

# Glenwood Area Fishing Outlook

Spring 2020

## 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.

We conducted 15 standard lake surveys in 2019 and 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 2020. We hope this helps get you started. Good luck fishing!

## Bluegill

Most lakes in the Glenwood Area have bluegill, with many supporting quality fisheries. Look to clear, vegetated lakes such as Little Chippewa, Ida, Miltona and Maple for consistent numbers of bluegill, as well as some fish over 8 inches. Trophy bluegill are typically found in lakes with lower densities, so fish can be difficult to locate, but anglers are often rewarded with larger fish. 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 Bluegill Initiative](#).

## 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. Long (Stevens Co.) and Red Rock both have a lot of small fish (<8 inches), but those willing to do some sorting can find 10 to 12+ inch fish. Long (Douglas Co.) and Stowe would be good options for those looking for 'eater size' crappies. While not represented well in our nets, Ida, Miltona and Maple are also good options. Maple currently has a special regulation (minimum size of 10 inches, possession limit is five).

## Largemouth Bass

Catch and release season begins for bass on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and angler can begin harvesting bass on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing. Some stand outs sampled in 2019 were Maple, Goose and Amelia, all with over 100 bass per hour of electrofishing and bass over 18 inches. Miltona and Ida are also consistent producers. Goose, Stowe and Long (Douglas Co.) currently have a decent number of bass over 18 inches and offer a chance to get away from the crowds. This is especially true of Goose, which has carry-in only access for canoes and kayaks, providing a unique opportunity on an undeveloped lake.

## Walleye

Walleye opener is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Of the lakes sampled in 2019, look to Amelia, Villard and Miltona for 'eater size' walleye. Stowe and Long (Stevens Co.) had a lot of smaller fish (12 to 13 inches) but these fish should grow to 15+ inches this summer. More turbid lakes are your best bet early in the season because they warm more quickly. Clearer, deeper lakes often "fire-up" once they have warmed up sufficiently and shallower lakes may be too vegetated to fish.

## Northern Pike

Leven, Villard and Maple are all good options if you want to catch numbers of pike, but they tend to be small. However, 30+ inch pike were sampled in all three lakes. Red Rock offers a chance at a trophy pike. 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 is three and only one over 36 inches. For more information see: [Northern Pike Zones](#).

## Yellow Perch

Yellow perch fisheries are rare in our area, but anglers willing to put in some time can find some quality fish. Long Lake (Stevens Co.) has an abundance of perch. A very large 6 to 8 inch year class dominates the catch, but 8 to 10+ inch perch are present. If you can find them, Miltona, Red Rock and Stowe all have 8 to 10+ inch perch. While not sampled in 2019, Page Lake is one of the few consistent jumbo perch fisheries in our area. \*There is an axis break in the yellow perch graph, so all lake data can be observed.





## Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass are found in a few lakes in our area. Miliona and Ida offer fishable populations of smallmouth bass, with fish sampled up to 18 and 19.1 inches, respectively. Smallmouth Bass were also sampled in Maple, but at a lower density and size, with the largest being 16.2 inches.

## Muskellunge

Muskie season opens June 6<sup>th</sup>. Possession limit is 1, with a 54 inch minimum. Three lakes in the area support fishable muskie populations. Miliona 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, although fish still grow to 50+ inches in Lobster.

## Trout

Trout opener is April 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 in spring, which began in 2019. Shore fishing is available in Spruce Hill County Park. Possession limit is five, with only one over 16 inches.

## Underutilized Fishes

While not sampled in 2019, 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 Rivers and West Branch of the Chippewa River (see Shore Fishing Opportunities below).

We have some trophy bullhead in the Glenwood Area. Our area currently has both the yellow (Osakis) and black bullhead (Reno) state records. Several lakes sampled in 2019 support numbers of bullhead from 12 to 14+ inches, including Amelia, Leven, Villard, and Red Rock.

For those interested in bowfishing, carp and white sucker are common in Stowe and Long (Douglas Co.). Additionally, bigmouth buffalo are available in Long (Stevens Co.).



## Shore Fishing Opportunities

### Lakes with Fishing Piers

Agnes	Barrett	Geneva
Henry	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](#).

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### Standard Lake Survey 2020

The following lakes will be sampled in 2020:

Andrew	Blackwell	Carlos
Darling	Freeborn	Geneva
Grants	Irene	Jessie
Mina	Vermont	Victoria
Le Homme Dieu		

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 Lakefinder](#) and type in the lake name of interest.

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