

Area Fishing opportunities abound

Indianford Dam always a hot spot for anglers

Death and taxes are not the only certainties in life.

People fishing at the Indianford Dam is another.

Don Bush called it "365 days of fun."

"There are people fishing at that dam every day of the year," said the Department of Natural Resources fisheries team leader for the Rock River Basin. "There are always fish there."

Fish are continually congregating around the dam as they are held up there while swimming up the Rock River.

"It is a primary place to harvest fish," Bush said. "A lot of fish congregate around it. It makes it a choice place

to fish."

There are 63 different fish species in the Rock River, so anglers at the dam are likely to catch just about anything.

"It is like a Forrest Gump box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get."

White bass are the most abundant fish species in the Rock River. But there are also good numbers of catfish, walleye, northern pike, bluegills and yellow perch.

Walleyes caught at the dam are typically in the 12- to-14 inch range. White bass are typically 12 to 13 inches in length.

One measured 17 inches,

which is a real whopper.

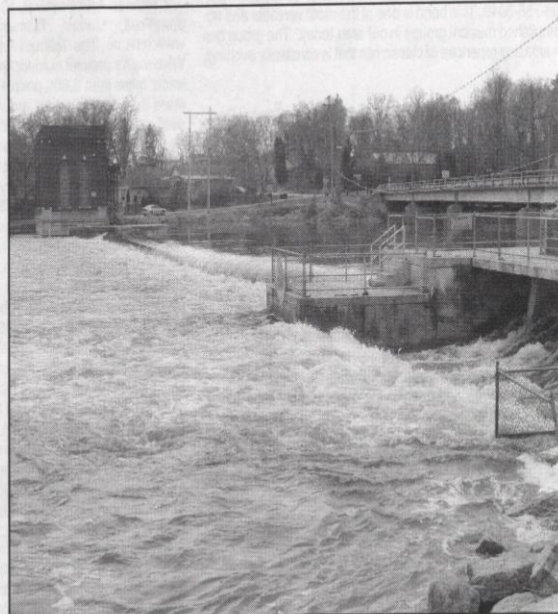
Bush said the walleye found below the Indianford Dam are typically younger fish and smaller in size.

Anglers pull large northern pike out of the water at the dam on a regular basis.

"Once in awhile, someone will come up with a 38-40 incher at the dam as well."

People also fish at Indianford Dam no matter how cold it is. Even in the middle of the winter, water at the dam is not covered in ice, which is one of the biggest benefits.

"You don't have to sit there on a bucket with a jig pole, and you can be there on New Year's Day," Bush said.



This dam at Indianford in Rock County is a run-of-the-river operation with a large, free overflow spillway with six slide gates and two wicket gates. The dam partly controls the water level of Lake Koshkonong and has a watershed of 2,630 square miles.