

Lake Michigan Fisheries

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Updates

- Stocking numbers
- Kettle Moraine Springs update
- Private hatchery – steelhead
- Whitefish studies
- Staff updates
- Mass Marking study
- Fleet rates
- Project planning



Stocking Numbers

Species	2018	2019
Chinook	844,000	810,000
Coho	362,000	365,000
Brown yearlings	329,000	363,000
Brown fingerlings	60,000	40,000
Steelhead (WDNR)	310,000	300,000
Steelhead (Private)	N/A	50,000
Arlee Rainbows	130,000	100,000



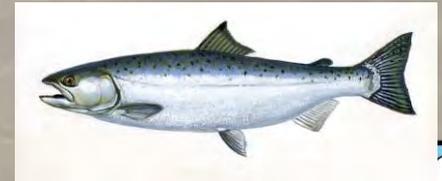
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Stocking

- Allocation of Chinook and Brown Trout via new strategy is going smoothly (25% of allocation is based on directed effort, harvest rate, etc.)
- Stocking of Rainbow based on Steelhead Management Plan
- Stocking of Coho based on migration patterns of coho (south to north)



Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery Update

- Cleared Building Commission and Legislature – on track for build
- 95% plans expected this month
- Then out for bid
- Hope to begin build in early 2019



Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery Update

- On track for 2 rearing modules
- Approx 175K per module = 350K annually
- Can only raise 2 strains at once, need to alternate between our 3 strains
- Quarantine building is in the plans, allows Skamania broodstock to be taken to hatchery



Private Hatchery for Steelhead Production

- Coolidge Springs purchased 55K fingerlings for \$0.22/fish = \$12,100
- DNR to buy back 50K at \$2.34/fish = \$117,000
- DNR production cost in 2014 = \$1.06 ea
- Extra cost to clip and tag by DNR staff
- Extra management cost



Coolidge Springs, Fifield WI September 16-20, 2018



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Whitefish Studies

- Working with commercial fishers, UWSP, USGS, and/or UW Sea Grant on various lake whitefish studies including:
- Whitefish movement in Green Bay using acoustic telemetry and loop tags (walleye, musky and sturgeon).
- Implementing catch composition study in Green Bay trap nets/gill nets.



Whitefish Studies

- Proposal to use large mesh gillnets (4.5" mesh) in Zone 3.
 - Discussions with commercial fishers from October 2017 to May 2018
 - Did not come to agreement on requirements of the study
 - Not moving forward at this time



WDNR Staff Updates

- Retirements
 - Steve Hewett, Section Chief in Madison
 - Tim Kroeff, Fish Technician in Sturgeon Bay
- Departures
 - Willie Fetzer, GL Specialist in Madison
- New Faces
 - Laura Schmidt, Fish Biologist in Milwaukee
 - Jason Meacham, Fish Tech in Milwaukee
 - Derek Apps, Fish Tech in Sturgeon Bay



Mass Marking Study

- FWS and/or DNR staff worked all major tournaments along the WI shoreline
- Collected a lot of biological information, snouts, other samples
- Will take most of winter to process samples
- FWS will have updates in early spring



Fleet Rates

- 2018 Fleet rates
 - Trucks dropped from \$0.57/mi to \$0.50/mi
 - Cars/vans increased from \$0.31 to \$0.50
 - Used extensively by creel survey clerks
 - Approx. 125,000 mi/year = \$23,750 add'l
 - Almost 40% increase in supply/travel cost



Project Planning

- No license fee increase since 2004
- Great Lakes stamp \$10 over 10 years ago
- Will be planning projects for the next two years this winter
- Likely no new projects, current allotments will remain flat or decrease



Upcoming Events

Sturgeon Fest

Lakeshore State Park, Milwaukee

Saturday, September 29

11AM – 3PM

www.sturgeonfest.org



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Upcoming Events

Spawning Facility Open Houses

Besadny

Ransom Moore Lane

Kewaunee, WI

Sat, October 6

9AM – 3 PM



Root River

Lincoln Park

Racine, WI

Sat, October 13

9AM – 3 PM

dnr.wi.gov and search for "fish open houses"



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Questions???

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