



Brainerd Lakes Review

MNDNR Brainerd Area Fisheries Newsletter

2014 Survey Lakes

- ➔ Little Thunder
- ➔ Big Bass
- ➔ Sylvan
- ➔ Camp
- ➔ Borden
- ➔ Bay
- ➔ Serpent
- ➔ Nokay
- ➔ Rice Reservoir
- ➔ Upper Mission
- ➔ Lower Mission
- ➔ Kego
- ➔ Mitchell
- ➔ Edward
- ➔ Pelican
- ➔ Gilbert
- ➔ Clark
- ➔ Whipple
- ➔ Sibley
- ➔ Upper Hay

Quick Updates

- Zebra mussels have now been found in both Pelican Lake and the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.
- A new one day walleye egg take record was set at the Pine River walleye trap in 2013. On May 8th, 325 quarts were taken.
- A creel survey was done on the Gull Chain of Lakes during the summer of 2013. Catch, harvest and fishing pressure data is still being tabulated.

Newly Stocked Muskie Lake

Thanks to a high quality forage base, deep, cold water, and successful public input process, stocking of muskie began in Roosevelt Lake in 2011. The stocking began with 345 adults ranging from 18"-30", as well as 45 fingerlings that were 10"-12". These larger fish allowed us to jump start the population a little. Regular stocking continued in 2012 with 336 fish, most of which were 10"-12". All muskies that have been stocked were implanted with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag. Each tag contains a unique number which can be scanned with an electric wand. This will allow us to see how much an individual fish has grown each time it is caught in our sampling, make inferences about other population metrics and detect natural reproduction (fish without a tag).

New Staff

The Brainerd Area has two new staff members since our last newsletter. Andrew Wiebusch is a new Fisheries Specialist that joined us from the Spicer area. If you have called our office recently, you may have heard a new voice on the phone. Lori Snider has left our office and Sue Loss is our new Office & Administrative Specialist.



A 35" muskie caught on Roosevelt lake in the fall of 2013.
Photo by Dan Steffen

This stocking has caught the interest of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, who is currently in the process of securing funding to purchase 105 acres on Roosevelt Lake. The land contains over 5,000 feet of sensitive shoreland as identified by the DNR in a recent lakeshore survey. This area, known as Woods Bay,

appears to be an ideal place for these muskies to spawn in the coming years as they reach a mature size. If the property is acquired, the plan is to gift the land to the DNR to be turned into an Aquatic Management Area (AMA). This would protect this important shoreline and provide upland recreational opportunities in perpetuity.



Andrew Wiebusch



Sue Loss