Glenwood Area Fishing Outlook

2021-2022

Survey Information

Our standard lake survey consists of electrofishing, trap nets and gill nets. 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.

Thirteen standard lake surveys were conducted in 2021. 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 in 2022. We hope this helps get you started. Good luck fishing!

Walleye

Walleye opener is May 14, 2022. Of the lakes sampled in 2021, Elk, Mary, Turtle, Chippewa and Thompson all had excellent walleye numbers. With the exception of Thompson, all of these lakes had a significant proportion of walleye under 15 inches. Fish in Thompson tend to be large, with most exceeding 20 inches. Signalness (Mountain) also had a high proportion of large fish and is a unique fishing opportunity within Glacial Lakes State Park (restricted to electric motors only). For anglers seeking 'eater size' walleye, plenty of 15-20 inch fish are present in Mary, Elk and Chippewa. When planning lakes to fish for walleye, turbid lakes are your best bet early in the season because they warm more quickly. The bite usually improves on clearer, deeper lakes once they have warmed up sufficiently, and shallower lakes may be too vegetated to fish.

Northern Pike

Most lakes in the Glenwood Area offer large numbers of northern pike. Latoka had the greatest number of pike sampled in 2021. Most fish tend to be small (under 22 inches) but pike over 30 inches were sampled as well. Signalness (Mountain) has a high number of pike, with many within the protected slot limit. All lakes in the Glenwood Area are within the north-central zone for new pike regulations that were implemented in 2018. The northern pike season opens May 14, 2022. 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. The possession limit on Rachel is three pike and only one over 36 inches. For more information see: Northern Pike Zones.

Largemouth Bass

Catch and release season begins for bass on May 14, 2022 and anglers can begin harvesting bass on May 28. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing. A few of the higher quality fisheries sampled in 2021 are Elk and Thompson, which have a large proportion of 15 to 18 inch fish, as well as bass over 18 inches. Crooked, Chippewa, and Whiskey are good options for an action fishery, with decent size bass in the mix.

Smallmouth Bass

Latoka was the only lake sampled in 2021 with smallmouth bass. Only 8 were sampled, ranging from 15 to 19 inches. While not sampled in 2021, Grants, Miltona, Ida and Minnewaska are some of the better 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.

Black Crappie

Black crappie are not sampled well in the summer using our nets, so even lakes with low catch rates may still support good populations. Winona had an extremely high number of crappie but they tend to be small. Lobster, Turtle, Crooked and Mary also have good numbers of black crappie, and at sizes that would be of interest to anglers. While not comparable with standard summer surveys, several special panfish surveys were conducted last spring. Of these lakes Gilchrist, Osakis, Irene and Whiskey all offered respectable crappie populations.

Bluegill

Most lakes in the Glenwood Area have bluegill, with many supporting quality fisheries. Look to clear, vegetated lakes such as Elk, Turtle, Lobster and Mary for consistent numbers

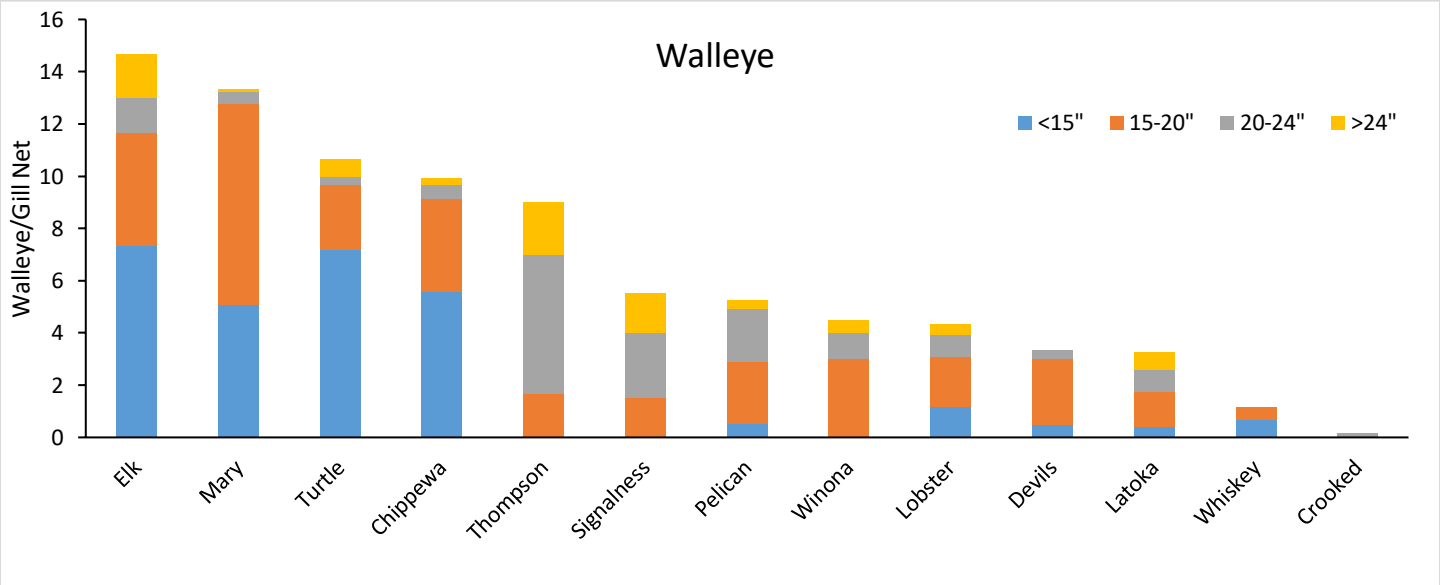
of bluegill, as well as some fish over 8 inches. Devils tends to have lower numbers of bluegill, but they tend to be larger on average. Special spring panfish surveys were conducted on Gilchrist, Grove, Irene, Osakis and Whiskey, all of which are part of the Quality Sunfish Initiative. There is a 10 fish daily limit on Gilchrist, Grove, Irene and Osakis, and a 5 fish daily limit on Whiskey. Spring surveys tend to catch larger fish than summer surveys and are not comparable. However, large bluegill were sampled in every spring survey. Anglers can help protect large bluegill by releasing them, and harvesting fish that are 8 inches or less. The following lakes are being proposed for reduced sunfish bag limits, beginning in 2022: Amelia, Andrew, Blackwell, Leven, Mill, Minnewaska, Moon, Red Rock, Reno, Round, Vermont and Villard. For more information on enhancing quality bluegill fishing and to give your input on the proposed lakes see the Quality Sunfish Initiative.

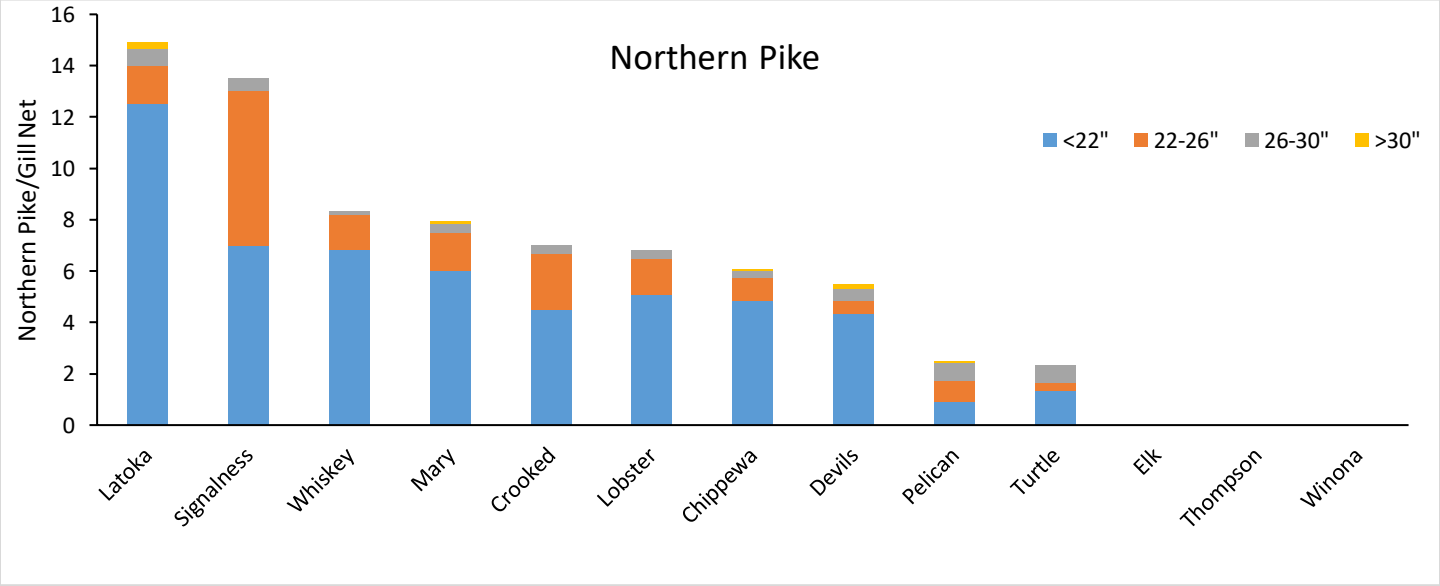
Yellow Perch

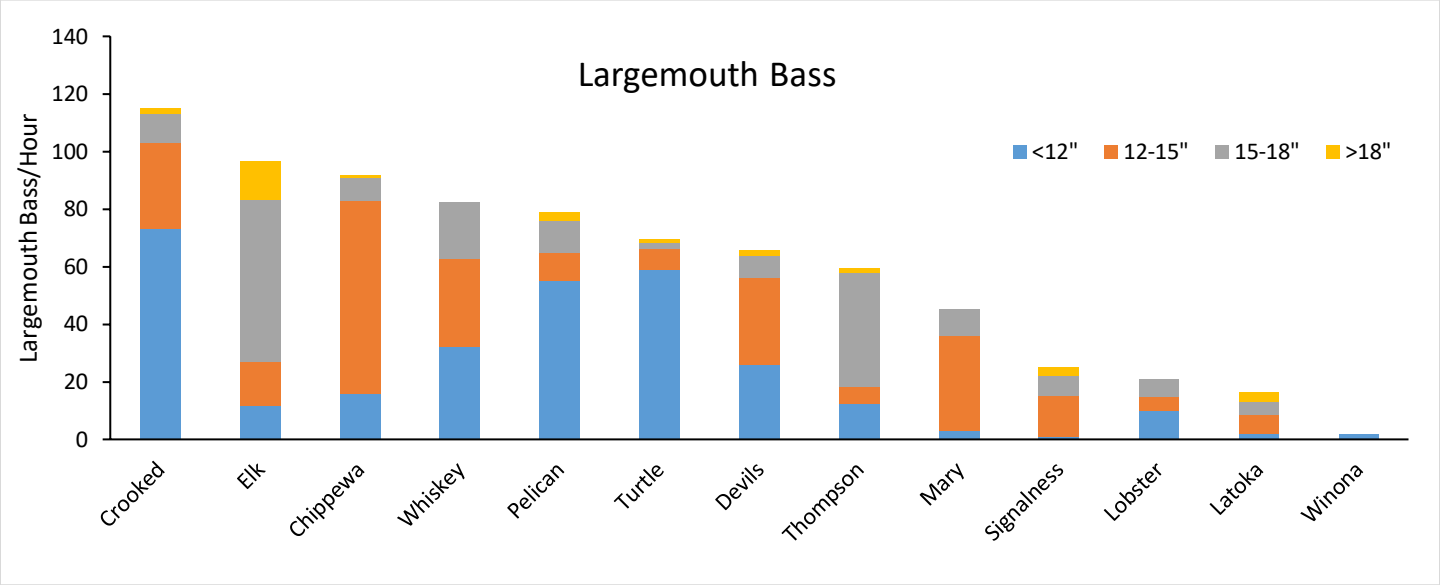
No lakes sampled in 2021 had perch populations that would be of interest to anglers. While not sampled in 2021, Page Lake is one of the few consistent jumbo perch fisheries in our area.

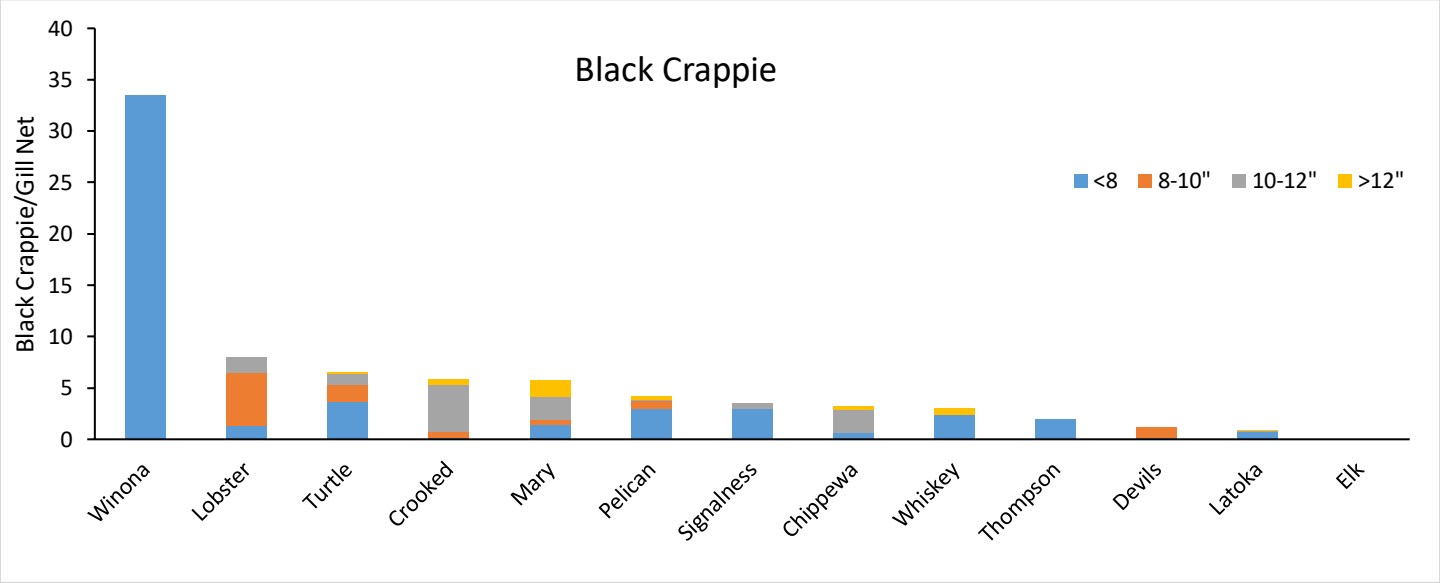
Muskellunge

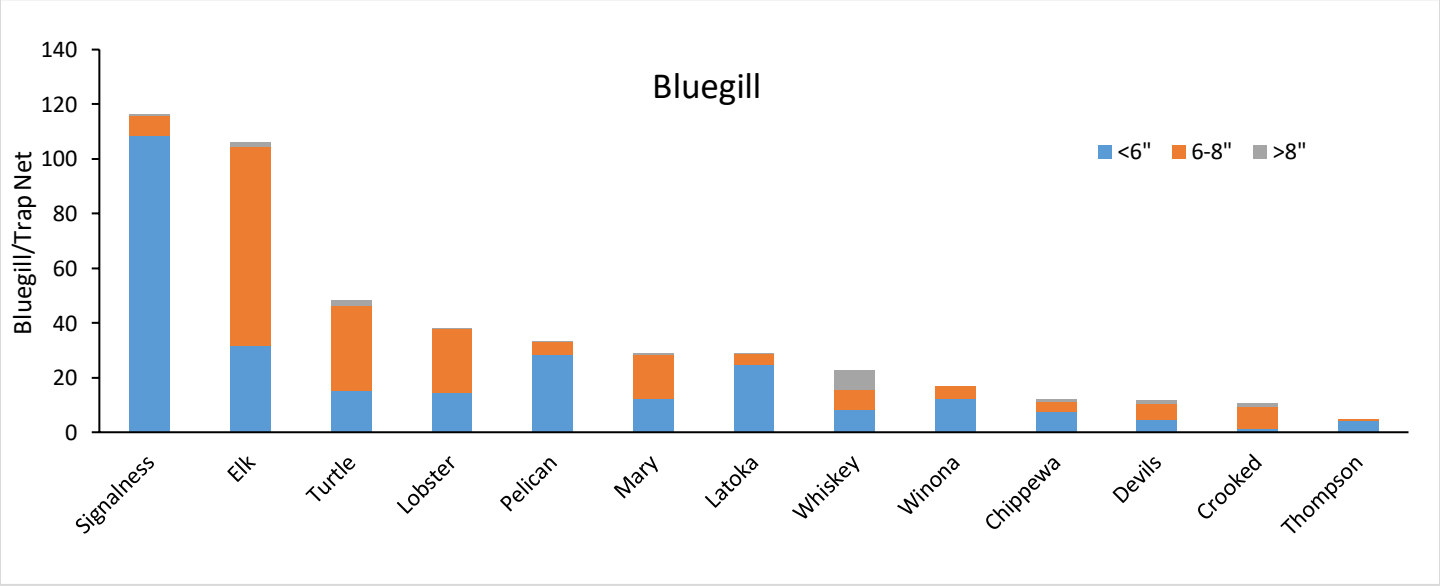
Muskie season opens June 4, 2022. The possession limit is one, with a 54 inch minimum. A targeted muskie survey was completed in spring 2021 on Lake Miltona. Across two years of sampling a total of 257 individual muskies were tagged, 19 of which were over 50 inches. Miltona has an estimated adult muskie population (≥30 inches) of 757 fish. Two other lakes in the area support fishable muskie populations. Oscar is stocked at lower densities with the intent of growing 'trophy' size fish. Lobster is stocked at a higher rate for an 'action' fishery, although fish still grow to 50+ inches in Lobster.

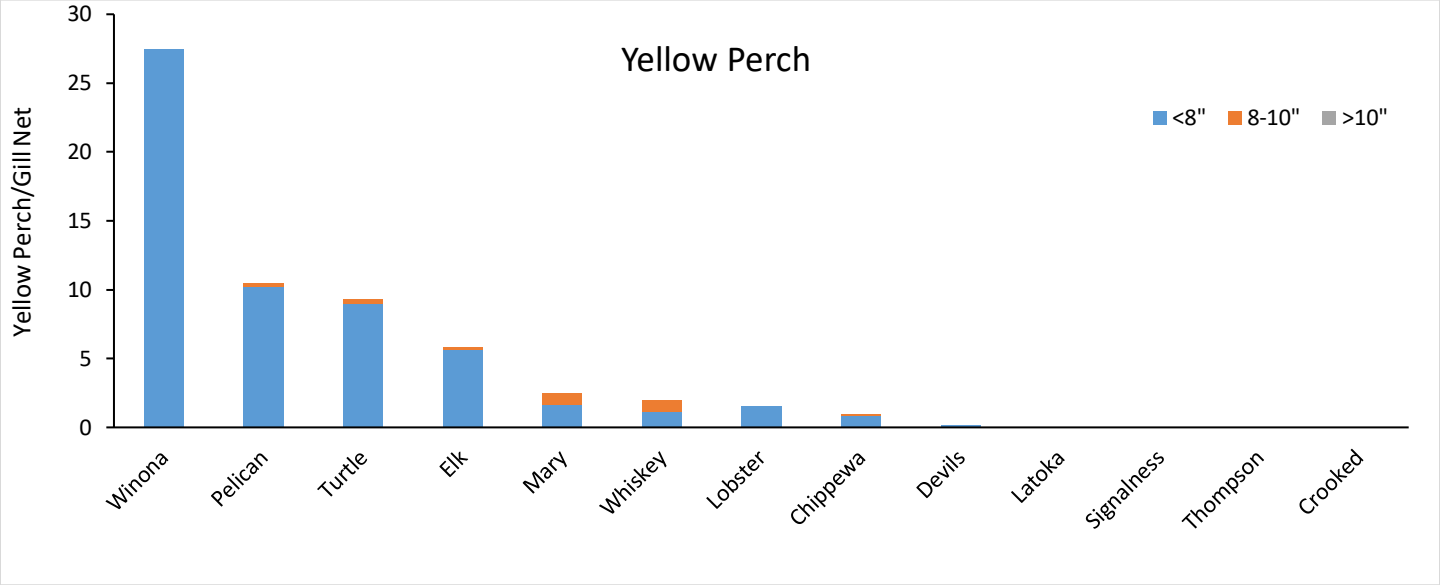


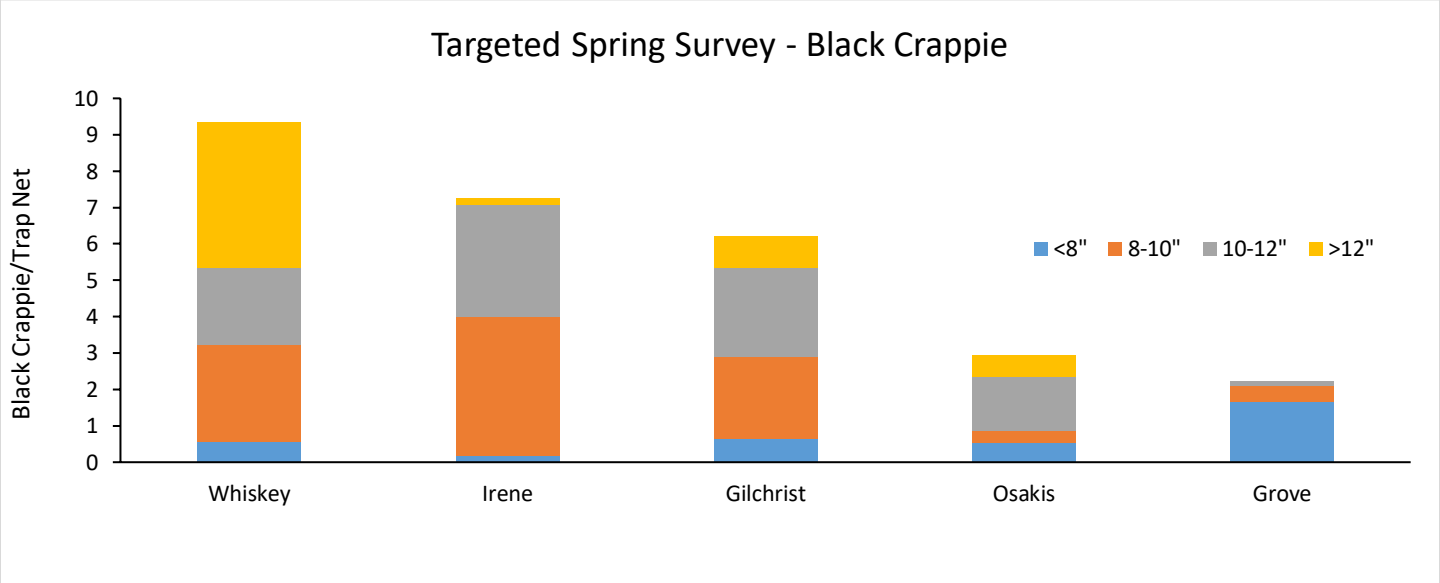


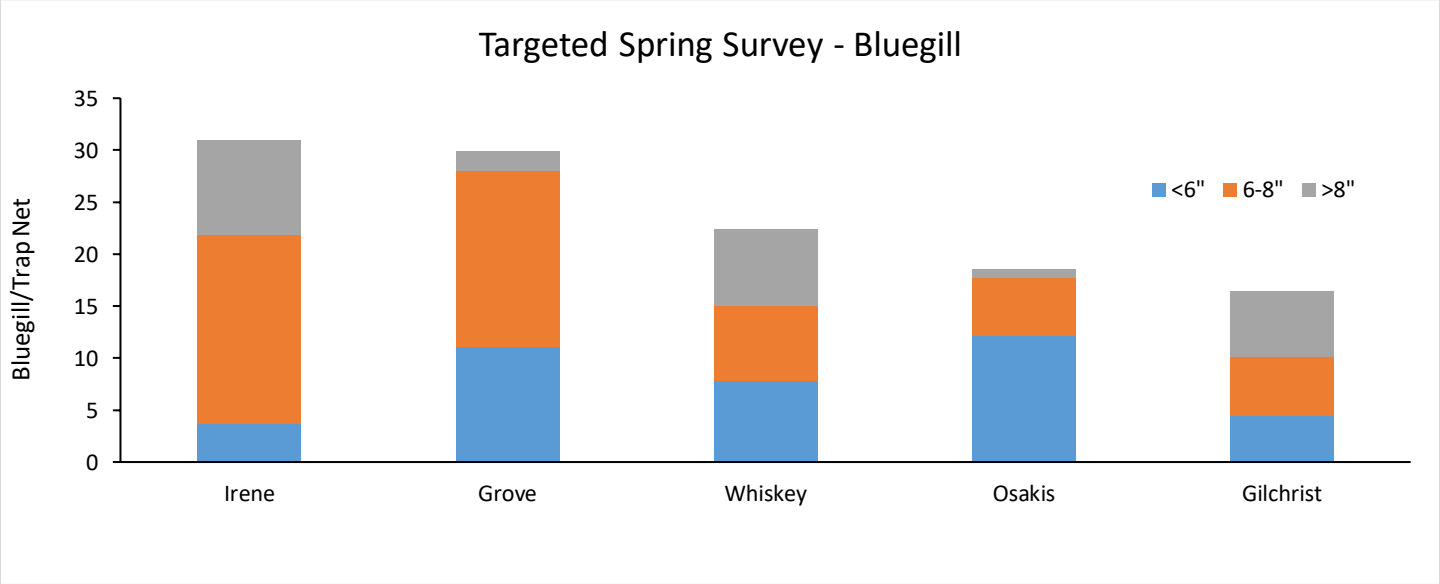

Largemouth Bass
Largemouth Bass/Hour
<12"
12-15"
15-18"
>18"
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
Crooked
Elk
Chippewa
Whiskey
Pelican
Turtle
Devils
Thompson
Mary
Signalness
Lobster
Latoka
Winona


Black Crappie
Black Crappie/Gill Net
<8
8-10"
10-12"
>12"
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
Winona
Lobster
Turtle
Crooked
Mary
Pelican
Signalness
Chippewa
Whiskey
Thompson
Devils
Latoka
Elk


Bluegill
Bluegill/Trap Net
<6"
6-8"
>8"
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
Signalness
Elk
Turtle
Lobster
Pelican
Mary
Latoka
Whiskey
Winona
Chippewa
Devils
Crooked
Thompson


Yellow Perch
Yellow Perch/Gill Net
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
<8"
8-10"
>10"
Winona
Pelican
Turtle
Elk
Mary
Whiskey
Lobster
Chippewa
Devils
Latoka
Signalness
Thompson
Crooked


Targeted Spring Survey - Black Crappie
Black Crappie/Trap Net
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
<8"
8-10"
10-12"
>12"
Whiskey
Irene
Gilchrist
Osakis
Grove


Targeted Spring Survey - Bluegill
Bluegill/Trap Net
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
<6"
6-8"
>8"
Irene
Grove
Whiskey
Osakis
Gilchrist

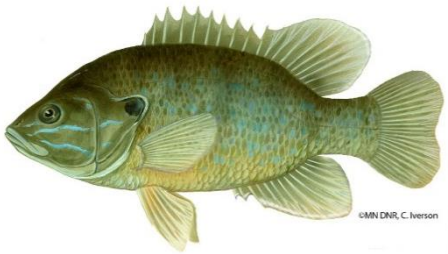
Trout

Trout opener is April 16, 2022. Anglers between the ages of 18 and 64 need a Trout Stamp to fish for or harvest trout. Catchable-size brown and rainbow trout are stocked into Spruce Creek by the Viking Sportsman each spring and the DNR began stocking in fall 2021. A survey in 2021 confirmed the survival of brown trout from past spring stockings. However, rainbow trout rarely survive past late June each year. Brown trout up to 17 inches were sampled. Shore fishing is available in Spruce Hill County Park. The possession limit is five, with only one over 16 inches.

Underutilized Fishes

While not sampled in 2021, Emily is the only lake in the area with a fishable channel catfish population. Additionally, channel catfish can be found in the Mustinka, Pomme De Terre and Chippewa rivers (see Shore Fishing Opportunities below).

Those wishing to bowfish should have plenty of action on Lake Winona. An extremely high population of common carp exists in the lake and should provide plenty of action. Over 280 carp were sampled in an hour of electrofishing.



Shore Fishing Opportunities

Lakes with Fishing Piers

Agnes	Barrett	Brophy
Geneva	Maple	Osakis
Victoria	Signalness (Mountain)	
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 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 right-of-ways. 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:

Alex Letvin - Area Supervisor
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Nick Rydell - Fisheries Specialist
Storm Kettelhut – Fisheries/APM Technician

Standard Lake Survey 2022

The following lakes will be sampled in 2022:

Aaron	Brophy	Moses
Oscar	Pocket	South Union
Emily	Johanna	Minnewaska
Reno	Lower Elk	Osakis
Pelican (Pope Co.)		

To see past Fisheries Newsletters visit our Glenwood Area Fisheries Page and click the area highlights. For more information about a particular lake, visit MN DNR Lake Finder and type in the lake name of interest.

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