

Anglers were greeted by a wet, windy and cooler opening weekend for the Wisconsin game fish season, which dampened spirits and fishing pressure some, but those who got out still reported some good fishing. Walleye fishing on Green Bay was reported as especially good, with many bag limits reported, and the stocked trout ponds were also very busy in many locations, with many reports of nice brook trout caught.

In Marinette County, opening day of fishing saw a good number of anglers as well as some good fishing success. Inland stream trout anglers were successful in catching some good numbers of fish as well as some good size fish being caught. Boaters fishing out of the mouth of the Peshtigo River did well last weekend for walleye, smallmouth bass, and northern pike. Trolling in 5 to 7 feet of water with crawler/harness or stick baits have producing most of the fish. Pike anglers have had success casting spoons in shallow both on the bay and in the river. Fishing had been slow on the Menominee River with some trout and walleye being caught by shore anglers from Stephenson Island up to the Dam. Early mornings and evenings have been best with anglers using plastics and stick baits. Turkey hunters were still having success and birds still seem to be receptive to calls.

In Oconto County, panfish and smallmouth bass have been the mainstay of anglers on the upper Oconto River, with slip bobbers and live baits working for panfish, while smallmouth bass have been responding well to plastics and crank baits. Smallmouth were being caught in the Pensaukee River using jigs and plastic or crank baits. Anglers out of Oconto Breakwater Park to Oconto Park II had a great opening weekend for walleye with many boats coming in with limits of fish in the 17 to 23 inch range. There were reports of limits of walleyes caught on opening Saturday on Green Bay in less than two hours. Trolling crawler/harness and stick baits have been producing lots of nice fish. Goslings are everywhere and turkeys are sitting on some very large clutches in the area according to several people who found nest. One had 17 eggs in it.

In Brown County, between the rains and high winds fishing on Green Bay has been tough but the anglers that are braving the elements are scoring on the walleyes. Anglers have been consistently bagging legal size walleyes trolling crank baits in the area off of Volk's Reef as well as in University Bay. Anglers were also continuing to have luck jigging the shorelines of the Fox River. Prior to putting the boat on the water, double check that you have all the required boating equipment and that boat registration is current.

In Door County, fishing pressure significantly increased with the bass season opener this past weekend. It was quiet on Little Sturgeon Bay and in Sawyer Harbor at the beginning of the week and the middle of the week brought scattered rain and thunderstorms, but warmer temperatures. By the weekend, Little Sturgeon Bay was very busy. Many anglers were targeting smallmouth bass and a total of 448 were caught throughout the day, only 5 were kept. The bait of choice was various tube jigs and they were mainly caught in 4-6 feet of water. Some northern pike and walleye were caught as well. One angler caught and released a 20.5 inch, 6.5-pound smallmouth bass. In Sawyer Harbor, there were about 17 trailers and the anglers were mostly targeting smallmouth bass. A total of 56 bass were caught, and 13 were kept. One fisherman alone caught 30 of them. The bait of choice was artificial, and the water temperature was 48 degrees. In the Sturgeon Bay area the City Dock and Ole Stone Quarry saw the most launch action. Boaters have reported great smallmouth success in 8 feet of water or less using a wide variety of artificial lures including grubs and suspending stick baits. Walleyes continue to be pressured in the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal with their bite at its best in the evening hours. The canal was also producing some nice northern pike action. Shore and pier anglers casting from the Ole Stone Quarry and Fish Creek Pier showed great smallmouth bass and walleye catches using golden shiners,

crawlers, grub lures, and suspending stick baits. Pressure for brown trout continues both from shore and by boat showing returns on a variety of stick baits and spoons. At Chaudoir's Dock it was moderately busy, with anglers targeting walleye. One group caught 17 walleye and one brown trout, all were kept. The fish were caught in about 12 to 16 feet of water and artificial was the main bait. Over at Bayshore Park, it was very busy with anglers targeting walleye there as well and a total of 76 of them were caught, 61 were kept. Again, there was no one at Red River, Sugar Creek and Fish Haven. The pier is completed at Carmody's Landing.

In Kewaunee, fishing was slow on the southern county lakes over opening weekend of the fishing season, especially with the rain on Sunday. Turkey hunters still are seeing and harvesting a lot of birds.

In Marquette County, due to the recent heavy rainfalls, area lakes and rivers are near flood stage and fishing has been difficult. Fishing activity has been slow, but anglers have been catching white bass on the Montello River and some nice crappies on Lawrence Lake. Turkey hunters reported having challenges getting birds to respond to calls and not being able to harvest birds. Boaters are reminded to wear their personal floatation device when out on area waters especially during high water levels.

In Waupaca, the white bass run is starting in a few locations with some better number of white bass being caught on the Wolf River. The peak run will likely be starting real soon with the warmer water temps. Walleye were still being caught on the Wolf River, but anglers had to work for them. With recent rains most of the rivers are very high, so use caught when boating. Large hazards, like logs, could have been pushed into the rivers and visible snags are likely now underwater.

In Calumet County, less than a week ago, many portions of Calumet County saw rainfall totals exceed 4 to 5 inches in short period of time. This massive amount of rain is still evident on the landscape and had an impact on the statewide fishing opener on Lake Winnebago. While the Winnebago system is technically open "year round" many anglers still flock to the lake for the opener, however this year they were greeted with turbid and debris-filled water due to massive runoff from several major creeks and tributaries along the eastern shoreline. Those anglers searching for clear water farther out still caught fair numbers of walleyes. Turkey hunters are also coping with the rainfall totals from last week as many fields and lowlands are still submerged or filled with standing water. Many turkeys have been seeking upland areas in an attempt to dry-out. Lake flies are still prevalent along the east shore.

In Outagamie County, with the last band of showers which came across the state last week the Wolf River has risen to spring levels and causing some turbidity. White bass are being caught but not in high numbers perhaps due to the dirty water and other forage in the water due to the rain. Anglers looking to hook a walleye or two can try along the entire Winnebago shoreline of Jefferson Park in Menasha, or at Kimberly Park by the Neenah lighthouse. Anglers looking to hit the water can try trolling on the east shore of Winnebago, from High Cliff to Quinney. Be safe when on or near the water as the recent rains have brought many of the area waterways to flood stage. For the late season turkey hunters, toms in the area have been seen actively strutting and at times they have been hanging around in groups of two or three. A large number of hens have already split off from the group and are nesting. Mushroom hunters should be on the lookout for the elusive morels, which have been popping up the last week.

In Winnebago County, the Winneconne area has still been producing good numbers of walleye from the Winneconne bridge. Panfishing is beginning to slow down. Soon the white bass should begin to show up. Turkey hunting in the area could become harder in the Winneconne area. With

the large amount of rain recently many fields and turkey feeding areas are under water. Much of the state lands that hold turkeys are under 2 feet of water. It will take a while before the water levels go back down.

In Sheboygan County, trollers in Sheboygan have been catching a mixed bag of chinook and coho salmon and brown and lake trout in 25 to 35 feet of water using spoons of various colors. Fishing off the Sheboygan piers has been slow. The Sheboygan and Pigeon Rivers have relatively high flows and temperatures in the mid to upper-40s. There has been minimal fishing effort on both rivers.