

FISHING REPORT, TOM DUBENSKY

Spring/Summer 2025 Report:

Lake Somerset fish came through the 2023/24 winter in great shape with a typical winter and a longer ice season compared to 2023. We had good rain and a full lake through early July and a very dry August. We stocked Walleyes in October 2024 and I saw at least 4 different year classes of fish during the early summer. Many of the fisherman I spoke to are encountering walleye while bass fishing and a few are targeting walleye directly with some success. Bass fishing remains strong, with many people reporting fish above 18 inches. Pike appear to be successfully spawning as I caught a number of 15 - 20-inch fish that were likely spawned in 2023. Several good fish approaching 30 inches were taken during the ice season. I used to see a lot more soft-shelled turtles in the past and this year I didn't see any? Is anyone else seeing them?

Fall 2024/Winter 2025 Fishing Forecast:

- **Walleye** – a popular fish that we frequently stock. These fish represent a true put and take fishery as they are unlikely to successfully spawn in Lake Somerset. In October, 2025 we will be stocking fingerlings, 2000+ 6–8-inch fish **PLEASE thank our board for their support of our stocking program!!!!** The Walleyes in our lake already, will be more accessible and eager to bite as we move into fall and winter.
- **Northern Pike** - I have seen some large pike caught this year and evidence of natural reproduction, but as always this is a marginal fishery in lake Somerset.
- **Largemouth Bass** – the most common predator fish in our lake system. The bass population is strong and has some real nice trophy fish available. Keep in mind that releasing most of the bass back into the lake helps keep our fishery strong. Much of the fishing effort during the summer targets bass and our population seems strong.
- **Sunfish including Bluegill, Red Ear and Pumpkinseed** – these fish are doing well on the lake, reproduce very well and in some cases may spawn multiple times in the summer. They are great eating and are good average size.
- **Black Crappie** – are doing well and the average size seems to have improved in the last two years. There is a strong year class of 9–10-inch fish that should be good sized this winter.
- **Channel catfish**- I am hearing some interest in stocking some catfish again (last stocked over 30 years ago) Please contact me if you would like to see us stock them again.

Fishing tip: as the water cools this fall, and right up to ice you will find walleyes, crappies and big bluegills on the first drop off next to the weed line. A slowly retrieved 1/16 jig tipped with a 2-inch tail will often result in a good day of fishing.

I can be contacted at tomdubensky@yahoo.com.

Past eight Years of Stocking at Lake Somerset

2018	Walleye 3600
2019	Walleye 3100
2020	Walleye 3000
2021	Red Ears 4000
2021	Walleye 2300
2022	Walleye 2800
2023	Walleye 2600
2024	walleye 2300
2025	walleye 2000 +