

Summary of Fishing Tournaments in Wisconsin for 2013

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Applications

- 642 applications for fishing tournaments were received
 - o 32 applications were either withdrawn or the tournament cancelled
 - o 610 applications were approved and held (totals below are greater than 100% as tournaments may be in more than one category)
 - 372 catch-and-release tournaments (61%)
 - 81 immediate release tournaments (13%)
 - 157 catch and keep tournaments (26%)
 - 113 ice fishing tournaments (18%)
 - 51 Great Lakes tournaments (8%)
 - 233 bass specific catch-and-release tournaments (38%), which is the single most popular tournament type and target.

Permitted Tournaments by County, 2013

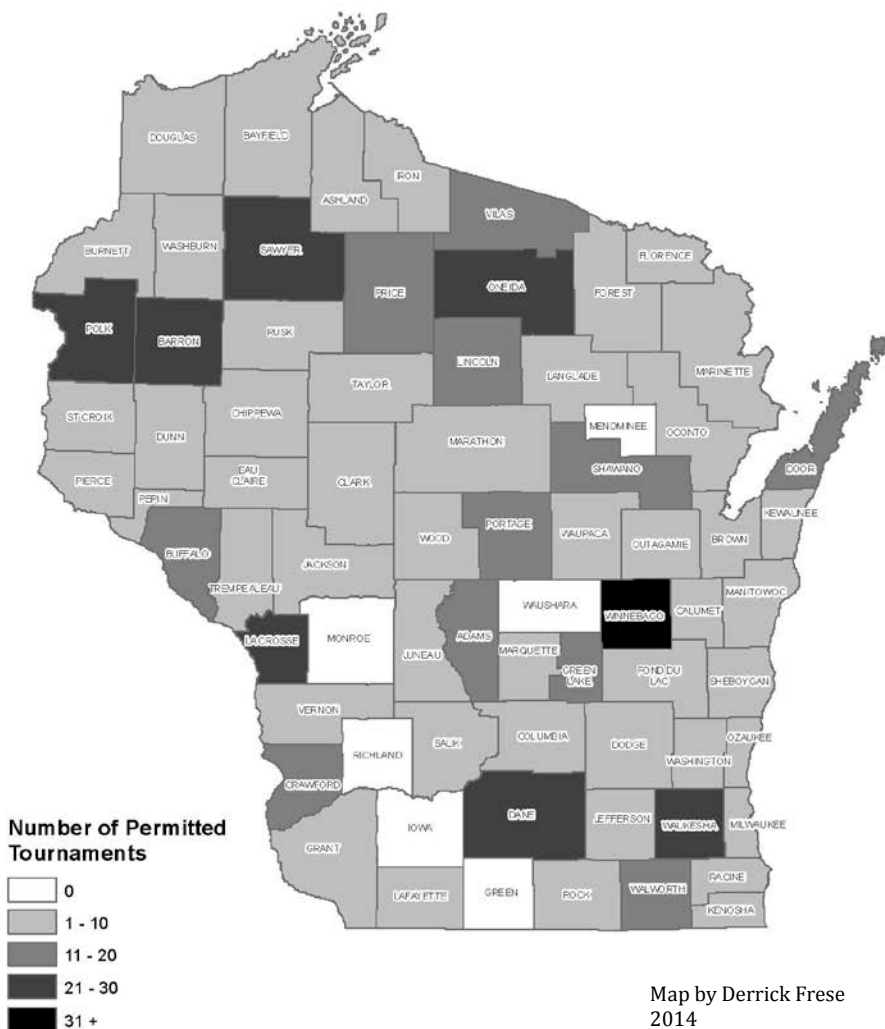


Figure 1. Wisconsin DNR Permitted Tournaments by County in 2013

Distribution

Tournaments took place in 66 counties throughout Wisconsin (Figure 1).

Top counties included Winnebago (43), Dane (29), Oneida (28), Waukesha (27), La Crosse (26) and Sawyer (25).

Notable Results

- Forty-four more tournaments were held in 2013 than in 2012, an increase of 7% (Table 1).
- However, prizes awarded were down 20% from \$4,526,748 to \$3,640,070 (Table 1).
- The number of Great Lakes caught salmon and trout more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, then dropped 36% from 2012 to 2013, even though the number of Great Lakes tournaments only dropped 2% (Table 2).
- The number of bass registered decreased from 2012 to 2013 by more than 9000 fish (23%). Immediate release rates have remained relatively constant over the last three years although walleye were released at a higher rate than previous years (Table 2).

Table 1. Number of tournaments, projected effort, and prize value awarded 2011-2013

Effort/Prizes	2011	2012	2013
Tournaments	559	566	610
Anglers	75,306	74,980	76,121
Boats	19,265	18,695	17,435
Hours Fished	1,579,340	1,890,519	1,752,463
Prizes Awarded	\$3,181,636	\$4,526,748	\$3,640,070

Table 2. Catch and release rates for events registering popular species 2011-13. Number of fish reflect events that registered that species, thus one event could be counted multiple times.

Species	Number Fish Registered			Percent of Fish Released		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Bass (Largemouth And Smallmouth)	33,707	39,966	30,748	98%	98%	97%
Walleye*	20,643	20,765	19,562	66%	66%	75%
Great Lakes						
Salmon/Trout	9,626	19,506	12,515	0%	0%	0.1%
Panfish**	7,542	7,001	8,101	25%	24%	22%
Musky	2,019	1,117	944	99%	100%	99%
All Species	81,244	109,046	90,726	59%	49%	51%

*Walleye includes walleye, sauger, and saugeye

**Panfish includes crappies, bluegill, sunfish, and yellow perch



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