



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wadable Streams Trout Population Report



Photo Credit: DNR Staff

Annual Trout Survey Objectives

Every year the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources La Crosse area inland fisheries unit conducts electrofishing surveys to monitor local trout stream populations. Surveys aim to estimate stream trout abundance, size structure and condition. The La Crosse area inland fisheries unit covers four counties: La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon and Crawford. A total of eight streams function as annual trend sites, while the rest of the trout streams are surveyed on an eight-year rotational watersheds basis. Survey results help support fisheries management decisions and provide historical records. The making of species distribution maps, evaluation of fisheries management regulations and habitat project prioritization are just a few of the important processes trout population survey results can be utilized for. These surveys also indicate productive fishing destinations for a wide variety of angler preferences. Please refer to the Wisconsin Trout Fishing Guide for more specific regulations or contact your local fisheries biologists for stream specific questions.



Photo Credit: DNR Staff



Photo Credit: DNR Staff



Photo Credit: DNR Staff



Photo Credit: DNR Staff

WI DNR La Crosse Fisheries Unit Contacts

Kirk Olson – Senior
Fisheries Biologist

Phone: 608-799-4920

kirk.olson@wisconsin.gov

Tommy Hill – Fisheries
Biologist

Phone: (608) 871-2472

thompson.hill@wisconsin.gov



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wadable Streams Trout Population Report



2023 Annual Trend Stream Surveys

Stream Name	County	Primary Species	Harvest Regulations *(May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
				Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Plum Creek	Crawford	Brown Trout	5 Trout (Brook Trout Must Be Released)	66	14	4	2357	323	155	9
Rush Creek	Crawford	Brown Trout	5 Trout in Total	102	35	0	631	406	231	24
South Fork Bad Axe River	Vernon	Brown Trout	10 Trout in Total	0	0	0	809	509	192	7
North Fork Bad Axe River	Vernon	Brown Trout	5 Trout in Total	28	8	0	1721	1055	339	11
Bohemian Valley (Coon Creek)	Vernon	Brown Trout	10 Trout in Total	23	23	0	3438	2429	430	11
Timber Coulee Creek	Vernon	Brown Trout	Catch & Release Only	0	0	0	2459	1548	249	12
Mormon Coulee Creek	La Crosse	Brown Trout	10 Trout in Total	8	2	0	1988	1015	136	2
Little La Crosse River	Monroe	Brown Trout	10 Trout in Total	0	0	0	1748	743	85	6

2023 Rotational Watersheds Stream Surveys

Major Watersheds Surveyed: Lower Black River, Lower La Crosse River & Big Creek

Stream Name	County	Primary Species	Harvest Regulations *(May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
				Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Seymour Creek	Monroe	brown trout	3 trout in total over 8"	0	0	0	158	53	0	0
La Crosse River	La Crosse	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	75	58	49	28
Smith Valley Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	560	43	6	44	31	0	0
Bostwick Creek	La Crosse	brown trout	5 trout in total	3	2	0	1413	1023	71	5
Garbers Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout (brook trout must be released)	1450	127	0	143	48	16	0
Tollefson Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brown trout	5 trout in total	96	0	0	940	80	0	0
Gill Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	553	187	0	88	81	61	0
Larson Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	586	96	0	27	23	15	0
Neshonoc Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	1157	83	0	43	36	29	4
Mckinley Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	679	197	0	0	0	0	0
Hoyer Valley Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
Eggens Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	1191	32	0	16	0	0	0
Halfway Creek	La Crosse	brown trout	5 trout in total	3	3	0	453	334	117	12
Jostad Coulee Creek	La Crosse	brown trout	5 trout in total	34	13	0	1079	127	20	0
Severson Creamery Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	201	67	13	0	0	0	0
Davis Creek	La Crosse	brook trout	5 trout in total	78	13	0	0	0	0	0
Sand Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	310	23	0	0	0	0	0
Big Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	727	172	16	0	0	0	0
Spencer Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	700	72	0	0	0	0	0
Soper Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	692	111	4	0	0	0	0
Jenkins Valley Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	461	95	8	0	0	0	0
Rathbone Creek	Monroe	brook trout	5 trout in total	1300	259	29	0	0	0	0

2022 Rotational Watersheds Stream Surveys

Major Watersheds Surveyed: Lower Kickapoo River & Knapp Creek

Stream Name	County	Primary Species	Harvest Regulations *(May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
				Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Gran Grae Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	32	0	0	734	471	74	16
Little Kickapoo Creek	Crawford	brook trout	5 trout in total	247	44	0	16	16	2	2
Pine Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	9	3	0	1073	588	90	12
Otter Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	215	129	0	0
Citron Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	16	0	0	552	130	29	5
Crow Hollow Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	7	0	0	658	117	7	0
Halls Branch	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout (brook trout must be released)	179	35	0	602	380	62	4
Sand Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	174	48	5	0
Boydton Creek	Crawford	brook trout	5 trout in total	228	27	0	0	0	0	0
Richland Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	750	280	63	0
East Branch Richland Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	418	0	0	869	80	16	0
West Fork Knapp Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	238	15	0	436	167	44	0
Sleepy Hollow Creek	Crawford	brook trout	5 trout in total	314	13	0	13	0	0	0
English Run	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	11	0	0	693	287	54	5
Pigeon Run	Crawford	brook trout	5 trout in total	300	0	0	164	14	0	0
Picatee Creek	Crawford	brook trout	5 trout in total	714	171	0	0	0	0	0
Du Charme Creek	Crawford	brown trout	5 trout in total	47	47	0	1765	1218	156	16

2021 Rotational Watersheds Stream Surveys

Major Watershed Surveyed: Middle Kickapoo River

Stream Name	County	Primary Species	Harvest Regulations *(May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
				Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Kickapoo River	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	124	101	30	4
Tenny Spring Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout (brook trout must be released)	32	16	0	1593	255	48	0
Bear Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	336	173	64	0
South Bear Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	66	13	0	1939	1147	514	79
Middle Bear Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	30	15	0	1300	194	52	0
North Bear Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	8	8	0	1068	556	238	15
Otter Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	103	35	0	1907	680	166	57
Weister Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	44	27	4	828	394	87	7
Twenty-Four Valley Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	15	0	0	1454	278	46	15
Clark Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	215	15	0	383	123	31	0
Warner Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	22	8	0	712	477	130	20
Warner Branch	Vernon	brook trout	5 trout in total	531	80	0	949	16	0	0
Billings Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	7	4	0	1334	717	161	0
Cheyenne Valley Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	32	21	0	1319	669	127	38
Hay Creek Valley	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	90	0	0	135	15	15	0
Brush Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	0	0	0	477	182	63	0
Upper Brush Creek	Monroe	brown trout	5 trout in total	115	65	0	446	199	44	0
Pine River	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	27	18	0	140	27	18	14
Champion Valley Creek	Vernon	brook trout	5 trout in total	339	126	0	31	25	9	3
Greenwood Valley Creek	Vernon	brown trout	5 trout in total	114	40	0	265	137	59	23