

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 June 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.

June (1st-23rd) 2017 Lake Use and Fishing Success Survey Results

99 Surveys collected

66.5 Hours on the water not fishing

276 Total people in Fishing Parties

765.5 Hours of Fishing Time

Average Fishing Hours per Person =3.04 hours

7 People Contacted by the WDNR Creel Agent

Fishing Experience (May): Excellent-9, Good-20, Average-23, Poor-34, Terrible-6

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

May 2017 Panfish Results

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Bluegills | 273 |
| Total Kept | 61 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Total Caught- Pumpkinseeds | 88 |
| Total Kept | 44 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Perch | 264 |
| Total Kept | 62 |

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|------------------------|------|
| Total Caught- Crappies | 2121 |
| Total Kept | 1111 |

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Total Caught- Northern | 13 |
| Total Kept | 0 |

May 2017 Gamefish Results

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Total Caught- LM Bass | 34 |
| Total Kept | 8 |

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|-----------------------|----|
| Total Caught- SM Bass | 54 |
| Total Kept | 1 |

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|------------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Walleyes | 164 |
| Total Kept | 5 |

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Total Caught- Northern | 27 |
| Total Kept | 12 |

June 2017 Panfish Results

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Total Caught- Bluegills | 1605 |
| Total Kept | 768 |

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|----------------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Pumpkinseeds | 174 |
| Total Kept | 82 |

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|---------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Perch | 515 |
| Total Kept | 227 |

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|------------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Crappies | 838 |
| Total Kept | 515 |

June 2017 Gamefish Results

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|-----------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- LM Bass | 116 |
| Total Kept | 30 |

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Total Caught- SM Bass | 75 |
| Total Kept | 3 |

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Total Caught- Walleyes | 117 |
| Total Kept | 4 |