

Glenwood Area Fishing Outlook

2025-2026

Survey Information

Our standard lake survey consists of trap nets, gill nets and electrofishing. Electrofishing is conducted in the spring to target bass, while gill nets and trap nets are used to sample most of the remaining fish community. Nets are checked and moved daily on each lake for about a week in the summer. Nets are placed in the same locations within a lake each year, and surveying over many years allows us to track trends in fish populations. Each sampling gear has bias; the largest and smallest fish in a population are typically underrepresented in our sampling.

Fifteen standard lake surveys and four targeted walleye surveys (gill net only) were conducted in 2025. The results are summarized below. Many different variables determine fishing success. However, this document should give anglers some information to start planning lakes they would like to fish. We hope this helps get you started. Good luck fishing!

Walleye

Walleye opener is May 9, 2026. Amelia, Pelican (Grant County) and Malmedal have excellent numbers of walleyes, but many are small. In a year or two these lakes should offer excellent fishing. Mary and Chippewa currently have good numbers of 'eater' size fish. When planning lakes to fish for walleye, shallow turbid lakes are your best bet early in the season because they warm more quickly. The bite in clearer, deeper lakes often improves once they have warmed up sufficiently. Conversely, fishing success may decrease as summer progresses in shallow basins as they may become too vegetated to fish.

Northern Pike

Fishing for northern pike opens May 9, 2026. Most lakes in the Glenwood area offer abundant northern pike populations. Leven, Malmedal, Indian, Lobster and Villard all had high pike numbers (exceeding 10 per gill net). Most fish tend to be small (under 22 inches), but anglers will now find pike over 30 inches in most lakes.

All lakes in the Glenwood Area are within the north-central zone for pike regulations that were implemented in 2018. Anglers can keep 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches, or two larger than 26 inches. One exception is a special regulation on Rachel Lake, where all pike from 24 to 36 inches must be immediately released. Possession limit on Rachel is three and only one over 36 inches. For more information see: Northern Pike Zones.

Largemouth Bass

Catch and release season begins for bass on May 9, 2026 and anglers can begin harvesting bass on May 23. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing. Burgen is an action fishery, while Stowe, Mary and Indian still offer numbers of fish but at larger average sizes. Anglers should be aware that Agnes and Henry have a special regulation for bass. All bass from 12 to 20 inches must be immediately released, with one over 20 inches allowed in possession.

Smallmouth Bass

Maple, Minnewaska and Osakis were the only lakes sampled in 2025 with fishable smallmouth bass populations. The largest smallmouth bass sampled in Maple, Minnewaska and Osakis were 18.6, 17.9 and 17.1 inches, respectively. While not sampled in 2025, Grants, Reno, Ida, Carlos and Latoka are some of the other smallmouth bass lakes in our area. Smallmouth bass have been recorded in several other area lakes at low densities, but their numbers appear to be expanding.

Crappie

Crappie are not sampled well in the summer using our nets, so even lakes with low catch rates may still support healthy populations. Indian and Pelican offer good numbers of crappies, but most fish were under 8 inches. Lobster, Villard, Mary, Red Rock and Stowe also had good number of crappies but at sizes that would be more desirable to anglers. Maple has a special regulation for crappie. Minimum size is 10 inches, with a daily limit of five.

Bluegill

Most lakes sampled in 2025 had good numbers of bluegill. Maple, Amelia, Red Rock, Villard and Leven were sampled using spring targeted panfish surveys and not directly comparable to the other lakes, with spring surveys sampling larger fish. These lakes are indicated by an asterisk and have 10-fish bag limits for bluegill, except for Maple.

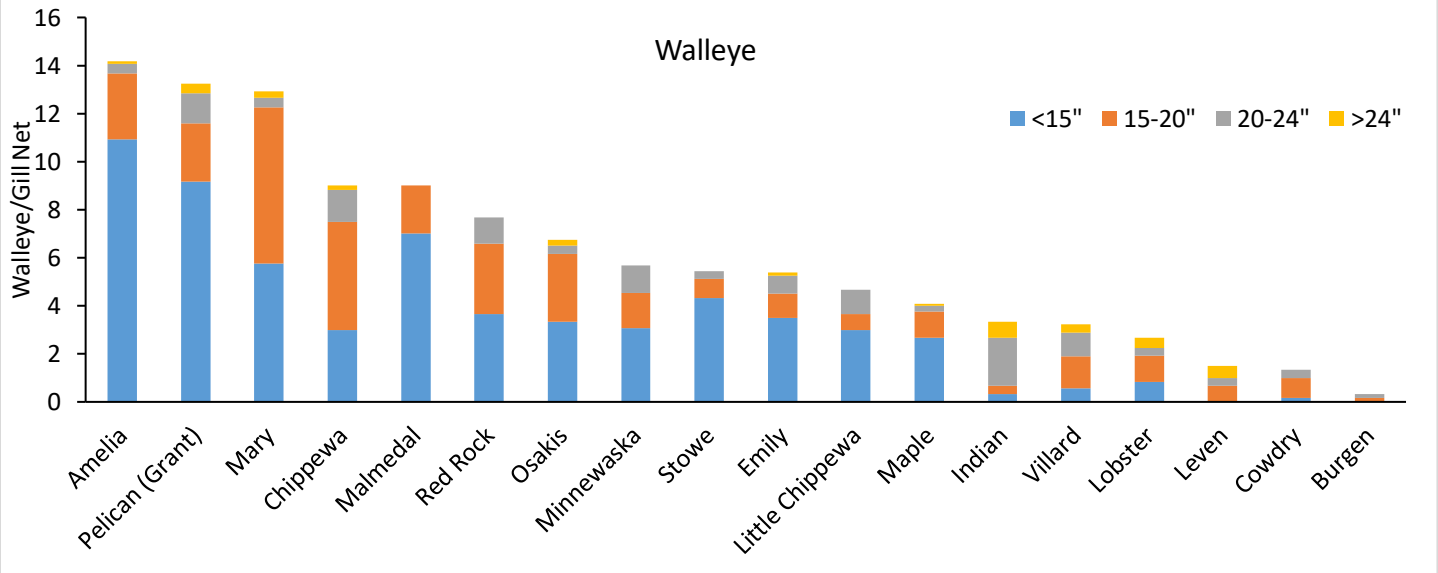
As part of the Quality Sunfish Initiative, reduced sunfish bag limits are in effect on quite a few lakes in the Glenwood area. This includes a ten fish bag limit on the following lakes: Amelia, Andrew, Blackwell, Gilchrist, Grove, Irene, Leven, Mill, Minnewaska, Osakis (including Little Osakis), Red Rock, Reno, Vermont and Villard. While five fish bag limits are in place on Moon, Round and Whiskey. Anglers can help protect large bluegill by releasing them and harvesting fish that are 8 inches or less. For more information on enhancing quality bluegill fishing see the Quality Sunfish Initiative.

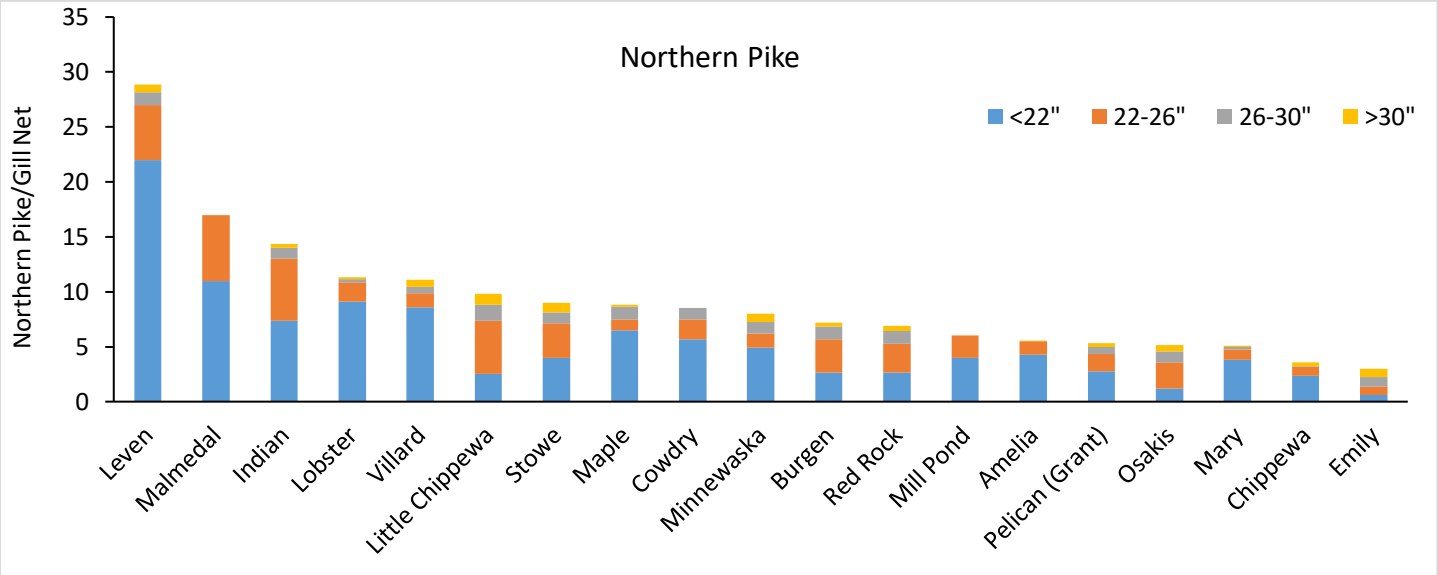
Yellow Perch

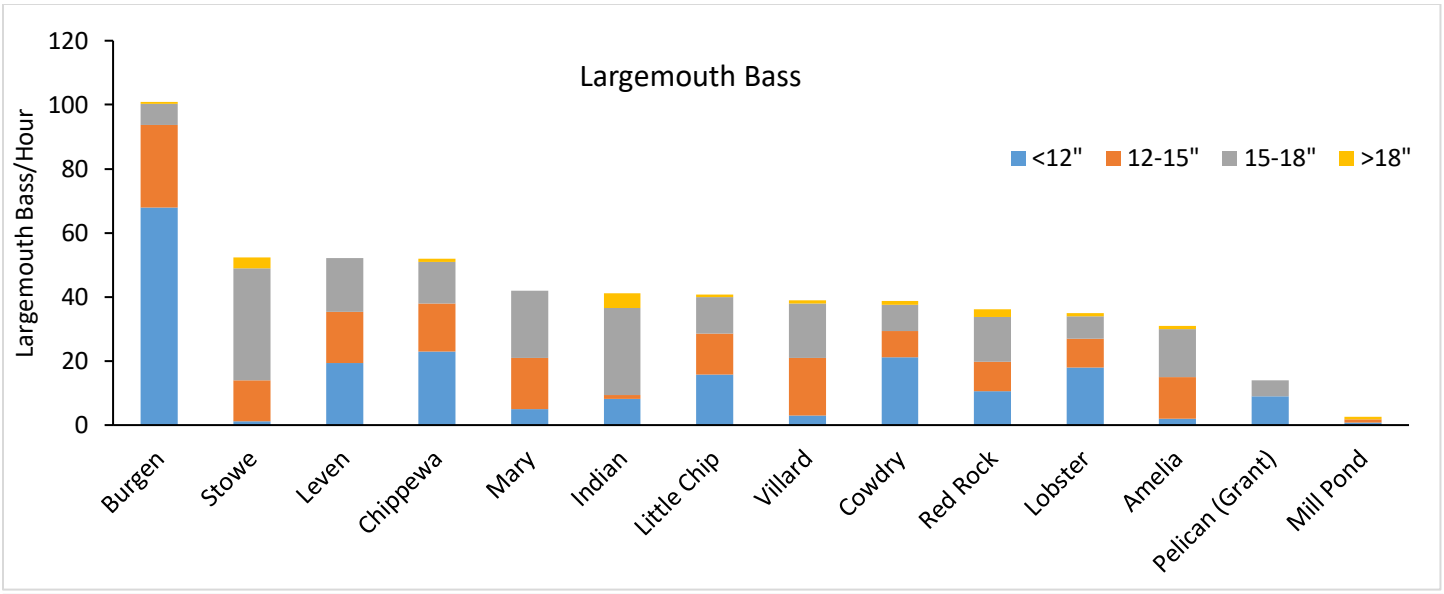
Of the lakes surveyed in the past year, few perch were sampled at sizes that would be of interest to anglers. However, Malmedal, Minnewaska and Red Rock all had perch sampled over 10 inches. While not sampled in 2025, Page is one of the few consistent jumbo perch fisheries in our area. In addition, jumbo perch were observed during a targeted survey on Ann in 2022.

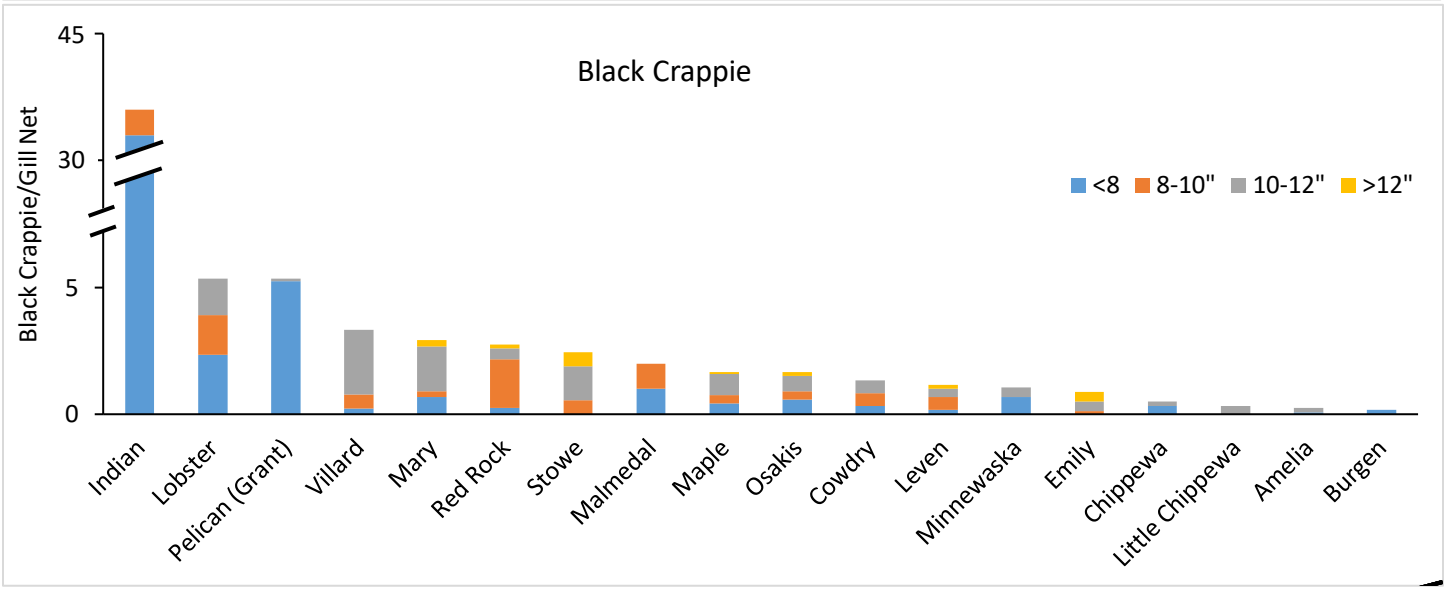
Muskellunge

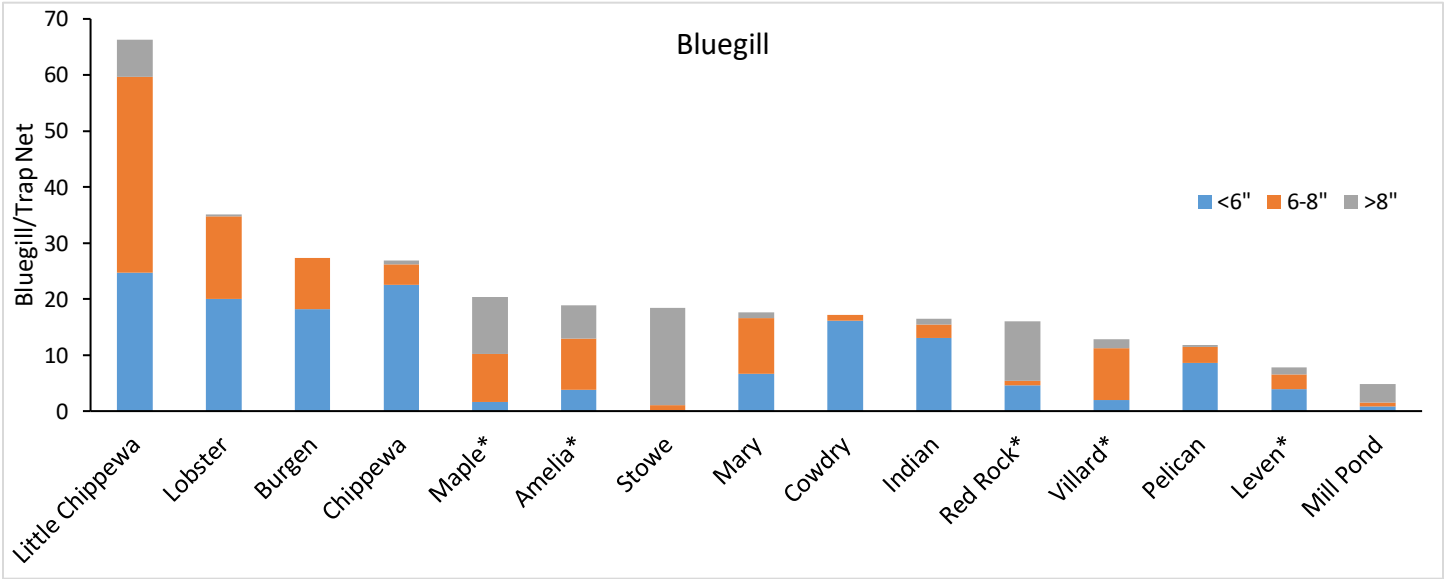
Muskie season opens June 6, 2026. Possession limit is one, with a 54-inch minimum. A targeted muskie survey began in 2024 on Oscar. A total of 65 muskies were sampled, ranging from 17.1 to 52.8 inches. Two other lakes in the area, Lobster and Miltona, are managed for muskie and support fishable populations.



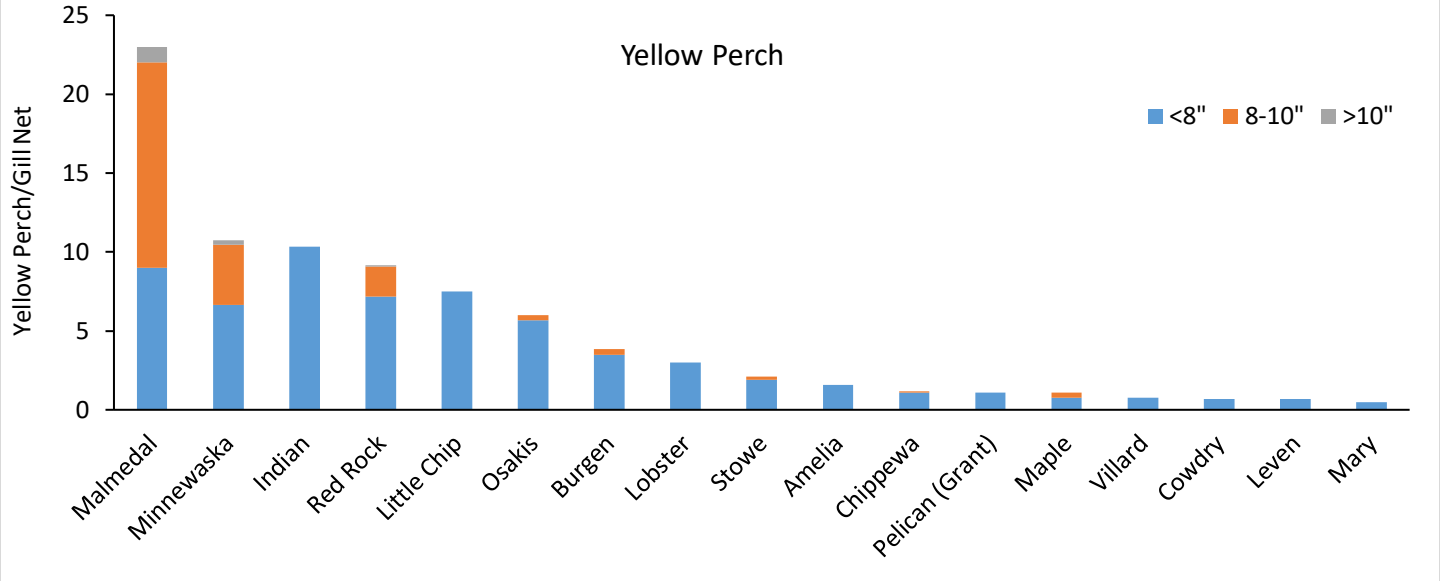


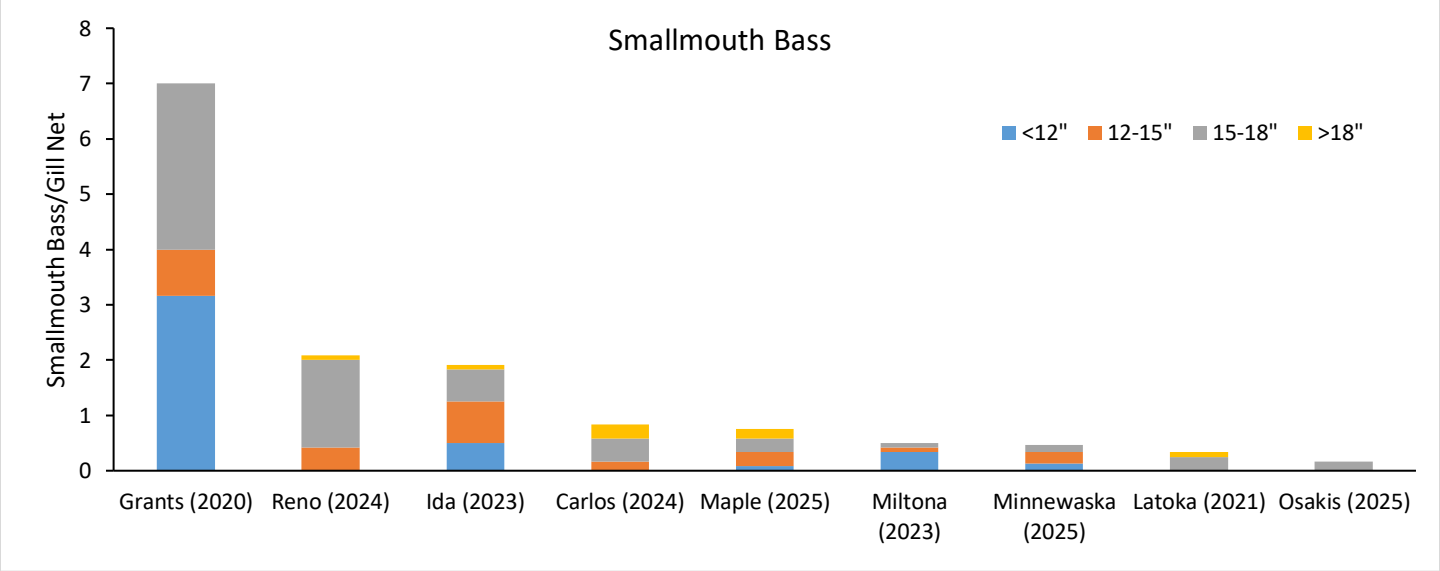


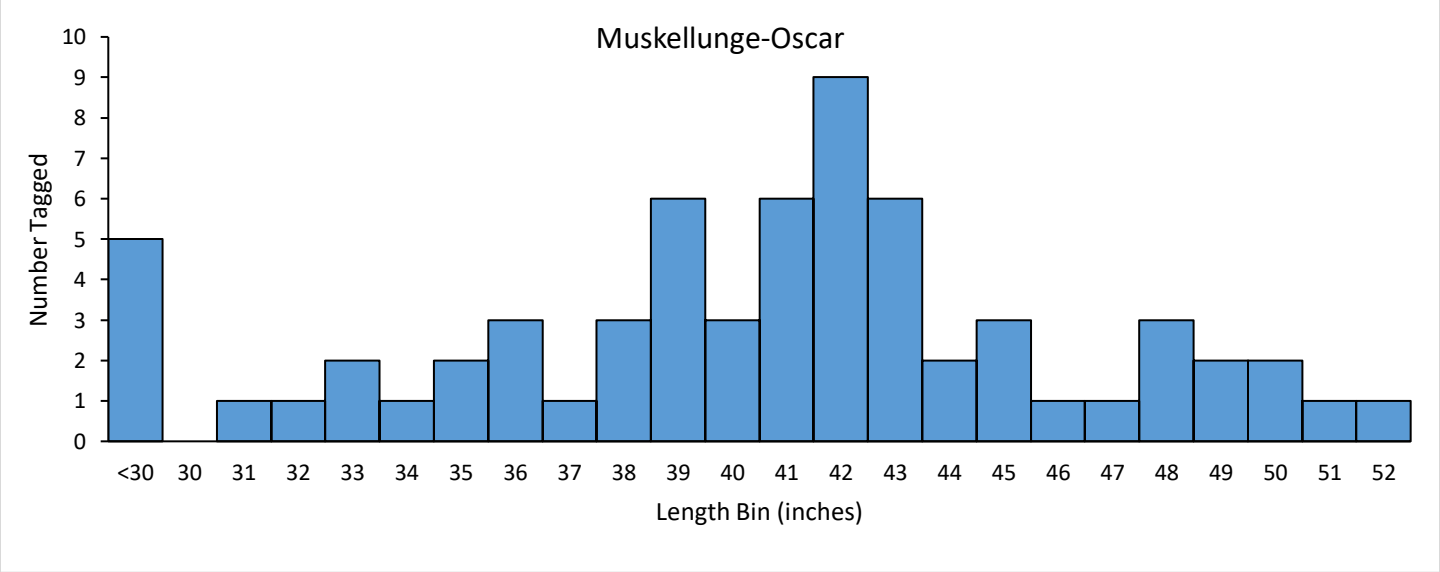




*Indicates lakes where spring targeted panfish surveys were conducted and are not comparable to other lakes.


Yellow Perch
Yellow Perch/Gill Net
<8"
8-10"
>10"
25
20
15
10
5
0
Malmedal
Minnewaska
Indian
Red Rock
Little Chip
Osakis
Burgen
Lobster
Stowe
Amelia
Chippewa
Pelican (Grant)
Maple
Villard
Cowdry
Leven
Mary


Smallmouth Bass
Smallmouth Bass/Gill Net
<12"
12-15"
15-18"
>18"
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Grants (2020)
Reno (2024)
Ida (2023)
Carlos (2024)
Maple (2025)
Miltona (2023)
Minnewaska (2025)
Latoka (2021)
Osakis (2025)


Muskellunge-Oscar
Number Tagged
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
<30
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
Length Bin (inches)

Trout

Trout opener is April 11, 2026. Catchable-size brown and rainbow trout are stocked into Spruce Creek by the DNR and Viking Sportsmen each spring. An additional fall stocking of 500 rainbow trout took place in late August 2025. Shore fishing is available in Spruce Hill County Park, and immediately south of the park is a new trout angling easement area. Possession limit is five, with only one over 16 inches. Anglers between the ages of 18 and 64 need a Trout Stamp to harvest trout, but not for catch-and-release.

New this year will be the stocking of Mill Pond, in Spruce Center, with 280 brown and rainbow trout, ranging from 3 to 6 pounds! The winter trout season in Mill Pond runs from January 17 to March 31, 2026. Possession limit is 5, with not more than 3 over 16 inches.

Underutilized Fishes

Emily is the only lake in the area with a white bass population, which have been sampled at sizes exceeding 16 inches. It also has an abundant channel catfish population, with catfish ranging from 15 to 28 inches during the 2025 survey. Freshwater drum, also known as sheepshead, are common in many lakes such as Perkins, Barrett, Emily and Stowe. Additionally, channel catfish can be found in the Mustinka, Pomme de Terre and Chippewa Rivers (see Shore Fishing Opportunities below). In recent years, lake sturgeon have been caught below the Lake Crissy Dam at the Pomme de Terre Park near Morris. Their population should continue to expand after a dam modification, currently scheduled to begin in late 2026.





Shore Fishing Opportunities

Lakes with Fishing Piers

Agnes	Barrett	Brophy
Devils	Geneva	Ida
Maple	Osakis	Signalness (Mountain)
Victoria	Minnewaska	

River Shore Fishing Opportunities

Mustinka River at Pine Ridge Park near Herman
Pomme de Terre River at lake outlet near Elbow Lake
Pomme de Terre Park (Lake Crissy Dam) near Morris
West Branch of the Chippewa River near Lake Emily

There are many other shore fishing opportunities not listed, including city and county parks, as well as road and trail rights-of-way. For more information about shore fishing contact the Glenwood Area Fisheries Office or visit: MN DNR Fishing Piers and Shore Fishing Sites.

Glenwood Area Fish Management Staff:

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Standard Lake Surveys in 2026

The following lakes will be sampled in 2026:

Blackwell	Freeborn	Gilbert
Grants	Irene	Mina
Oscar	Vermont	Reno
Lower Elk	Charlotte	Osakis

To see past Fisheries Newsletters visit our Glenwood Area Fisheries Page and click to expand the fishing opportunities tab. For more information about a particular lake, visit MN DNR Lakefinder and type in the lake name of interest.

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