



Leech Lake Update, July 2012
Walker Area Fisheries Office
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Greetings!

This update is part of a series of reports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sending to Leech Lake area resorts, businesses and others interested in DNR activities on Leech Lake. The goal of these messages is to keep you up to date with our findings and current activities on the lake. Earlier updates are available by visiting <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/walker/index.html>. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or comments, would like copies of previous updates not posted on the website, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Recent Changes

- Doug Schultz, previous Large Lake Specialist on Leech, was promoted to Area Fisheries Supervisor, in November, 2011. Since the retirement of Harlan Fierstine in December 2010, Scott Gustafson was Acting Area Fisheries Supervisor and has now resumed his previous responsibilities as Walker Assistant Area Fisheries Supervisor.
- Matt Ward was promoted to Large Lake Specialist on Leech in February 2012, after spending the previous 8 years working as a Fisheries Specialist for Duluth and Lake Superior Area Fisheries. Matt received a B.S. degree from University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in 1999 in Biology/Water Resources – Fisheries/Limnology, and a M.S. degree from South Dakota State University in 2003 in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.
- Calub Shavlik was promoted to Assistant Area Fisheries Supervisor for Park Rapids Area Fisheries. Calub was a Fisheries Specialist with Walker Area Fisheries since September 2002.
- Carl Pedersen was recently hired as a Fisheries Specialist and will start on August 22, 2012. Carl received a B.S. degree from University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in 1991 in Biology/Water Resources – Fisheries Emphasis, a B.S. degree from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2004 in Biology Education, and a M.S. degree from North Dakota State University in December 2010 in Natural Resources Management. Carl has previously worked for the U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Power Company, Wisconsin DNR, and was a science teacher at Hibbing High school.

2012 survey work completed and to be completed on Leech Lake

- With volunteer assistance, 7.5 million walleye fry were stocked from May 7-10, 2012 (see table below). Fry were distributed throughout all major bays; bay-specific amounts were determined based on proportion of total littoral acres (≤ 15 -ft. deep).
- Under the supervision of the Division of Resource Management, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, double-crested cormorant control is ongoing to the management goal of 500 nesting pairs.
- A lake wide night time electrofishing survey for bluegills, bass, and crappies was conducted from mid-May through mid-June in which 49 20-minute stations were sampled. Boy, Headquarters, Steamboat, and Shingobee bays had the highest catch rates of bluegills and bass.



Monthly sampling of zooplankton at five locations lakewide was initiated in 2012 and will occur from mid-May through mid-September.

- Standard shoreline beach seining was cancelled again this year due to staffing limitations. Last year's seining was cancelled due to the State shutdown during July.
- Standard trawling will be conducted from August 23-31.
- The annual gill net survey will be completed from September 3-14.
- Shoreline night time electrofishing for young-of-year walleye will be completed from September 24-28
- As in other years, volunteers are welcome to assist. Contact Matt Ward (matt.ward@state.mn.us) if interested.



Area	Total Stocked
Main Lake	
Boy/Hdqtr's Bay	1,344,833
Portage Bay	1,222,202
Sucker Bay	1,231,744
Stony Point	849,391
Whipholt	807,077
Trader's Bay	741,200
Western Bays	
Steamboat Bay	730,904
Walker Bay North	365,452
Walker Bay South	104,415
Kabekona Bay	52,207
Agency Bay	52,207
Total	7,501,632

If you have questions, comments, or requests please contact:

Matt Ward (matt.ward@state.mn.us)

or

Doug Schultz (doug.w.schultz@state.mn.us)