



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Goose Lake

Adams County

2025

Introduction

Goose Lake is a 67-acre seepage lake that is clear, warm and has a simple fish community. There are about 2.8 miles of shoreline, the maximum depth is 18 feet. The primary fish species in the lake are largemouth bass and bluegill. Northern pike and other panfish species are also present. There is one public boat landing.

Wisconsin Rapids Fisheries Staff conducted a nighttime electrofishing survey on May 8, 2025, water temperature was 66°F. Standard DNR protocols were used. The survey targeted largemouth bass and panfish, yet all gamefish were collected. Panfish were collected for 1.1 miles of shoreline. All gamefish (i.e., largemouth bass and northern pike) were collected for 1.9 miles of shoreline. Relative abundance (catch per mile of shoreline sampled), size structure (Proportional Stock Density; PSD; % of fish over a given size) and summary data are described from the survey.

Bluegill

265 bluegills were captured during the survey. The catch per unit of effort (CPUE) was 241 fish per mile, which is in the 80th-85th percentile compared to similar lakes. The number of 6-inch and larger bluegills was 21 fish per mile, which is in the 50th percentile compared to other lakes. Bluegills ranged in length from 2.5 to 6.8 inches and mean length was 4.8 inches. Nine percent of bluegills were of quality size (6 inches) or larger and no preferred sized fish (8 inches) was caught, overall size structure is poor. Mean length-at-age was used to examine growth; the mean length of a 5-year-old bluegill was 5.4 inches long and is slower than the average Wisconsin bluegill.

Largemouth Bass

87 largemouth bass were caught during the survey. The CPUE was 46 fish per mile, which is in the 60th percentile compared to similar lakes. The CPUE of 8-inch and larger bass was 22 fish per mile and is in the 67th percentile. The CPUE of 14-inch and

larger bass was 3 fish per mile and is in the 51st percentile. Largemouth bass ranged in length from 3.8 to 20.0 inches and the mean length was 8.6 inches. 22% of the largemouth bass were at least quality size (12 inches), 10% were preferred size (15 inches) or larger and 15% were the minimum length limit (14 inches) or larger. Growth was indexed, the mean length of a 3-year-old was 8.2 inches and is the same as the average Wisconsin largemouth bass.

Other Species

Other captured fish species included black crappie (n=5), northern pike (n=2), pumpkinseed (n=10), yellow bullhead (n=9) and yellow perch (n=1).

Summary

Goose Lake is a warm-clear lake with a simple fish community. The largemouth bass population has average abundance, growth and size structure. Largemouth bass can grow to be at least 20 inches. The bluegill population is abundant, growth is slow and size structure is poor. The largest caught bluegill was 6.8 inches. Other fish species caught that were low in numbers included black crappie, northern pike, pumpkinseed, yellow bullhead and yellow perch.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Goose Lake, in Adams County, Wisconsin.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Panfish	Open all year	25	None
Largemouth bass	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	5	14 inches
Northern pike	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	2	26 inches

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