



LMA Fisheries and Habitat Committee 2021 Bullhead Removal Project

Since 2008 the Lake Metonga Association has worked with Mike Preul (Mole Lake Fisheries Biologist) and Greg Matzke (DNR Fisheries Biologist –Forest and Florence Counties) to decrease the number of black bullheads in Lake Metonga. It was thought that the overabundance of bullheads has had a negative effect on the walleye and perch populations, which was quickly proven. After several years of removing bullheads the walleye population started to rebound and they were again thought to be naturally reproducing to goal type levels in the lake.

From 2008 to 2017 approximately 33,000 bullheads were removed by electro-shocking and netting. In 2018-2020 no removal was done due to late ice out, late spawning, time constraints and COVID-19. Over the last several years the bullhead population has rebounded.

The LMA Fisheries and Habitat committee has made the bullhead overabundance their first goal to get under control. Mike Preul has agreed to do electro-shocking again in spring of 2021; however, both he and Greg Matzke have said that this labor intensive effort each year is not enough by itself. Greg has done some work with other lake groups in having them get volunteers and actively net (small mesh nets or seines) and discard juvenile bullheads. Though this has been on smaller lakes, it has helped in decreasing the numbers to non-nuisance levels over time. Any volunteer able to remove bullheads will make a difference in this effort.

How it works:

1. Every volunteer will need to fill out a Volunteer Agreement form to become an “agent of the state” in order to make it legal to net them. The form is only good for a calendar year, so each year a new form will need to be filled out.
2. When netting the bullheads, **each person** with a net needs to carry a copy of the completed form and a copy of the letter from Greg explaining the project details, in case you are questioned by anyone as to what you are doing and why. The letters will be sent to you once we receive your completed Volunteer Agreement form.
3. We then send the form to Greg so he can keep a copy on file and at that point it is legal to net the bullheads.
4. After your netting efforts are complete you send us the details of your catch (TBD) so we can log them, and we will send them on to Greg.

What you need to do now to become a volunteer:

1. Obtain Volunteer Agreement form/forms from one of the committee members below.
2. Complete one form for every member of your party that will be netting.
3. Send the completed forms to:
Email (preferred method): gmreedi@gmail.com (a clear smartphone picture of the form is acceptable but a scan or copy is preferred)
OR
Mail to:
Grant Reed
6670 Wintergreen Trail
Sobieski, WI 54171
(Please make a copy before you mail it)

Any questions, please contact any member of the committee

LMA Fisheries and Habitat Committee member contact info:

Dennis Klemick – Chair	Cell: 262-672-8341	Email: bigdennisklemick@gmail.com
Ed Smith	Cell: 715-784-0601	Email: ed@northwoodsinsurance.com
Grant Reed	Cell: 920-680-3653	Email: gmreedi@gmail.com
Kayla Reed	Cell: 920-639-8810	Email: kaylamreed2020@gmail.com
Julie Janquart – Board Rep	Cell: 920-676-5764	Email: juliejanquart@gmail.com



Juvenile bullhead are found in shallow water around the June-July timeframe.