



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Mississippi River, lower Pool 4
Buffalo County
2025

Introduction

Pool 4 is an impoundment of the Mississippi River resulting from the construction of Lock and Dam 4. It includes lower Pool 4, a 12-mile river reach that extends upstream from Lock and Dam 4 at Alma, WI to the foot of Lake Pepin. Lower Pool 4 has a mix of aquatic habitat types that include contiguous and isolated backwaters, secondary and tertiary channels, and the main channel and main channel border. For this mid-October fish assemblage assessment, off-main channel areas were surveyed between river miles 757-763. Twenty-six sites were electroshocked, totaling 310 minutes of shocking time. Specimens were netted, identified, measured and released.

Largemouth Bass

There were 886 largemouth bass captured, and lengths ranged from 2.6 to 19.1 inches. Largemouth bass comprised 40.8% of the total catch. One hundred and seventy-one largemouth bass were captured per hour of electroshocking time (Table 1). When not including the young of year captured, 29% of largemouth bass were 14 inches and greater.

Bluegill

There were 629 bluegills captured, and lengths ranged from 1.3 to 8.9 inches. Bluegill comprised 29% of the total catch. One hundred and twenty-two bluegills were captured per hour of electroshocking time (Table 1). When not including the young of year captured, 38% of bluegills were 6 inches and greater.

Yellow Perch

There were 159 yellow perch captured, and lengths ranged from 3.1 to 10.9 inches. Yellow perch comprised 7% of the total catch. Seventy-one yellow perch were captured per hour of electroshocking time (Table 1).

Table 1. The number of largemouth bass, bluegills and yellow perch captured per electrofishing hour and the % of total catch for each species.

Species	Largemouth Bass	Bluegill	Yellow Perch
Number Captured Per Hour	171	122	31
% of total catch	41%	29%	7%

Other Species

In addition to largemouth bass, bluegill and yellow perch, 30 other species were captured that totaled 497 specimens. Of the 30 additional species, only spotted sucker comprised more than 3% of the total catch; 67 spotted suckers were captured comprising 3.1% of the total catch. Other species captured were bigmouth buffalo, black crappie, bowfin, bullhead minnow, channel catfish, chestnut lamprey, common carp, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, golden redhorse, golden shiner, green sunfish, logperch, longnose gar, mimic shiner, northern pike, pumpkinseed, river carpsucker, rock bass, sauger, shorthead redhorse, silver redhorse, smallmouth bass, spotfin shiner, walleye, weed shiner, white bass, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

Summary

The Mississippi River supports a diversity of fish including numerous game and non-game species. Three species from our survey, largemouth bass, bluegill and yellow perch, were found in high numbers and are highly sought after by anglers. Non-gamefish species can be important either commercially or may serve as forage for other fish species. Regardless of species designation, all native fish are important components to a healthy Mississippi River fishery. Monitoring surveys, such as this one, will continue to be a high priority.

Acknowledgements

For more information about fisheries management activities in lower Pool 4, contact:

Brian Brecka, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 491

Alma, WI 54610

Phone: 608-513-2180

Email: Brian.Brecka@wisconsin.gov