



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin and Eastern Dunn Counties

Page 1

Survey and Report Objectives

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff based out of Eau Claire conducts electrofishing surveys on wadable trout streams in Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin and Dunn (east of the Red Cedar River) Counties annually.
- The primary sampling objectives for these surveys are to characterize relative abundance and size structure for all trout species.
- The following report is a summary of trout metrics for all stations surveyed in 2024. Please refer to the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicable size and bag limit restrictions for the stream you fish.

DNR Contact

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Survey Methods

- Surveys are conducted from June 15th through September 15th with a two to four person crew.
- 'Trend' survey sites are sampled annually which helps to see yearly variations in population demographics.
- 'Rotation' survey sites are sampled every 3, 6 or 12 years in order to get a detailed look at populations in an individual stream.
- Small streams, less than 3 meters wide, are sampled with a backpack electrofished unit while larger streams are sampled with stream barge electrofishing unit.
- Sampling distance is at least 35 times the mean stream width or a minimum of 100 meters, whichever is greater. This ensures multiple habitat types are sampled and a representative sample of the fishery is collected.
- All trout captured are identified by species and measured for length. All non-trout species are identified and counted. All fish are released on site.

How is the information used?

- The fisheries data collected are standardized in catch per mile of stream surveyed, so stations of different survey lengths are comparable.
- This information is used to guide decisions to best manage the coldwater resource. Examples how data is used:
 - Regulations: Does the current regulation achieve the desired objectives? Or is there a different size limit or bag limit that may perform better?
 - Stocking: Is there enough natural reproduction to utilize the available habitat, or could stocking help maximize the stream's potential? If the stream is stocked, are the fish surviving and providing a meaningful contribution to the fishery?
 - Habitat: The fisheries data will reflect the habitat quality and quantity. If the riparian area has public access, could in-stream trout habitat improvement work improve the fishery?



A Pepin County tiger trout sampled during the 2025 field season in Bear Creek. Tiger trout are hybrids between female brown trout and male brook trout.



Fisheries staff sample McCann Creek in Chippewa County with a barge electrofishing unit. Fish are immobilized by electricity and then captured where biological data is collected.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin, eastern Dunn Counties

Page 2

Stream Survey Locations and Station Information

Stream - Station Number	County	Station Location	Date	Type	Length (m)
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - CTY HWY G	08/04/2025	Trend	130
BEAR CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - USH 10	08/05/2025	Trend	287
BEARS GRASS CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTY HWY V	07/02/2025	Trend	113
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTY HWY M	07/08/2025	Trend	140
BOGUS CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - APPLE RD	06/19/2025	Trend	150
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - AUGUSTA	08/11/2025	Trend	360
CLEAR CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTY HWY HH	08/06/2025	Trend	100
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTY HWY SS	07/14/2025	Trend	288
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - 85TH ST	08/25/2025	Trend	364
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	CHIPPEWA	3 - 130TH AVE	08/13/2025	Trend	314
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	DUNN	1 - HWY 40	06/23/2025	Trend	144
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	DUNN	2 - CTY HWY A	06/23/2026	Trend	132
ELK CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTY HWY N	07/09/2025	Trend	130
ELK CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - CTH X, HAB WORK	08/13/2025	Trend	245
ELK CREEK - 3	DUNN	3 - 410TH AVE	08/19/2025	Trend	288
FALL CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - CTY HWY T	06/19/2025	Trend	126
HAY CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 87TH ST	07/09/2025	Trend	143
LOWES CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CEDAR RD	08/12/2025	Trend	253
McCANN CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - HWY 40	08/25/2025	Trend	161
OTTER CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTY HWY J	08/13/2025	Trend	277
PLUM CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - ELK CREEK RD	08/04/2025	Trend	261
SAND CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 25TH ST	08/26/2025	Trend	129
SAND CREEK - 2	DUNN	2 - 1342 ND AVE	08/26/2025	Trend	303
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - MAIN ST	07/02/2025	Stock Eval.	100
TROUT CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 65TH AVE	06/18/2025	Trend	157
TROUT CREEK - 1	DUNN	1 - CTY HWY M	08/19/2025	Trend	203
UNNAMED CK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - TRIB TO HAY	06/18/2025	Rotation	100





WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin, Eastern Dunn Counties

Page 3

Brook Trout Summaries						
CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brook Trout						
Stream - Station Number	All	YOY	> 8	>10	> 12	> 14
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	161	12	37	12	0	0
BEAR CREEK - 1	213	45	67	6	0	0
BEARS GRASS CREEK -1	1211	114	328	100	28	0
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	540	264	80	0	0	0
BOGUS CREEK - 1	322	0	0	0	0	0
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLEAR CREEK - 1	80	0	80	48	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	7404	2325	156	56	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	4076	884	959	146	27	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	543	195	174	72	5	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	469	0	156	56	22	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	415	61	37	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 1	62	12	37	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 2	46	26	7	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 3	34	6	17	0	0	0
FALL CREEK - 1	243	0	115	0	0	0
HAY CREEK - 1	3342	113	1350	360	34	0
LOWES CREEK - 1	70	32	32	19	0	0
McCANN CREEK - 2	8167	4958	530	50	0	0
OTTER CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLUM CREEK - 1	31	6	25	0	0	0
SAND CREEK - 1	1597	611	162	25	0	0
SAND CREEK - 2	106	11	42	5	0	0
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	113	0	80	64	16	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	646	41	10	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	119	24	71	40	8	0
UNNAMED CK - 1	418	161	32	0	0	0





WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin, Eastern Dunn Counties

Page 4

Brown Trout Summaries							
CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brown Trout							
Stream - Station Number	All	YOY	> 8	> 12	> 14	> 16	> 18
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	594	74	458	198	62	25	12
BEAR CREEK - 1	359	11	191	45	11	11	6
BEARS GRASS CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	172	23	80	0	0	0	0
BOGUS CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	54	0	22	9	0	0	0
CLEAR CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	805	287	236	36	5	0	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 1	3120	260	1226	136	25	25	12
ELK CREEK - 2	1248	118	466	20	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 3	1861	363	710	34	0	0	0
FALL CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAY CREEK - 1	34	0	34	11	11	0	0
LOWES CREEK - 1	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCANN CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTTER CREEK - 1	320	0	174	46	17	0	0
PLUM CREEK - 1	358	0	284	55	12	0	0
SAND CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAND CREEK - 2	2496	935	892	388	303	202	80
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNNAMED CK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

