

Chronology of management policies and actions, regulations, significant known environmental changes, and public involvement affecting lake sturgeon on the Winnebago System, Wisconsin 1874–2011 (*prepared by Ron Bruch*).

Year(s)	<b>Sturgeon management actions, harvests, regulations and laws, significant environmental events, and public involvement on the Winnebago System.</b>
1874	Wisconsin Fisheries Commission created by state legislature to survey the status of declining fisheries in the state.
1878	Spearing fish outlawed statewide on inland waters, except for mullet, suckers, bill fish, and dog fish.
1881	A. Cooley of Ripon becomes Wisconsin's second fish warden, patrolling Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties.
1887	Spearing made legal on Lake Winnebago for sturgeon only.
1897	Ice shanties outlawed statewide; set lines outlawed statewide on inland waters.
1899	Lake Winnebago granted an exemption to ice shanty prohibition; setlines legal for sturgeon in Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan, and the Fox River; required set-line license (for \$1.00) and a metal tag for each 100 yards of setline (25¢ per tag).
1903	March 1 to May 25 closed season on sturgeon in the Winnebago System.
1905	Sturgeon classified as a gamefish; 8 lb (3.6 kg) minimum size limit statewide on lake sturgeon.
1913	May 14 to April 31 open season, 20 lb (9.1 kg) round weight minimum size limit.
1915	All sturgeon harvest in state is banned.
1932	First regulated spearing season on Lake Winnebago, January 1-March 1, 30 " (76.2 cm) minimum size limit, 5 bag limit per person per season, tags \$.05 each, fishing license required.
1932	Set line fishery opened on the Upriver Lakes, September 5 to October 31, 30" (76.2 cm) size limit, 5 bag limit per person per season (spear and set line fisheries combined), tags \$.05 each, set line license required.
1935	Wolf River hook and line season opened (Waupaca and Winnebago Counties), September 5 to October 31, no minimum size limit, 5 bag limit per person per season (spear, set line and hook & line combined), tags \$.05 each, fishing license required.
1937	Wolf River hook and line season expanded to include Shawano County. Final increase in head of Lake Winnebago Pool lakes (6 inches) to bring overall increase since initial impoundment in the 1850s to 3 feet.
1939	Hook and line season on Wolf River shortened by two weeks, September 5 to October 15.
1940	Hook and line 30" (76.2 cm) minimum size limit initiated, and bag limit modified to allow only 1 fish per day. (maintaining 5 per season limit).
1941	Hook and line season closed on Wolf River.

1941	Lake Winnebago spearing season reduced to one month, February 1 through March 1.
1941	First assessment conducted on the sturgeon spearing harvest by Wisconsin Conservation Department Fisheries Biologists Edward "Doc" Schneberger and Lowell Woodbury.
1944	Hook and Line season reopened on Wolf River but in Winnebago County only.
1946	Hook and line season opened on all portions of Wolf River (now including Outagamie County), retaining previous season length of September 5 to October 15, 30" (76.2 cm) size limit, bag limit of 5 per season, and \$.05 tags.
1949-1953	Wisconsin Conservation Department Fisheries Biologists Tom Wirth, Robert Probst, Edwin Cooper, and Vern Hacker conduct first comprehensive biological assessment on the Winnebago lake sturgeon population.
1940s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1940's: 691.
1950	Hook and line, and spearing sturgeon tag fees increased to \$1.00 each.
1952	Set line season on Upriver Lakes eliminated.
1952	"Experimental" spearing season conducted on the Upriver Lakes, 16 days February 15 through March 1, 30" (76.2 cm) minimum size limit, seasonal bag limit of three, (Lake Winnebago retained the Feb 1 -March 1 season and the bag limit of 5).
1953	Hook and line seasonal bag limit on Wolf River reduced to 3.
1953	Upriver Lakes spearing season reduced to 14 days .
1953	Record sturgeon harvested on Lake Winnebago: 180 pound, 79" fish speared by Elroy Schroeder of Appleton.
1953	Record sturgeon harvest (Winnebago and Upriver lakes combined) of 2828 fish taken during seasons of 29 days on Lake Winnebago and 14 days on the Upriver Lakes.
1953	First serious concern about overharvest of the sturgeon population since harvest ban enacted in 1915.
1954	Spearing seasonal bag limit on Lake Winnebago reduced to 3.
1954	First biological assessment conducted on the sturgeon spawning stock by WCD Fisheries Biologists Tom Wirth, Gordon Priegel and Clarence Cline (conducted annually until 1964).
1955	Minimum size limit for spear fishery (Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes) increased from 30" (76.2 cm) to 40" (101.6 cm).
1955	First year of mandatory registration of all sturgeon harvested in spear fishery (Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes); fish must be registered on same day speared by 6:00 pm.
1956	Spearing, and hook and line seasonal bag limit reduced to 2 fish.
1956	Upriver Lakes spearing season reduced to 9 days.
1956	Lake Winnebago spearing season reduced to 2nd Saturday in February through March 1.
1957	Spearing seasonal bag limit on the Upriver Lakes reduced to 1 fish (2 fish limit retained on Lake Winnebago).

1957	Upriver Lakes season length reduced to 5 days.
1958	Spearing seasonal bag limit on Lake Winnebago reduced to 1 fish .
1958	Spear fishery closed on Upriver Lakes.
1959	Upriver Lakes spearing season reopened for one year for three days (On both Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes at this point there was a 40" (101.6 cm) minimum size limit and a seasonal bag limit of 1).
1959	Hook and Line season on the Wolf River closed.
1955-1959	First estimates of the number of "legal sized" sturgeon in the Winnebago System developed. Average abundance 1955-59, of legal sized sturgeon in the Winnebago population estimated to be 11,320.
1950s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1950's: 1225.
1960s	Beginning of a three decade period of persistent cloudy water in Lake Winnebago in most winters during the spearing season causing harvest rates to drastically decline from the rates experienced in the 1950's. (Cloudy water due to impact of accelerated run-off of non-point pollution and other changes occurring in the Winnebago Pool lakes).
1960	Separate sturgeon spearing license is required at a cost of \$2.50; only persons age 14 and over could buy a spearing license, and persons age 16 and over were also required to possess a fishing license; a license could be purchased before, or at anytime during the spearing season.
1962	Upriver Lakes new spearing season format implemented: 2 day season once every three years.
1968	All transported sturgeon must be "openly exposed", i.e. they must be visible in the transporting vehicle, to a person in a passing vehicle.
1969	Winnebago spear fishery produces new record low harvest of 8 sturgeon over a 22 day season.
1960s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1960's: 590.
1971	Upriver Lakes spearing season format reconfigured again to a 2 day season once every five years (Upriver Lakes population of lake sturgeon considered at this time to be distinct from the population in Lake Winnebago).
1973	Winnebago spear fishery ties the record for low harvest of 8 sturgeon over a 27 day season.
1974	Minimum size limit increased from 40" (101.6 cm) to 45" (114.3 cm) in another attempt to protect sturgeon from harvest until after they are big enough to spawn.
Mid 1970s	Spearers demand action by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to "restore" sturgeon stock in Lake Winnebago. Agency biologists disagree that the sturgeon stock is depleted but have no recent data to substantiate their opinions.

1975	Dan Folz appointed by the Wisconsin DNR as Oshkosh Area Fisheries Supervisor and re-establishes annual assessments of spawning stock on the Wolf and upper Fox Rivers and spear harvest assessments on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes. (No assessments had been conducted during 1964 to 1974 except for total annual sturgeon harvest from mandatory registration.) Assessment work initiated in 1975 lays the foundation for future sturgeon management program.
1977	The "Main Chapter" of Sturgeon for Tomorrow formed by local sturgeon spearkers Bill Casper, Dan Groeschel, Bob Blanck, Vic Schneider and Lloyd Lemke, based out of Malone, WI, as a private sturgeon conservation organization to provide financial and political support for sturgeon management, artificial reproduction and other activities.
1977	"Sturgeon Patrol" initiated in the spring using volunteers (citizens, students, DNR staff, etc) to guard sturgeon spawning sites on the Wolf River 24 hours a day during the spawning period; funded by Sturgeon for Tomorrow.
1979	First successful efforts to collect lake sturgeon eggs and propagate young sturgeon in North America conducted on the Wolf River, the DNR Wild Rose Fish Hatchery and at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Great Lakes Studies by Don Czeskleba (WI DNR) and Fred Binkowski (UW-Milwaukee).
1970s	Significant increase in sturgeon spawning sites due to increased riprapping activity on the Wolf River by property owners attempting to protect their eroding shorelines from the wakes of increasing motorboat traffic on the river.
1970s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1970's: 596.
1975-1979	Average abundance of "legal sized" portion of the Winnebago sturgeon population estimated to be 20,900 fish.
1980	Spearing license fee increased to \$5.50; license has to be purchased prior to season.
1980	"Southwest Chapter" of Sturgeon for Tomorrow formed by Fritz Wendt, Lee Patt, Glenn Ninneman, Mike Schrage, Mike Wendt and Jerry Dombarski, based out of Fond du Lac, WI.
1982	New record spear harvest of 2238 fish; largest harvest since the 1950's – first crystal clear water spearing season since the 1950s.
1982	"Northern Half Chapter" of Sturgeon for Tomorrow formed by Wayne Hoelzel, Bob Schroeder, Louie Hemauer, Tom Burr, Darlene and Bob Holmann, Donny Peterson, Steve Karow, Arnie Landsverk and Don Mielke, based out of Appleton, WI.
1983	Spearing license fee increased to \$7.10. Largest year class for freshwater drum ever recorded [ <i>in 2008 the 1982 hatch of drum remains the most dominant year class in the Winnebago System drum population</i> ].
1981-1983	Average abundance of "legal sized" portion of the Winnebago sturgeon population estimated to be 31,133 fish.
1985	\$1,500 minimum fine established for possession of illegal sturgeon.
1986	Sturgeon registration hours extended to 7:00 pm during the spearing season.

1986	In response to loss of habitat, poor water quality, and other fish and wildlife resource issues on the Winnebago System, the Department of Natural Resources initiates project to develop and implement long term plan for comprehensive management and balanced use of Winnebago fish, wildlife and water resources. Ron Bruch is appointed as the Winnebago System Biologist to facilitate development and implementation of this plan.
1988	“West Central Chapter” of Sturgeon for Tomorrow formed by Dick and Pat Braasch, Jim Jensen, Donny Payne, Ron Harrison, Ron Jungwirth, Jim Gibson, Bruce Schoenberger, and Bill McAloon, based out of Oshkosh, WI.
1988	Fish migration barrier is installed at Rapid Croche dam on the lower Fox River and the locks at the dam are closed and sealed to protect Winnebago fish populations from sea lamprey (and other exotic species) threatening invasion from Green Bay.
1989	“Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan” is completed and implemented. Implementation of sweeping actions begins immediately addressing habitat and water quality issues in the Winnebago Pool Lakes to improve Winnebago water quality and clarity. Plan addresses wide range of fish and wildlife resource use issues, recommends a fishway be constructed at the Eureka Dam on the upper Fox River to allow sturgeon, walleye and other species access to upstream traditional spawning and nursery grounds, and recommends continuing protection and development of sturgeon spawning sites on the Wolf and upper Fox Rivers.
1989	Eureka Fishway is constructed at the Eureka Dam on the upper Fox River.
1980s	Riprapping projects on Wolf and upper Fox Rivers expands number of sturgeon spawning sites from approximately 20 sites to 50 sites by the end of the decade.
1980s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1980’s: 679.
Late 1980s	Gizzard shad population explodes in the Winnebago System. [Gizzard shad, an excellent forage fish, had been found in Winnebago System waters for decades but warm winters in the late 1980’s are suspected to have allowed shad numbers to increase exponentially between 1988-1990. Shad experience a winter die off in Lake Winnebago and concentrate in the southern part of Lake Winnebago as well as in the Upriver Lakes. Sturgeon readily adapted to utilizing dead and dying shad as a forage item with many sturgeon sampled in the spear harvest found to have 2 gallons or more of shad in their foreguts.]
1990	New record spear harvest of 2908 sturgeon during a 20 day season raises serious concerns about overharvest of the stock.
1990	Ron Bruch appointed to fill the Oshkosh Area Fisheries Supervisor position following the retirement of Dan Folz. Art Techlow hired as new Winnebago System Biologist to replace Bruch and continue driving implementation of the Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan.
1990	Lake sturgeon utilize the newly constructed fishway at Eureka dam on the upper Fox River for upstream migration to historic spawning sites and as a new spawning site.
1991	Expanded harvest and population assessments are initiated on Lake Winnebago, the Upriver Lakes and the Wolf and upper Fox Rivers. Harvested fish are checked for sex and maturity in addition to traditional length and weight measurements. New harvest assessment data estimate adult females were harvested in 1990 at a rate of 9.6% - twice the recommended level of 5%.

1990	Adult female sturgeon comprise 46% of all harvested fish. High minimum size limit of 45" enacted in 1974 suspected cause of the high proportion of adult female sturgeon in the harvest. Harvest data also show the proportion of sturgeon > 100 lbs (all adult females) in the harvest is significantly lower (5x) than the proportion observed in annual harvests from 1950-1985.
1992	Sturgeon spearing license fee increased to \$10.00.
1992	Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of 30 sturgeon spearing and conservation organizations from the Winnebago region, established to work with DNR fisheries and law enforcement staff in the development and implementation of regulations and management actions.
1992-1993	Construction of "Eureka Rapids" at the Eureka Dam on the upper Fox River. Project led by Walleyes for Tomorrow with substantial financial support from Sturgeon for Tomorrow provides in-river spawning and nursery habitat for sturgeon, walleye and a wide range of other fish species.
1993	Angling through a sturgeon spearing ice hole prohibited (due to serious illegal hooking problems during the 1992 spearing season).
1990-1994	Average annual abundance of adult female sturgeon in the Winnebago stock estimated to be 10523 fish. Average abundance of adult males estimated to be 25288.
1995	New record season harvest total of 3173 sturgeon registered in a 19 day season. Serious concerns about overharvest of adult females prompt discussions between biologists and spearers about major changes in Winnebago sturgeon spearing regulations.
1996	Emergency rule reduces Lake Winnebago spearing season to nine days with the possibility of extension if the average water clarity on the 3rd day of the season is less than 10 feet (Average water clarity was >12 ft, therefore the season ran only nine days).
By 1997	Clear water in Lake Winnebago in the winter is becoming more common as opposed to a once a decade phenomena resulting in significant increases in spear harvest success and increases in spearing effort. (Thought to be due, at least in part, to sweeping non-point and point pollution controls implemented following the completion of the Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan.)
1997	Series of new rules went into effect as the 1st phase of developing a new Safe Harvest Management System for Winnebago sturgeon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lake Winnebago spearing season length is reduced to 16 days, beginning the second Saturday in February (no change in the Upriver Lakes season format);</li> <li>• The minimum size limit is reduced from 45" to 36" (91.4 cm);</li> <li>• Successful spearers are required to accompany their fish to a registration station, and to stay within a specific road boundary around the lake until their fish is registered;</li> <li>• The covering of large ice holes (spearing holes) with shanties is prohibited during periods other than 48 hours before and continuing through the open spearing season;</li> <li>• Hours of sturgeon spear harvest registration are reduced by one hour to close at 6:00 pm.</li> </ul>
1998	2051 fish harvested through a 12 day season. Season was cut short after ice went out early on Lake Winnebago on February 26.
1998	Sturgeon for Tomorrow and Otter Street Fishing Club purchase and donate to DNR Fisheries, Oshkosh, state of the art \$30,000 electrofishing boat to assist with sturgeon population assessments on the Winnebago System.
1998	First zebra mussels (exotic mussel originally from the Caspian Sea) found in Winnebago System waters on a buoy marking one of the outlet channels from Lake Winnebago at Neenah-Menasha.

1999	Harvest cap system instituted via emergency rule to manage the Winnebago System sturgeon spear harvest. Under the rule, the season is closed 24 hours after reaching 80% of the total allowable annual harvest of adult females, juvenile females or males. Cap levels set at 400 for adult females, 400 for juvenile females and 2150 for males.
1999	Lake Winnebago spearing season under new harvest cap rule lasts just three days and produces a sturgeon harvest of 1484 fish.
1999	“Night spearing” with lights starting at midnight gains popularity with spearers attempting to maximize their spearing time in the “race horse” harvest cap fishery.
1990s	Average annual sturgeon spear harvest through the 1990’s: 1583.
2000	Harvest cap system instituted via permanent rule to manage the Winnebago System sturgeon spear harvest. Under the rule, the season is closed 24 hours after reaching 80% of the total allowable annual harvest of adult females, juvenile females or males. Cap levels set at 400 for adult females, 400 for juvenile females and 2150 for males.
2000	Two day spearing season on Upriver Lakes produces 2169 sturgeon – a new record for the Upriver Lakes fishery and the first time since the 1950’s the Upriver Lakes harvest resulted in overharvest problems.
2000	Spearing season on Lake Winnebago lasted just two days and produced a harvest of 347 fish.
2001	Another two day season (due to the harvest cap controls) results in harvest of 1590 sturgeon. Cap levels set at 400 for adult females, 400 for juvenile females and 2150 for males.
2002	Emergency rule passed reducing sturgeon spearing hours to 6:30 am to 12:30 pm. Spearers had until 1:30 pm to register their fish the same day it was speared. Cap levels set at 400 for adult females, 400 for juvenile females and 1300 for males.
2002	Permanent rule changes approved for the 2002 season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No night spearing- "unlawful to use any artificial lights as an aid in sturgeon spearing";</li> <li>• Hole or holes size per shanty are limited to no more than 48 square feet – spearers are allowed to have more than one hole per shanty or shelter no matter how big the shelter is, but the total area of all the holes in that one shelter can not exceed 48 square feet.</li> </ul>
2002	Shortened spearing day, along with poor ice conditions and only fair water clarity, resulted in a full 16 day season and a total harvest of 847 fish.
2002	“Upper Fox River Sturgeon Rehabilitation Project” launched by Wisconsin DNR, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great lakes WATER Institute and Sturgeon for Tomorrow – a 25 year project with the goal of increasing the productivity of the sturgeon spawning run in the upper Fox River through habitat improvement, stocking and sturgeon migration studies.
2002	Zebra mussel population peaks in Lake Winnebago Pool Lakes. Lake fly (Chironomid) hatches much diminished in Lake Winnebago.
2003	Permanent rule passed reducing sturgeon spearing hours to 6:30 am to 12:30 pm. Spearers had until 1:30 pm to register their fish the same day it was speared. Cap levels set at 400 for adult females, 400 for juvenile females and 1300 for males.
2003	The Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee worked with Senator Carol Roessler (Oshkosh) and Representative Dean Kaufert (Neenah) to pass new state statutes which:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required spearkers to buy their sturgeon spearing license by October 31 in order to participate in the following February's Winnebago sturgeon spearing season. An exception was included for Wisconsin residents who turned 14 between November 1 and the last day of the following spearing season, and for Wisconsin residents serving in the Armed Forces and home on leave during the following spearing season;</li> <li>• Increased the sturgeon spearing license fee from \$10 to \$20 for Wisconsin residents and to \$50 for non-residents;</li> <li>• Removed the sturgeon spearing tag from the Conservation Patron license;</li> <li>• Eliminated the requirement that a spearker first purchase a fishing license before they were allowed to purchase a sturgeon spearing license;</li> <li>• Required that all the sturgeon spearing license revenues be used only to fund the Winnebago Sturgeon Management Program.</li> </ul>
By 2004	Estimated exploitation rates of adult female sturgeon in the Winnebago system reduced and sustained at annual levels close to recommended 5% from high levels experienced in early to mid 1990's.
By 2004	Proportion of sturgeon > 100 lbs in the harvest increasing - close to historic levels seen prior to 1985.
2004	First year that the Conservation Patron tag did not include a sturgeon spearing tag. 8798 resident and 114 non-resident sturgeon spearing licenses sold for the 2004 season.
2004	Harvest caps increased to 425 for adult females and 425 for juvenile females, and maintained at 1300 for males.
2004	High concentrations of sturgeon in the south end of Lake Winnebago draw large numbers of spearkers resulting in an extremely high harvest rate, a short two day season and a total harvest of 1854 fish. 89% of the harvest is taken from the southern 14% of the lake area. The highest one-day harvest of sturgeon ever – 1,303 on opening day. The shortest season ever, lasting just 12 hours (6 hours each day).
2004	Largest fish ever registered in the history of the 73 years of sturgeon spear fishing on Lake Winnebago: 188 pounds, 79.5 inches in total length, registered by David Piechowski of Redgranite.
2004	Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee, DNR staff and the general public, out of concern over short 2004 season and potential for overharvest in future seasons, initiate discussions on harvest and effort management alternatives to maintain acceptable harvests, maintain the open fishery, while at the same time significantly extending the length of the spearing season.
2004	Zebra mussel population found to be significantly reduced from levels observed in 2003. Sturgeon (as well as drum, carp, perch and other species found to be feeding on zebra mussels). Few lake fly larvae found in sturgeon stomachs during the spearing season. Poor to no lake fly hatch observed in May although small but significant hatch observed in August. Sturgeon sampled in August – October found to be foraging heavily on lake fly larvae.
2005	Permanent rule implemented limiting the 2005 Upriver Lakes spearing season to one day (6:30 am to 12:30 pm) in an effort to avoid overharvest as was experienced there in the 2000 season. Harvest cap levels increased to 500 for adult females, 500 for juvenile females and 2000 for males.
2005	Emergency rule passed giving the Department of Natural Resources the authority to close the spearing season at the end of a spearing day if 100% of one of the three harvest caps (adult females, juvenile females, males) is exceeded that day. Former permanent harvest cap trigger still remains in force – season would close 24 hours after harvest total reaches 80-99% of any one of the three caps by the end of a fishing day.
2005	Spearkers are required to purchase either a spearing license for Lake Winnebago or the Upriver Lakes.

	For the first time spearers are not be able to fish both water bodies in the same season. A total of 10,634 sturgeon spearing licenses sold for the 2005 season – 6465 for Lake Winnebago, and 4169 for the Upriver Lakes.
2005	Legislature increases out of state sturgeon spearing license from \$50 to \$65.
2006	“Fast Start” Season 100% Closure Trigger implemented. Beginning in 2006, the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season would be closed at the end of the spearing day in which 100% of any one of the three harvest caps (juvenile females, adult females, males) is reached or exceeded that day. “Slow Finish” Season 90% Closure Trigger implemented. Beginning in 2006, the general season 24 hour closure trigger was changed to 90% (an increase from the previous trigger of 80%). Harvest cap levels maintained at 500 for adult females, 500 for juvenile females and 2000 for males.
2007	Upriver Lakes Lottery fishery implemented. An annual lottery sturgeon spear fishery to be held annually on the Upriver Lakes beginning in 2007. Spearers required to apply for an Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery tag by August 1 and notified by October 1 if they were successful in receiving authorization to purchase an Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing tag. Group lottery applications of up to four persons accepted. Sales for both Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing licenses end October 31. The Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery fishery limited participation to 500 tags in 2007 (numbers of tags in future seasons may vary) and received an allocation of the overall Winnebago System sturgeon harvest cap of 20% of the juvenile females, 10% of the adult females, and 20% of the males.
2007	Harvest cap levels increased to 556 for adult females, 556 for juvenile females, and decreased to 1000 for males.
2008	Harvest cap levels maintained at 556 for adult females, 556 for juvenile females, and 1000 for males.
2008	IMAX film <i>Mysteries of the Great Lakes</i> (Science North production, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada) featuring the Winnebago System lake sturgeon population and the DNR Upper Fox-Wolf Fisheries Work Unit staff debuts in theatres in US and Canada.
2008	Upper Lakes Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow founded by Matt Woods, John Buttke, Sally Gilson, Dana Woods, Todd Gilson, Dave Lamers, Brian Loker, Craig Reinert, Pauline Reinert, and Mike Will.
2008	Harvest caps are modified to reflect new population estimates developed through Statistical Catch at Age modeling: 630 for adult females, 350 for juvenile females, and 1000 for males.
2009	Book on history and traditions of Winnebago sturgeon <i>People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin’s Love Affair with and Ancient Fish</i> , authored by Kathy Schmitt-Klein, Ron Bruch, and Fred Binkowski is published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. Book wins 7 national awards for non-fiction.
2009	Harvest caps are modified to reflect new population estimates: 350 for juvenile females, 740 for adult females and 1000 for males.
2010	Largest fish ever registered in the history of the 79 years of sturgeon spear fishing on Lake Winnebago: 212.2 pounds, 84.2 inches in total length, registered by Ron Grishaber of Appleton. This fish was also a new Wisconsin state record for speared lake sturgeon. Fish was not a black egg fish, but rather in an F1 stage.
2010	Harvest caps are modified to reflect new increased population estimates of adult females and males: 395 for juvenile females, 790 for adult females and 1200 for males.

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