

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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NEWS RELEASE

OSHKOSH --- Shanties are being readied, equipment checked, and chain saws sharpened in anticipation of the opening of the 1978 sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago. This year the season will open on February 11 and continue through March 1.

Spearmen are looking forward to better conditions than they were greeted with on opening day in 1977. A heavy fog engulfed the lake and water clarity ranged from 8-10 feet. While weather conditions improved, the clarity remained at 8-10 feet throughout the 18-day season.

The total harvest on Lake Winnebago during the 1977 season was 287 fish. These fish had an average length of 56 inches and an average weight of 47 pounds. The largest fish taken was a 76 inch beauty that tipped the scales at 130 pounds. It was speared by Victor Steaven of Chilton, Wisconsin, on March 1, the last day of the season.

There is no spearing season on Lakes Poygan, Winneconne and Putte des Morts in 1978!

Spearmen trying their luck on Lake Winnebago this year, are once again reminded that the minimum size limit on sturgeon is 45 inches. It is an opportunity to harvest a trophy fish and if there is the slightest doubt as to whether or not a fish is of legal length -- do not throw the spear!

All spearmen must have a \$2.50 sturgeon spearing license and be at least 14 years of age. Spearmen 14 and 15 years old are not required to have a hook and line fishing license in order to obtain a spearing license, but everyone else must have a current fishing license along with a sturgeon spearing license. Persons under 14 years of age are not authorized to spear sturgeon. The license must be carried by the person at all times while fishing for sturgeon by means of a spear. A sturgeon tag is furnished with each license and must be immediately locked to the tail of the fish after it is speared.

Sturgeon spearing licenses will be available throughout the season, however, after the opening week-end they will be available only from the county clerks (Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Waushara Counties) and the Department of Natural Resources' stations at Oshkosh or Calumet Harbor. Any persons losing their license may obtain a duplicate from the county clerks or Department of Natural Resources for \$1.00.

On the same day a sturgeon is speared, it shall be registered at an official DNR registration station by not later than 6:00 p.m. At the station, a registration tag will be attached to the fish and both that tag and the fisherman's own sturgeon tag shall remain attached until the fish is consumed.

Lake Winnebago contains a number of sturgeon that have DNR tags affixed to their dorsal fins. It is very important that anyone spearing a tagged fish bring it to the attention of the registration station. The information gathered from these tags will be of considerable value in the management of the Lake Winnebago sturgeon population. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Spearers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the pamphlet, "Wisconsin Spearing and Netting Regulations for 1979" -- as all regulations will be strictly enforced. Should you have any questions, contact your local conservation warden.

Registrations Stations  
Lake Winnebago

Hours: 10:30 - 6:00 p.m.

East Shore

Elmer & Harriet Wundrow's Tavern..... Fairy Springs Road - Hilbert  
Phone: (414) 989-1393

Fishtale Inn (~~Chuck Westenberg~~).... Calumet County Park Road  
Phone: (414) 439-1565

Dick Parson's Harbor Bar..... Stockbridge  
Phone: (414) 439-1450

Fisherman's Inn..... Brothertown (at crossroads leading to  
the lake)  
Phone: (414) 849-2760

Calumet Harbor..... State Fisheries Office. Manned by  
Department of Natural Resources personnel  
Phone: (414) 795-4211

Charles (Chuck) Lisowe's Tap..... Quinney at the lake  
Phone: (414) 439-1341

South Shore

Clarence's Harbor..... On Hwy 55-151 - one mile east of Fond du Lac  
Phone: (414) 921-8349

West Shore

Wendt's Bar and Harbor..... On Hwy 45 - eight miles north of Fond du Lac  
at Winnebago-Fond du Lac County Line  
Phone: (414) 688-2601

Mac and Pack-Its Tavern..... On Hwy 45 - 2 miles north of Fond du Lac  
(4501 Lake Shore Drive)  
Phone: (414) 923-9973

Jerry's Tavern..... 1210 Ceape Avenue, Oshkosh  
Phone: (414) 231-7380

Payne's Point Resort..... On Winnebago County Trunk "A" about 3 miles  
south of Neenah  
Phone: (414) 725-9722

North Shore

Waverly Beach Resort..... Jct. of U.S. 10 and State 114 on the lake  
Phone: (414) 733-9721

For Further information contact: Dan Folz  
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