

2011-2012 Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Fishing Regulations*

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT**	MINIMUM LENGTH
WALLEYE***			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	May 5 - March 3	3	None
Trude Lake	May 5 - March 3	3	None
MUSKELLUNGE	May 26- Nov. 30	1	40 inches
NORTHERN PIKE	May 5 - March 3	5	None
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (including Trude Lake)	May 5 - June 17	0 (Catch and Release Only)	
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (except Trude Lake)	June 18 - March 3	2	15 inches
Trude Lake	June 18 - March 3	5	14 inches
PANFISH (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Crappie, Yellow Perch)			
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (including Trude Lake)	Open All Year	10 in total	10" for Crappie No size limit for bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed
ROCK BASS	Open All Year	None	None
BULLHEADS AND ROUGH FISH	Open All Year	None	None
LAKE STURGEON	No Open Season	0	

* This is an abbreviated summary of seasons and size and bag limits for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. For complete fishing regulations including regulations on other lakes please refer to the official Fishing Regulations Booklet. **Motor trolling is NOT allowed on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake.**

** No person may be in possession of, or have under their control, more than the daily bag limit for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage while on the ice or water or while fishing on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

*** **Daily bag limits are subject to change based on Chippewa Indian spearing harvest. Current bag limits are posted at the boat landings.**

CHIPPEWA INDIAN HARVEST

A 1983 federal court decision reaffirmed the rights of Chippewa Indians to hunt, fish and gather wild foods within the ceded territory of northern Wisconsin. The Flowage has supported a walleye spear fishing harvest since 1984. Safe harvest levels are determined annually so that the combined harvest of anglers and spear fishers does not endanger the future of the walleye population.

INFORMATION

For more information about the fishery and fishing regulations on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage please contact:

**Mercer Ranger Station
Department of Natural Resources
5291N Statehouse Circle
Mercer, WI 54547
(715)-476-7847**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/turtleflambeau/>

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The Fishery of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

- **Fish Population Status**
- **Fishing Regulations**

2012



The Fishery of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage offers anglers some of the best quality fishing opportunities found in northern Wisconsin. Walleye are king in the Flowage, and persistent anglers can be rewarded with days that mimic a trip to a remote, Canadian lake. Aggressive, quality-size smallmouth bass provide anglers with exciting, rod-bending action. Black crappie, yellow perch, and bluegill, although not numerous (due to high numbers of predatory fish), are typically significantly larger than those anglers are accustomed to catching on other waters. Trophy-size muskellunge also lurk in the Flowage's dark-stained water.

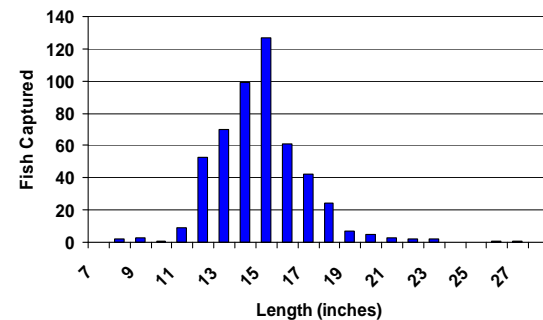
In addition to the fishing, the TFF is also known as a "scenic waters area," which identifies the wild character (e.g. undeveloped shorelines and abundance of wildlife) it has to offer. Therefore, the value of the flowage not only lies with its exceptional year-round fishery, but also with its natural beauty, which keeps anglers and outdoor enthusiasts coming back year after year. So, whether you enjoy the sport of pursuing Wisconsin's most desirable gamefish species, or you simply take pleasure in the beauty of the outdoors, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is a destination that you will not be disappointed in!

The Turtle- Flambeau Flowage: Fish Population Status

Walleye

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage contains a self-sustaining walleye population, where no stocking is needed to sustain the population and/or fishery. Young-of-the-year walleye reproduction has been monitored annually in the Flowage since 1984. Although walleye reproductive success fluctuates in the Flowage, which is typical of healthy walleye populations, young-of-the-year abundance estimates average roughly three times greater than for other self-sustaining walleye populations.

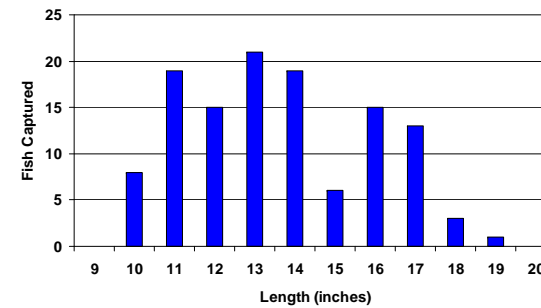
In addition to monitoring walleye reproduction, population dynamics of adult walleyes are also followed to track population health. During a recent 2011 early-spring netting survey, the walleye population size structure was as follows:



54% of all walleye captured (≥ 10 inches) were ≥ 15 inches in length.

Smallmouth Bass

The Flowage contains one of Wisconsin's premier smallmouth bass fisheries. Solid numbers and exceptional size structure characterize this fishery. A late-spring electrofishing survey conducted in 2010 documented the following smallmouth bass size structure in the Flowage:



Of the 120 smallmouth bass that were captured during the survey, 48% were ≥ 14 inches in length, and 14% were also ≥ 17 inches. A more intensive survey will be conducted in 2012 to get a more comprehensive look at the bass population.

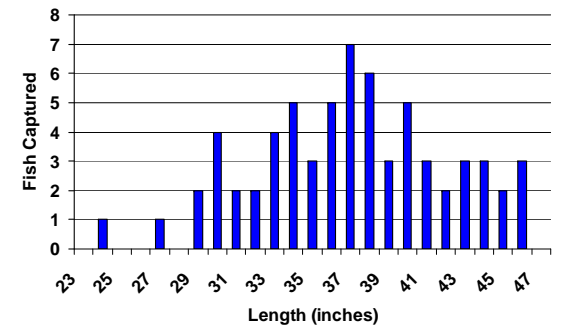
Panfish

Although anglers should not expect to catch large numbers of panfish in the Flowage, they can expect to see a relatively-high average size in the ones they do catch. During a 2010 summer netting survey, 66% of the black crappie sampled were ≥ 10

inches in length, and 57% of the bluegill were ≥ 7 inches in length. Yellow perch were recently targeted during a 2011 early-spring netting survey, where 22% of the perch sampled where ≥ 9 inches. A more intensive survey will be conducted in 2012 to get a more comprehensive look at the panfish community. There is a combined bag limit of 10 panfish on the TFF.

Musky

Natural reproduction of musky in the Flowage was documented for perhaps the first time during fall of 2011. However, it is still assumed that stocked fingerling musky (stocked in alternate years) are the primary contributors to the fishable population. To evaluate this assumption, as well as the contribution of naturally-reproduced fish, musky will be given a fin clip during future stockings. During the 2011 early-spring netting survey, the musky population size structure was as follows:



32% of the muskies captured during the survey were over 40 inches in length.