

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 from May 6th through September 1st, 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.

Survey results follow on next page:

May 6th- September 1st 2017 Lake Use and Fishing Success Survey Results

393 Surveys collected

311.25 Hours on the water not fishing

1048 Total people in Fishing Parties

2228.25 Hours of Fishing Time

Average Fishing Hours per Person =2.13 hours

12 People Contacted by the WDNR Creel Agent

Fishing Experience: Excellent-27, Good-88, Average-77, Poor-102, Terrible-46

Overall Lake Use May 6th- September 1st		
What was your primary lake use?	Watersports	32
	Fishing	369
	Swimming	95
	Other	4
Hours Spent on water (Not fishing)		311.25
Marked map zones where activities took place	A	133
	B	228
	C	76
	D	115
Total People in Fishing Parties		1048
Hours of Fishing Time		2228.25
Average Fishing hours per Person		2.13
Contacted by WDNR Creel Agent		12
Quality of fishing Experience	Excellent	27
	Good	88
	Average	77
	Poor	102
	Terrible	46
Surveys collected		393

Fisheries Data May 6th- September 1st	
Panfish Totals	
Total Caught- Bluegills	2922
Total Kept	1220
Total Caught-Pumpkinseed	308
Total Kept	135
Total Caught- Perch	1311
Total Kept	437
Total Caught- Crappie	4604
Total Kept	2891
Gamefish Totals	
Total Caught- LM Bass	245
Total Kept	54
Total Caught- SM Bass	196
Total Kept	16
Total Caught- Walleyes	323
Total Kept	11
Total Caught- Northern	72
Total Kept	19