

Question: What happens to the fish I have seen the DNR taking out of Rock Lake? Are they used for stocking other lakes?

To answer the first question first, here is the scoop on that. The fish are taken out using a large boomshocker boat, which is a specialized boat equipped with a generator that produces DC current. The current is transferred to the water via two booms attached to the bow. Fish are drawn to the positive charge, allowing them to be captured by the netting crew on the boat. Once netted the fish are placed in a tank on the boat, where they are counted, measured, weighed and examined for marks. This method facilitates a better sampling of young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye and adult bass that are often under sampled by other gear types. The YOY measurement indicates how successful the adults were at spawning/producing young fish.

In order to standardize fisheries data, the time spent shocking and/or miles of shorelines shocked is recorded and presented as catch rates of catch-per-unit effort. (CPUE) This electrofishing sampling provides an indication of the health of the fish—their abundance, size, growth, gamefish recruitment (YOY catch per effort). For this survey, most of Rock Lake's shoreline was covered in a little over three hours.

The 2010 fall electrofishing produced this information.

SIZE:

Largemouth bass up to 18.1 inches

Smallmouth bass up to 19.2 inches.

Walleye ranged in length from 12.3 to 23.5 inches (no YOY were sampled)

Bluegills ranged from 1.6 to 9.8 inches.

Yellow perch ranged from 2.7 to 9.9 inches

Rock bass, ranged from 2.6 to 11.1 inches

CATCH RATES:

Largemouth bass, 29 fish per hour, compared to 15/hour in 2009 and 31/hour in 2008.

Smallmouth bass, 14/hour, compared to 32/hour in 2009 and 30/hour in 2008.

Walleye, 1.4 per hour, compared to 3.7/hour in 2009 and 2.5/hour in 2008.

Bluegill, 263/hour

Yellow perch, 23/hour

Rock Bass, 36/hour

Other species sampled included northern pike, pumpkinseed, black crappie, golden shiner, common carp, brook silverside, bowfin, lake chubsucker, white sucker, white bass, and black, brown, and yellow bullhead. For more information on the survey, contact Laura Stremick-Thompson, DNR Fisheries Biologist—Horicon, at 920-387-7876 or [www.Laura.stremickthompson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laura.stremickthompson@wisconsin.gov)<mailto:laura.stremickthompson@wisconsin.gov

Now, if you scoop up huge catches of fish when you were fishing this past summer, you can't blame it on the DNR. They do NOT take fish out of Rock Lake to stock Lake Delton or any other lake. Even if they wanted to, they would not be allowed to. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has enacted rules governing the transferr of wild fish. In addition to these rules, Rock Lake would not be used as a source for fish transers

due to the presence of zebra mussels and invasive aquatic plants.

All fish sampled as part of DNR fishery survey work are immediately returned to the lake.  
Awaiting the bait of you ice-fisherman!