation. The higher the PSD number, the greater the percentage of "quality" fish within a particular population.

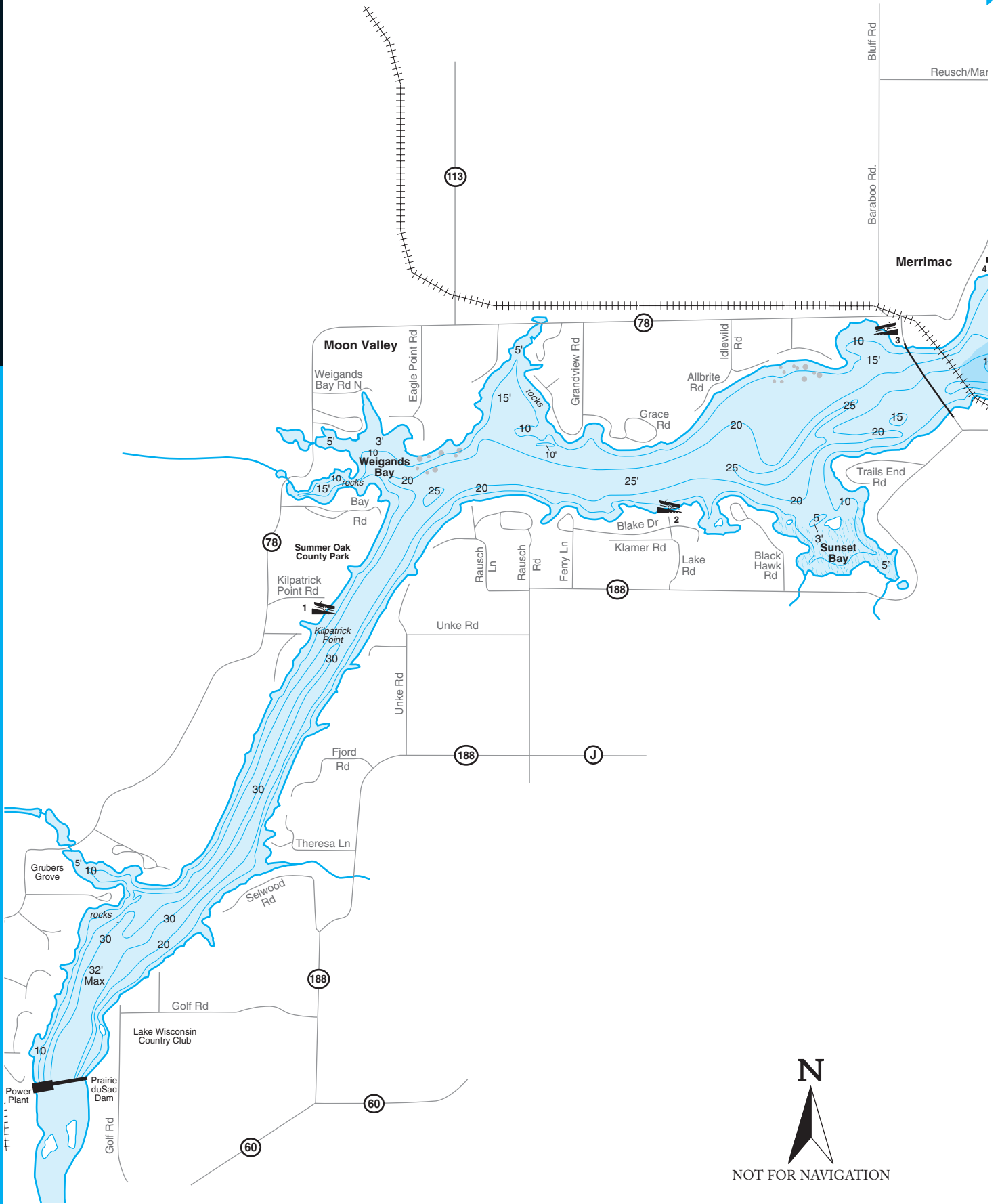
RSD-12 (or -10 or -14, etc.): An acronym for "Relative Stock Density," which is yet another way of representing the size structure of fish populations. This corresponds to the percentage of fish at a given length or larger within a population. Hence, an RSD-14 reading of 25 for largemouth bass indicates that 25 percent of sexually mature bass are at least 14 inches in length. On another measurement scale, the RSD- values could be stated as "preferred," "memorable," or "trophy."

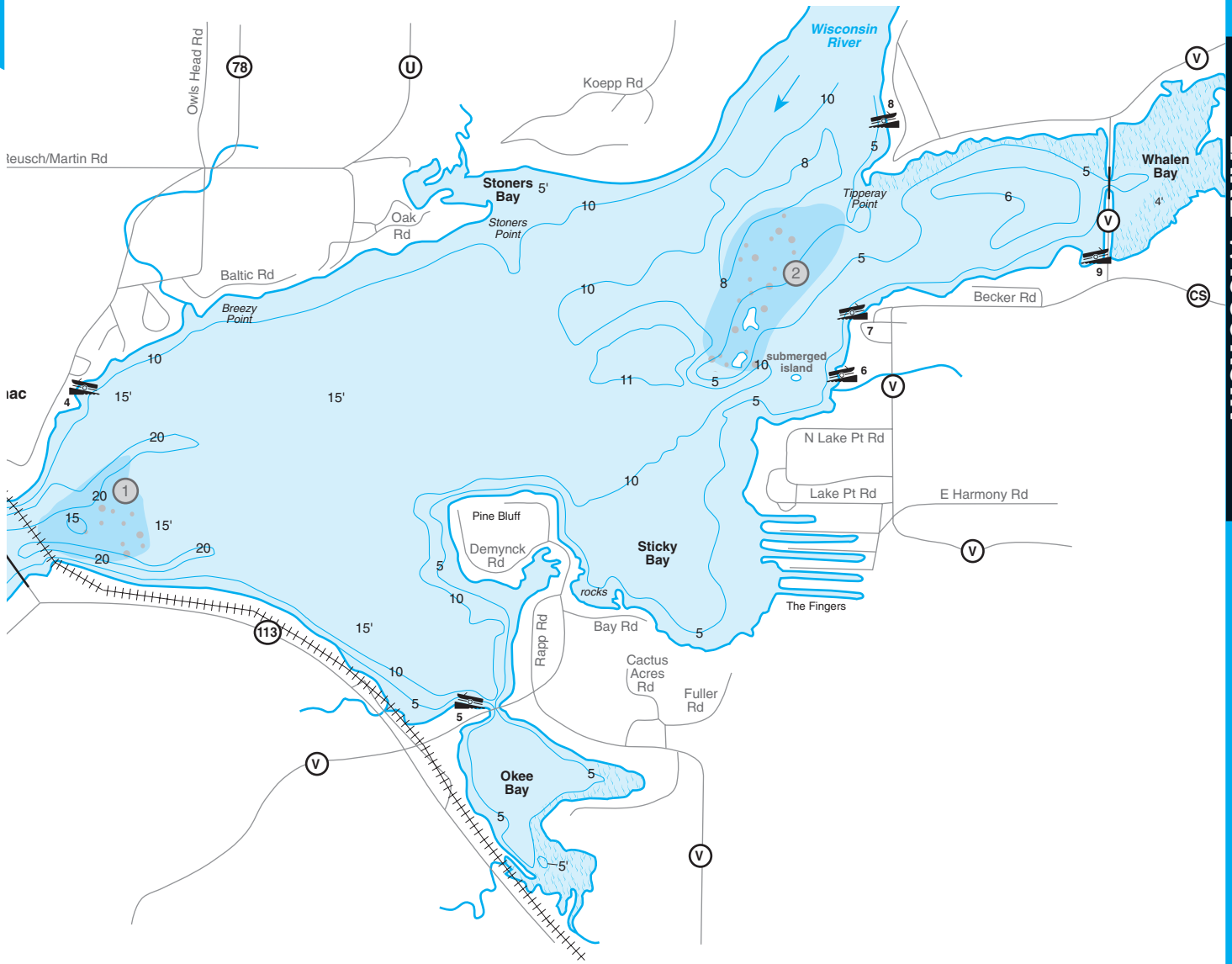
YAR: An acronym for "Young-(to)-Adult Ratio." This refers to the proportion of young-of-year fish in relation to adult or "quality-size" fish within a particular population. For balanced populations, the index should be about 1-to-10. In smaller waters, 1-to-3 is considered a reasonable ratio.

Secchi Disk: Used in measuring water clarity, it is a white-colored, plate-size device submerged on the end of a line until it reaches a point where it's no longer visible; the depth at which this occurs is measured and recorded. In this book, secchi disk readings are given in English measure. Of course, many factors influence water clarity, and secchi disk readings vary according to season, growth of vegetation, weather, location in a lake, even human activity. Hence the readings given are approximations for any lake—snapshots of the water clarity at a given time and in a given location.

LEGEND

	Boat Ramp		Marina		Marsh		Red & Green Channel Buoys
	Carry Down Access		Lily Pads		Emergent Vegetation		White Hazard Buoy
	Access by Navigable Channel		Submergent Vegetation		Manmade Canal		River Mile
	Portage Access		Emergent Vegetation		Marked Fishing Spots		Daymarker
	Access Information Marker		Stumps		Submerged Rail		Light & Daymarker
	Campground		Flooded Timber		Submerged Road		County Road
	Picnic Area		Rocks		Bridge		State Highway
	Fishing Dock (Pier)		Submerged Culvert		Submerged Riverbed		US Highway
	Shore Fishing		Submerged Ruins		GPS Grid		Interstate
	Fish Attractors						
	Boat tie-up						





LAKE WISCONSIN ACCESSIBILITY

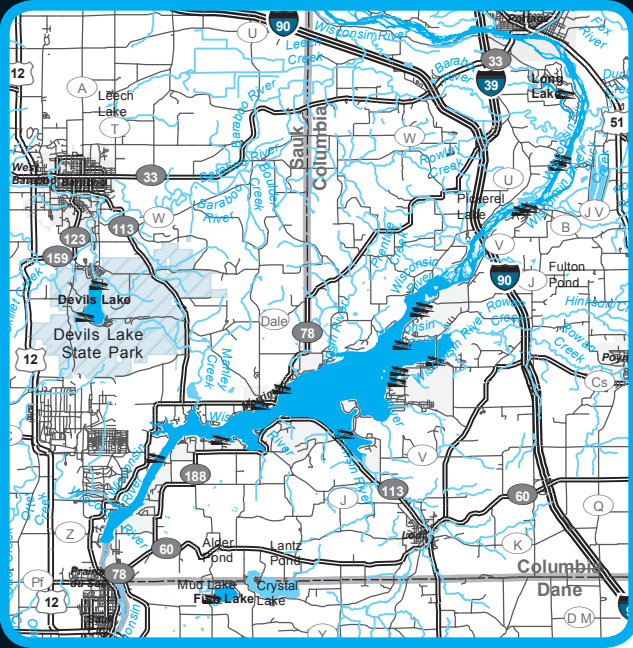
launch type	lat/long
Trailer Launch	1) 43° 20' 56.27" N / 89° 41' 38.69" W
Trailer Launch	2) 43° 21' 25.10" N / 89° 39' 16.26" W
Trailer Launch	3) 43° 22' 20.62" N / 89° 37' 47.42" W
Trailer Launch	4) 43° 22' 46.45" N / 89° 36' 59.59" W
Trailer Launch	5) 43° 21' 33.52" N / 89° 34' 40.75" W
Trailer Launch	6) 43° 22' 56.41" N / 89° 32' 44.32" W
Trailer Launch	7) 43° 23' 15.47" N / 89° 32' 38.84" W
Trailer Launch	8) 43° 23' 56.72" N / 89° 32' 32.12" W
Trailer Launch	9) 43° 23' 30.34" N / 89° 31' 19.70" W
Trailer Launch	10) 43° 24' 49.54" N / 89° 31' 54.15" W
Trailer Launch	11) 43° 24' 57.61" N / 89° 31' 44.43" W
Trailer Launch	12) 43° 27' 30.79" N / 89° 28' 6.99" W
Trailer Launch	13) 43° 27' 36.32" N / 89° 27' 50.31" W
Trailer Launch	14) 43° 28' 42.39" N / 89° 26' 46.31" W
Trailer Launch	15) 43° 28' 55.15" N / 89° 26' 35.67" W



LAKE WISCONSIN

Columbia County

Columbia County LAKE WISCONSIN



Area map page / coordinates: 13 / E-6, 13 / C-6, 14 / E-2, 20 / A-2, 14 / E-1, 20 / A-1, 20 / B-1

Accommodations: resorts, boat rental, campgrounds, picnic area, toilets, beverages

Surface water area: 5,328 acres

Shorelength: 24.5 miles

Maximum depth: 24 feet

Mean depth: NA

Secchi disk (water clarity): NA

Water color: brown, murky in summer with poor visibility

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: NA

Basic management: muskellunge, northern pike, largemouth bass, panfish

Accessibility: See p. 65 for GPS coordinates of access locations

Gamefish					Panfish				Rough Fish										
Muskie	N Pike	Walleye	LM Bass	SM Bass	Trout	Catfish	Sturgeon	B Crappie	W Crappie	Bluegill	Pumpkinseed	Y Perch	Bl Bullhead	Br Bullhead	Y Bullhead	Wh Sucker	Carp	Bowfin	
C	C	C	C	C	P	P		P		P									

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

Big, brown Lake Wisconsin is one of those waters you have to fish at least once in your life. It's got something for nearly everybody: big walleyes running 10 pounds or so, nice largemouth bass, catfish, panfish, lake sturgeon, and of course muskie. Doug Williams of DW Sports Center, 125 W. Cook St., Portage, WI 53901, (608) 742-7745, says the muskies run large. In fact, he says, "The state record is still in there. It's been boom-shocked by the DNR. It's still in the lake as far as we know, and it's pushing 60 inches." He says the lower part of the lake had some die-off due to low oxygen levels, so most people fish the upper part of the lake. Despite this, catch numbers have gone up and fish have been getting bigger, says Williams. Not all the fish can be kept, but anglers can have the fun of catching them.

The stump fields on the northern part of the lake (**Spots 1**), those near the railroad trestle (**Spot 2**), and the ones at mid-lake, a bit east of Pine Bluff (**Spot 3**), are good places to try for muskies. Throw black bucktails in summer and large live bait in the fall. The bars east of Tipperary Point are likely spots out to the isles.

Tim Larson, area DNR fisheries biologist, says the numbers of year class walleye and sauger observed by DNR officials has been down for some time now, although the data for 2006 has not been compiled. This study, however, is not reflective of angler diaries, which have indicated more walleye and sauger in the legal slot since the current slot and limit went into effect in 2002. To catch walleyes early in the year, vertical jig with live bait or troll crankbaits along the west shore from Judd's Marina by the I-90 bridge to the Sauk Prairie Dam. In early June, says Williams, move to the islands and cast crankbaits for walleyes, or head for the bridge (**Spot 4**) in the evening and early morning and toss jig-and-minnow combinations or crankbaits to the shores.

FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	size	# released
96	Muskellunge	Fingerling	1,800
98	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,490
00	Lake Sturgeon	Fry	87,771
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500
01	Lake Sturgeon	Fry	28,782
01	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	7,500
02	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	4,950
02	Northern Pike X Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,000

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
species	Date: 9/9/03								Total
	Gear type: Boom Shocker								
	Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>29	
Walleye	5	254	35	108	162	25	9	1	599
Sauger	23	14	1	43	105	3	-	-	189
Sauger X Walleye (saugeye)	-	-	1	5	8	1	-	-	15
Largemouth Bass	3	11	45	206	46	-	-	-	311
Smallmouth Bass	7	6	111	135	16	-	-	-	275
Muskellunge	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	5
Northern Pike	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Flathead Catfish	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Channel Catfish	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
White Bass	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

Though you can get a few by jigging up beyond the I-90 bridge, the fishing generally slows but picks up again in the fall. It's a night bite then on big Rapalas tossed or trolled around the causeways, says Williams.

There is excellent smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing as well on Lake Wisconsin. Williams suggests fishing in the evenings around the islands and shores, looking for places where there's been shade during the day. He emphasizes catch and release to help preserve this phenomenal fishery. Plastic worms will do nicely, as will spinnerbaits and topwater baits. In the fall, fish the shallows and causeways.

Crappies, bluegills, and hand-sized pumpkinseeds are other attractions here. Look for them spring, summer, and fall in the cribs liberally scattered around the lake by the DNR. The cribs are easily marked with electronics and can be found off Tipperary Bluff, Stoners Point, Breezy Point, the island off the mouth of Sticky Bay, about 50 to 75 feet off Pine Bluff, and in Moon and Weigands Bay. In fall only, go fishing for some of the truly large sturgeon found in Lake Wisconsin.

NOT FOR NAVIGATION