

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



MATCH YOUR CATCH!



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## COHO SALMON

*Oncorhynchus kisutch*

**IDENTIFICATION** The coho salmon has a slightly forked tail fin with spots on the upper lobe. It has a mouth that is completely white inside and spots on its sides that are sometimes hard to see on its shiny, silver body.

**HABITAT** Native to the Pacific Ocean, coho were stocked in the Great Lakes to help control alewives. Eggs don't hatch on their own in Wisconsin waters, so they are collected and brought to hatcheries. Young fish are then stocked into Great Lakes' tributaries to support the thriving sport fishing and tourism industries.

**TACKLE TIPS** Fish for coho near spawning streams in the fall or try trolling on the Great Lakes using shiny flashers.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 25", 6 lb.  
(Check regulations for legal catch size and seasons.)

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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Recycled paper



## BROOK TROUT

*Salvelinus fontinalis*

### IDENTIFICATION

Brook trout are Wisconsin's only native stream-dwelling trout. Look for worm-like markings on their backs and white edges on their fins.

### HABITAT

Brook trout like to hide at the head of a stream in small pools or under logs. In the fall, they make gravel nests close to the springs that feed the stream where water is the freshest.

### TACKLE TIP

Be quiet! Brook trout are easily spooked. After a short rain, use flies, worms or minnows. For successful catch and release, however, flies are best.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 10-12", 1-2 lb.  
(Check regulations for legal catch size and season.)

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## BLACK CRAPPIE

*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

### IDENTIFICATION

Black crappies are speckled and have seven to eight spines on their dorsal fin. Outstanding as a sport fish, they can be strong fighters and are fun to catch on light tackle!

### HABITAT

Black crappies feed in clear, open water but can also be found resting among logs or weed beds during the day. They live in small schools and prefer cooler, deeper water than white crappies.

### TACKLE TIPS

Cast out a minnow, spinner or small jig just as the sun is setting.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 7-10", 7-12 oz.

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## LAKE WHITEFISH

*Coregonus clupeaformis*

### IDENTIFICATION

More silver than white, with a head that looks too small for its body, the lake whitefish looks like an oversized minnow.

### HABITAT

Lake whitefish are found in the shallow waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior where they spawn over rocky reefs.

### TACKLE TIP

Anglers can catch these tasty members of the trout family by jigging in the winter with spoons, or with seine and dip nets during the spring. Try a forkful at a Door County fish boil or visit Bayfield County where whitefish livers are considered a delicacy.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 18", 10 lb.

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## LAKE STURGEON

*Acipenser fulvescens*

### IDENTIFICATION

This ancient fish with bony plates and barbels (whiskers) shared the swamps with dinosaurs. It can live for over 100 years and females do not spawn until at least 25.

**HABITAT** The Lake Winnebago system hosts the world's largest population of lake sturgeon. They're also found in the Chippewa-Flambeau system and the Menominee, Mississippi, and Wisconsin rivers. In the late 1800's, sturgeon were considered a nuisance. They tangled and tore commercial fishing nets, so were tossed ashore to rot. Dams and over-fishing further reduced their numbers.

**TACKLE TIPS** Sturgeon are caught during a short winter spearing season on Lake Winnebago. A record-setting 82-year-old, 180-pounder was speared there in 1953. There is a limited hook and line season in some rivers. Watch them spawn along the banks of the Wolf River in New London and Shiocton.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 3-5', 10-80 lb.  
(Check regulations for legal catch size and seasons.)

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## COMMON SHINER

*Luxilus cornutus*

### IDENTIFICATION

Shiners are members of the minnow and carp family. Of the 46 different species of minnows, 21 are shiners.

Two species are threatened and two are endangered. All have slender, minnow-like bodies and are usually less than 5" long. They are an important food source for many other fish. The male common shiner is pictured.

**HABITAT** Shiners can be found in most of Wisconsin's waters. Even though most species are abundant, harvest by bait dealers is licensed and regulated so as not to harm the shiner population.

**TACKLE TIPS** Catch your own bait! Shiners can be caught and used for bait. Place bread balls inside an open glass jar in the water and wait. Soon the jar will fill with feeding shiners!

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 2-3", less than one ounce. (Check the regulation for harvest limits and closures.)

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## WHITE SUCKER

*Catostomus commersonii*

### IDENTIFICATION

White suckers have slim bodies with lots of tiny scales while other suckers have larger, harder scales. All suckers have mouths that point downward.

### HABITAT

White suckers like to hide in old logs and deep holes of Wisconsin's lakes, ponds, and streams. They can withstand lower oxygen levels than most fish.

### TACKLE TIPS

You can use minnows or worms to catch these bottom-dwelling critters. Check with your local DNR office to find out about spearing and dipnetting regulations.

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 10-6", 8-12 oz.

For more information, visit:

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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## LARGEMOUTH BASS

*Micropterus salmoides*

### IDENTIFICATION

They don't call them "Bucketmouth" for nothing! The largemouth bass is the largest member of the sunfish family. It has a big mouth and knows how to use it! Its upper jaw extends beyond its eye. Notice the prominent lateral line on the side of the fish and the deep notch in the dorsal fin.

### HABITAT

Largemouth bass prefer warm water and like to hide under lily pads, docks, or in weed beds.

### TACKLE TIPS

Old Bucketmouth has excellent senses of sight, smell and hearing. These fish like weedy areas so don't forget to use a weedless bait or you may lose your lure!

**COMMON CATCH SIZE** 12-14", 1 lb.  
(Check regulations for legal catch size and season.)

For more information, visit:

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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