

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

245800



*Wisconsin DNR Lake Map of John Lake*



Trevor Hoheisel  
DNR LTE Fisheries Technician  
August 12, 2026

# Introduction

John lake is a 71 acre seepage lake in Waushara county. It has a maximum depth is 41 feet and has a sediment bottom of sand and muck. 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 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 John 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 Johns 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



RAINBOW TROUT

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

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

Describe any other regulation changes you would like to see for Johns Lake: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



*Creel Form Sample for John Lake*

# Results

## STOCKED TROUT

The angler's response to the forms showed they were moderately targeted species on the lake with a majority of the anglers liking the yellow trout regulation rule with a decent number not knowing or answer the question. Anglers caught a total of 60 trout with 42 of them being harvested in 2 years. Overall catch rate was 0.278 fish per hour, while harvest was 0.194 fish per hour. This indicates that it would take an angler 3-4 hours to catch one trout.

## BLUEGILL

Anglers showed a large interest in targeting bluegills during the first couple of months of the fishing season. Having the highest catch at 472 fish with 263 of them being harvested. The catch rate is 2.185 fish per hour and 1.218 fish per hour for harvest rates. This indicates that it would take an angler half an hour to catch a bluegill.

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

Anglers showed high interest in targeting largemouth bass during the first couple of months of the fishing season. Catch was 100 with 21 bass being harvested over the two fishing seasons. Harvest was the highest for the 2022 season with 19 harvested. The catch rate was shown to be 0.463 fish per hour with 0.097 fish per hour harvested. This indicates that it takes 2-3 hours to catch a largemouth bass.

## BLACK CRAPPIE

Anglers showed low interest in targeting black crappies. Catch was eight with a harvest of five. They were caught on boats during the spring verses ice fishing for them. The overall catch rate is 0.037 fish per hour with harvest being 0.023 fish per hour.

## NORTHERN PIKE

Anglers showed a low interest in targeting northern pike. While catch is at 19 fish, not a single pike was harvested. The catch rate is also very low, being 0.088 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 Responses for Each Question and Angler Effort

| John 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           | 22           | 33            | 104.50      | 11                  | 7    | 4     | 0   | 0       | 9                                | 6        | 3             | 6               | 5             | 9   | 13                         | 2       | 7       |
| 2023           | 25           | 45            | 111.50      | 10                  | 7    | 3     | 3   | 2       | 12                               | 8        | 1             | 5               | 2             | 9   | 18                         | 0       | 7       |
| Total          | 47           | 78            | 216         | 21                  | 14   | 7     | 3   | 2       | 21                               | 14       | 4             | 11              | 7             | 18  | 31                         | 2       | 14      |

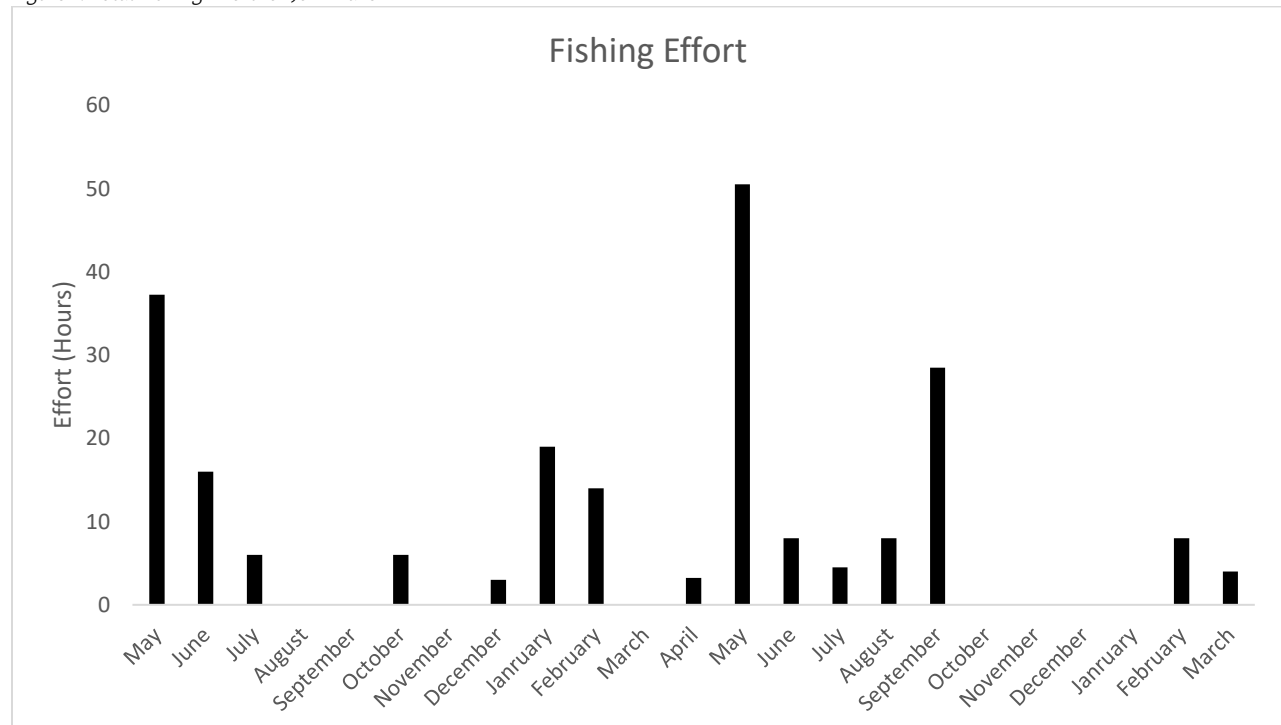
Table 2: Total Catch and Harvest

| John Lake Year | Fish Caught |          |                 |               |               | Fish Harvested |          |                 |               |               |
|----------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                | Trout       | Bluegill | Largemouth Bass | Black Crappie | Northern Pike | Trout          | Bluegill | Largemouth Bass | Black Crappie | Northern Pike |
| 2022           | 25          | 155      | 61              | 6             | 5             | 18             | 100      | 19              | 3             | 0             |
| 2023           | 35          | 317      | 39              | 2             | 14            | 24             | 163      | 2               | 2             | 0             |
| Total          | 60          | 472      | 100             | 8             | 19            | 42             | 263      | 21              | 5             | 0             |

Table 3: Total Catch Rate and Harvest Rate

| John 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           | 0.239                | 1.483    | 0.584           | 0.057         | 0.048         | 0.172                    | 0.957    | 0.182           | 0.029         | 0             |
| 2023           | 0.314                | 2.843    | 0.350           | 0.018         | 0.126         | 0.215                    | 1.462    | 0.018           | 0.018         | 0             |
| Total          | 0.278                | 2.185    | 0.463           | 0.037         | 0.088         | 0.194                    | 1.218    | 0.097           | 0.023         | 0             |

Figure 1: Total Fishing Effort for John Lake



## Discussion

From the responses the anglers gave, most of the effort is being put toward catching bluegill, largemouth bass, and stocked trout. Anglers mainly fish between May-July for all species listed with some ice fishing happening for trout in January and February. Overall, the fishing effort is moderate on John lake with over 200 hours being put into the lake for two fishing seasons on anglers that visit the lake. This is also proven out in our annual trip calculations where 10-11 fishing parties visited the lake between 1-5 times per year with seven parties visit 6-10 times.

## Stocking History

| Year | Species       | Age Class          | Number Fish Stocked | Avg Fish Length In |
|------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2024 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 1,239               | 9                  |
| 2024 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 657                 | 9.4                |
| 2023 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 1,800               | 8.1                |
| 2023 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 2,507               | 9                  |
| 2022 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 1,872               | 8.5                |
| 2022 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 5,029               | 8.9                |
| 2021 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 5,015               | 8.6                |
| 2020 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 3,228               | 9                  |
| 2019 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 1,369               | 9.6                |
| 2019 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 2,453               | 8.9                |
| 2018 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 1,734               | 9.1                |
| 2018 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 1,735               | 9                  |
| 2017 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 300                 | 13                 |
| 2017 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 1,720               | 9.6                |
| 2016 | BROWN TROUT   | YEARLING           | 1,946               | 9.2                |
| 2015 | RAINBOW TROUT | LARGE FINGERLING   | 1,200               | 6.3                |
| 2015 | BROWN TROUT   | LARGE FINGERLING   | 4,216               | 5.6                |
| 2015 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 435                 | 9.2                |
| 2014 | BROWN TROUT   | LARGE FINGERLING   | 4,039               | 6.9                |
| 2013 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 900                 | 7.7                |
| 2013 | BROWN TROUT   | LARGE FINGERLING   | 2,595               | 7.3                |
| 2012 | BROWN TROUT   | LARGE FINGERLING   | 4,736               | 5.2                |
| 2012 | RAINBOW TROUT | YEARLING           | 379                 | 8.7                |
| 2012 | BROWN TROUT   | ADULT (BROODSTOCK) | 215                 | 20.5               |