

The warm temperatures and rain melted snow on lakes across the state and this week's cold temperatures have improved ice conditions on many lakes. Many areas are reporting the ice refroze quite smoothly.

In Marinette County, most lakes have around 8 inches of ice, with a very slick snow-free surface. Anglers venturing out are finding creepers to be beneficial. Fishing has been slow and spotty with the best panfishing being right before dark.

Ice thickness is still an issue on the Menominee River. Most anglers are congregated below the Hattie Street Dam in search of walleye. Low light periods have the best, jigging with minnows. A few open water anglers around Stephenson Island have fly fishing for trout with little success. - Calhoun Derbush, creel clerk

In Oconto County, some squirrel and rabbit hunters have been taking advantage of the warm weather and it is a great opportunity to take a child hunting. With the recent cold snap, ice has really started forming on the west shore of Green Bay. The ice is only a couple of inches thick. Inland lakes have firmed up but fishing results have been slow. People have been walking out on the ice from Geano Beach in search of northern pike and whitefish, catch information is hard to come by due to a lack of interviews. Anglers at Oconto Breakwater were fishing in the river channel for perch (which were running small), northern pike and whitefish.

In Shawano County, ice conditions are getting better with the cold but folks are cautioned to be careful as ice thicknesses are variable. Hopefully we will get some snow soon so the trails can get groomed. Trails are closed and some people are running on them anyway and upsetting landowners. Several citations have been issued and there are two trails that have been permanently closed due to trespassing and damage done. - Jim Horne, conservation warden, Shawano

In Brown County, anglers at Voyageur Park are reporting about 4 inches of ice on the Fox River. Whitefish, perch, and walleye were being taken. Jigging with wax worms and minnows has been working well. Anglers at Sunset Beach have been targeting perch and northern pike. Fishing has been a bit slow.

In Manitowoc County, ice fishing on the tributaries in Kewaunee County has been fairly good despite poor ice conditions. Anglers have had good luck catching steelhead and brown trout on the Ahnapee River near the Fourth Street bridge in Algoma and the Kewaunee River near the county highways E, C, and F bridges.

In Door County, ice conditions are not good in the outlying waters of Door County. There are always concerns with ice conditions and particularly on big waters, but this year especially.

In Waupaca County, ice conditions are improving. Ice users should still use caution when traveling on the ice – and in the Waupaca area- ice cleats are suggested. Fishing on area lakes is reported to be very slow.

In Outagamie County, the ice is firming up nicely on area lakes and river bayous. Some catches of panfish are being taken. With the changes in the weather over the past week, lowland areas are now flooding with ice over the top of those wetlands. In many cases there are multiple layers of ice making it difficult to walk in those areas. Underneath those layers it is hollow causing strenuous activity as well as opportunities for injuries to legs.

In Winnebago County, unusually warm daytime temperatures last week left ice anglers seeing reduced solid ice on which to fish. Ice heaves and large cracks have formed, making traversing the ice dangerous in some locations. As always the DNR advises citizens to plan ahead, check the weather and consider ice conditions before walking or driving on Wisconsin's frozen waters. Public snowmobile trails were recently closed due to increasing temperatures and poor trail conditions in Winnebago and Waushara counties.