

# Summary of Fishing Tournaments in Wisconsin for 2013

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## Applications

- 642 applications for fishing tournaments were received
  - 32 applications were either withdrawn or the tournament cancelled
  - 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

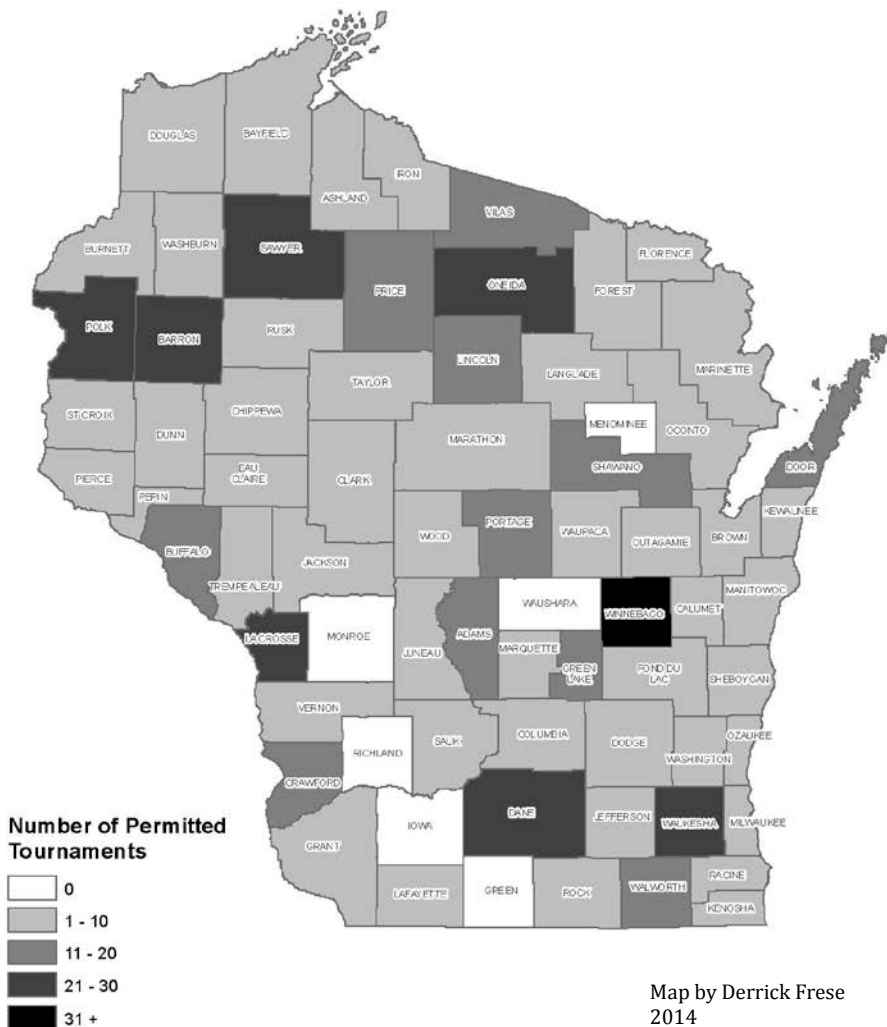


Figure 1. Wisconsin DNR Permitted Tournaments by County in 2013

## 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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