

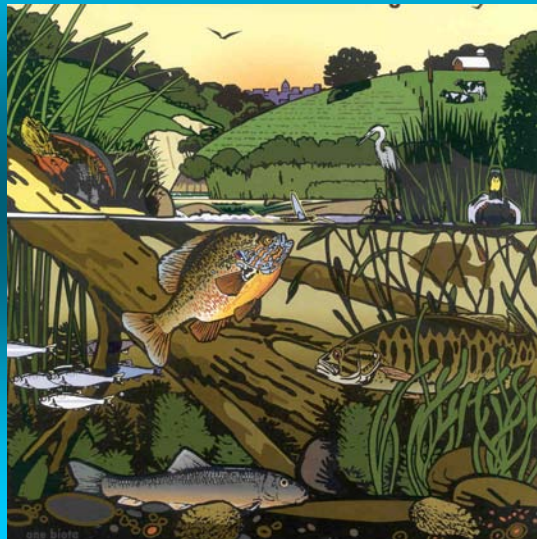
Fishery Management in Madison Area Waters

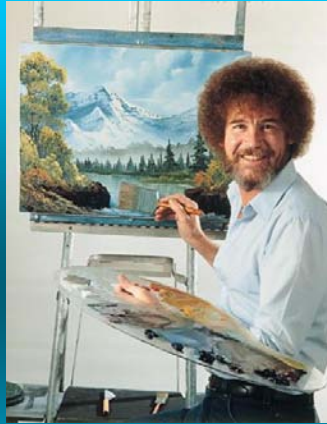
Kurt I. Welke

Dane County Fisheries Manager

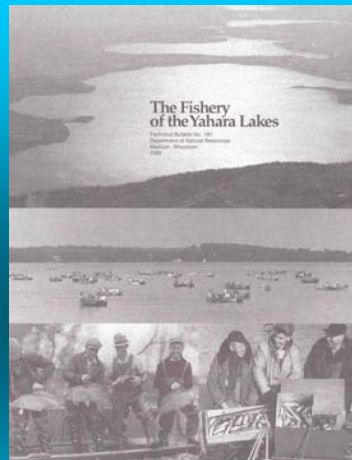
The quality of fishing reflects the quality of life

A lake is a reflection of its watershed

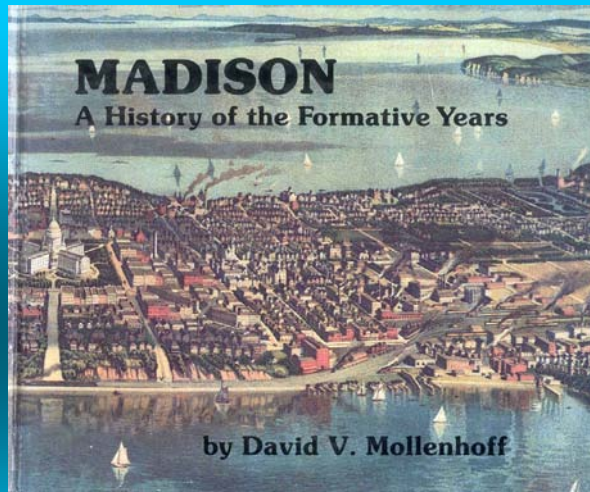




Historical perspective, Contemporary view, Future direction



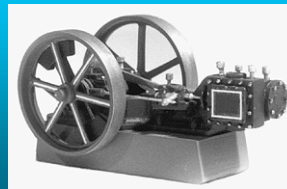
Lathrop, R.C., S.B. Nehls, C.L. Brynildson and K.R. Plass. 1992. **The Fishery of the Yahara Lakes**. Wis. Dep.Nat. Resour.Tech Bull. No. 181. 214 pp.



Mollenhoff, D.V. 1982. **Madison: a history of the formative years.** Kendall/Hunt Publ. Co. Dubuque, Iowa. 493 pp.

How important are these lakes ?

Economic Engine



Lake Mendota 5/98 to 10/98*	Lake Monona 5/99 to 10/99*
191, 107 hours (19.4 hrs/ac)	100, 871 hours (30.8 hrs/ac)
Northern Pike	1604
Walleye	6831
Largemouth Bass	2923
Smallmouth Bass	41,027
Bluegill	10,240
Yellow Perch	79,901

* Does **NOT** include winter ice fishing

Mand - 200K
 Mm - 100K
 Waub - 50K
 Keg - 50K
 * Winsra ?

 400,000 hrs

 trip = 4 hrs
 = 100,000 TRIPS
 @ \$20
 \$ 2 M/yr

Dane Co. **RESIDENT** Fishing License Sales

1990-2004

34,908 #

\$593,000

Back of envelope

~ 400,000 hrs4hrs/trip = 100,00 trips

@ \$20 /trip = \$2,000,000 annually by fishermen

Fish Consumption Advisories for the Madison Lakes

General:

Safe-eating guidelines - for most of Wisconsin's inland (non-great lakes) waters

<p>Women of childbearing years, nursing mothers and all children under 15 may eat:</p> <p>1 meal per week - Bluegill, sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, yellow perch or bullheads.</p> <p>And</p> <p>1 meal per month - Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white sucker, drum, burbot, sauger, sturgeon, carp, white bass, rock bass or other species.</p> <p><small>*Muskie should not be eaten by this group of people due to high mercury content.</small></p>	<p>Women beyond their childbearing years and men may eat:</p> <p>Unlimited amounts - Bluegill, sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, yellow perch, or bullheads.</p> <p>And</p> <p>1 meal per week - Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, or other species.</p>
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On certain waters more restrictive advice is needed because fish have been found to contain higher levels of mercury or PCBs. Please check the tables on the following pages.

Advisories apply only to eating your catch and in no way restrict your fishing or other water activities.

Lake- & Species-specific (for all consumer groups):

Mendota - carp >23", eat no more than 1 meal/month or 12 meals/yr

Monona - carp of all sizes, eat no more than 1 meals/month or 12 meals/yr

(from Choose Wisely: A Health Guide for Eating Fish in Wisconsin, 2005)

Fishery Management in Madison Area Waters

Cultural Engine

Permitted Fishing Tournaments *

- 2003 : 20 events
- 2004 : 33 events
- 2005: 33 events

Every weekend during open water

Dane County Boat Launch “stickers”... N = 4,100

Lake based events



1. Previous efforts

- Yellow Perch



- Cisco



- Game species (WE, NP, LMB, SMB)



2. Rough fish “era”
1930-1960



3. Collaborative “Systems” management

- Local Sporting clubs
- Local units of Gov’t
- UW – Limnology Lab
- Friends groups



The Public Trust Doctrine

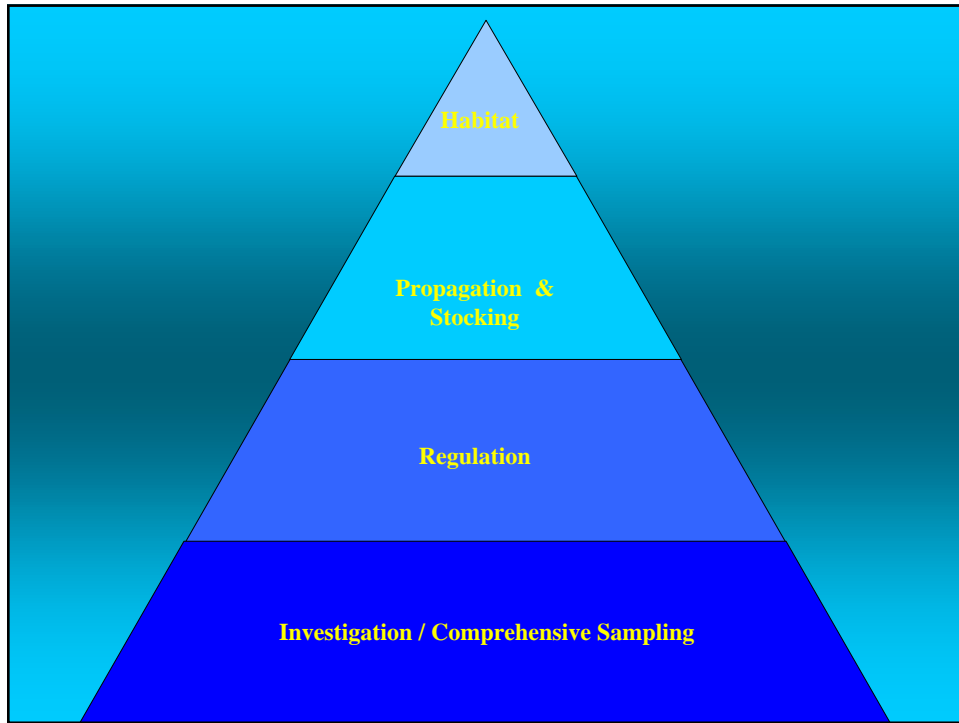
Wisconsin State Constitution

“All Wisconsin citizens have the right to boat, fish, hunt, ice skate, and swim on navigable waters, as well as enjoy the natural scenic beauty of navigable waters, and enjoy the quality and quantity of water that supports those uses.”



The public’s right supersedes those of the individual

The State is required to intervene to protect the public’s rights



Standardized Sampling

1 lake / yr = Comprehensive Protocol

4 lakes / yr = Index protocol

CPUE's
 Population Estimates
 Size & Age Distributions
 PSD, Wr, Length - Wt



Recruitment – Growth - Mortality

Regulation

Manipulate :

- Size
- Season
- Bag limit

Restrictive and Conservative



Propagation & Stocking



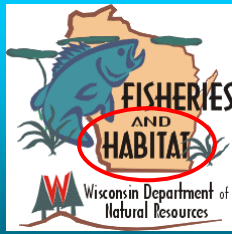
Walleye25K – 100K / lake as sm. fnglng

Northern... 2500 / lake as fnglng

100K as fry

Musky... 2500 fnglng / yr

NO Bass, Panfish, forage except field transfers



Fill - littoral

Loss of vegetation (filtering)

Sediment & Nutrient Delivery

Loss of Woody debris

Public trust conflicts (subscription)



Challenges ...



the times they are a changin

- storm water ~ impervious
- “new” agricultural models
- invasives / exotics
- water level management
- competing publics

(Fisheries management will) *Provide a sustainable suite of angling opportunities within an ecologically functional, healthy, and safe environment.*

