



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2024 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin, and Eastern Dunn Counties

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Survey and Report Objectives

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff based out of Eau Claire conducts electrofishing surveys on wadable trout streams in Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pepin, and Dunn (east of the Red Cedar River) Counties annually.
- The primary sampling objectives for these surveys are to characterize recruitment, relative abundance and size structure for all trout species.
- The following report is a summary of trout metrics for all stations surveyed in 2024. Please refer to the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicable size and bag limit restrictions for the stream you fish.

DNR Contact

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Survey Methods

- Surveys are conducted from June 15th through September 15th with a two to four person crew.
- 'Trend' survey sites are sampled annually which helps to see yearly variations in population demographics.
- 'Rotation' survey sites are sampled every 3, 6, or 12 years in order to get a detailed look at populations in an individual stream.
- Small streams, less than 3 meters wide, are sampled with a backpack electrofishing unit while larger streams are sampled with stream barge electrofishing unit.
- Sampling distance is at least 35 times the mean stream width or a minimum of 100 meters, whichever is greater. This ensures multiple habitat types are sampled and a representative sample of the fishery is collected.
- All trout captured are identified by species and measured for length. All non-trout species are identified and counted. All fish are released on site.

How is the information used?

- The fisheries data collected are standardized in catch per mile of stream surveyed, so stations of different survey lengths are comparable.
- This information is used to guide decisions to best manage the coldwater resource. Examples of how these data are used:
 - Regulations: Does the current regulation achieve the desired objectives? Or is there a different size limit or bag limit that may perform better?
 - Stocking: Is there enough natural reproduction to utilize the available habitat, or could stocking help maximize the stream's potential? If the stream is stocked, are the fish surviving and providing a meaningful contribution to the fishery?
 - Habitat: The fisheries data will reflect the habitat quality and quantity. If the riparian area has public access, could in-stream trout habitat improvement work improve the fishery?



A healthy Chippewa County brook trout sampled during the 2024 field season.



Eau Claire fisheries staff sample Elk Creek with a barge electrofishing unit.



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Stream Survey Locations and Station Information					
Stream - Station Number	County	Station Location	Date	Type	Length (m)
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - CTH G	7/9/2024	Trend	130
ARKANSAW CREEK - 2	PEPIN	2 - CTH Z	7/11/2024	Rotation	138
ARKANSAW CREEK - 3	PEPIN	3 - CTH O - LOWER PARK	7/10/2024	Rotation	157
ARKANSAW CREEK - 4	PEPIN	4 - CTH N - UPPER PARK	7/10/2024	Rotation	275
BEAR CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - USH 10	8/14/2024	Trend	287
BEAR CREEK - 2	PEPIN	2 - CTH V	8/22/2024	Rotation	254
BEAR CREEK - 3	PEPIN	3 - CTH B	8/24/2024	Rotation	125
BEAR CREEK - 4	PEPIN	4 - DORWIN'S MILL RD	7/11/2024	Rotation	310
BEAR CREEK - 5	BUFFALO	5 - CTH A & J	8/22/2024	Rotation	107
BEARS GRASS CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTH V	8/12/2024	Trend	113
BEAVER CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1- 140TH AVE	7/24/2024	Trend	175
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTH M	6/26/2024	Trend	140
BOGUS CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - APPLE RD.	6/25/2024	Trend	150
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - PARK IN AUGUSTA	8/8/2024	Trend	360
CLEAR CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTH HH	7/8/2024	Trend	100
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTH SS	7/30/2024	Trend	288
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - 85TH ST	8/29/2024	Trend	364
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	CHIPPEWA	3 - 130TH AVE	9/3/2024	Trend	314
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	DUNN	1 - HWY 40	7/1/2024	Trend	144
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	DUNN	2 - CTH A	6/26/2024	Trend	132
ELK CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTH N	8/28/2024	Trend	130
ELK CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - CTH T	7/15/2024	Rotation	107
ELK CREEK - 3	CHIPPEWA	3 - 20TH AVE	8/28/2024	Rotation	357
ELK CREEK - 4	CHIPPEWA	4 - CTH M	8/19/2024	Rotation	213
ELK CREEK - 5	CHIPPEWA	5 - CTH N PARKING LOT	8/19/2024	Rotation	175
ELK CREEK - 6	CHIPPEWA	6 - 35TH ST	6/27/2024	Rotation	235
ELK CREEK - 7	CHIPPEWA	7 - CTH X HAB WORK	7/16/2024	Trend	245
ELK CREEK - 8	DUNN	8 - BELOW DAM	8/13/2024	Rotation	445
ELK CREEK - 9	DUNN	9 - 410TH ST	7/16/2024	Trend	288
FALL CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - CTH T	6/25/2024	Trend	126
HAY CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 87TH ST	7/23/2024	Trend	143
LOWES CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CEDAR RD	7/8/2024	Trend	253
McCANN CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - CTH SS	7/22/2024	Trend	302
McCANN CREEK - 2	CHIPPEWA	2 - STH 40 NORTH LOT	7/22/2024	Trend	161
OTTER CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTH J	8/12/2024	Trend	277
PLUM CREEK - 1	PEPIN	1 - ELK CREEK RD	7/9/2024	Trend	261
SAND CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 25TH ST.	9/3/2024	Trend	129
SAND CREEK - 2	DUNN	2 - 1342 ND AVE.	9/11/2024	Trend	303
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - MAIN ST.	8/8/2024	Stock Eval.	100
SIGMUND VALEY CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - CTH HH	9/5/2024	Rotation	100
SIXMILE CREEK - 1	EAU CLAIRE	1 - ELAYNE RD	8/21/2024	Rotation	100
SIXMILE CREEK - 2	EAU CLAIRE	2 - NORTH ELCO RD	8/21/2024	Rotation	100
TROUT CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 65TH AVE	6/26/2024	Trend	157
TROUT CREEK - 1	DUNN	1 - CTH M	7/1/2024	Trend	203
TRIB TO ELK CREEK - 1	CHIPPEWA	1 - 80TH AVE	9/4/2024	Rotation	162



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Brook Trout Summaries						
Catch Per Mile – Brook Trout						
Stream - Station Number	All	YOY	> 8	>10	> 12	> 14
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	768	37	173	37	0	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 2	443	12	35	0	0	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 3	82	10	21	10	0	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 4	111	0	53	23	0	0
BEAR CREEK - 1	219	28	101	22	6	0
BEAR CREEK - 2	317	32	108	13	0	0
BEAR CREEK - 3	322	0	206	116	0	0
BEAR CREEK - 4	161	0	99	52	5	0
BEAR CREEK - 5	15	0	15	0	0	0
BEARS GRASS CREEK -1	1609	413	527	228	71	0
BEAVER CREEK -1	469	193	46	0	0	0
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	149	11	46	0	0	0
BOGUS CREEK - 1	333	43	0	0	0	0
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLEAR CREEK - 1	48	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	6806	1425	564	78	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	4302	327	500	150	27	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	753	97	236	41	10	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	469	11	156	56	45	11
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	536	24	110	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 1	161	12	37	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 2	541	45	135	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 3	41	5	23	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 4	23	0	8	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 5	607	267	55	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 6	247	62	27	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 7	39	13	0	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 9	28	0	22	0	0	0
FALL CREEK - 1	166	13	26	13	0	0
HAY CREEK - 1	3455	169	923	248	34	0
LOWES CREEK - 1	38	6	25	0	0	0
McCANN CREEK - 1	741	48	314	139	16	0
McCANN CREEK - 2	4438	820	350	30	10	0
OTTER CREEK - 1	58	0	52	12	0	0
PLUM CREEK - 1	136	6	105	18	6	0
SAND CREEK - 1	2058	873	112	0	0	0
SAND CREEK - 2	101	0	37	27	0	0
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	145	0	145	64	0	0
SIGMUND VALEY CREEK - 1	80	16	0	0	0	0
SIXMILE CREEK - 1	579	451	32	0	0	0
SIXMILE CREEK - 2	306	274	0	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	1896	318	21	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	79	8	71	8	0	0
TRIB TO ELK CREEK - 1	3278	1788	517	10	0	0



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Brown Trout Summaries							
Catch Per Mile – Brown Trout							
Stream - Station Number	All	YOY	> 8	> 12	> 14	> 16	> 18
ARKANSAW CREEK - 1	594	62	396	99	25	12	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 2	338	47	198	58	35	12	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 3	933	584	215	31	0	0	0
ARKANSAW CREEK - 4	825	205	421	111	53	35	6
BEAR CREEK - 1	426	146	224	79	62	39	17
BEAR CREEK - 2	532	165	177	70	44	19	0
BEAR CREEK - 3	167	0	167	64	64	26	0
BEAR CREEK - 4	88	5	67	42	26	10	0
BEAR CREEK - 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEARS GRASS CREEK -1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEAVER CREEK -1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BIG ELK CREEK - 1	103	0	69	11	0	0	0
BOGUS CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRIDGE CREEK - 1	313	9	148	72	45	9	0
CLEAR CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNCAN CREEK - 3	825	292	164	41	15	15	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 1	11	0	11	0	0	0	0
EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 1	4865	1325	1213	124	50	25	12
ELK CREEK - 2	15	0	15	0	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 3	663	0	491	45	9	0	0
ELK CREEK - 4	5878	2448	1488	60	15	8	0
ELK CREEK - 5	2051	101	947	129	37	37	18
ELK CREEK - 6	3712	1164	1281	55	0	0	0
ELK CREEK - 7	1025	99	650	33	7	0	0
ELK CREEK - 8	1548	69	1327	376	130	54	0
ELK CREEK - 9	1447	358	777	28	6	6	6
FALL CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAY CREEK - 1	68	0	68	11	11	11	0
LOWES CREEK - 1	95	0	38	19	6	6	0
McCANN CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCANN CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTTER CREEK - 1	790	157	290	87	29	6	0
PLUM CREEK - 1	493	0	432	160	43	0	0
SAND CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAND CREEK - 2	2326	797	632	388	292	212	122
SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIGMUND VALEY CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIXMILE CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIXMILE CREEK - 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROUT CREEK - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRIB TO ELK CREEK - 1	1768	725	397	20	10	0	0