FISHING REPORT, TOM DUBENSKY

Spring/Summer 2026 Report:

Lake Somerset fish came through the 2025/26 winter in great shape with a typical winter. We had good rain and a full lake through early July and enough that the drain by my home was running in August. We stocked Walleyes in October 2025 and I saw at least 4 different year classes of fish during the spring. 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 appears to be successfully spawning as I caught a number of 15 - 20-inch fish that were likely spawned in 2024, Several good fish approaching 30 inches were taken during the ice season, I spoke with one angler who was catching many legal sized pike and actually considered them a nuisance while bass fishing. I set a turtle trap this summer and captured a Snapper with a shell that measured 15 inches, he was not the largest I have seen lately, so I believe our turtles are doing well.

I have been asked by a good number of anglers to restock Channel Catfish and am working on that, our vendor normally provides them in spring so, we will likely stock walleye in October 2026 and channel catfish in April 2027.

If you catch a memorable fish or see a problem with fishery, please send me an email.

Fall 2026/Winter 2027 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 2026 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. I have spoken with a number of anglers that specialize in Bass fishing and all of them spoke of the very strong fishery for bass on somerset.

- **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. I always plan a “redear day” in late May or early June when I target spawning red ears, I am always pleasantly surprised how strong our population is and how large with many over 9 inches, and an 11-inch fish is not uncommon.

- **Black Crappie** – are doing well and the average size seems to have improved in the last three 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) they will be stocked in Spring 2027 4–6-inch fish

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Fishing tip: when ice is safe, a small Swedish pimple jigged in the 12–18-foot depth 1 hour before sunset to 1 after will often result in large crappie and the occasional walleye

I can be contacted by email at tomdubensky@yahoo.com .

Past and future 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 +
2026 walleye 2000
2027 (spring) Channel Catfish 3000