

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
Oshkosh  
January 29, 1958

*Sturgeon  
News Release*

Dear Editor:

Attached is a news release covering the most important portions of the 1958 sturgeon season.

Printing at your convenience prior to the opening will be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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RFH:sf

From: Wisconsin Conservation Dept.  
Fish Management Division  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

1-29-58

STURGEON SEASON NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin's largest trophy fish will be fair game again, Saturday, February 8.

There will not be a season on lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan this year. However, this year Little Lake Butte des Morts and its connecting waters downstream to the uppermost dam in the City of Appleton, will be open for spearing along with Lake Winnebago.

The department reports that research findings have shown the sturgeon populations in the lakes that are closed to spearing, have been cropped too heavily in recent years. Although there are yet a good number of sturgeon left in these lakes, they report these are young small fish that need time to reach trophy size.

Last year, 1,271 sturgeon weighing 52,850 pounds, were registered from all four lakes. Lake Winnebago alone produced 851 fish weighing 42,000 pounds.

At the present time, ice varies from 15 to 22 inches thick and enough snow has accumulated on the ice so that further drifting will hamper easy travel. Water clarity has been reported somewhat poorer than last year.

The bag limit for sturgeon is now one fish per season. Last year, it was two on Lake Winnebago and spearing was not allowed on Little Lake Butte des Morts. The minimum size remains at 40 inches. No special license is needed, other than the regular fishing license, but a tag costing \$1.00 must be locked to the tail of a sturgeon immediately after it is speared.

Other general regulations have been briefed up and emphasized by conservation wardens to help keep sturgeon fishermen out of trouble.

During the coming season, sturgeon may be taken only by hand-operated spears between sunrise and sunset. No spears are allowed in fishing shanties before the sturgeon spearing season opens or after the season closes, nor between sunset and sunrise while the shanties are occupied.

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All sturgeon tags must be in possession of the owner of the tags, and they may be left in shanties only if the shanty is occupied in person by the owner of the tag.

All fishing shanties must have the name and address of their owner painted on the outside, and the door of each shanty or enclosure must be equipped with a latch which permits the door to be opened from the outside while it is occupied.

Fishermen may fish other species with hook-and-line during the open season while spearing sturgeon, but no fish other than sturgeon, catfish or rough fish may be speared.

It is unlawful for any person to cut, use, or maintain a hole larger than 12 inches in diameter or square through the ice for the purpose of fishing, except that when there is an open season for spearing sturgeon, it shall be legal to cut, use and maintain holes of unrestricted sizes from 24 hours before and continuing through such season. Regulations prohibit holes larger than 12 inches in diameter or square after the spearing season closes. This should not hamper fishermen who desire to leave their fishing shanties after sturgeon season as it would be legal for them to leave the larger holes freeze over and maintain the 12 inch hole for hook and line fishing. Persons moving their shanties during the season and after, are reminded that Wisconsin law provides a maximum penalty of \$100 for neglect to place a guard around the openings in the ice.

Sturgeon research studies in 1957 indicated a definite need for further limitations on the spearing season which accounts for the bag limit of one fish per person. They point out that the problem is not one of depletion, but rather a sincere attempt to pro-rate a limited crop of slow growing primitive fish over a longer period of time. They again emphasize that sturgeon spearing should be a trophy sport and not a cropping of 8 to 10 pound youngsters which would live to be a real trophy to their children 30 years hence.

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Within 24 hours after a sturgeon is speared, it must be registered, in the county where taken, at a registration station. At the station, a registration tag will be attached to the fish and both that tag and the fisherman's own \$1.00 sturgeon tag must remain on the fish until it is prepared for eating.

Below is a list of registration stations: (The following stations will operate from February 8 through March 1, from 10:30 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.)

Oshkosh Area Headquarters, (200 Lake Drive )(905 Bayshore Drive)

Neenah Police Station

Waverly Beach, on ice along main ice road from beach

Sherwood, Ray Hayes' filling station

Fairy Springs Boat Landing - 1-1/2 miles North of Calumet  
County Park Road

Stockbridge, the building next to road leading to the lake

Brothertown, in old garage building on highway through the village

Calumet Harbor State Fisheries Station

Richard F. Harris