

Wisconsin's ice sportfishing effort and harvest from Green Bay

The Wisconsin DNR's ice creel survey runs from approximately January 1st - March 31st each year, depending on ice conditions.

Table 1. Estimated total angler effort (hours) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	80,792 <i>8,954</i>	99,482 <i>19,026</i>	94,562 <i>9,869</i>	85,409 <i>11,014</i>	97,477 <i>10,540</i>	65,500 <i>10,349</i>	97,557 <i>3,269</i>
February	101,870 <i>15,530</i>	88,872 <i>22,189</i>	129,972 <i>18,498</i>	137,566 <i>25,724</i>	107,351 <i>9,342</i>	87,197 <i>19,416</i>	117,799 <i>19,545</i>
March	101,152 <i>19,547</i>	93,051 <i>3,558</i>	24,818 <i>11,896</i>	3,593 <i>0</i>	101,001 <i>10,815</i>	93,228 <i>37,069</i>	68,679 <i>8,520</i>
Total Effort	283,814 <i>26,522</i>	281,405 <i>29,445</i>	249,352 <i>24,106</i>	226,568 <i>27,983</i>	305,829 <i>17,757</i>	245,925 <i>43,107</i>	284,035 <i>21,570</i>

Table 2. Estimated total harvest (numbers) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lake Whitefish	117,241 <i>17,767</i>	158,064 <i>20,121</i>	129,886 <i>19,629</i>	140,255 <i>25,696</i>	151,827 <i>21,885</i>	58,515 <i>15,511</i>	77,714 <i>10,900</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	71 <i>71</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	49 <i>49</i>	39 <i>39</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	5,117 <i>5,117</i>	14,180 <i>12,160</i>	115 <i>115</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	192 <i>75</i>	82 <i>82</i>	0 <i>0</i>	113 <i>113</i>	1,421 <i>424</i>	1,408 <i>428</i>	700 <i>286</i>
Yellow Perch	19,139 <i>5,290</i>	6,058 <i>1,215</i>	4,711 <i>2,318</i>	16,294 <i>5,064</i>	35,966 <i>9,750</i>	25,844 <i>3,138</i>	19,760 <i>6,559</i>
Walleye	696 <i>306</i>	0 <i>0</i>	474 <i>341</i>	279 <i>246</i>	4,505 <i>1,420</i>	1,843 <i>842</i>	1,345 <i>310</i>
Total Harvest	137,268 <i>18,540</i>	164,275 <i>20,158</i>	135,071 <i>19,768</i>	162,058 <i>26,687</i>	207,899 <i>26,909</i>	87,774 <i>15,854</i>	99,558 <i>12,728</i>

Table 3. Estimated total catch (numbers) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lake Whitefish	127,783 <i>18,593</i>	159,223 <i>20,225</i>	147,988 <i>22,189</i>	166,594 <i>26,191</i>	174,220 <i>25,258</i>	70,164 <i>17,037</i>	82,278 <i>11,142</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	71 <i>71</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	49 <i>49</i>	39 <i>39</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	7,385 <i>5,349</i>	14,551 <i>12,154</i>	265 <i>189</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	1,168 <i>655</i>	82 <i>82</i>	75 <i>75</i>	113 <i>113</i>	3,039 <i>619</i>	2,827 <i>927</i>	1,008 <i>347</i>
Yellow Perch	29,992 <i>7,859</i>	12,786 <i>2,755</i>	27,772 <i>8,685</i>	45,341 <i>11,455</i>	79,248 <i>12,029</i>	50,704 <i>7,916</i>	59,087 <i>23,787</i>
Walleye	1,706 <i>560</i>	3,011 <i>297</i>	3,290 <i>2,029</i>	1,221 <i>723</i>	23,010 <i>5,060</i>	11,280 <i>2,459</i>	17,811 <i>7,426</i>
Total Catch	160,649 <i>20,204</i>	175,102 <i>20,414</i>	179,125 <i>23,915</i>	220,654 <i>29,092</i>	294,068 <i>30,925</i>	135,240 <i>18,970</i>	160,223 <i>27,299</i>

Table 4. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March, 2014. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	35,008 <i>10,465</i>	40,486 <i>7,949</i>	41,747 <i>11,958</i>	117,241 <i>17,767</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	0 <i>0</i>	93 <i>0</i>	99 <i>75</i>	192 <i>75</i>
Yellow Perch	6,185 <i>3,699</i>	6,668 <i>2,504</i>	6,286 <i>2,834</i>	19,139 <i>5,290</i>
Walleye	207 <i>144</i>	193 <i>137</i>	296 <i>233</i>	696 <i>306</i>
Total Harvest	41,400 <i>11,100</i>	47,440 <i>8,335</i>	48,428 <i>12,292</i>	137,268 <i>18,540</i>
Angler Hours	80,792 <i>8,954</i>	101,870 <i>15,530</i>	101,152 <i>19,547</i>	283,814 <i>26,522</i>

Table 5. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2014. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	38,017 <i>11,427</i>	46,169 <i>8,095</i>	43,597 <i>12,232</i>	127,783 <i>18,593</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	312 <i>312</i>	93 <i>0</i>	763 <i>576</i>	1,168 <i>655</i>
Yellow Perch	13,393 <i>6,216</i>	10,019 <i>3,860</i>	6,580 <i>2,868</i>	29,992 <i>7,859</i>
Walleye	549 <i>269</i>	631 <i>394</i>	526 <i>294</i>	1,706 <i>560</i>
Total Catch	52,271 <i>13,015</i>	56,912 <i>8,977</i>	51,466 <i>12,580</i>	160,649 <i>20,204</i>
Angler Hours	80,792 <i>8,954</i>	101,870 <i>15,530</i>	101,152 <i>19,547</i>	283,814 <i>26,522</i>

Table 6. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2015. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	38,269 <i>10,077</i>	63,995 <i>17,186</i>	55,800 <i>2,823</i>	158,064 <i>20,121</i>
Brown Trout	71 <i>71</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	71 <i>71</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	82 <i>82</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	82 <i>82</i>
Yellow Perch	2,636 <i>1,155</i>	873 <i>377</i>	2,549 <i>0</i>	6,058 <i>1,215</i>
Walleye	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Total Harvest	41,058 <i>10,144</i>	64,868 <i>17,190</i>	58,349 <i>2,823</i>	164,275 <i>20,158</i>
Angler Hours	99,482 <i>19,026</i>	88,872 <i>22,189</i>	93,051 <i>3,558</i>	281,405 <i>29,445</i>

Table 7. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2015. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	38,891 <i>10,226</i>	64,532 <i>17,220</i>	55,800 <i>2,823</i>	159,223 <i>20,225</i>
Brown Trout	71 <i>71</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	71 <i>71</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	82 <i>82</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	82 <i>82</i>
Yellow Perch	6,501 <i>2,711</i>	873 <i>377</i>	5,412 <i>314</i>	12,786 <i>2,755</i>
Walleye	471 <i>279</i>	702 <i>0</i>	1,838 <i>101</i>	3,011 <i>297</i>
Total Catch	46,016 <i>10,583</i>	66,107 <i>17,224</i>	63,050 <i>2,842</i>	175,173 <i>20,414</i>
Angler Hours	99,482 <i>19,026</i>	88,872 <i>22,189</i>	93,051 <i>3,558</i>	281,405 <i>29,445</i>

Table 8. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2016. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	37,252 <i>8,806</i>	73,912 <i>15,323</i>	18,722 <i>8,541</i>	129,886 <i>19,629</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Yellow Perch	995 <i>596</i>	1,017 <i>479</i>	2,699 <i>2,188</i>	4,711 <i>2,318</i>
Walleye	282 <i>282</i>	0 <i>0</i>	192 <i>191</i>	474 <i>341</i>
Total Harvest	38,529 <i>8,831</i>	74,929 <i>15,330</i>	21,613 <i>8,819</i>	135,071 <i>19,768</i>
Angler Hours	94,562 <i>9,869</i>	129,972 <i>18,498</i>	24,818 <i>11,896</i>	249,352 <i>24,106</i>

Table 9. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2016. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	39,193 <i>8,955</i>	75,997 <i>15,269</i>	32,798 <i>13,379</i>	147,988 <i>22,189</i>
Brown Trout	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>
Northern Pike	0 <i>0</i>	75 <i>75</i>	0 <i>0</i>	75 <i>75</i>
Yellow Perch	8,157 <i>4,673</i>	10,505 <i>5,413</i>	9,110 <i>4,929</i>	27,772 <i>8,685</i>
Walleye	2,425 <i>1,946</i>	482 <i>481</i>	383 <i>312</i>	3,290 <i>2,029</i>
Total Catch	49,775 <i>10,287</i>	87,059 <i>16,207</i>	42,291 <i>14,261</i>	179,125 <i>23,915</i>
Angler Hours	94,562 <i>9,869</i>	129,972 <i>18,498</i>	24,818 <i>11,896</i>	249,352 <i>24,106</i>

Table 10. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2017. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	50,680	89,575	0	140,255
	<i>14,968</i>	<i>20,886</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25,696</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	5,117	0	0	5,117
	<i>5,117</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5,117</i>
Northern Pike	0	113	0	113
	<i>0</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>113</i>
Yellow Perch	10,172	6,122	0	16,294
	<i>3,768</i>	<i>3,383</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5,064</i>
Walleye	279	0	0	279
	<i>246</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>246</i>
Total Harvest	66,248	95,810	0	162,058
	<i>16,263</i>	<i>21,159</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26,687</i>
Angler Hours	85,409	137,566	3,593	226,568
	<i>11,014</i>	<i>25,724</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27,983</i>

Table 11. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2017. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	65,822	100,772	0	166,594
	<i>15,445</i>	<i>21,152</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26,191</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	5,725	1,660	0	7,385
	<i>5,143</i>	<i>1,471</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5,349</i>
Northern Pike	0	113	0	113
	<i>0</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>113</i>
Yellow Perch	26,508	18,833	0	45,341
	<i>7,786</i>	<i>8,402</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11,455</i>
Walleye	1,221	0	0	1,221
	<i>723</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>723</i>
Total Catch	99,276	121,378	0	220,654
	<i>18,059</i>	<i>22,807</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>29,092</i>
Angler Hours	85,409	137,566	3,593	226,568
	<i>11,014</i>	<i>25,724</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27,983</i>

Table 12. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2018. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	40,663	78,147	33,017	151,827
	<i>9,428</i>	<i>16,392</i>	<i>11,017</i>	<i>21,885</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	2,225	0	11,955	14,180
	<i>2,225</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11,955</i>	<i>12,160</i>
Northern Pike	256	144	1,021	1,421
	<i>0</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>415</i>	<i>424</i>
Yellow Perch	26,797	5,271	3,898	35,966
	<i>9,343</i>	<i>2,477</i>	<i>1,280</i>	<i>9,750</i>
Walleye	1,794	1,095	1,616	4,505
	<i>1,025</i>	<i>711</i>	<i>679</i>	<i>1,420</i>
Total Harvest	71,735	84,657	51,507	207,899
	<i>13,497</i>	<i>16,594</i>	<i>16,327</i>	<i>26,909</i>
Angler Hours	97,477	107,351	101,001	305,829
	<i>10,540</i>	<i>9,342</i>	<i>10,815</i>	<i>17,758</i>

Table 13. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2018. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	50,661	84,298	39,261	174,220
	<i>11,702</i>	<i>19,127</i>	<i>11,628</i>	<i>25,258</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Rainbow Smelt	2,596	0	11,955	14,551
	<i>2,191</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11,955</i>	<i>12,154</i>
Northern Pike	717	266	2,056	3,039
	<i>77</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>594</i>	<i>619</i>
Yellow Perch	54,673	11,087	13,488	79,248
	<i>9,651</i>	<i>4,002</i>	<i>5,961</i>	<i>12,029</i>
Walleye	3,633	3,444	15,933	23,010
	<i>1,451</i>	<i>2,666</i>	<i>4,048</i>	<i>5,060</i>
Total Catch	112,280	99,095	82,693	294,068
	<i>15,394</i>	<i>19,723</i>	<i>18,177</i>	<i>30,925</i>
Angler Hours	97,477	107,351	101,001	305,829
	<i>10,540</i>	<i>9,342</i>	<i>10,815</i>	<i>17,758</i>

Table 14. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2019. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	12,102	30,827	15,586	58,515
	<i>5,806</i>	<i>11,101</i>	<i>9,146</i>	<i>15,511</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	49	49
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>49</i>
Rainbow Smelt	115	0	0	115
	<i>115</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>115</i>
Northern Pike	247	414	747	1,408
	<i>149</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>428</i>
Yellow Perch	21,406	2,536	1,902	25,844
	<i>2,726</i>	<i>1,136</i>	<i>1,062</i>	<i>3,138</i>
Walleye	1,005	340	498	1,843
	<i>725</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>842</i>
Total Harvest	34,875	34,117	18,782	87,774
	<i>6,458</i>	<i>11,163</i>	<i>9,221</i>	<i>15,854</i>
Angler Hours	65,500	87,197	93,228	245,925
	<i>10,349</i>	<i>19,416</i>	<i>37,069</i>	<i>43,107</i>

Table 15. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2019. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	12,565	39,912	17,687	70,164
	<i>5,797</i>	<i>13,143</i>	<i>9,161</i>	<i>17,037</i>
Brown Trout	0	0	49	49
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>49</i>
Rainbow Smelt	249	0	16	265
	<i>189</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>189</i>
Northern Pike	870	720	1,237	2,827
	<i>548</i>	<i>492</i>	<i>563</i>	<i>927</i>
Yellow Perch	36,425	9,228	5,051	50,704
	<i>6,631</i>	<i>3,591</i>	<i>2,408</i>	<i>7,916</i>
Walleye	1,512	1,570	8,198	11,280
	<i>780</i>	<i>628</i>	<i>2,246</i>	<i>2,459</i>
Total Catch	51,621	51,430	32,238	135,289
	<i>8,861</i>	<i>13,648</i>	<i>9,751</i>	<i>18,970</i>
Angler Hours	65,500	87,197	93,228	245,925
	<i>10,349</i>	<i>19,416</i>	<i>37,069</i>	<i>43,107</i>

Table 16. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	21,259	34,005	22,450	77,714
	<i>1,309</i>	<i>8,914</i>	<i>6,136</i>	<i>10,900</i>
Brown Trout	0	39	0	39
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Northern Pike	141	0	559	700
	<i>94</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>286</i>
Yellow Perch	8,822	8,781	2,157	19,760
	<i>5,279</i>	<i>3,651</i>	<i>1,353</i>	<i>6,559</i>
Walleye	909	436	0	1,345
	<i>0</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>310</i>
Total Harvest	31,131	43,261	25,166	99,558
	<i>5,440</i>	<i>9,638</i>	<i>6,289</i>	<i>12,728</i>
Angler Hours	97,557	117,799	68,679	284,035
	<i>3,269</i>	<i>19,545</i>	<i>8,520</i>	<i>21,570</i>

Table 17. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

Species	January	February	March	Season
Lake Whitefish	22,024	36,978	23,276	82,278
	<i>1,309</i>	<i>9,158</i>	<i>6,210</i>	<i>11,142</i>
Brown Trout	0	39	0	39
	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Northern Pike	246	118	644	1,008
	<i>182</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>283</i>	<i>347</i>
Yellow Perch	28,750	22,052	8,285	59,087
	<i>21,981</i>	<i>7,051</i>	<i>5,740</i>	<i>23,787</i>
Walleye	1,454	715	15,642	17,811
	<i>0</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>7,417</i>	<i>7,426</i>
Total Harvest	52,474	59,902	47,847	160,223
	<i>22,021</i>	<i>11,564</i>	<i>11,252</i>	<i>27,299</i>
Angler Hours	97,557	117,799	68,679	284,035
	<i>3,269</i>	<i>19,545</i>	<i>8,520</i>	<i>21,570</i>

Table 18. Estimated harvest for lake whitefish from sport anglers and from guided fishing trips in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March, 2017 - 2020.

Note: The guide harvest is one component of the overall creel harvest.

Year	Creel Harvest	Guide Harvest
2017	140,255	27,557
2018	151,827	46,791
2019	58,515	21,237
2020	77,714	25,000