



# Glenwood Area Fishing Outlook

Winter 2021

## 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. Covid-19 restrictions in spring 2020 prevented the use of trap nets this year and electrofishing only took place on one lake. 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 2020. 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 2021. We hope this helps get you started. Good luck fishing!

## Walleye

Walleye opener is May 15, 2021. Of the lakes sampled in 2020, Freeborn, Andrew and Irene had the greatest walleye numbers, and all should offer good walleye action. A lot of walleye under 15 inches are present in Andrew, but plenty of 'eater size' walleye are available as well. Freeborn and Irene have a good mix of fish sizes, with plenty of 15-20 inch fish, as well as fish exceeding 24 inches. When planning lakes to fish for walleye, 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

Darling, Freeborn and Carlos are all good options if anglers want to target numbers of pike, but they tend to be small. However, 30+ inch pike were sampled in all three lakes. Pike in Victoria tend to be larger on average, with plenty of mid-20 to 30 inch fish. Vermont would also be an option for those seeking large northern pike, with pike up to 33 inches sampled. 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 15<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 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 15, 2021 and anglers can begin harvesting bass on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Many lakes in the area offer excellent largemouth bass fishing.

However, because of Covid-19 restrictions, Lake Jessie was the only lake sampled by electrofishing this year. A total of 102 largemouth bass were sampled, with over 20 percent being between 16 and 18 inches.

## Smallmouth Bass

Grants was the only lake sampled in 2020 with a fishable smallmouth bass population. A total of 42 smallmouth were sampled, with many 15 to 16 inch fish, and the largest being 17.8 inches. While not sampled in 2020, 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. However, large numbers of black crappie were sampled in Freeborn, Irene and Jessie, with 10-12 inch fish present in each lake.

## Bluegill

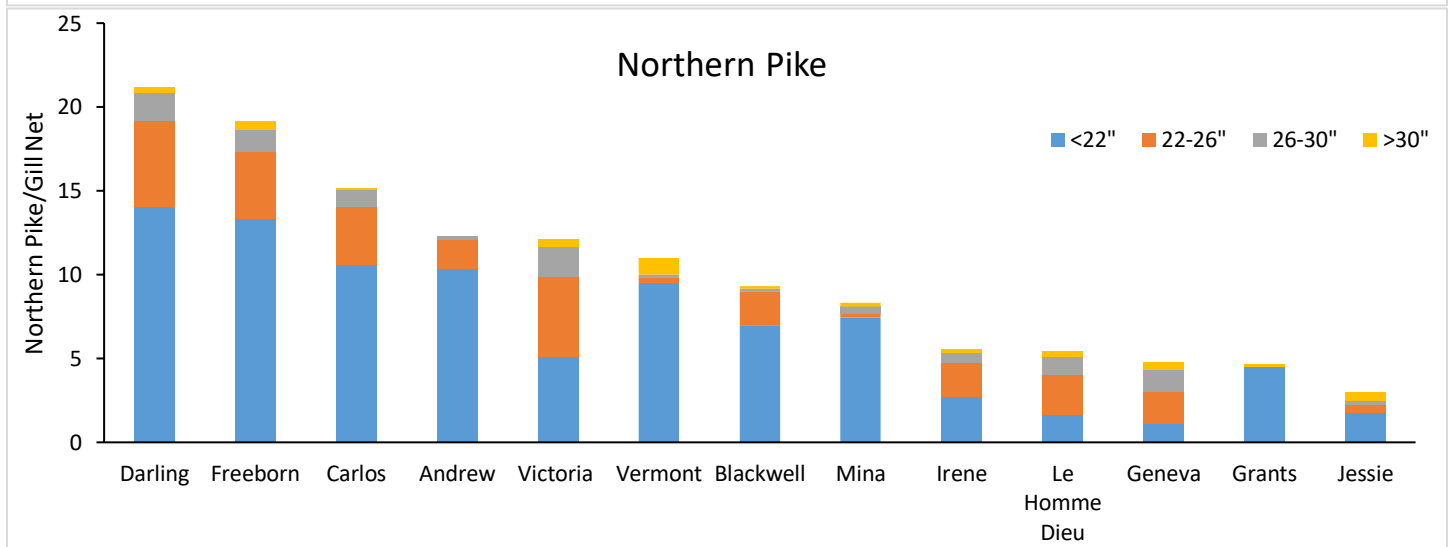
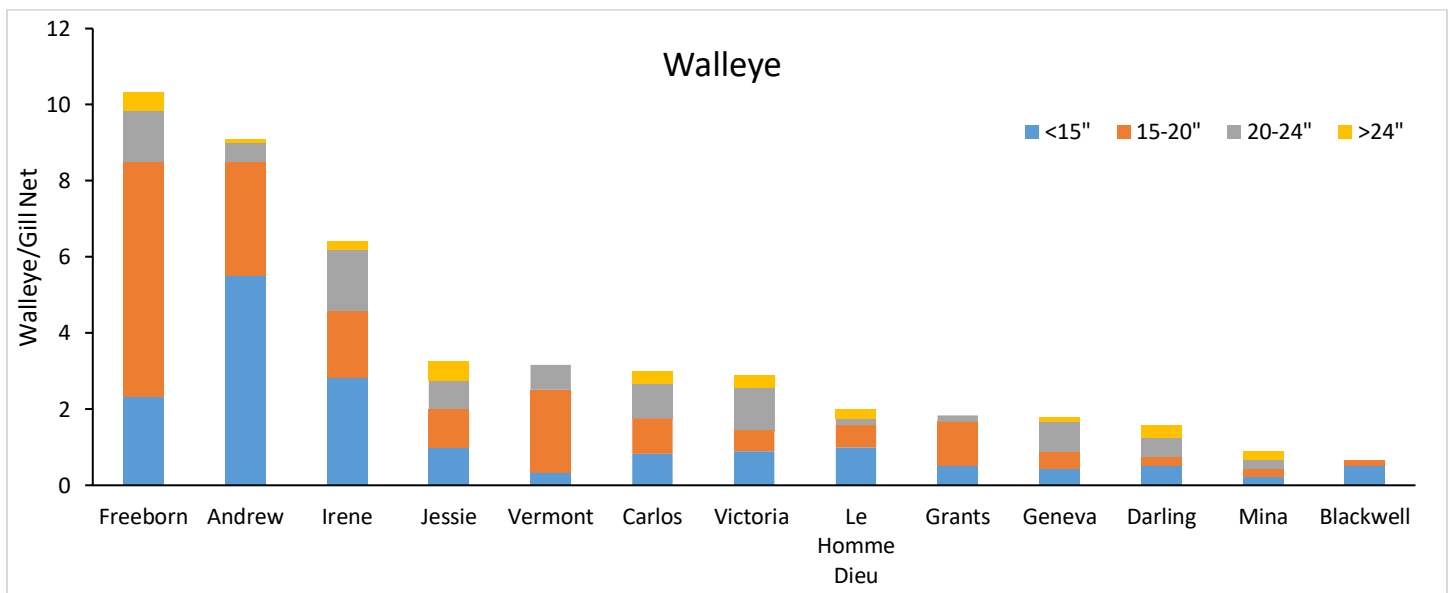
Most lakes in the Glenwood Area have bluegill, with many supporting quality fisheries. Look to clear, vegetated lakes such as Geneva and Victoria for consistent numbers of bluegill, as well as some fish over 8 inches. Vermont, Irene and Andrew have lower numbers of bluegill, but they tend to be larger on average. 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. Sunfish regulations will begin on May 15, 2021 with a 10 fish bag limit on Gilchrist, Grove, Irene and Osakis, and a 5 fish bag limit on Whiskey. Additional lakes will be proposed in 2021. For more information on enhancing quality bluegill fishing see the [Quality Bluegill Initiative](#).

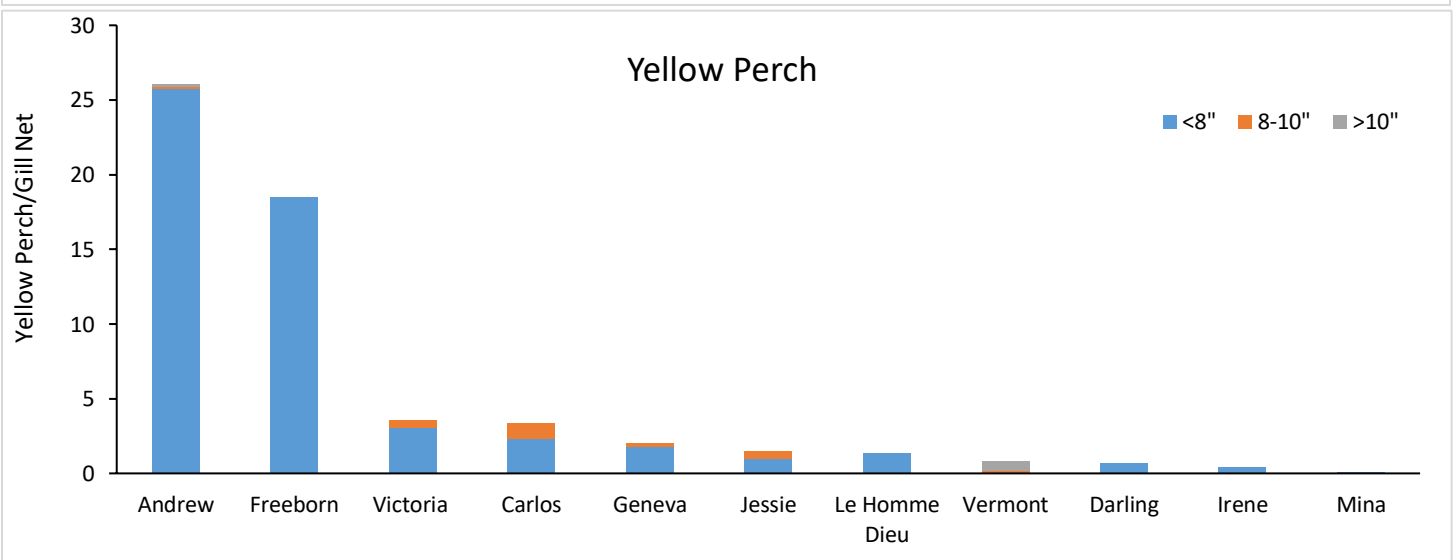
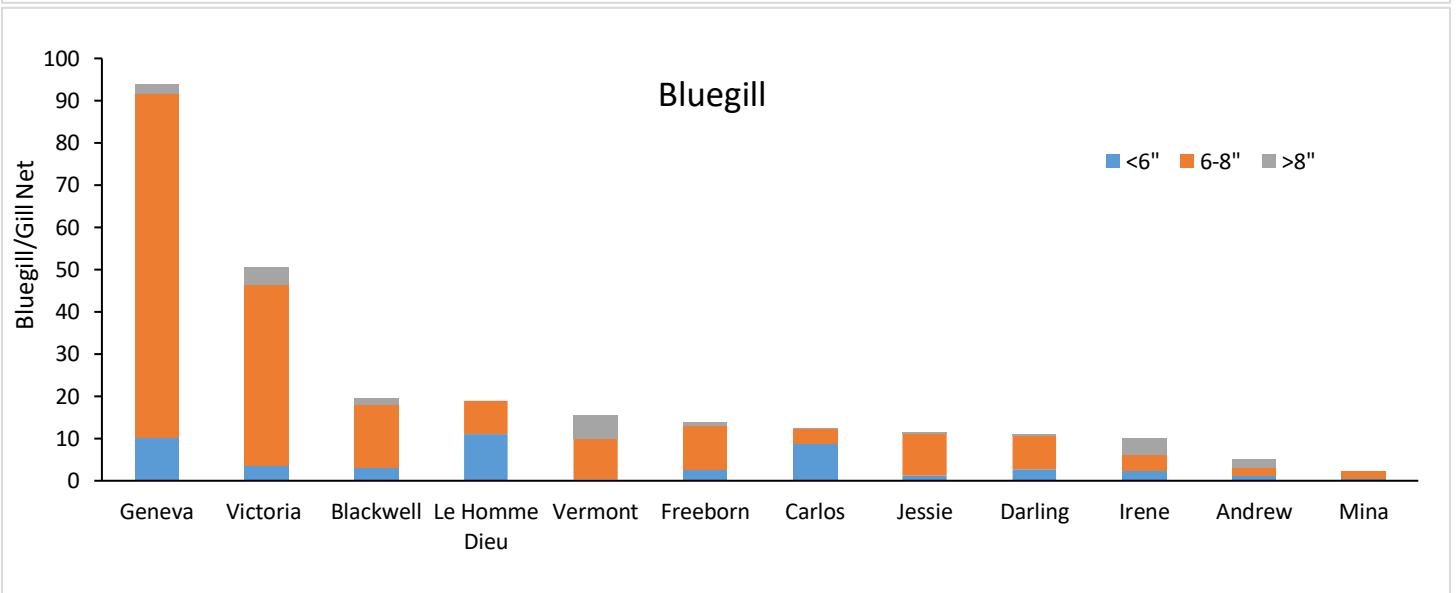
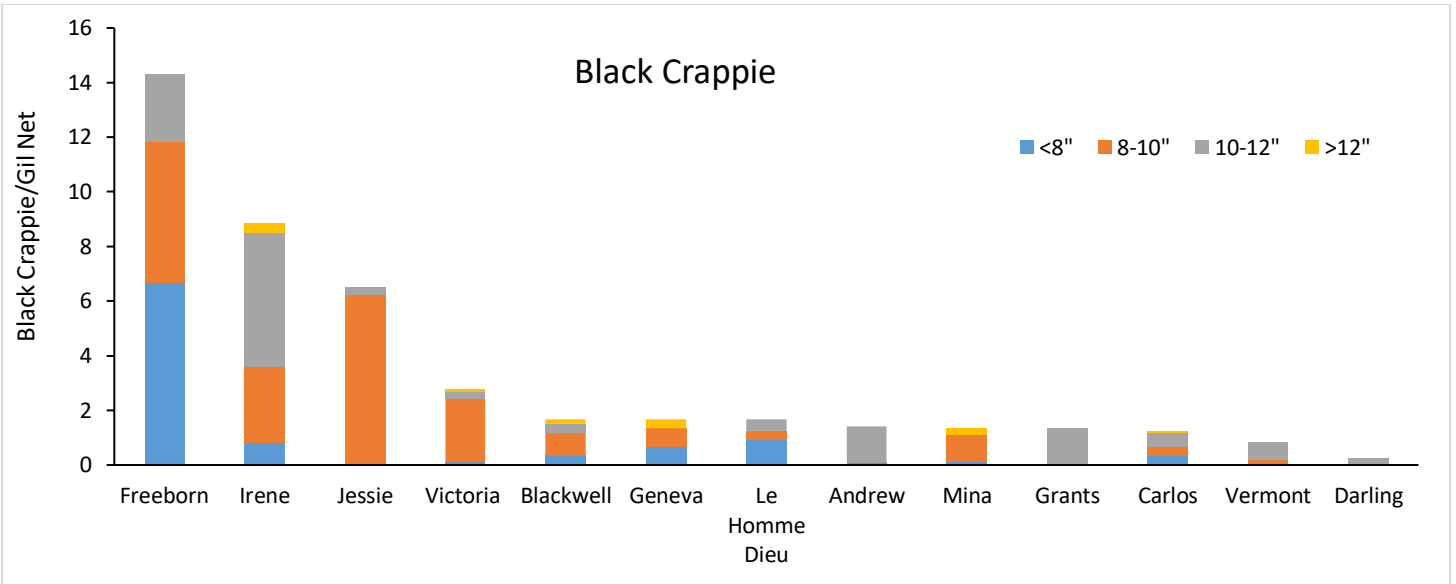
## Yellow Perch

Yellow perch fisheries are rare in our area, but anglers willing to put in some time may find some quality fish. Few perch were sampled on Vermont, but those that were sampled averaged 10.3 inches, with the largest being 11.9 inches. While not sampled in 2020, Page Lake is one of the few consistent jumbo perch fisheries in our area.

## Muskellunge

Muskie season opens June 5, 2021. Possession limit is one, 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. No muskie lakes were sampled in 2020 because of Covid-19 restrictions.





## Trout

Trout opener is April 17, 2021. 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. Stocking took place in both spring and fall of 2020. A survey in late July 2020 confirmed the survival of brown trout from the spring stocking. However, no rainbow trout were sampled. Brown trout stocked in the fall averaged 12.4 inches, with some fish exceeding 15 inches. The Glenwood office will stock additional trout, if available, in spring 2021. 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 2020, 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 Chippewa River (see Shore Fishing Opportunities below).

We have some trophy bullhead in the Glenwood Area, which currently has both the yellow (Osakis) and black bullhead (Reno) state records. Several lakes sampled in 2020 support good numbers of bullhead from 12 to 14+ inches, especially Freeborn and Irene.

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## 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](#).

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### Glenwood Area Fish Management Staff:

Currently Vacant - Area Supervisor  
Bill McKibbin - Assistant Area Supervisor  
Sue Mulville - Office & Admin Specialist  
Chris Smith - Fisheries Specialist  
Chris Uphoff - Fisheries Specialist  
Nick Rydell - Fisheries Specialist  
Storm Kettelhut – Fisheries/APM Technician

### Standard Lake Survey 2021

The following lakes will be sampled in 2021:

Big Chippewa	Crooked	Devils
Elk	Latoka	Lobster
Mary	Pelican (Grant)	Signalness (Mountain)
Thompson	Turtle	Whiskey
Winona		

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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