

2017 Lake Use and Fishing Success Survey

A lake management planning grant awarded by the State to the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association provided support for a Lake Use and Fishing Success Survey administered by several resorts around the lakes. The survey aims to collect data directly from clientele staying at the resorts. The survey asks resort clientele to provide certain details about their fishing experience while on the lake. Details include time spent on the water both fishing and doing non-fishing activities; identifying where on the lake participants are spending their time fishing; both the number of fish caught, and the number kept; and measuring the size of all fish kept. The survey asks anglers to identify the fish being caught and kept and tracks bluegill, pumpkinseed, perch, crappie, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleyes, and northern pike. Anglers are also asked to rate their time fishing and their success as excellent, good, average, poor, or terrible. Resort clientele are encouraged to file a daily report regardless of having a good or bad day of fishing.

The survey is a response to concerns that even though fisheries studies conducted by the WDNR suggest that fishing in the Big Chetac system is in good shape, that what people on the water are experiencing may not support that.

There are currently nine different resorts participating in the survey and this number is expected to increase by several more resorts by mid summer.

The following report summarizes the results of the survey for the month of July 2017. Future reports will be given for each month in the survey. Depending on the success of the survey, it may be extended into 2018. If you would like more information about the survey, or would possibly like to participate in the survey, please contact Dave Blumer at 715-642-0635 or by email at dblumerleaps@gmail.com.

July Results on next page:

June 24th- August 5th 2017 Lake Use and Fishing Success Survey Results

64 Surveys collected

81.5 Hours on the water not fishing

125 Total people in Fishing Parties

194.5 Hours of Fishing Time

Average Fishing Hours per Person =1.71 hours

2 People Contacted by the WDNR Creel Agent

Fishing Experience (June 3rd-23rd): Excellent-10, Good-22, Average-18, Poor-19, Terrible-18

Fishing Experience (June 24th- August 5th): Excellent-7, Good-12, Average-15, Poor-15, Terrible-4

June 3-23rd 2017 Panfish Results	
Total Caught- Bluegills	1605
Total Kept	768

Total Caught-Pumpkinseed	174
Total Kept	82

Total Caught- Perch	515
Total Kept	227

Total Caught- Crappie	838
Total Kept	515

June 3-23rd 2017 Gamefish Results	
Total Caught- LM Bass	116
Total Kept	30

Total Caught- SM Bass	75
Total Kept	3

Total Caught- Walleyes	117
Total Kept	4

Total Caught- Northern	13
Total Kept	0

June 24- August 5, 2017 Panfish Results	
Total Caught- Bluegills	333
Total Kept	118

Total Caught-Pumpkinseed	6
Total Kept	2

Total Caught- Perch	261
Total Kept	77

Total Caught- Crappie	376
Total Kept	294

June 24- August 5, 2017 Gamefish Results	
Total Caught- LM Bass	32
Total Kept	3

Total Caught- SM Bass	16
Total Kept	1

Total Caught- Walleyes	16
Total Kept	0

Total Caught- Northern	13
Total Kept	0

Totals From May 6th Through August 5th

Overall Lake Use May 6th- August 5th		
What was your primary lake use?	Watersports	9
	Fishing	247
	Swimming	13
	Other	3
Hours Spent on water (Not fishing)		187.75
Marked map zones where activities took place	A	102
	B	186
	C	63
	D	52
Total People in Fishing Parties		697
Hours of Fishing Time		1686.25
Average Fishing hours per Person		2.05
Contacted by WDNR Creel Agent		12
Quality of fishing Experience	Excellent	26
	Good	55
	Average	57
	Poor	70
	Terrible	28
Surveys collected		268

Fisheries Data May 6th- August 5th	
Panfish Totals	
Total Caught- Bluegills	2211
Total Kept	947
Total Caught-Pumpkinseed	268
Total Kept	128
Total Caught- Perch	1040
Total Kept	366
Total Caught- Crappie	3335
Total Kept	1920

Gamefish Totals	
Total Caught- LM Bass	182
Total Kept	41
Total Caught- SM Bass	145
Total Kept	5
Total Caught- Walleyes	297
Total Kept	9
Total Caught- Northern	53
Total Kept	12