



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: TWIN LAKES

COUNTY: St. Croix

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

Twin Lakes is made up of two relatively small, connected lakes located near the town of Roberts in south central St. Croix County. West and East Twin Lakes are approximately 80 acres in size each for a total surface area of 160 acres. Both lakes are relatively shallow with West Twin slightly deeper with a maximum depth of 12 feet when water levels are high. Public access is available from the town road between the lakes which includes a gravel boat launch. Both lakes are subject to periodic winterkill events and occasionally produce a fishable sport fishery that is short lived. The fish community is composed of a typical winterkill community of fathead minnows and black bullheads and panfish species in low densities. The lake is classified as a Simple-Winterkill lake in Wisconsin's lakes classification system.

Invasive goldfish had been present in the lakes for several years prior to 2016. Goldfish abundance was very high during a survey of West Twin in 2018 and multiple year classes were present indicating natural reproduction and annual survival with fish larger than 10 inches present. Concerns of goldfish being transferred to other bodies of water were high after several anglers were observed removing live fish from the lake. Therefore, in an attempt to implement biological control over invasive goldfish and to establish a game fishery, northern pike were stocked into Twin Lakes beginning in 2017. Large fingerling northern pike were stocked annually from 2017 to 2021. The 2018 survey yielded bluegill and northern pike in low abundance, black crappie in moderate abundance and goldfish in very abundance at 381 fish per hour or 250 fish per mile of shoreline. The 2025 survey was completed with the goals of evaluating the stocking of northern pike and understanding the current status of the goldfish population and native fishery.



BLACK CRAPPIE

Black crappie abundance has increased substantially since 2018 but size structure has declined likely indicating that a strong, younger year class is present. Growth of black crappie in Twin Lakes was slow with fish reaching 6 inches in five years. This is well below the mean for black crappie growth in similar lakes with fish reaching 9.2 inches in five years.

	2018	2025
CPUE (fish per mile)	7.5	38
Length Range (inches)	6.2-12.5	5.9-8.2
Mean Length (inches)	9.7	6.5



BLUEGILL

Bluegill abundance has increased dramatically since 2018 and are currently in moderate abundance (50th percentile). However, the bluegill population is currently comprised of small individuals. Similar to black crappie, bluegill growth was slow with the mean length of age-4 bluegills at 4.8 inches compared to the statewide average of 5.7 inches at that age.

	2018	2025
CPUE (fish per mile)	0.6	160.0
Length Range (inches)	.	2.6-5.7
Average Length (in)	5.0	4.4





NORTHERN PIKE



Abundance of northern pike has increased since 2018 indicating that stocking has likely established a population that is naturally reproducing. No stocking has occurred since 2021 due to lack of DNR hatchery products but multiple year classes of fish were present potentially indicating natural reproduction since 2021.

	2018	2025
CPUE (fish per mile)	1.3	5.0
Length Range (inches)	10.6-17.5	18.5-31.0
Mean Length (inches)	14.0	25.3

YELLOW PERCH



Yellow perch were not sampled during the 2018 survey but two were found in 2025. The population is likely comprised of small individuals at this point based on the survey.

	2018	2025
CPUE (fish per mile)	0	4
Length Range (inches)	.	3.9-4.0
Average Length (inches)	.	3.9

OTHER SPECIES

No goldfish were collected or observed during the entire survey in 2025. Black bullhead were present in moderate abundance with a catch rates of 72 fish per mile and lengths ranging from 5.7 to 7.2 inches.



Summary

The northern pike fishery in Twin Lakes has improved since the 2018 survey and after five years of large fingerling stocking. It appears that the stocking has resulted in a low density population and some limited natural reproduction may have occurred since the end of stocking in 2021. Bluegill were present in much higher abundance than in the previous survey which likely indicates that winterkill conditions haven't occurred for at least four years in Twin Lakes as bluegill are highly sensitive to low levels of dissolved oxygen. Black crappie abundance has also increased indicating one to two years of recruitment but annual survival and recruitment of older year classes is inconsistent. Growth of bluegill and black crappie was slow which may be a reflection of lack of forage, poor water quality or stress during the winter periods because of low dissolved oxygen levels. Twin Lakes still suffers from winterkill conditions during harsh winters with prolonged periods of snow cover which greatly impacts the fishery. The complete absence of goldfish in 2025 likely indicates a mass mortality event at some point; northern pike may have aided in reduction of goldfish densities but were unlikely to remove all goldfish.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Twin Lakes in St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Northern Pike	1 st Saturday in May-March 1 st	5	None
Panfish	Open All Year	10	None

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Twin Lakes contact:

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