

Glenwood Area Fishing Outlook

2022-2023

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.

Thirteen standard lake surveys were conducted in 2022. 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 13, 2023. Of the lakes sampled in 2022, Reno, Emily, Minnewaska and Osakis all had good walleye numbers. Most of the walleye in Reno tend to be large (exceeding 20 inches) and the majority of fish sampled in Emily were under 15 inches. However, all four lakes offer plenty of opportunity for 'eater size' fish from 15-20 inches. Targeted assessments took place on Ann, Lightning, Mahlmedal and Westport (as indicated by the asterisk on the graphs) to assess the walleye population. Of the lakes where targeted walleye assessments took place Lightning had outstanding walleye numbers but most were under 10 inches. Provided no winterkill takes place, Lightning should provide excellent fishing in a couple years. When planning lakes to fish for walleye, 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

Most lakes in the Glenwood area offer abundant northern pike populations. Minnewaska, Aaron, Moses and Pocket all had northern pike numbers exceeding 10 per gill net. Most fish tend to be small (under 22 inches) in Aaron, but anglers will find pike over 30 inches in the remaining lakes. All lakes in the Glenwood Area are within the north-central zone for pike regulations that were implemented in 2018. The northern pike season opens May 13, 2023. 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 13, 2023 and anglers can begin harvesting bass on May 27th. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing. Minnewaska, Emily and Moses offer the most action, while larger fish on average can be found in Emily, Oscar, Pocket and Reno.

Smallmouth Bass

Minnewaska, Reno and Osakis were the lakes sampled in 2022 with smallmouth bass. The smallmouth bass population has significantly expanded in Reno. Few smallmouth have been sampled in the past, but the survey of Lake Reno in 2022 had the highest abundance of smallmouth bass of all lakes surveyed this past year. Fewer smallmouth bass were sampled in Osakis and Minnewaska but they tend to be larger. While not sampled in 2022, Grants, Miltona, Ida 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

Black crappie are not sampled well in the summer using our nets, so even lakes with low catch rates may still support good populations. Pocket had a high number of crappies with most being between 8 and 10 inches. Larger fish were sampled on Aaron, Reno and Union, with a high proportion of 10 to 12 inch fish, as well as some exceeding 12 inches. Only one white crappie was sampled on Emily this year but they have been more abundant in past surveys.

Bluegill

Most lakes in the Glenwood Area have bluegill, with many supporting quality fisheries. Johanna had the most abundant bluegill populations, but most were under 6 inches. Pocket, Minnewaska and Moses offer the best combination of both numbers and size.

As part of the Quality Sunfish Initiative reduced sunfish bag limits are in effect on quite a few lakes in the Glenwood area.

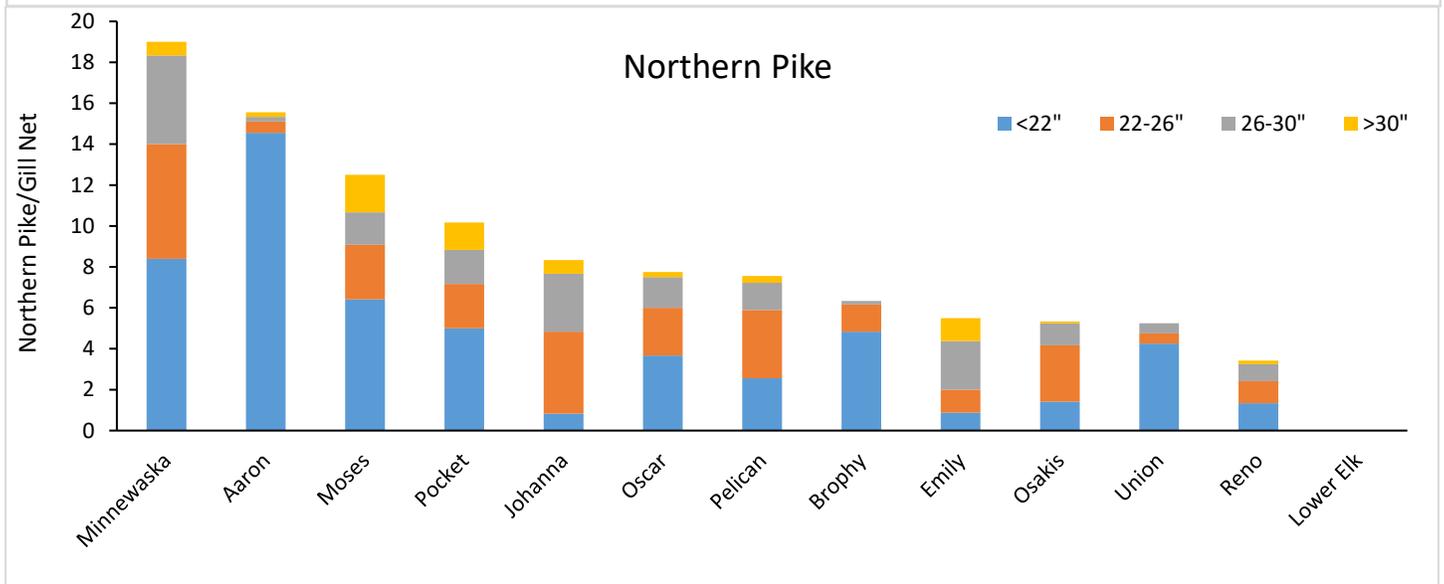
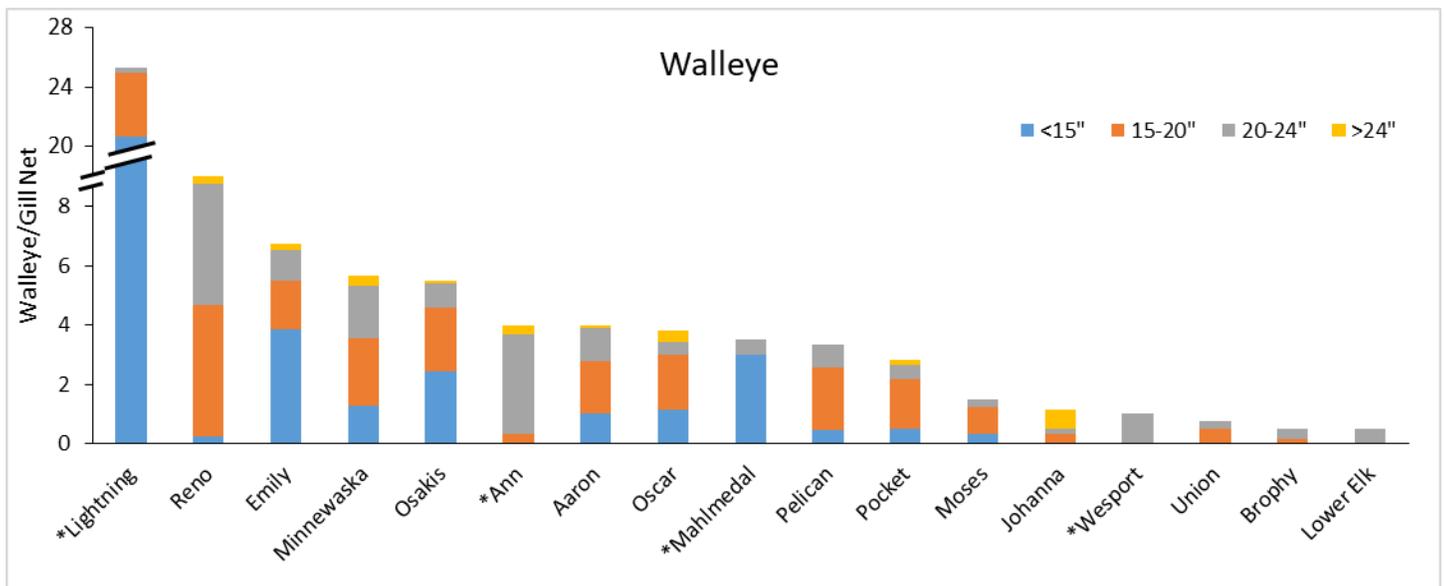
This includes a ten fish bag limit on the following lakes: Amelia, Andrew, Blackwell, Gilchrist, Grove, Irene, Leven, Mill, Minnewaska, Osakis (including Little Osakis), Red Rock, Reno, Vermont and Villard. While five fish bag limits are in place on: Moon, Round and Whiskey. Anglers can help protect 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](#).

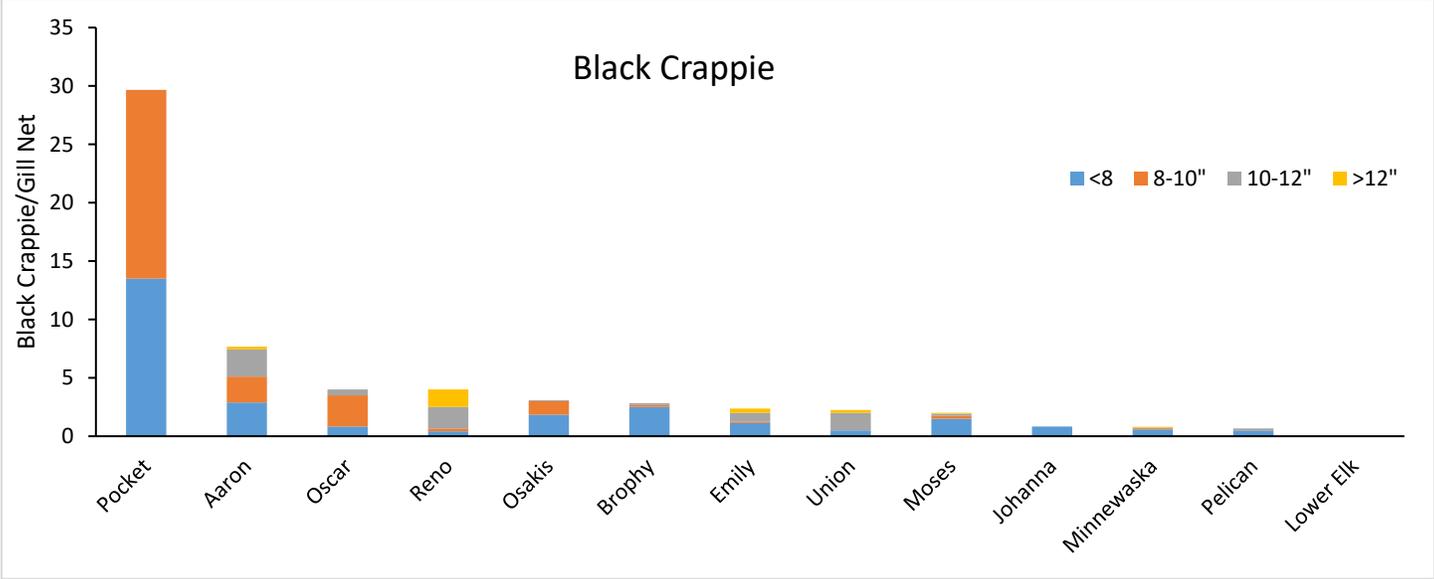
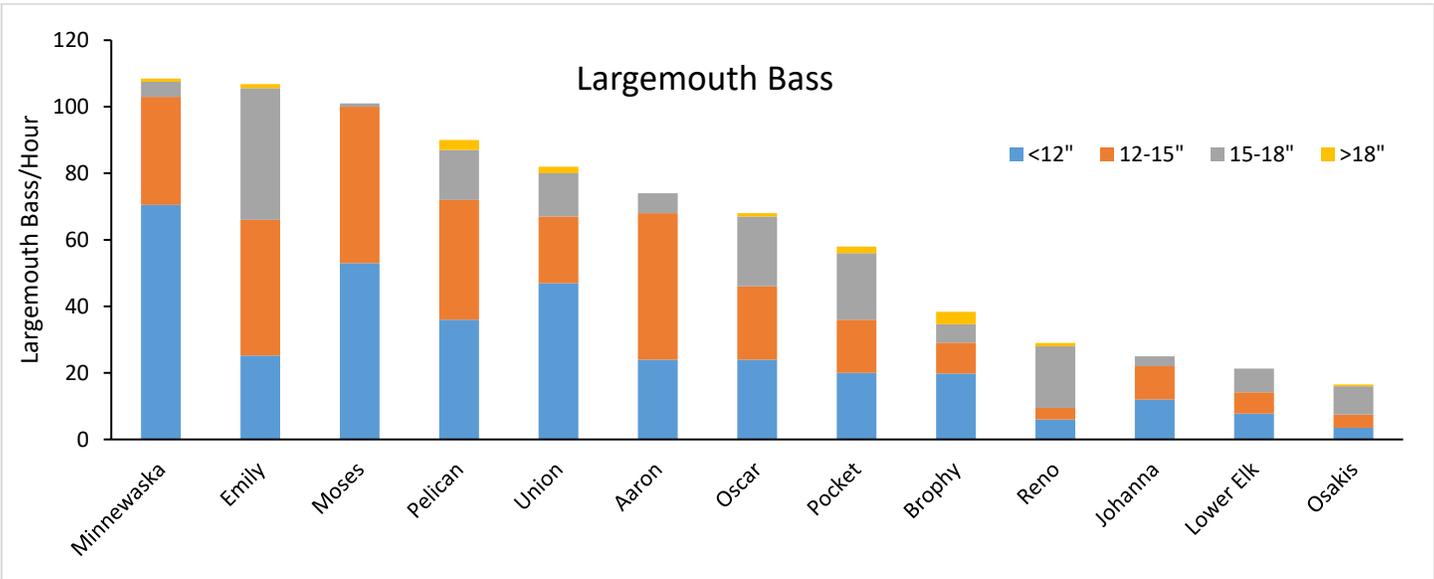
Yellow Perch

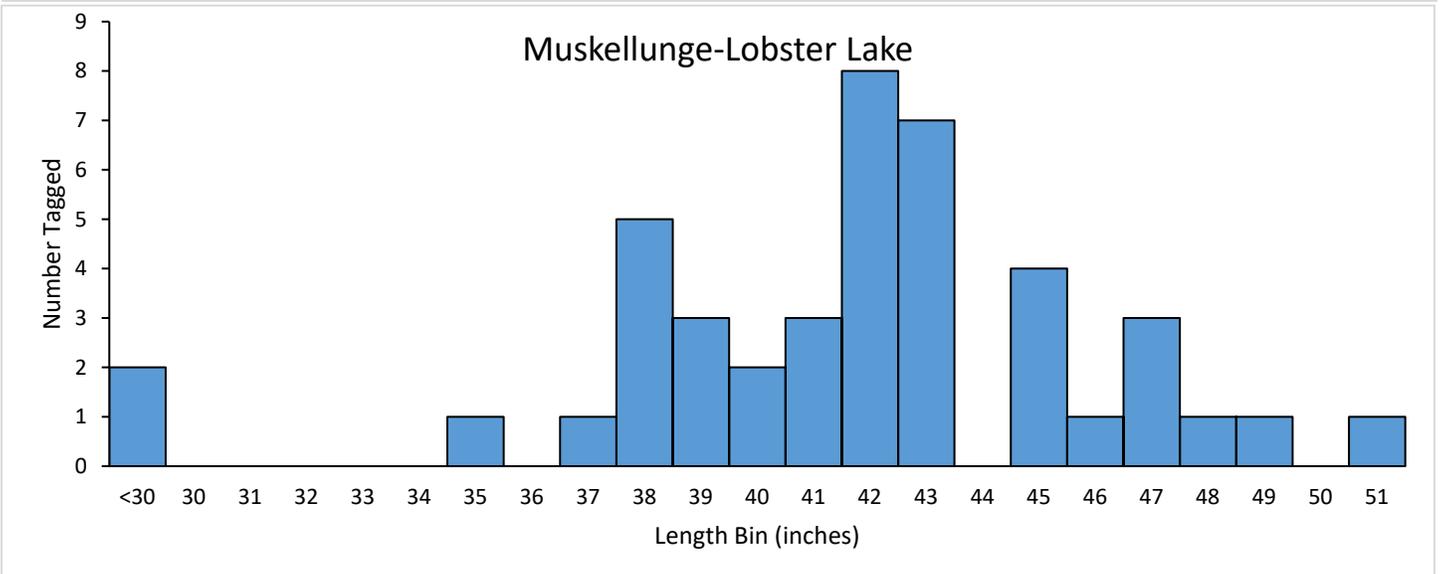
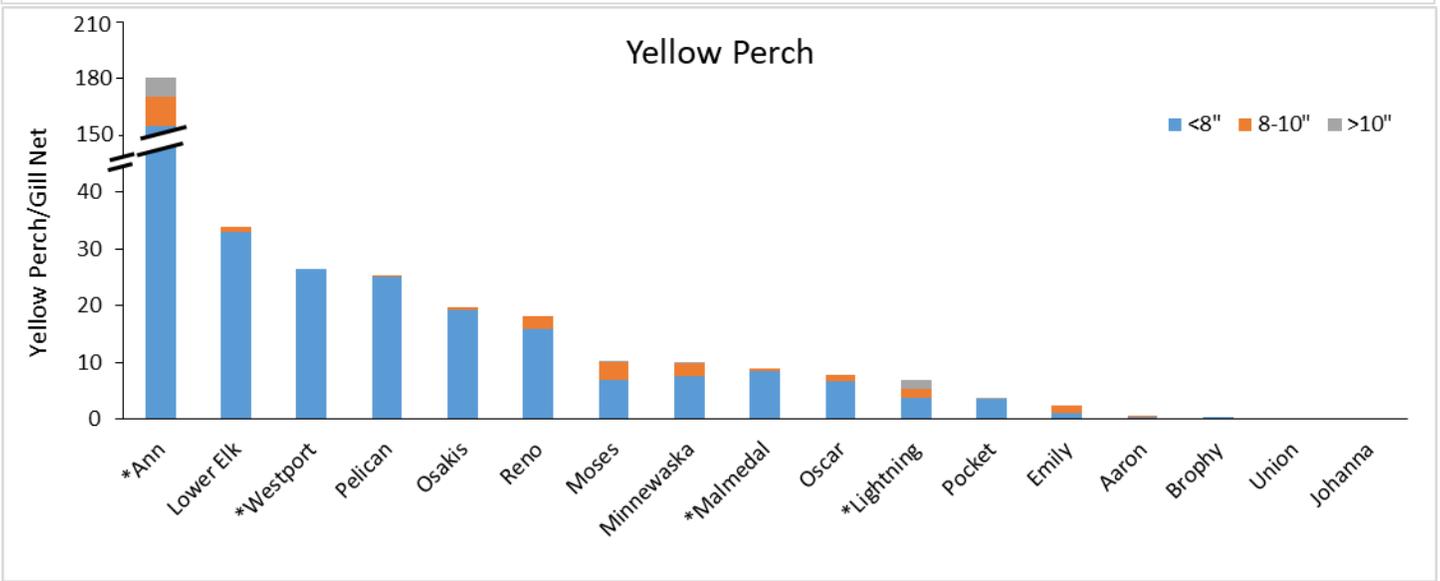
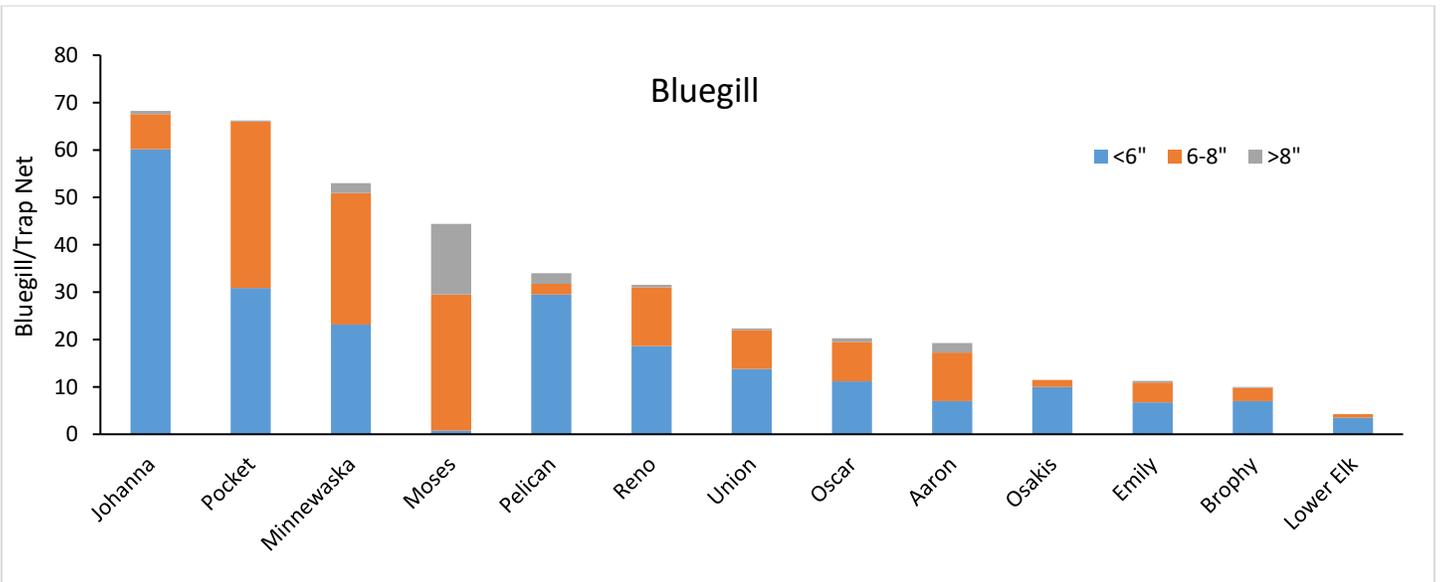
Of the lakes surveyed in the past year, Minnewaska and Moses would be the best option for perch, with fish sampled over 10 inches in each lake. While not sampled recently, Page Lake is one of the few consistent jumbo perch fisheries in our area. In addition, jumbo perch were observed during special assessments on Hattie, Ann and Lightning.

Muskellunge

Muskie season opens June 3, 2023. Possession limit is one, with a 54 inch minimum. A targeted muskie survey started in 2022 on Lobster. A total of 54 muskies were sampled ranging from 19 to 51 inches. Two other lakes in the area are managed for muskie and support fishable populations, Miltona and Oscar. Miltona and Oscar are stocked at lower densities with the intent of growing 'trophy' size fish. Lobster is stocked at a higher rate for an 'action' fishery.

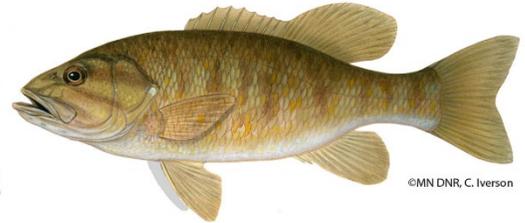
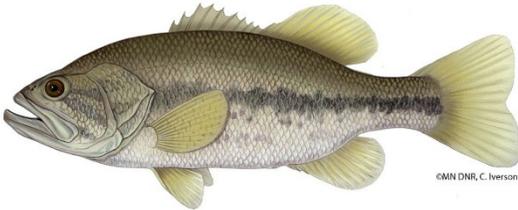






Trout

Trout opener is April 15, 2023. Anglers between the ages of 18 and 64 need a Trout Stamp to harvest trout. Catchable-size brown and rainbow trout are stocked into Spruce Creek by the DNR and Viking Sportsmen each spring. A survey in August 2022 confirmed the survival of brown trout. Due to high water temperatures, few rainbow trout survive past late June each year. An additional fall stocking of 500 rainbow trout took place in September 2022. Shore fishing is available in Spruce Hill County Park. Possession limit is five, with only one 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 most fish between 20 and 25 inches. Freshwater drum, also known as sheepshead are available in Emily and Minnewaska and can grow quite large in both lakes. Additionally, channel catfish can be found in the Mustinka, Pomme De Terre Rivers and Chippewa River (see Shore Fishing Opportunities below).

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:

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Standard Lake Survey 2023

The following lakes will be sampled in 2023:

Agnes Big Chippewa Henry
Ida Louise Miliona
Moon Gilchrist Grove
Linka Barret Pomme De Terre
Page Perkins

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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