

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2022 and 2023 Wood Lake Creel Kiosk Report

WBIC 117600



Wisconsin DNR Lake Map of Wood Lake



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Introduction

Wood lake is a 82 acre spring lake in Marquette county. Its maximum depth is 53 feet and has a sand bottom with a slight amount of muck and gravel. Because of the overall size and depth of the lake, it supports a multi-layer ecosystem. This allows not only common species like bluegill and largemouth bass to thrive but also supports stocked trout. By examining the lake, we can determine how many stocked trout can be stocked in the lake for anglers to catch and enjoy. While the lake is able to support stocking of trout, there is only one boat launch available for the public to access the lake with limited parking.

SURVEY EFFORT

By doing a creel at the boat launch we want to get a better understanding of the anglers that come to Wood lake. This creel survey mainly focuses on angler effort, what's being targeted, as well as the catch and harvest of each species present.

Methods

During the 2022 and 2023 fishing season, a creel kiosk was set up along the boat launch in order to catch the attention of various anglers. The idea is to have the angler go to the kiosk after they have finished fishing and answer the questions on the form from the box. Once the form was filled out, it would be placed in the drop box attached to the kiosk which would be collected by a creel clerk later.

Today's date: _____ Number of anglers in your party: _____

How long did you fish today (to the nearest quarter hour, 1.25, 2.5, 3.75 etc.): _____ hour(s)

County of Residence?: _____ Out of State : _____

How often do you fish Wood Lake (**Circle 1**)?: 1-5 times/year 6-10 times/year 11-20 times/year More than 20 times/year

What species of fish were you targeting today?: ☐ Rainbow Trout ☐ Bluegill ☐ Black Crappie ☐ Largemouth Bass
☐ Northern Pike ☐ All species ☐ Other specific species: _____

How many fish of each species below did you catch, release, and or harvest today, if any?: Example: 4 catch = 3 release + 1 harvest

	Catch	=	Release	+	Harvest
Rainbow Trout	_____		_____		_____
Brown Trout	_____		_____		_____
Bluegill	_____		_____		_____
Black Crappie	_____		_____		_____
Largemouth Bass	_____		_____		_____
Other: _____	_____		_____		_____

Do you like or dislike the current yellow trout regulation for Wood Lake?: ☐ Like ☐ Dislike

Describe any other regulation changes you would like to see for Wood Lake: _____

Additional Comments: _____

Results

STOCKED TROUT

The angler's response to the forms showed these were the most targeted species on the lake with a majority of the anglers liking the yellow trout regulation rule. Anglers caught a total of 120 trout with 81 of them being harvested in 2 years. Overall catch rate was 0.28 fish per hour, while harvest was 0.189 fish per hour. This indicates that it would take an angler 3-4 hours to catch one trout.

BLUEGILL

Anglers showed a high interest in targeting bluegills during the first couple of months of the fishing season. Having the highest catch at 210 fish with 126 of them being harvested. The catch rate is 0.489 fish per hour and 0.294 fish per hour for harvest rates. This indicates that it would take an angler 2-3 hours to catch a bluegill.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Anglers showed some interest in targeting largemouth bass during the first couple of months of the new fishing season. Catch was 113 with 44 bass being harvested over the two fishing seasons. Harvest was the highest for the 2023 season with 43 harvested. The catch rate was shown to be 0.263 fish per hour with 0.103 fish per hour being harvested. This indicates that it takes 3-4 hours to catch a largemouth bass.

BLACK CRAPPIE

Anglers showed a slight interest in targeting black crappies. Catch was 135 with a harvest of 78. They were caught in the spring verses ice fishing for them. The overall catch rate is 0.315 fish per hour with harvest being 0.182 fish per hour. This indicates it takes 3-4 hours to catch a black crappie.

NORTHERN PIKE

Anglers showed the least interest in targeting northern pike. While catch is at 18 fish, not a single pike was in the harvest. The catch rate is also very low, being 0.042 fish per hour. This could be due to the high effort put into catching largemouth bass and anglers catching pike instead since they share the same habitat.

Table 1: Total response to each question and angler effort.

Wood Lake Year	Total Sheets	Total Anglers	Total Hours	Annual Trip (Count)					Angler's Targeting (Sheet Count)						Yellow Trout Reg. (Sheets)		
				1-5	6-10	11-20	20+	Unknown	Trout	Bluegill	Black Crappie	Largemouth Bass	Northern Pike	All	Like	Dislike	Unknown
2022	28	45	157.5	17	6	2	2	1	19	12	7	5	4	3	19	0	9
2023	39	74	271.75	13	10	6	6	4	19	12	5	11	2	3	27	2	10
Total	67	119	429.25	30	16	8	8	5	38	24	12	16	6	6	46	2	19

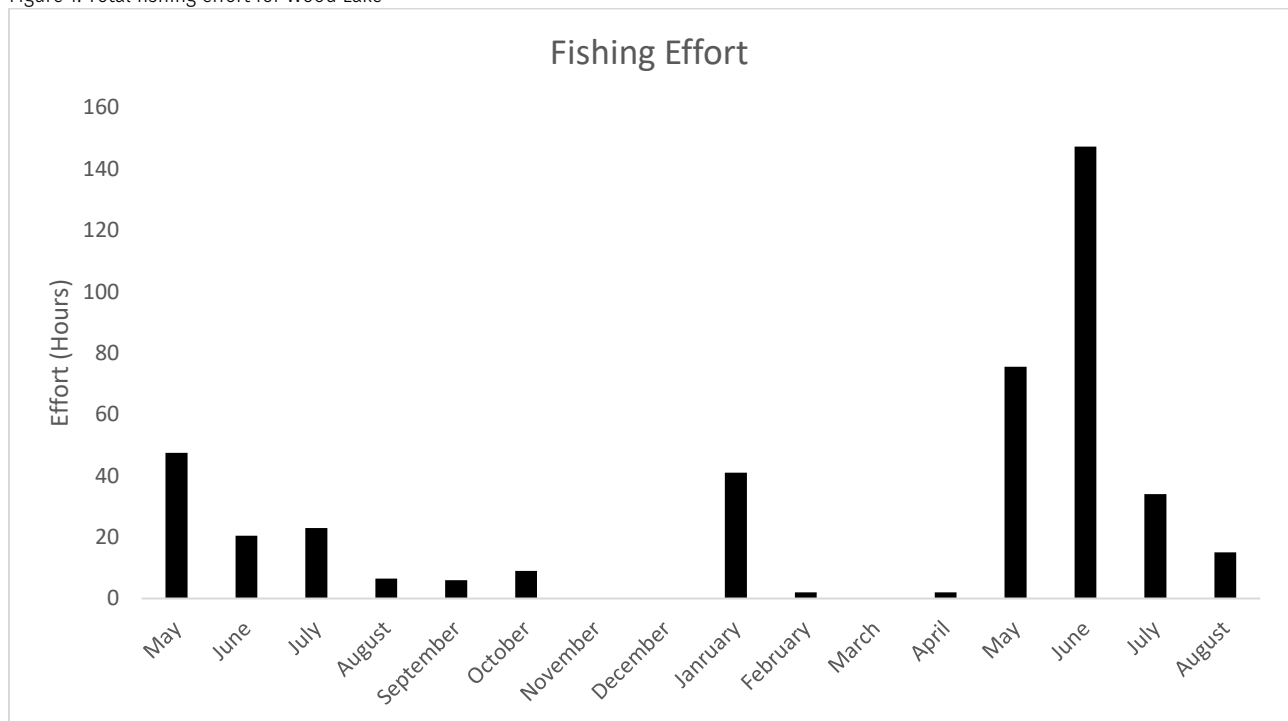
Table 2: Total catch and harvest

Wood Lake Year	Fish Caught					Fish Harvested				
	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike
2022	54	34	30	46	4	29	12	1	23	0
2023	66	176	83	89	14	52	114	43	55	0
Total	120	210	113	135	18	81	126	44	78	0

Table 3: Total catch rate and harvest rate

Wood Lake Year	Catch Rate (fish/hr)					Harvested Rate (fish/hr)				
	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike
2022	0.343	0.216	0.190	0.292	0.025	0.184	0.076	0.006	0.146	0
2023	0.243	0.648	0.305	0.328	0.052	0.191	0.420	0.158	0.202	0
Total	0.280	0.489	0.263	0.315	0.042	0.189	0.294	0.103	0.182	0

Figure 1: Total fishing effort for Wood Lake



Discussion

From the responses the anglers gave, most of the effort is being put toward catching stocked trout and bluegill. Anglers mainly fish between May-July for all species listed with some ice fishing happening for trout in January. Overall, the fishing effort is significant on Wood lake with over 400 hours being put into the lake for two fishing seasons on anglers that visit the lake. This is also captured in our annual trip calculations where more than 13 fishing parties visited the lake between 1-5 times per year with over six parties visiting 6-10 times.

Stocking History

Year	Species	Age Class	Number Fish Stocked	Avg Fish Length In
2024	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	765	9.4
2024	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,440	9
2023	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	2,500	8.5
2023	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,500	9
2022	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	5,005	8.8
2022	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,872	8.5
2021	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	4,999	8.5
2020	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	4,093	8.9
2019	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,749	9.6
2019	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	3,047	8.9
2018	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,161	9.1
2018	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	2,163	10
2017	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	330	13
2017	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,924	9.6
2016	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,193	9.2
2016	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,181	9
2015	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,209	9.2
2014	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,237	9.4
2014	BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	5,038	5.8
2014	BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	60	25.5
2013	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	2,500	7.7
2012	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,052	8.7
2012	BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	4,263	5.2
2012	BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	190	20.5
2010	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	2,499	9
2010	BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	5,584	6