Glenwood Area Fisheries Newsletter

2025-2026

Lake Reno: Fish Tagging and Creel Survey



A bluegill from Lake Reno with a yellow floy tag near the dorsal fin.

Anglers on Lake Reno might encounter something unexpected this year, tagged fish! In fall of 2025, Glenwood Fisheries staff were able to tag over 4,000 fish from across the lake. If anglers are lucky enough to catch one of the over 2,000 walleye, 1,800 sunfish, or 300 crappie, we would appreciate them reporting it. White or yellow tags are placed near the dorsal fin and have a 5- or 6-digit number (see left). Do not let the presence of a tag influence your decision to harvest or release a fish. If releasing a fish, please do not remove the tag. Instead take a picture or record the tag number and approximate length. If harvesting a fish, proceed as you normally would, retaining the tag for reporting.

Anglers have a couple options on how to report tags. Fish can be reported by sending the date of capture, length, location, tag number, catch or release status, and if the tag removed, to glenwood.fisheries@state.mn.us. For an easier option, scan this QR code, or those posted at the public accesses, and simply follow the prompts. Results of this work will be used to better understand harvest, estimate population sizes, and angler preferences. With enough tag reports, staff may also be able to look into fish movement, with the locations of each fish being recorded at the time of tagging.

A QR code that can be scanned to take anglers to a tag reporting website.

At the same time, a creel survey is also taking place on Lake Reno. The creel survey began in December of 2025 and will conclude October 2026. A creel clerk will be interviewing anglers to collect information, such as what species anglers are targeting, fish caught and released versus those harvested, fish length and angler opinions. Collected data will be used to estimate fishing pressure, total catch and harvest of each species, and much more. This information, along with the data collected from the tagging study, will be used to inform future management.

Mill Pond: New Winter Trout Fishery



New in the fall of 2025 was the stocking of Mill Pond, also known as Spruce Center Lake, with 280 brown and rainbow trout, ranging from 3 to 6 pounds! The trout season in Mill Pond is from May 9 to October 31, 2026. The winter trout season runs from mid-January to March 31. Possession limit is 5, with not more than 3 over 16 inches.

Dam Modifications: Perkins and Pomme de Terre Lake Outlets

In the 2024-2025 Newsletter, an article titled *Fragmented Rivers: Reconnecting the Pomme de Terre* discussed dams on the Pomme de Terre River that were impeding the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms, along with other biological and safety concerns. During the fall of 2025, work began to modify both the Perkins and Pomme de Terre Lake Dams with rock arch rapids (see pictures below). Crissy Lake Dam in Morris is now the only remaining dam on the Pomme de Terre River in the Glenwood management area, and work to modify that dam is planned for this fall. Originally constructed in 1939, Crissy Lake Dam is currently the 2nd largest impact to biodiversity in the entire Minnesota River Basin, with 15 species of fish found downstream of the dam that are not found upstream. While the modification of these dams has been a big step in restoring passage for fish and other aquatic organisms, several dams on the Pomme de Terre River still remain as barriers in Otter Tail County.



***A**. What remained of the Perkins Lake Dam before work began. **B**. A picture from December of 2025 of the Perkins Lake outlet after being modified with a rock arch rapids. **C**. Pomme de Terre Lake Dam before work began. **D**. Pomme de Terre Lake outlet after being modified with a rock arch rapids in November of 2025.*

Automatic Hook-Setting Devices: Now Legal

Ice anglers could begin using hook setting devices (e.g., Jawjackers, Automatic Fishermen, etc.) during the 2025-26 ice fishing season. The hook setting components must be non-motorized and use the force of a spring or bent fishing pole to set the hook, but motorized jigging is allowed. The device must not be capable of reeling in line or retrieving the fish. The same rules as all other tip-ups apply, with anglers needing to remain within 200 feet, and hook setting devices cannot be left unattended. See page 82 of the 2026 Minnesota Fishing Regulations for more details.

Employee Spotlight: Jeff Reed



Jeff Reed with a Largemouth Bass sampled on an area lake. Jeff will retire this year after 35 years as a Fisheries Research Scientist at the Glenwood office.

As of June, of this year, I will have been working in the fisheries field for over 40 years. Prior to joining MN DNR in 1990, I worked for the Wisconsin DNR for several years as a project biologist. During that time, I also obtained my M.S. in Fisheries Biology from Auburn University. I began working with MN DNR as a fisheries management specialist in Windom, moving to a fisheries research biologist position in Glenwood in 1991. Since then, I have been involved with and led research into walleye stocking, the effects of fish production on wetland ecosystems, the habitat needs of largemouth bass and crappies, and the human dimensions of angling. For several years I oversaw our Sentinel Lakes long-term monitoring program, securing over 1.2 million dollars in grant funding, which eventually allowed the program to be fully incorporated into our fisheries research unit. For the last 15 years or so, I have also worked to better incorporate angler surveys into our management. Collaborating with University of Minnesota researchers has enabled us to get a better understanding of anglers and their thoughts on issues such as size and bag limits and generally how we are doing as an agency. Much of my work has focused on bass and panfish, and since 2015 I have co-chaired the DNR's Panfish Technical Team. One of the highlights of that work was developing the Quality Sunfish Initiative in cooperation with members of our citizen advisory Panfish Workgroup.

Minnesota has some of the best fishery resources in the country and though I may be a bit biased, we also have some of the best fisheries professionals in the world working to protect and enhance them. It has been a privilege to be part of those efforts.

Bass Fishing: Catch-And-Release Open All Year

Beginning March 1, 2026, largemouth and smallmouth bass angling is open all year for catch-and-release on inland waters. This comes after a public survey in 2023, with 91% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting a year-round catch-and-release season. Until this change, only Minnesota and northern Maine had closed bass seasons as a standard regulation. However, harvest dates will remain the same, beginning May 23, 2026 for our area of the state.



Bass populations have increased in abundance, size and geographic distribution throughout Minnesota in recent decades. This, along with most bass anglers practicing catch-and-release exclusively, means there is little to no conservation risk, while also simplifying regulations. In addition, the previous catch-and-release season was taking place before bass spawn in most of the state. But even if there is increased pressure on spawning fish, the effects of angling have generally been limited to failure of some individual nests without leading to population level effects. Longer growing seasons associated with climate change also favor warm water species such as bass, and they should continue to thrive into the future.

For more information on bass seasons, see pages 29 to 30 of the 2026 Minnesota Fishing Regulations.

Walleye Stocking and Fall Assessments

In 2025, the Glenwood Fisheries office was able to get all of the walleye eggs needed to reach our quota and our hatchery had excellent hatch rates, allowing us to produce 47.7 million fry. Over 21 million of those fry were stocked directly into area lakes and rivers, while the remaining fry were shipped to other DNR fisheries areas or stocked into rearing ponds. These natural ponds are used to raise walleye to around 5 to 8 inches in the fall before they are netted out and stocked into lakes. We rely on winterkill to clean out our rearing ponds of other fish, reducing competition and predation. For more information about how we choose what to stock read the articles titled '*Walleye Stocking: Fry or Fingerling?*' in the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 Newsletters.

Lake	Number
Ann	185,000
Barrett	422,000
Brophy	82,000
Freeborn	86,000
Gilbert	95,000
Graham	70,000
Grants	64,000
Hattie	232,000
Ida	875,500
Jessie	69,000
Johanna	700,000
Latoka	538,000
Le Homme Dieu*	375,000
Lobster	346,500
Long	410,500
Lower Elk	65,500
Malmedal	99,500
Miltona	2,759,000
Minnewaska	3,290,000
Moses	393,000
Osakis	3,389,000
Pelican	1,732,500
Perkins	517,000
Pomme de Terre	1,613,000
Reno	2,029,000
Smith	182,000
Thompson	37,000
Westport	203,000
Winona	213,000
Total	21,073,000

*Number of walleye fry stocked in 2025. *Indicates fish purchased and stocked by private citizens or sporting groups.*

Lake	Number	Lbs.
Aaron	499	467
Aaron*	2,280	152
Burgen*	200	50
Carlos	1,441	920
Carlos*	4,800	260
Cottonwood	1,457	293
Cowdry*	1,125	75
Darling	4,499	790
Devils*	4,920	164
Freeborn*	2,400	120
Geneva	1,566	466
Geneva*	2,700	225
Grove	270	270
Irene	5,254	651
Le Homme Dieu	1,702	1,375
Little Chippewa*	4,500	150
Miltona	3,451	505
Miltona*	23,750	1,000
Minnewaska	6,277	1,191
Minnewaska*	42,800	2,000
Moses*	3,405	227
Osakis*	11,880	900
Oscar*	11,000	500
Pelican*	6,900	460
Pocket	7	26
Rachel	412	516
Red Rock	8,209	522
Scandinavian	1,420	230
Stowe*	11,940	398
Turtle	2,052	263
Vermont*	1,515	101
Victoria	358	207
Victoria*	2,620	131
Whiskey*	4,380	146
Total	181,987	15,751

*Number of walleye fingerlings, yearlings and adults stocked in 2025. *Indicates fish purchased and stocked by private citizens or sporting groups.*

Fisheries staff also conduct fall electrofishing on at least nine lakes each fall before any fingerling stocking takes place to evaluate fry stocking and natural reproduction. We do this to determine how well walleye fry that hatched in spring have survived to fall, what we call young-of-year (YOY) fish. We use this as an index to estimate the relative strength of walleye year classes. These surveys have occurred on most of these nine lakes since the early 1990s, so we have many years of data. After a moderate year in 2024, 2025 was a good year for walleye production. Strong walleye year classes were observed on Pelican (Grant County; 167.1/hour) and Reno (99.9/hour), with above average year classes on Chippewa (39.0/hour) and Amelia (26.3/hour). The 2025 walleye year classes, in conjunction with record breaking year classes in 2022 and 2023, should provide excellent walleye fishing in the area.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to be a problem statewide. Approximately 70% of our publicly accessible waters within the Glenwood Fish Management Area contain at least one AIS. Aquatic invasive species are moved from infested to non-infested waters by anglers, boaters, and lake shore owners, and can adversely affect lakes and fish populations.



Zebra mussels attached to a boat lift.

To avoid spreading AIS, lake users are required to remove all aquatic plants and animals from their watercraft and drain all water from their boat and motor before leaving the access. If you suspect an infestation of an invasive species in a lake, save a specimen and report it to a local natural resource office.

In 2025, one new lake in the Glenwood Area was confirmed to contain zebra mussels, Union Lake near Forada. For a full list of lakes see the infested waters list. Additional information on AIS can be found on the DNR website (https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html).

Lake Surveys

Lake surveys are the primary tool for guiding fish management. Our standard lake survey consists of trap nets, gill nets and electrofishing. Electrofishing is conducted in the spring to target bass, while gill nets sample offshore fish (e.g., walleye, northern pike and yellow perch) and trap nets sample nearshore panfish (e.g., bluegill and black crappie). Nets are checked and moved daily for about a week on each lake. Nets are placed in the same locations within a lake each survey, and surveying over many years allows us to track trends in fish populations. Survey information can be accessed by going to https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html and typing in the lake of interest.

Lake Surveys 2025

The following lakes were sampled in 2025:

Amelia	Big Chippewa	Burgen
Cowdry	Indian	Leven
Little Chippewa	Lobster	Maple
Mary	Red Rock	Stowe
Villard	Pelican (Grant Co.)	

Lake Surveys 2026

The following lakes will be sampled in 2026:

Blackwell	Charlotte	Freeborn
Gilbert	Grants	Hattie
Irene	Lightning	Lower Elk
Mina	Nelson	Oscar
Osakis	Reno	Pelican (Grant Co.)
Vermont	Long (Stevens Co.)	

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