



Over the past three years, fisheries biologists with the Department of Natural Resources have solicited public input on all aspects of panfish management. They found that although anglers are not interested in sweeping changes to statewide panfish regulations, they are interested in addressing specific lakes with overharvest issues. With this in mind, the department is proposing regulation options to increase panfish size on selected lakes where harvest appears to be a problem.

**What we know**

- 1) Restrictive regulations can improve the average size of bluegill and crappie.
- 2) Evaluations in Wisconsin and Minnesota show that a reduced bag limit could increase mean length of bluegills.
- 3) For a regulation to be effective, it has to be restrictive enough to affect harvest.
- 4) There is a challenging balance in finding a regulation that is both sufficiently restrictive but also socially acceptable.

**What we propose**

The department is proposing three different harvest regulations on selected “problem” lakes and evaluating their performance over time.

The goal of this proposal is to increase the average size of bluegill and crappie on select lakes that are currently overharvested.

A total of 110 lakes from across the state were identified by the state’s fisheries biologists as “problem” lakes where mean size of bluegill or crappie is less than desirable, most likely due to overharvest (Figure 1 for map and Table 2 for complete list on back).

**Regulation options**

One of three regulations will be applied:

- 1** A total of 25 panfish but no more than 10 of any one species (25/10).
- 2** A total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species (15/5).
- 3** A total of 25 panfish but no more than five of the **sunfish** (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7” (25/5 over 7”).

All regulations will be evaluated for effectiveness and acceptance starting in 2019.

**More for the frying pan**



Even though anglers would take home fewer fish from some lakes, the expected increase in average size should result in the same amount of, or more, meat for the frying pan.

Anglers can get to a half pound of bluegill meat a lot of different ways. For example, the fillets from 25 5-inch bluegills weigh the same as fillets off of eight 7-inch bluegills (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Number of fish (by length) it takes to equal 1/2 pound of meat.

Length (inches)	Number of Fish
5	25
6	14
7	8
8	3.5
9	2

**Let your voice be heard**

Attend one of the three scheduled public meetings:

**MINOCQUA**  
 Minocqua Public Library  
 415 Menominee St.  
 August 26th - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**WAUPACA**  
 Waupaca Public Library  
 Room B, 106 S. Main St.  
 September 3rd - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**WAUKESHA**  
 Waukesha DNR Service Center  
 Room 151, 141 NW Barstow Road  
 September 4 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

# PANFISH STUDY LAKES



**Figure 1.** Distribution of 110 study lakes identified through fisheries biologists and angler surveys with populations of panfish that exhibited poor size, average growth and high fishing pressure.

**Table 2.** Panfish study lakes and the designated regulation option randomly assigned to each.

County	Lake/Chain Name	Regulation <sup>1</sup>
Adams	Crooked	15/5
Adams	Parker	15/5
Adams	Arrowhead	25/10
Adams	Camelot	25/10
Adams	Sherwood	25/10
Ashland	Butternut	25/10
Eau Claire	Eau Claire	25/10
Florence	Halsey	25/10
Florence	Sea Lion	25/10
Florence	Spread Eagle Chain (Bass)	25/10
Forest	Wabikon & Riley (Wabikon)	25/10
Iron	Gile Flowage	25/10
Kenosha	Paddock	25/5 over 7"
Langlade	Big Twin	25/10
Langlade	Long (T33N R10E S35)	25/10
Langlade	Moose	25/5 over 7"
Langlade	White	25/5 over 7"
Langlade	Crystal	15/5
Langlade	Lower & Upper Post	25/10
Langlade	Dynamite	25/10
Langlade	Meyer	15/5
Langlade	Mueller	25/10
Lincoln	Clara (T34N R8E S10)	15/5
Lincoln	Crystal	25/5 over 7"

County	Lake/Chain Name	Regulation <sup>1</sup>
Lincoln	Hilderbrand	25/5 over 7"
Lincoln	Echo	15/5
Lincoln	Rice Reservoir Chain	25/10
Lincoln	Hilts	25/10
Lincoln	Clara (T35N R07E S14)	25/5 over 7"
Lincoln	Pesabic	25/5 over 7"
Manitowoc	Bullhead	15/5
Manitowoc	English	15/5
Manitowoc	Harpt	25/10
Manitowoc	Pigeon	25/10
Marathon	Pike	15/5
Marinette	Caldron Falls Reservoir	25/10
Oneida	Boom-Rhineland Chain	15/5
Oneida	Gilmore	25/10
Oneida	Hasbrook	15/5
Oneida	Muskellunge	15/5
Oneida	Oneida	15/5
Oneida	Squaw	15/5
Oneida	Gunlock	15/5
Oneida	Shishebogama	15/5
Oneida	Moen Chain	25/10
Oneida	Three Lakes Chain	25/10
Oneida	Two Sisters	25/10
Oneida	Carrol	25/10
Oneida	Madeline	25/10
Oneida	Bear	25/5 over 7"
Oneida	Clear	25/5 over 7"
Oneida	Indian	25/5 over 7"
Oneida	North Nokomis	25/5 over 7"
Portage	Emily	15/5
Portage	Lime	25/10
Portage	Collins	25/5 over 7"
Portage	Helen	25/5 over 7"
Price	Phillips Chain	15/5
Price	Solberg	25/5 over 7"
Price	Pike Chain	25/10
Price	Butternut	25/10
Racine	Bohners	15/5
Rusk	Lower Flambeau River Flowages	25/5 over 7"
Sawyer	Black Dan	15/5
Sawyer	Blueberry	15/5
Sawyer	Evergreen	15/5
Sawyer	Loretta	15/5
Sawyer	Mason	15/5
Sawyer	Osprey	15/5
Sawyer	Windigo	15/5
Sawyer	Connors	25/10
Sawyer	Lake of the Pines	25/10
Sawyer	Lost Land and Teal (Lost Land)	25/10
Sawyer	Round (in chain)	25/10
Sawyer	Spring	25/10
Sawyer	Winter	25/10

County	Lake/Chain Name	Regulation <sup>1</sup>
Sawyer	Barber	25/5 over 7"
Sawyer	Durphee	25/5 over 7"
Sawyer	Lower Holly	25/5 over 7"
Sawyer	Spider	25/5 over 7"
Shawano	White Clay	25/10
Shawano	Cloverleaf Chain	25/5 over 7"
Sheboygan	Crystal Lake	15/5
Taylor	Rib	15/5
Taylor	Chequamegon Waters (Miller Dam)	25/5 over 7"
Vilas	Allequash	25/10
Vilas	Kentuck	25/10
Vilas	Little Saint Germain	25/10
Vilas	Palmer	25/10
Vilas	Pickerel	25/10
Vilas	Big Sand	25/5 over 7"
Vilas	High & Fishtrap	25/5 over 7"
Vilas	Partridge	25/5 over 7"
Walworth	Tripp	25/10
Washington	Big Cedar	25/10
Washington	Little Cedar	25/10
Washington	Silver	25/5 over 7"
Waupaca	Graham	15/5
Waupaca	Hartman	15/5
Waupaca	School Section	25/10
Waupaca	Stratton	25/10
Waupaca	White	25/10
Waupaca	Pigeon	25/5 over 7"
Waupaca	Shadow	25/5 over 7"
Waushara	Witters	15/5
Waushara	Big Hills	25/10
Waushara	Irogami	25/5 over 7"
Waushara	Kusel Lake	25/5 over 7"
Waushara	Porters	25/5 over 7"

<sup>1</sup> Regulation:

**25/10** - a total of 25 panfish but no more than 10 of any one species.

**15/5** - a total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species.

**25/5 over 7"** - a total of 25 panfish, but no more than 5 of the sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7 inches.

For more detailed information and to keep up-to-date on panfish management in Wisconsin visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "panfish plan."

