

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

WBIC 149000



Wisconsin DNR Lake Map of Spring Lake



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Introduction

Spring lake is a 50 acre drainage lake in Waushara county. It has a maximum depth is 37 feet and has a sediment bottom of 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 brown trout can be stocked in the lake for anglers to catch and enjoy. While the lake is able to support stocking of trout, two boat launches are available for the public to access the lake with the second on only for kayakers.

SURVEY EFFORT

By doing a creel at the boat launch we want to get a better understanding of the anglers that come to Spring 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 Spring 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 Spring Lake?: ☐ Like ☐ Dislike

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

Additional Comments: _____



RAINBOW TROUT



Creel Form Sample for Spring Lake

Results

STOCKED TROUT

The angler's response to the forms showed they 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 92 trout with 63 of them being harvested in 2 years. Overall catch rate was 0.354 fish per hour, while harvest was 0.243 fish per hour. This indicates that it would take an angler 2-3 hours to catch one trout.

BLUEGILL

Anglers showed a large interest in targeting bluegills during the first couple of months of the new fishing season. Having the highest catch at 217 fish with 110 of them being harvested. The catch rate is 0.835 fish per hour and 0.423 fish per hour for harvest rates. This indicates that it would take an angler about 1 hour 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 61 with 20 bass being harvested over the two season. Harvest was the highest for the 2022 season with 20 harvested. The catch rate was shown to be 0.235 fish per hour with 0.077 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 38 with a harvest of 36. They were caught on boats during the spring verses ice fishing for them. The overall catch rate is 0.146 fish per hour with harvest being 0.139 fish per hour. This indicates it takes 4-5 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 harvested. 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 there share the same habitat.

Table 1: Total Responses for Each Question and Angler Effort

Spring 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	16	35	139.50	11	2	2	1	0	6	6	3	5	7	4	11	2	3
2023	16	35	120.25	10	3	2	0	1	11	6	3	5	2	1	13	0	3
Total	32	70	259.75	21	5	4	1	1	17	12	6	10	9	5	24	2	6

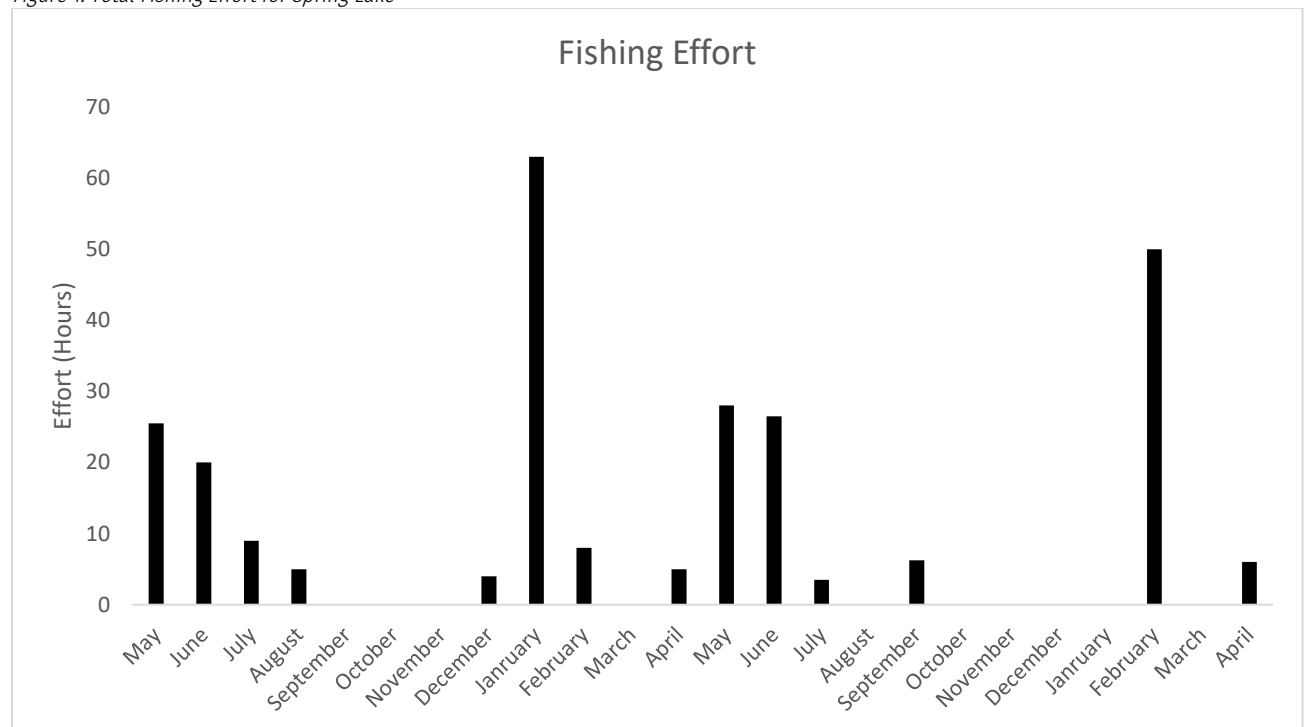
Table 2: Total Catch and Harvest

Spring Lake Year	Fish Caught					Fish Harvested				
	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike
2022	50	129	37	37	8	31	81	20	36	1
2023	42	88	24	1	12	32	29	0	0	3
Total	92	217	61	38	20	63	110	20	36	4

Table 3: Total Catch Rate and Harvest Rate

Spring 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	0.358	0.925	0.265	0.265	0.057	0.222	0.581	0.143	0.258	0.007
2023	0.349	0.732	0.200	0.008	0.100	0.266	0.241	0	0	0.025
Total	0.354	0.835	0.235	0.146	0.077	0.243	0.423	0.077	0.139	0.015

Figure 1: Total Fishing Effort for Spring Lake



Discussion

From the responses the anglers gave, most of the effort is being directed towards catching stocked trout, bluegill, and largemouth bass. Anglers mainly fish between May-June for all species listed with some ice fishing happening for bluegills in January-February. Overall, the fishing effort is moderate on Spring lake with over 250 hours being put into the lake for two fishing seasons on anglers that visit the lake. This was also proven out in the annual trip calculations where 10-11 fishing parties visited the lake between 1-5 times per year with 2-3 parties visit 6-10 times.

Stocking History

Year	Species	Age Class	Number Fish Stocked	Avg Fish Length In
2024	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,840	10
2024	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	875	9
2023	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,800	9
2023	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,500	9
2022	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,872	8.5
2022	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	5,002	8.8
2021	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	5,000	8.5
2020	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,768	9
2019	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	749	9.6
2019	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,340	8.9
2018	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	950	9.1
2017	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	974	9.1
2016	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,067	9.2
2016	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	945	9
2015	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	967	9.2
2014	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,455	9
2014	BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	75	25.5
2013	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,999	7.7
2013	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	549	8.2
2011	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,353	7.8
2011	BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	37	22