



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 and two targeted walleye surveys (only gill nets) were conducted in 2023. 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 11, 2024. Many lakes that were sampled in 2023 had good walleye numbers. Barrett and Pomme de Terre had excellent walleye numbers, but a majority of the fish were small (<15 inches). However, Miltona, Perkins, Chippewa, Ida and Pelican (Grant Co.) all had good numbers of walleye from 15 to 20 inches, as well as some larger fish. 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

Fishing for northern pike opens May 11, 2024. Most lakes in the Glenwood area offer abundant northern pike populations. Grove, Louise, and Moon all had very high pike numbers (exceeding 15 per gill net). Most fish tend to be small in these lakes (under 22 inches), but anglers will find pike over 30 inches in Louise.

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 11, 2024 and anglers can begin harvesting bass on May 25th. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing. Moon and Ida are action fisheries, while Agnes, Henry and Pomme de Terre still offer numbers of fish but at larger average sizes. Bass electrofishing did not take place on Miltona in 2023 but it did have good numbers of largemouth when last sampled in 2019. Anglers should be aware that Agnes and Henry have a special regulation for bass. All bass from 12 to 20 inches must be immediately release. One over 20 inches allowed in possession.

Smallmouth Bass

Miltona and Ida were the only lakes sampled in 2023 with smallmouth bass. Between all gears, smallmouth bass up to 19 inches were sampled in Miltona and 18.5 inches in Ida. While not sampled in 2023, Grants, Latoka, Minnewaska, Reno, and Osakis 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 good populations. Barrett had a high percent of fish from 8 to 10 inches but fish exceeded 12 inches as well. Most of the crappies sampled in Perkins were large (>12 inches), with a high proportion being from 10 to 12 inches. White crappie were sampled in several lakes this summer (Barrett, Pelican, Perkins, and Pomme de Terre) but they tend to be at much lower densities than black crappies. While not sampled in 2023, Maple does have a special regulation for crappie. Minimum size is 10 inches, with a daily limit of five.

Bluegill

Most of the lakes sampled in 2023 had moderately high bluegill densities. Pomme de Terre, Grove, Agnes and Henry all had a lot of bluegill from 6 to 8 inches. Grove and Perkins had the highest number of fish exceeding 8 inches.

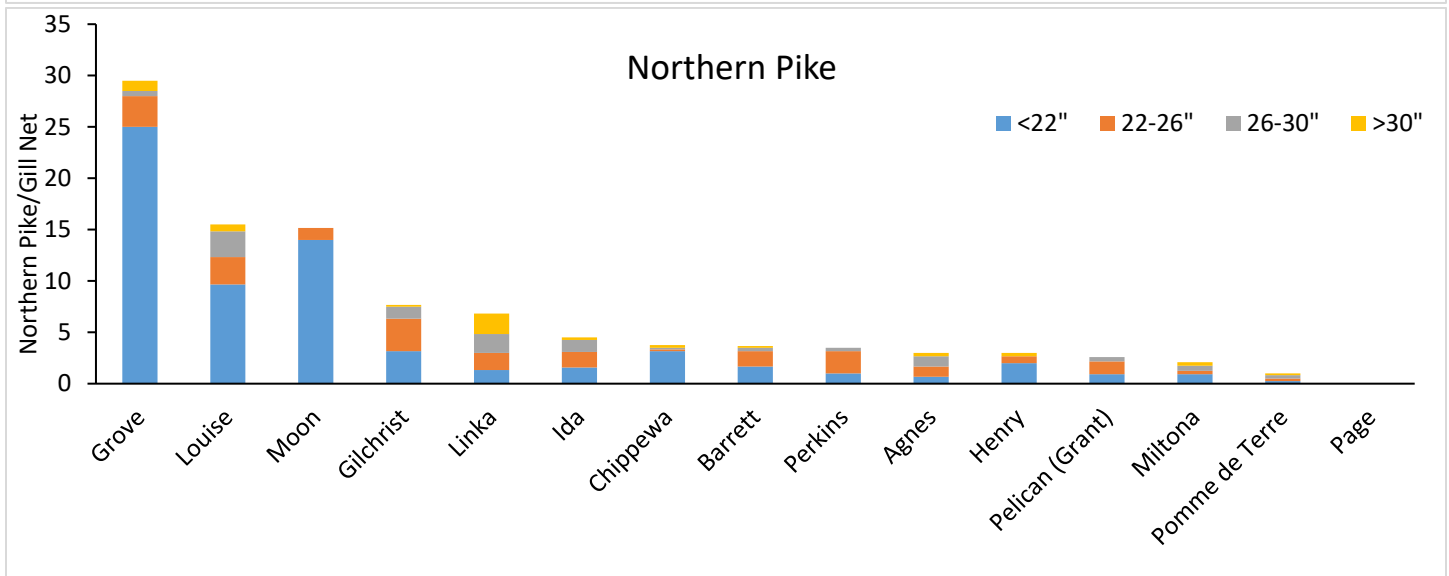
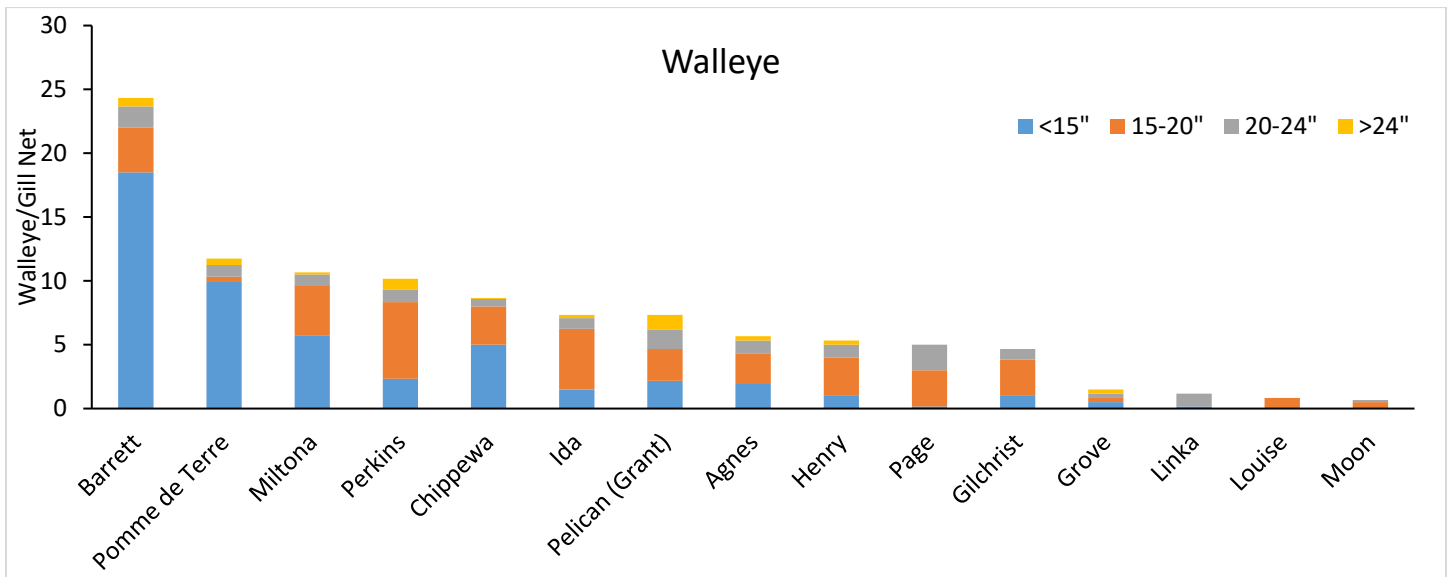
As part of the Quality Sunfish Initiative, reduced sunfish bag limits are in effect on quite a few lakes in the Glenwood area. This includes a ten fish bag limit on the following lakes: Amelia, Andrew, Blackwell, Gilchrist, Grove, Irene, Leven, Mill, Minnewaska, Osakis (including Little Osakis), Red 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](#).

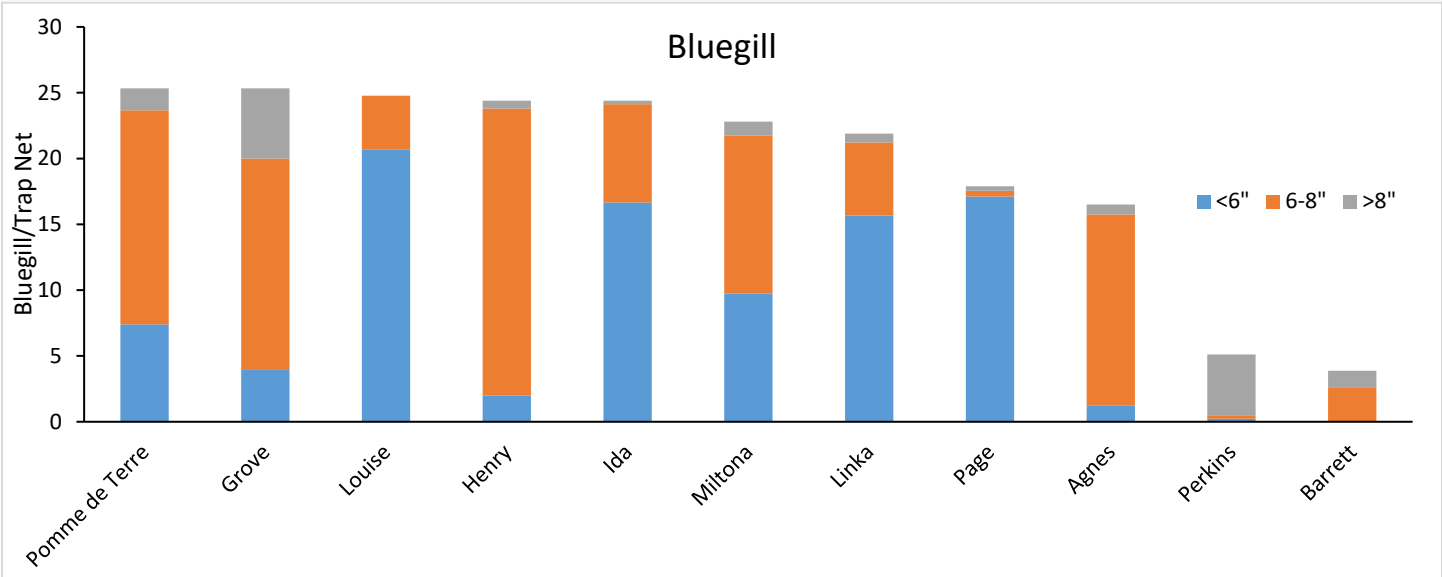
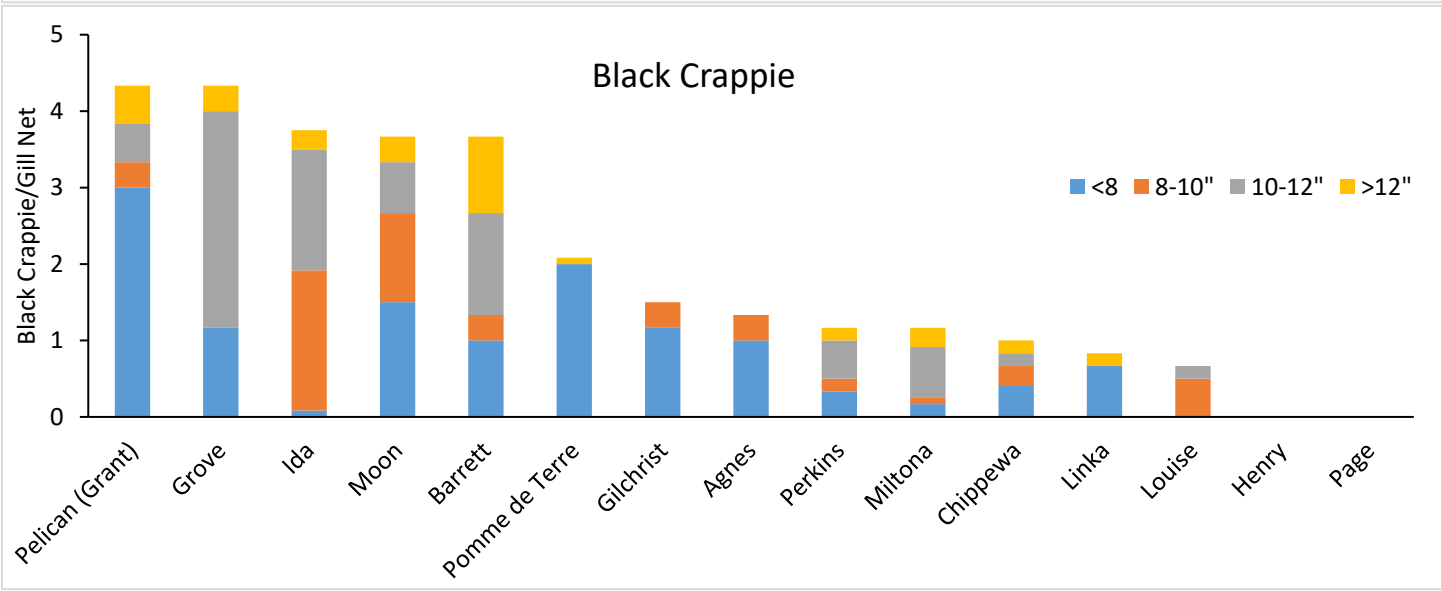
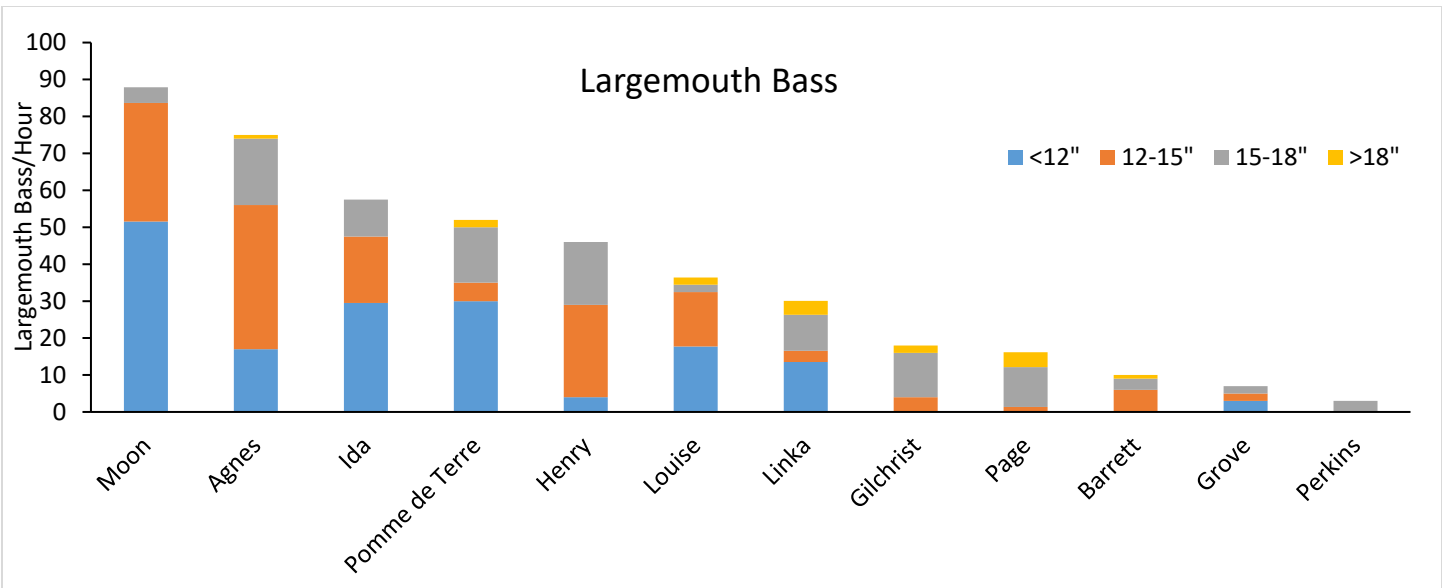
Yellow Perch

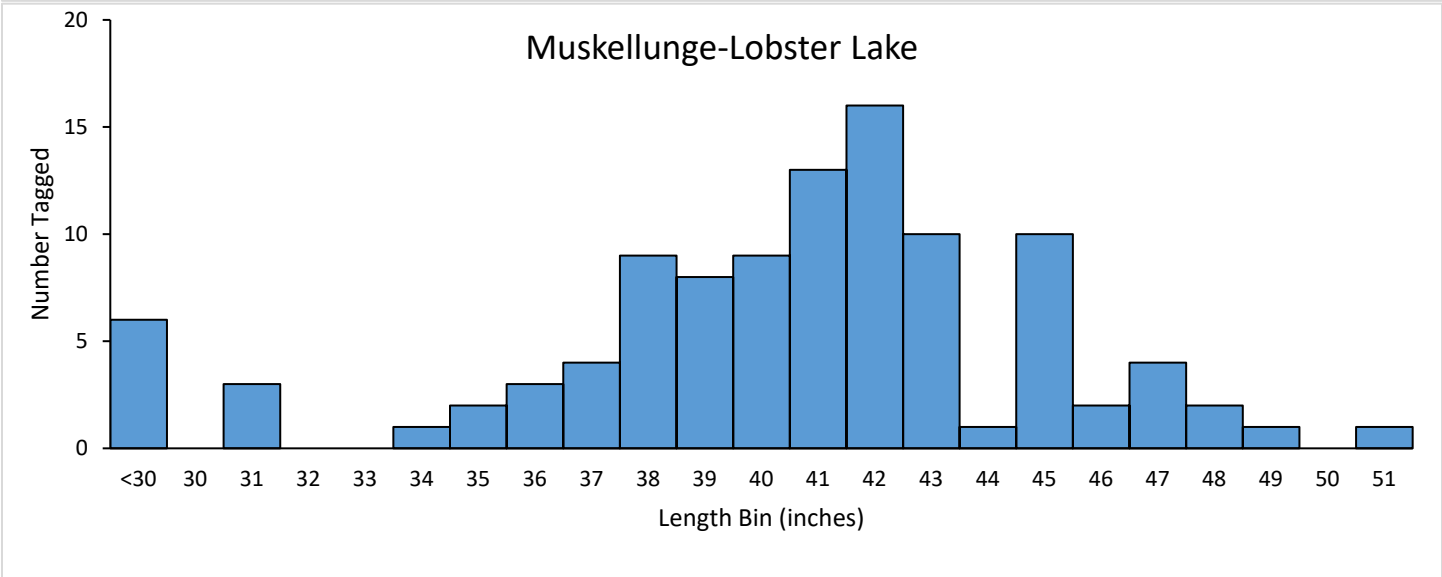
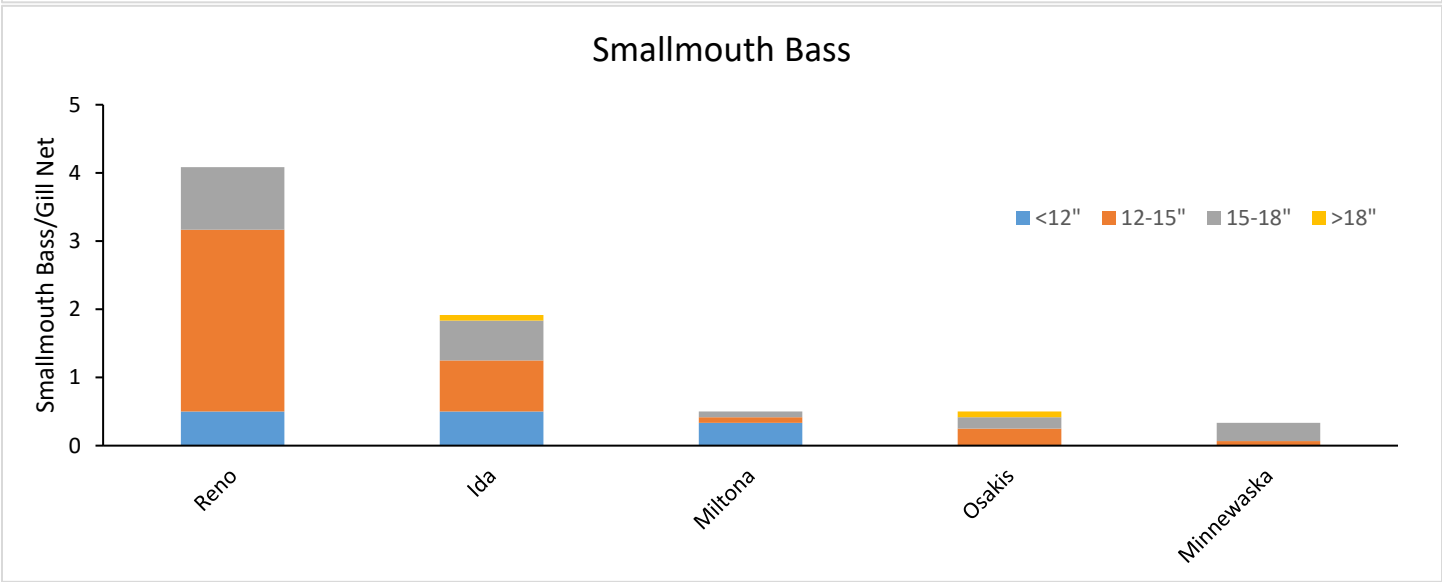
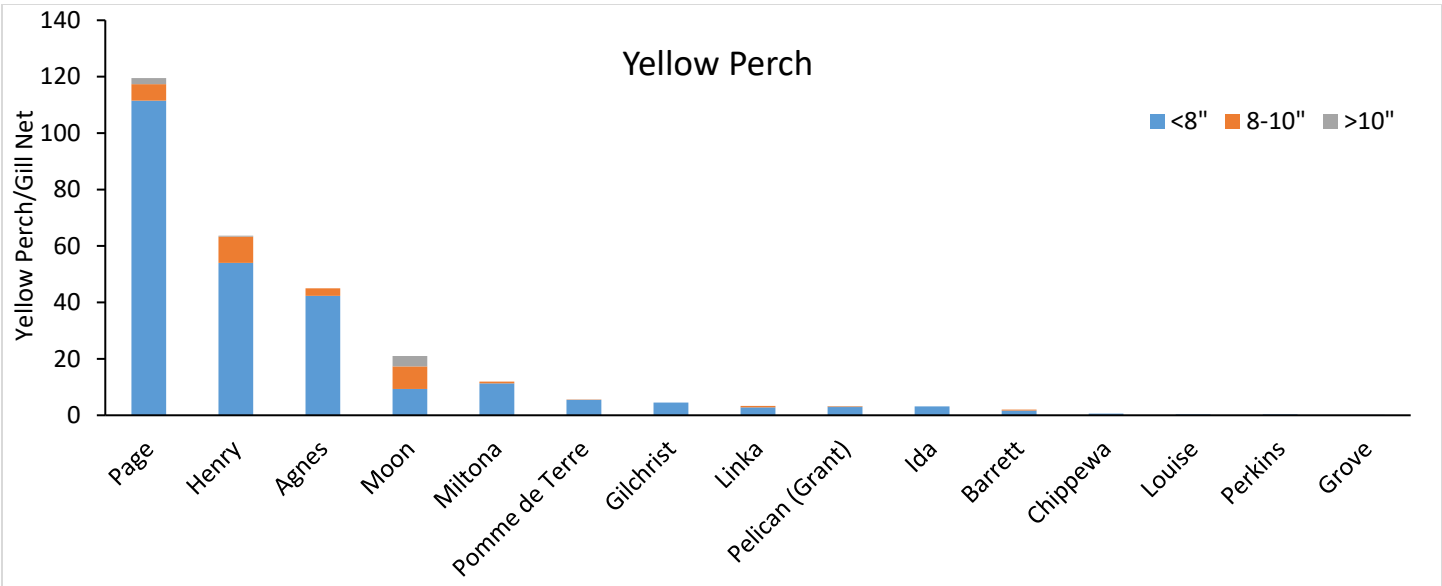
Of the lakes surveyed in the past year, Page, Agnes, Henry and Moon had the highest numbers of perch, as well as the largest sizes. Most fish were under 8 inches in all lakes, but perch over 10 inches were sampled in Page, Henry, and Moon.

Muskellunge

Muskie season opens June 1, 2024. Possession limit is one, with a 54 inch minimum. A targeted muskie survey began in 2022 on Lobster. A total of 116 muskies have been sampled ranging from 11 to 51 inches. Two other lakes in the area are managed for muskie and support fishable populations, Miltona and Oscar. These lakes 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 13, 2024. 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. Past surveys have 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 2023. 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 common in many lakes such as Perkins, Barrett, Emily and Stowe. 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 2024

The following lakes will be sampled in 2024:
Andrew Carlos Darling
Geneva Le Homme Dieu
Mill Rachel Smith
Victoria Scandinavian Cottonwood

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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