

STURGEON REGISTRATION GUIDE

MAJOR CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

1. A season limit of one fish for the little lakes, whereas, Lake Winnebago has a season's limit of two fish.
2. The season on Lake Winnebago is the same as last year, but on the little lakes, it has been curtailed to five days.
3. The refuge which was in existence on Lake Poygan last year, is no longer in effect for the 1957 season.
4. Holes larger than twelve inches (12") in diameter cannot be cut inside of a shanty, until twenty-four (24) hours prior to the season and the large hole is not permitted after it is over.
5. The nets used to tag sturgeon in Lake Poygan prior to the opening of the season, have always been removed before the season other years, however, this year the string of nets will be left in during the season, however, the pots which trap the fish will be left open so that the fish can swim through. Other years they were always removed to eliminate accusations that we would hold the sturgeon in the net during the season so that nobody could spear them. This year we will beat that accusation by leaving the nets open, but they will not be removed as we intend to catch rough fish and tag more sturgeon after the season.

OPENING HOURS

The registration stations will be open from ten-thirty (10:30) a.m. to six (6:00) p.m. each day, and at stations where we expect large registrations the first few days, we will provide the attendant with assistants.

REWARD SYSTEM

A ten dollar (\$10) reward will again be paid this year to anyone registering a tagged sturgeon. Each station will handle tagged sturgeon in the manner described on the literature pasted onto the ice cream container. The container is to be filled with all of the innards of the sturgeon and the tag on the fish is to be cut away with a portion of the flesh or finbone so that its permanency on the fish can be studied after it is returned to our headquarters. Wrap the section with the tag in a rag or a piece of paper toweling so that it can be readily picked out from the container. The registration station attendant is requested to note the name and address of each spearer qualifying for a reward in a pocket size book so that at the close of the season, he will know the name and number of sturgeon which he has passed for payment. The spearer can be informed that his reward payment will be processed and that he can expect a check in 30 to 40 days. Mr. Klux will advise private registration stations that anyone spearing a tagged sturgeon should report and register it to a State station if it is convenient, as that will save them the bother of dressing out the fish and making out records, if the spearer himself is willing to travel to a State location. Each station should

provide itself with old rags and pack of paper toweling as the handling of fish and records requires plenty of hand wiping. It must be pointed out that pen writing has not proven satisfactory, so in all cases use soft lead pencils to make sure that all of the records are clearly distinguishable. (PLEASE PRINT ALL ENTRIES)

LOOKING FOR TAGS

We cannot over emphasize the need to look a fish over carefully for inbedded tags. We have tagged sturgeon for three to four years at quite a rapid rate and it is entirely possible that some of the tagging from years ago will be inbedded into the fish so that it is barely noticeable. Please check each fish very carefully for hidden tags which might not have been noted by the spearer. Some of the fish which have been tagged, will also be missing a front finbone so use this as a guide wherever possible. The responsibility for the registration tags themselves will lie with the manager of each registration station, even though he might be relieved occasionally. It will be his responsibility to close out the season and check in the tags to the law enforcement division. The law enforcement division will also handle the issuing of all tags to each station manager and it is recommended that the tags be taken home each evening, rather than leave them in the registration shack.

THE TAKING OF FINBONES

Each attendant should equip his station with a fair sized sharp knife to cut finbones.

Registration stations on the little lakes will take all finbones from every fish registered, however, on Lake Winnebago, the following system will be in effect:

The Neenah, Calumet Park and Sherwood registration stations will only be requested to take finbones from fish weighing seventy (70) pounds or larger. Our State stations on Winnebago which will be the Area headquarters at Oshkosh, Waverly Beach, Brothertown, Stockbridge and Calumet Harbor will take finbones from Lake Winnebago from any fish fifty (50) pounds and above.

The larger sized fish are needed to fill out our length frequency samples for Winnebago, but at the present time we have a sufficient quantity of bones from the smaller fish. On the little lakes, due to the critical harvest rate, we want every finbone that is available this year. Be certain to write the name or location of your registration station on each envelope containing a finbone. The name of the lake is not enough, it must show the registration station location on each envelope.

THE CUTTING OF FINBONES

Most of you had experience in removing finbones last year, however, for the benefit of those who haven't, we would like to point out that the actual finbone can be removed from the fish without spoiling it for a photograph. The fan shaped fin can be left on the sturgeon if a cut is made in the joint of the finbone near the body and after that joint has been cut one can cut the finbone out without removing the entire fin. Please ask for more detail on this at the meeting, so that it is clear just what portion of the fin is wanted. Remember one thing, we do not want the flapper. We want the bone for aging the fish.

The disposal of accumulated finbones will be handled by a pickup service around Lake Winnebago and on the little lake, except where men from our fishery operations section will manage to bring in the finbones from the two western stations which will be manned by Forest Protection personnel. If a pickup is not available just store your samples in a cool section of the building from day to day.

Keep all your registration sheets until the end of the season to check out with your tags.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

No matter how busy a station attendant gets, he should carefully register one fish at a time. There have been times during other years when registration has been made very difficult when a large crowd accumulates with a lot of fish. Please measure and weigh carefully and only permit one fish in the registration area of your shack at one time. Measure all fish from the snout to the extreme tip of the tail. We are only interested in the innards or egg samples from reward fish, and are not requesting that you save egg samples from any others.

PAYMENTS TO COOPERATING AGENCIES

Three registration stations will be operated by cooperating agencies. The Neenah Police, the Sherwood filling station, and the custodian at the Calumet County Park. To reward them for their services, a twenty-five (\$0.25) fee will be paid for each sturgeon registered at any of their stations.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

In 1955, twenty-two hundred (2200) fish were speared totaling 85,000 pounds. Last year, 1,248 legal sturgeons were speared weighing 47,217 pounds. If you are asked why we are restricting the spearing regulations, you can point out that the study has proven that the large year classes in the smaller lakes are being speared out with the tendency for the fish to be smaller each year and very near the forty inch size limit. Our main intention is to pro-rate the trophy fish and maintain it as a unique trophy fishery.

