

# 2013

## WISCONSIN Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearing Regulations & Information



**Three generations of Winnebago Sturgeon Biologists (left to right: Dan Folz, Dr. Ron Bruch, Ryan Koenigs)**  
Dan Folz served as the Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist from 1974-1989, Ron Bruch from 1990-2012, and I (Ryan Koenigs) have been the biologist since March 2012. I am very fortunate to have learned from, and continue to learn from, two such knowledgeable and dedicated biologists.

**Sturgeon Hotline**  
**920-303-5444**

**To get on the Winnebago Sturgeon  
e-mail List to receive daily spearing  
reports please e-mail  
[Ryan.koenigs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Ryan.koenigs@wisconsin.gov)**

## ***Dear Winnebago Sturgeon Spearer,***

Another year has flown by since the last spearing season. The 2013 Sturgeon Spear Fishery will be my 6<sup>th</sup> as a DNR employee, but will be my 1<sup>st</sup> as the Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist. I am looking forward to the responsibilities that come with managing our exceptional sturgeon population and fishery. One of the real joys of this job is interacting with the heavily engaged public in the area. I enjoy getting out and interacting with sturgeon enthusiasts, and I am very excited to once again experience the unique culture that accompanies the sport of sturgeon spearing!

The 2012 spear season was one of mixed results. The season on the Upriver Lakes lasted only 2 days, while Lake Winnebago had a full 16 day season. The 2 day season on the Upriver Lakes is the shortest season since the current lottery system was enacted in 2007, while the 16 day season on Lake Winnebago was the 5<sup>th</sup> 16 day season since the harvest cap system began in 1999. In total, 566 sturgeon were harvested in 2012, with 36 of them being >100 pounds (6.4% of harvest).

The only change for the 2013 spear fishery is that 12 year olds are now able to purchase sturgeon spear licenses. In the past the minimum age was 14, but the age has been reduced to 12 in effort to recruit more youth into the sport. The harvest caps for the 2013 spear fishery will remain the same as those set for the 2012 fishery (more detail provided in this document).

We are currently working on a proposal to change the daily spearing hours to start and end a half hour later. This rule **WILL NOT** be in place for the 2013 spear fishery. Therefore, spearers will continue to be able to fish from 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM with harvested sturgeon having to be present at registration stations by 1:30 PM of the day the fish was speared.

Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate this year and provide us with cold weather to make good ice conditions and clear water. In the meantime, we make our plans, attend Sturgeon for Tomorrow banquets and anxiously wait for February to come so that we can once again experience the culture and joys of another sturgeon spearing season!

Looking forward to the 2013 season,

***Ryan Koenigs***

Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist



Chris Haedt with her 79.6", 179.8 pound sturgeon that was harvested on Lake Butte des Morts on February 11, 2012. This fish was the largest sturgeon harvested in 2012, the 5<sup>th</sup> largest ever registered, and the largest fish ever harvested by a lady spearer!

## Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearing Regulations and Information

### CONTENTS

2013 Sturgeon Spearing Regulations .....	page 3
Sturgeon Registration Stations .....	page 6
Winnebago Lake Sturgeon Length at Age.....	page 8
Summary of the 2012 Sturgeon Spearing Season...	page 9
Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee...	page 10
Sturgeon Guard Volunteer Information.....	page 11
Sturgeon for Tomorrow.....	page 12



*Kids check out a sturgeon registered at Waverly Beach Registration Station (Pat Durkin photo)*

## WINNEBAGO SYSTEM STURGEON SPEARING REGULATIONS

Please take a few minutes to carefully read through this regulation pamphlet.

*To report violations call: 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)  
or cell #367*

### 2013 OPEN SEASON – Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearing

#### Lake Winnebago

February 9, 2013 through February 24, 2013 on Lake Winnebago **or until any of the pre-set harvest caps for Lake Winnebago are reached, OR any of the pre-set Winnebago System-wide harvest caps are reached, whichever comes first** (as per trigger closure rules).

#### Upriver Lakes (Lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan)

February 9, 2013 through February 24, 2013 on the Upriver Lakes **or until any of the pre-set harvest caps for the Upriver Lakes are reached, OR any of the pre-set Winnebago System-wide harvest caps are reached, whichever comes first** (as per trigger closure rules).

*An annual lottery sturgeon spear fishery began on the Upriver Lakes in 2007. Spearers need to apply for an Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery tag by August 1 and are notified if they were successful in receiving authorization to purchase an Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing license by October 1. Group lottery applications of up to four persons are accepted. Group applications must be submitted on-line at [https://jc.activeoutdoorsolutions.com/wi\\_public/goHome.do](https://jc.activeoutdoorsolutions.com/wi_public/goHome.do) Spearers that applied for an Upriver Lakes license but were not authorized to purchase an Upriver Lakes license receive a preference point, and can still purchase a license for Lake Winnebago before the October 31 license sales deadline (spearers can only buy a license for either Lake Winnebago or the Upriver Lakes, not both). Sales for both Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing licenses end October 31. The Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery fishery limits participation to 500 tags in 2013 (numbers of tags in future seasons may vary) and will have a small sub-allocation of the overall sturgeon harvest caps (see below).*

*Total harvest of sturgeon will be limited through pre-set harvest caps. Harvest caps for the 2013 Winnebago System spearing season are 400 for juvenile females, 828 for adult females and 1200 for males. Portions of the system-wide harvest caps have been allocated to the fisheries on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes as shown below:*

	<i>Juvenile Females</i>	<i>Adult Females</i>	<i>Males</i>
<i>Lake Winnebago</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>960</i>
<i><u>Upriver Lakes</u></i>	<i><u>80</u></i>	<i><u>83</u></i>	<i><u>240</u></i>
<i>Winnebago System</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>828</i>	<i>1200</i>

*The Department will close the sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago when the first of one of the two following conditions occurs:*

- *At the end of the fishing day in which 100% of any one of the three Lake Winnebago harvest caps is reached or exceeded, or*
- *24 hours from the end of the fishing day within which a harvest of 90% to 99% of any one of the three Lake Winnebago harvest caps is reached.*

*The Department will close the sturgeon spearing season on the Upriver Lakes when the first of one of the two following conditions occurs:*

- *At the end of the fishing day in which 100% of any one of the three Upriver Lakes harvest caps is reached or exceeded, or*
- *24 hours from the end of the fishing day within which a harvest of 90% to 99% of any one of the three Upriver Lakes harvest caps is reached.*

*The Department will close the sturgeon spearing season on all waters of the Winnebago System when the first of one of the two following conditions occurs:*

- *At the end of the fishing day in which 100% of any one of the three Winnebago System-wide harvest caps is reached or exceeded, or*
- *24 hours from the end of the fishing day within which a harvest of 90% to 99% of any one of the three Winnebago System-wide harvest caps is reached.*

**BAG LIMIT:** One lake sturgeon per licensee

**MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT:** 36 inches

**LICENSE REQUIREMENT:** To spear sturgeon, residents must purchase a sturgeon spearing license and tag for \$20.00 and nonresidents must purchase a sturgeon spearing license and tag for \$65.00

Only persons 12 years of age and older are eligible to spear sturgeon. No sturgeon spearing license may be issued or purchased after October 31, 2012 except for Wisconsin residents that turn 12 between November 1, 2012 and the last day of the 2013 spearing season, or for Wisconsin residents serving in the Armed Forces that are home on leave during the 2013 spearing season.

The sturgeon spearing license and tag must be carried by the licensee at all times while fishing for sturgeon with a spear. A sturgeon spearing license and tag is nontransferable and no person may use or carry the tag or license of another.

No person may possess a validated sturgeon carcass tag unless attached to a legal sturgeon.

**SPEARING HOURS:** 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

#### **LIGHTS, UNDERWATER CAMERAS, DEPTH LOCATORS**

Use of artificial lights of any kind is prohibited while spearing. Underwater cameras may be used, but any lights on the camera must be disabled (turned off, taped over, or non-illuminating). Use of depth Locators is permitted.

#### **POSSESSION AND USE OF A SPEAR**

No person may have under his or her control any spear or similar device in any enclosure on the ice or waters of the Winnebago System except when authorized during established sturgeon spearing seasons.

No person may take, capture, kill or attempt to kill sturgeon on the Winnebago System by any means other than spearing with a spear thrown by hand from inside a fishing shelter placed on the ice during the open spearing season.

#### **ICE HOLE RESTRICTIONS**

No person may cut, use, or maintain an ice hole larger than 12 inches in diameter or square for the taking of fish in any manner through the ice except spearing sturgeon on the Winnebago System during the open season. The total area of a sturgeon spearing hole, or combination of holes, in an individual spearing shelter may not exceed a total of 48 square feet. Ice holes larger than 12 inches cut, used, or maintained may not be covered by a shelter, shanty, or similar device, except during the period from 48 hours before and continuing through the open sturgeon spearing season.



## ICE HOLE MARKING

Sturgeon spearing ice holes must be marked with at least 2 strips of wood that extend at least 3 feet above the ice. The wood strips must not exceed 1.5 inches in width and .25 inches in thickness (wood lathe meets the requirement). When you first set your shanty, cut a hole and freeze the lathe into the ice for better marking of sturgeon holes. Lathe markers stuck in snow banks are not adequate because the lathe no longer marks holes when warm weather conditions melt snow.



***Lath properly cut into ice on two sides of spearing shanty. © Bob Rashid***

## SPEARING OF ROUGH FISH

Spearing of any species of fish other than sturgeon from the Winnebago System is prohibited during the sturgeon spearing season.

## TAGGING REQUIREMENT

A spearer with a valid, unused sturgeon license and tag who spears a lake sturgeon must immediately validate and attach their carcass tag to the sturgeon (just forward of the tail). Any harvested sturgeon must be present at a registration station by 1:30 PM of the same day it was speared.

It is illegal for any person to possess any sturgeon, or part thereof, without the carcass tag validated and attached.

**GROUP BAGGING** is not legal and occurs whenever the person who tags the sturgeon is different from the person who speared the sturgeon.

## TRANSPORTATION

It is unlawful for any person to transport any unregistered sturgeon in or on any motor driven vehicle unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and placed so the carcass tag cannot be handled by anyone. ***"Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.***

The successful spearer must accompany a harvested sturgeon until the fish is registered.

**It is illegal to possess an unregistered sturgeon speared from Lake Winnebago outside the highway boundary area delineated as follows:** *From the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha, east on highway 114 to highway 55; south on highway 55 to U.S. highway 151; south on U.S. highway 151 to Winnebago drive; Winnebago drive to west Scott street in Fond du Lac; west on Scott street to highway 45; north on highway 45 to Main street in Oshkosh; north on Main street to Waugoo avenue; east on Waugoo avenue to Bowen street; north on Bowen street to North Shore drive; north on North Shore drive to county highway A; north on county highway A to highway 114 in Neenah; east on highway 114 to the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha.*

**It is illegal to possess an unregistered sturgeon speared from Lakes Butte des Mort, Winneconne or Poygan outside the highway boundary area delineated as follows:** *From the intersection of highways 41 and 21 in Oshkosh west on highway 21 to highway 116; north on highway 116 to county highway B; west on county highway B to county highway D; west on county highway D to highway 49; north on highway 49 to highway 110; east on highway 110 to county highway II; south on county highway II to county highway M; south on county highway M to highway 116; east on highway 116 to highway 45; south on highway 45 to highway 41; south on highway 41 to highway 21.*

## REGISTRATION

A person who spears a sturgeon must accompany and exhibit the tagged sturgeon at an official sturgeon registration station (see map page 6) no later than 1:30 PM of the day speared. ***To avoid the "end of the day" rush please bring your fish in as soon as possible after spearing it. You must be at the registration station and in-line to register your fish by 1:30 PM.***

Any fish harvested from Lake Winnebago must be registered at one of the sturgeon registration stations on Lake Winnebago. Any fish harvested from Lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne or Poygan (the Upriver Lakes) must be registered at one of the sturgeon registration stations on the Upriver Lakes.

Department Fisheries staff at the registration stations will collect biological information on the size, sex and age of your fish, and will attach a metal sturgeon registration tag.

Both the sturgeon carcass tag and registration tag must be retained until the carcass is consumed.

### STURGEON REGISTRATION STATIONS

Stations are operated daily throughout the season by DNR Fisheries staff. Depending on spearing activity and volume of sturgeon registrations, some stations may be closed before the end of the season. Any necessary early closures will be posted at registration stations.

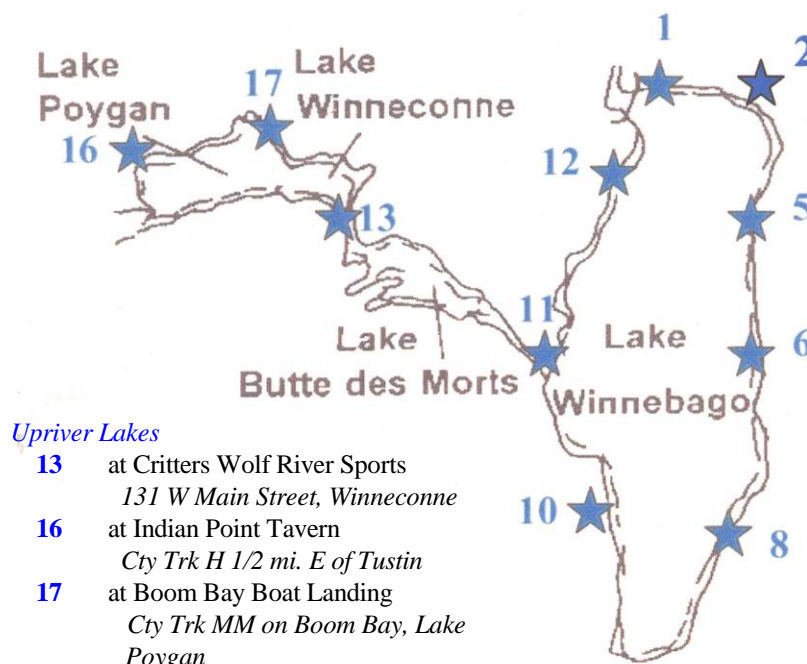
#### Winnebago System Sturgeon Registration Stations:

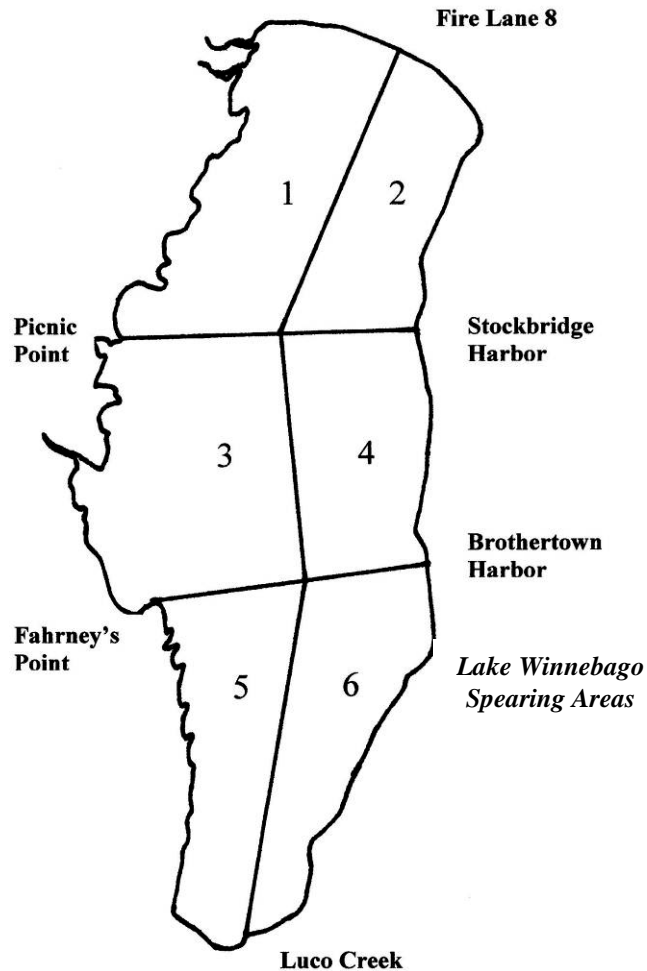
##### Station No.    Station Location

##### Lake Winnebago

- 1** at Waverly Beach Resort  
*Junction of U.S. Hwys 10 & 114*
- 2** behind Harrison Town Hall  
*Junction of U.S. Hwys 114 and State Park Rd*
- 5** at Harbor Bar  
*Stockbridge on the lake*
- 6** at the Quinney Quencher  
*Quinney on the lake*
- 8** at Jim and Linda's Lakeview Super Club  
*Pipe on the lake*
- 10** at Wendt's Bar & Harbor  
*Hwy 45, 8 mi. N of Fond du Lac*
- 11** at Jerry's Tavern  
*1210 Ceape St., Oshkosh*
- 12** at Payne's Point Tavern,  
*Cty Trk A 3 mi. S of Neenah*

*Note – Some station numbers are missing, (i.e.: 3 , 4, etc) due to changes in the number and location of stations over the years.*





## LITTER

It is illegal to place or deposit any materials (including biodegradable fish or fish parts) on the lake bed that can not be retrieved. Any material used in a sturgeon spearing hole must be removed by the sturgeon spearer when the hole is abandoned, or if requested by a warden.

Any material that is left on or frozen in the ice or waters is the responsibility of the person who left the material (including tar paper, wood, cardboard or any other litter used adjacent to shanties).

## FISHING EQUIPMENT OR GEAR

It is unlawful to possess a fishing pole, hook and line angling equipment, or other similar devices that could be used to catch fish in an ice fishing tent, shanty, or other ice fishing enclosure with ice holes larger than 12 inches in diameter or square.

## ICE SHANTIES AND SHELTERS

The door of any occupied shanty/shelter shall be such that the door can be readily opened from the outside.

All shanties/shelters must have the name and residential address of the person owning or using the shanty. The name and address must be painted or permanently affixed on the outside with a minimum of 1" lettering.

All shanties/shelters must be removed from the ice (for all inland waters south of Hwy 64) by the first Sunday following March 1 (March 3, 2013).







***Mike Galligan with the 78.5",  
175.3 pound sturgeon that  
he registered at Jerry's Bar  
in Oshkosh on February 13,  
2012 (DNR Photo).***

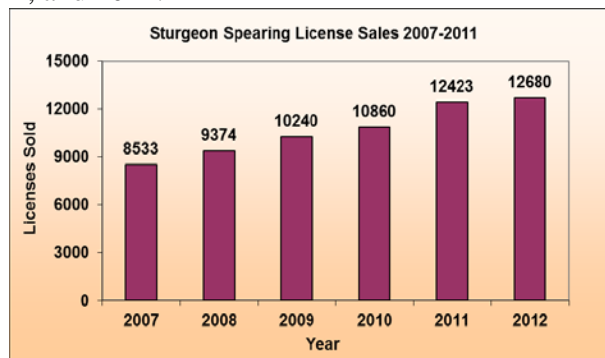
## **Lake Sturgeon Ave Length at Age – Winnebago System**

<b>Total Length (in)</b>	<b>Male Estimated Age (yrs)</b>	<b>Female Estimated Age (yrs)</b>
36	9	9
38	10	10
40	12	12
42	14	13
44	15	15
46	17	17
48	20	19
50	22	21
52	24	23
54	27	26
56	30	29
58	33	31
60	36	34
62	40	37
64	43	41
66	47	44
68	51	48
70	55	51
72	60	55
74		60
76		64
78		69
80		73
82		78
84		83



## 2012 Sturgeon Spearing Season Summary *(by Ron Bruch)*

The 2012 lake sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago Pool Lakes was one of mixed emotions and mixed results. A record number of people purchased licenses for the season (12680) with great anticipation of being able to get out on the lakes in February and try for their fish, possibly even be lucky enough to see a record size fish come through their hole. Unfortunately the warm winter threw a giant wrench into many spearers' plans. Ice conditions on Lake Winnebago were not as good as spearers normally experience in February (on average only 8-14 inches thick) and not quite safe enough to drive on with a vehicle. Water clarity ran fairly consistent on Lake Winnebago (9-11 feet), but was just a few feet short of making for a much better season for seeing fish. The reduced clarity was likely attributable to an early winter algae bloom under the ice and run-off from incoming streams during the warm melting periods. Given the conditions, many Lake Winnebago spearers opted not to go out on the lake this year, resulting in effort on opening day being less than half of what we typically observe. The Upriver Lakes had much safer ice conditions and better water clarity, and those fortunate enough to draw one of the 500 lottery tags issued had a good, but very short season – closing in two days after the adult female harvest cap was reached. Given the poorer conditions on Lake Winnebago, the season there ground on for the full 16 days. The second “sixteener” on Winnebago in a row, and the 5<sup>th</sup> since 1999 when the harvest cap system was first put in place. The list of sixteen day seasons now includes 2002, 2006, 2007, 2011, and 2012.

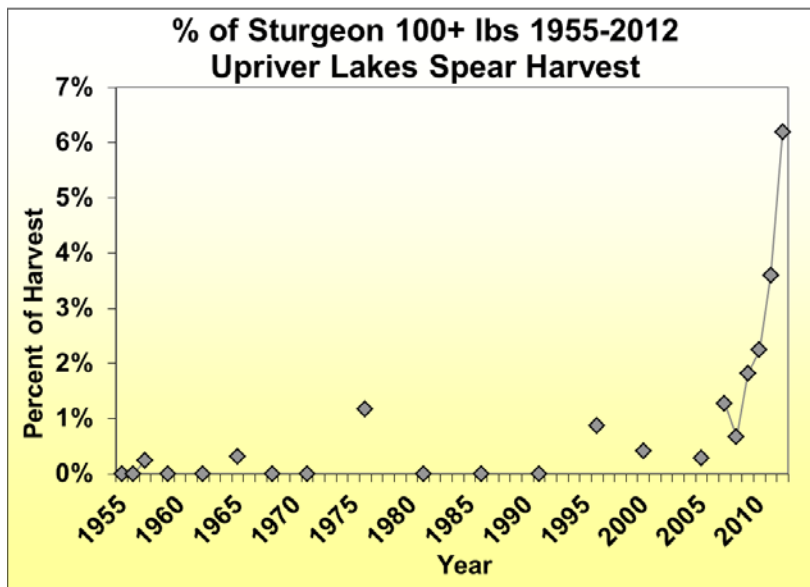
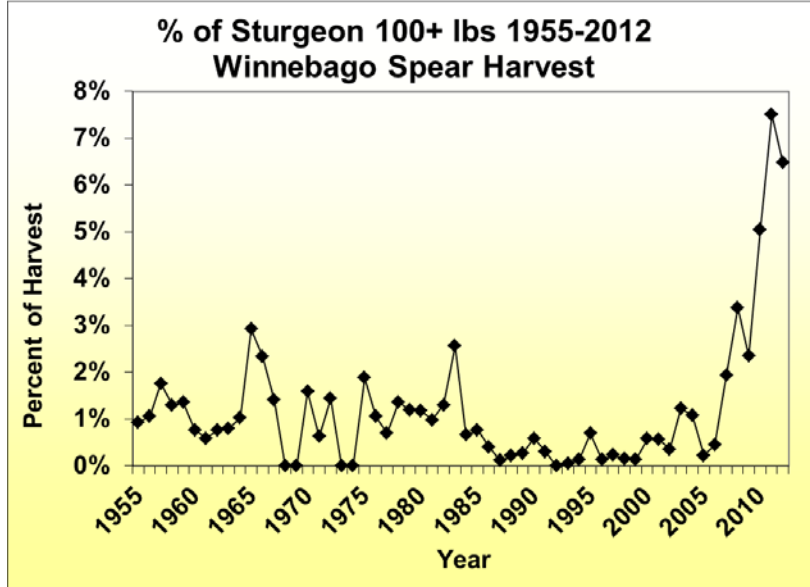


The harvest of 324 fish from Lake Winnebago ranks the 2012 season 57<sup>th</sup> (by total harvest) of the 70 seasons since 1941 (minus 2 during WWII we do not have records for). Of the 24 seasons held on the Upriver Lakes since 1952, the 2012 season ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in terms of total harvest with the 242 fish registered during the two-day season this year.

	Juv Female	Adult Fem	Male	Totals
L. Winnebago Area 1	3	23	18	44
L. Winnebago Area 2	4	18	13	35
L. Winnebago Area 3	5	49	24	78
L. Winnebago Area 4	9	23	5	37
L. Winnebago Area 5	18	38	36	92
L. Winnebago Area 6	6	14	18	38
L. BD Morts	10	40	42	92
L. Winneconne	0	1	4	5
L. Poygan	16	44	85	145
L. Winnebago Totals	45	165	114	324
Upriver Lakes Totals	26	85	131	242
System-wide Totals	71	250	245	566

The large fish phenomenon continued again this year, and has been a consistent part of the harvest for almost the last decade. On Lake Winnebago 21 of the 324 fish registered (6.5%) were 100 pounds or more in weight (100.0 to 175.3 lbs). On the Upriver Lakes 15 of the 242 fish registered (6.2%) were 100 pounds or more in weight (100.0 to 179.8 lbs). The proportion of large fish in the harvest is a reflection of the increasing numbers of large fish in the population due to our management program and the way older age classes have been stacking up in our population the past 15-20 years. We often get asked whether we are harvesting a disproportionate number of these large fish. We did an analysis of our tagging data from spring spawning and the following harvest assessments since 1999 and found that the largest sturgeon were not being harvested at a high rate; in fact we found the harvest rate on the large trophy size fish was numerically less than the rates for other sizes. Overall with the harvest cap system, we have been able

to keep the harvest rates across the board below the 5% maximum for all components of the harvest, both males and females, since the system was put in place in 1999.



The other question we've been getting post-season is "Since we only harvested 566 fish this year, will you be raising the harvest caps next year?". We won't be able to answer this question until we work through the tag return data collected during the spearing season. We don't automatically raise the caps in any year. We set the caps each year independently using the population estimates we develop from spring tagging data, and harvest tag return and catch data. We won't have all the pieces we need to do these calculations until after the tag return data are all worked up and proofed, which is typically not until after our spring work is done –so stay tuned. The harvestable population of Winnebago System sturgeon, despite an annual average harvest since 1999 of 1345 fish, has been growing over the last 15 years which has allowed us to increase caps almost systematically during the past decade. The population cannot continue to grow indefinitely, and the day will come when we will max out the caps or even possibly have to reduce them from time to time. In any event though, our sturgeon management program works well and we can expect to see robust populations and a very viable spear fishery for many years to come.

### Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee Members, 2013:

Mike Arrowood, Winnebagoland Conservation Alliance.  
 Randy Bauman, Lower Cliff Fishing Club  
 Jeff Birschbach, Riverside Hunting & Fishing Club  
 Dick Braasch, West-Central Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Pat Braasch, West-Central Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Ben Burg, Stockbridge Fishing Club  
 Bill Casper, Main Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Bob Doepker, Lake Park Fishing Club  
 Bruce Fischer, Brickyard Fishing Club  
 Chuck Freund, Brothertown Fishing Club  
 Jim Gehrke, Payne's Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club  
 Ron Goldapske, West Shore Fishing Club  
 Pat Gorshals, Poygan Sportsman's Club  
 Dan Groeschel, Main Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Wayne Hoelzel, Northern-Half Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 John Jenkins, Pipe Fishing Club  
 Al Jolin, Southwest Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow

Harry Kachur, Montgomery Beach Sportsman's Club  
 Dick Koerner, Twin City Rod & Gun Club, WI Conservation Congress  
 Bill Marcks, Shadows on the Wolf  
 Bill McAloon, Otter St. Fishing Club  
 Dick Mengel, Fishermen's Road Fishing Club  
 Don Mielke, Lower Cliff Fishing Club  
 Stuart Muche, West Shore Fishing Club  
 Gary Olson, Berlin Conservation Club  
 Dennis Cook, Stockbridge Fishing Club  
 Mike Pfankuch, WI Conservation Congress  
 Jim Propson, Brickyard Fishing Club  
 Doug Cox, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
 Don Reiter, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
 Dan Rudebeck, Poygan Sportman's Club  
 Rich Scheffler, Quinney Fishing Club  
 Andy Seibel, East Shore Conservation Club  
 Wally Seibel, Dotyville Hunting & Fishing Club  
 John Thull, Poygan Conservation Club  
 Dave Vogds, Main Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Mike Will, Upper Lakes Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Marvin Woelfel, Quinney Fishing Club  
 Matt Woods, Upper Lakes Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow  
 Lance Ziemer, Southwest Chapter, Sturgeon for Tomorrow

*The Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee was formed in 1992 and since has worked closely with Ron Bruch, Ryan Koenigs, and the DNR to review Winnebago sturgeon harvest and population data and recommend new rules and management activities when needed.*

## Sturgeon Guard Volunteers Needed In Spring

Each spring hundreds of volunteers have an opportunity to guard sturgeon and protect the fish from poaching at their spawning sites on the Wolf River. Sturgeon are very susceptible to illegal harvest when they are spawning along the rocky shorelines of the Wolf River. Therefore, "Sturgeon Patrol" volunteers guard the spawning fish 24 hours a day throughout the spawning season. The program is coordinated and directed by DNR Law Enforcement staff, while Sturgeon for Tomorrow and sturgeon spearing license fees fund the guard program.

Once spawning has begun, pairs of sturgeon guards are assigned to the sites for twelve hour shifts. Prior to assignment, guards check in at "Sturgeon Camp", just north of Shiocton, where they receive a good meal, a generous sack lunch, a cell

phone, an identification hat (that they keep), and a map that directs them to their site. At the end of their shift, guards return to camp for another hearty home cooked meal before they make their way home.

Guards for 2013 will be scheduled from April 1st through May 1st. Spawning generally occurs over a 5 to 10 day period within that time window. We do our best to get all scheduled guards out on the riverbank to see fish, although we cancel some scheduled shifts if the fish are simply not active. In those cases, we try to re-schedule guards during an active period.

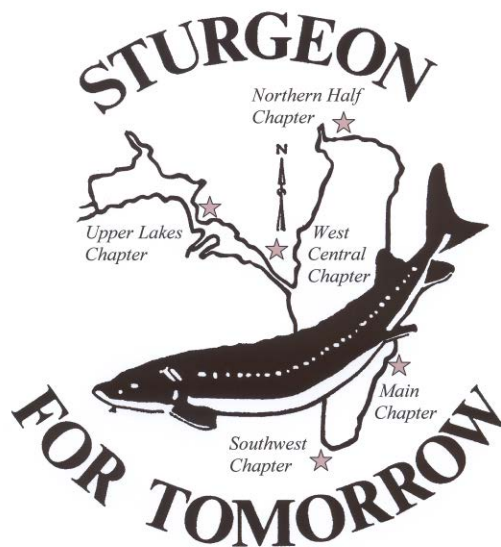
Interested volunteers for the 2013 Sturgeon Guard program can find more information on the Wisconsin DNR website by searching "Sturgeon Guard". We are in the process of moving the sturgeon guard registration on-line, but in the meantime interested volunteers can register by emailing a sturgeon guard registration form (found on Wisconsin DNR website) to [DNRsturgeoguard@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRsturgeoguard@wisconsin.gov) or by mailing the form to the sturgeon guard coordinator, April Dombrowski, at the DNR Oshkosh Service Center (625 E county Rd. Y, Oshkosh, WI 54901). You will receive a call to schedule a day or night in spring 2013 that is convenient for you. If possible, make it a family outing by bringing a son or daughter or your spouse. For many it has become a family tradition.





## Sturgeon for Tomorrow

In 1977 a group of sturgeon enthusiasts from the Lake Winnebago area founded Sturgeon for Tomorrow to help preserve, protect and enhance the sturgeon resource of the lake system. That group quickly grew into the largest citizen advocacy group for sturgeon in the world, currently made up of five chapters and over 3,000 members. Through tremendous dedication and hard work Sturgeon for Tomorrow (SFT) has raised and donated to date over \$750,000 for sturgeon research and management since its inception. SFT has funded a wide variety of projects over the years including the sturgeon guard program, the Sturgeon History Project, purchase of sampling equipment, spawning and nursery site construction, sturgeon population assessments, sturgeon propagation, and the Upper Fox River sturgeon rehabilitation project. SFT also provided the support necessary to ensure the enactment of the \$1,500 fine for possession of an illegal sturgeon, and actively participates in Winnebago and statewide sturgeon management advisory committees.



**If you are interested in further information about Sturgeon for Tomorrow or are interested in attending one of their five fund raising banquets held each year, please call:**

**Jim Patt** SFT Southwest Chapter President **920-922-7136**  
(Fond du Lac)  
Banquet January 12, 2013 in Fond du Lac

**Dan Groeschel** SFT Main Chapter President **920-923-1077**  
(East Shore)  
Banquet January 26, 2013 in Kiel

**Wayne Hoelzel** SFT Northern Half Chapter President **920-725-1206**  
(North Shore)  
Banquet February 2, 2013 in Darboy

**Dick Braasch** SFT West Central Chapter President **920-231-4708**  
(Oshkosh-West Shore)  
Banquet March 16, 2013 in Oshkosh

**Matt Woods** SFT Upper Lakes Chapter President **920-582-0113**  
Banquet September 7, 2013 in Orihula

*Call now to get your Sturgeon for Tomorrow banquet tickets!*



### Sherwood Lions Sturgeon Derby

The Sherwood Lions Club will once again be selling Sturgeon Derby tickets for the 2013 sturgeon spear fishery. Ticket proceeds benefit Sturgeon for Tomorrow and various Lion's Club Charities such as the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt. The Rosholt Lions camp is dedicated to providing a quality camping experience, free-of-charge, to eligible Wisconsin resident

residents who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, and youth who have mild cognitive disabilities or diabetes.