

The warm weather is going to melt a lot of snow and ice but here's how things look currently. And remember, if you're going out on the ice, please use caution.

Ice conditions remain extremely dangerous despite the cold weather snap from a few days ago. Red fox sightings have increased in the past week in and around the Bay's shoreline due to the breeding season.

In Marinette County, the area had additional snow accumulation with a snowstorm over Sunday to Monday bringing anywhere from 3-5 inches of snow, enough to open the snowmobile trails in the northern part of the county Jan. 25. Trail condition reports are coming in and are looking good. Some trails still remain closed and will need additional snow accumulation before they open. It is important for snowmobilers to check with local snowmobile clubs to ensure trails are open in the area they intend to ride. Ice conditions on inland lakes continued to improve with cold weather bringing 1-2 inches of ice per day. Ice varies on inland lakes anywhere from 9-16 inches. Ice fishing contests almost every weekend on different lakes show fishing action was slow over the last week with modest catches taking "top prize." Walleye, whitefish, and the occasional brown trout are being caught by the Hattie Street Bridge fishing open water and ice fishing from the Wisconsin side of the river below the dams. Jigging with minnows through the ice or floating stick baits in open water have been the baits of choice. Some nice catches of panfish have been reported in sloughs.

In Oconto County, Oconto Breakwater Park has been the hot spot for perch caught on jigs and wax worms. The fish size has been running small, although some nice fish were being caught. Oconto Park is seeing some activity for panfish with anglers staying within the boundaries of the boat landing.

In Brown County, stretches of open water dot the Fox River by Voyageur Park down river to the boat landing. Little fishing activity was observed. Anglers have been walking on the ice at Sunset Beach in search of the perch, with no interviews to verify catch rates.

In Door County, ice conditions have improved this week at Sturgeon Bay with the help of the cold temps. Anglers reported ice being 4 to 7 inches thick. Anglers have been fishing in Sawyer Harbor for perch with some success; the perch that have been caught have been small in size. A few northern pike have been caught as well. Bullhead point has been getting some fishing pressure; most anglers have been targeting perch and walleye. Ice conditions inside Little Sturgeon Bay have been good with some anglers reporting up to 12 inches of ice. The ice on the outside of the bay has been poor, with large areas still open or recently frozen. Perch anglers were finding good numbers of perch inside the bay. Most of the perch have been of undesirable size, but anglers were catching a few keepers. Whitefish action has been consistent overall, with anglers catching good numbers of fish. Most anglers have been using jigging spoons with wax worms for bait.

In Marquette County, snowmobile trails continue to remain closed throughout the county. Ice anglers need to use extreme caution when venturing out on to the ice. There have been reports of vehicles going through the ice on area lakes. Fishing activity has been good on Buffalo Lake and Lake Puckaway with anglers catching northern pike.

In Waupaca County, ice conditions are improving, on many lakes but ice anglers are still not out in full force due to the recent warm weather. Most anglers are walking to their fishing area or are using an ATV or snowmobile. Snowmobile trails in Waupaca County are still closed. However, cross-country skiers are able to enjoy their sport on the new snow that fell recently. Hartman Creek State Park in southwestern Waupaca County has established trails that are currently open. With a few inches of snow on the ground, predator hunters (coyote and fox) have been enjoying

some success - both with calling and the aid of dogs. There was a photo taken recently of a golden eagle feeding on a road kill about 2.5 miles north of Waupaca.

Due to the recent warm weather and rain in Outagamie County, the little snow that was blanketing the county and Lake Winnebago has mostly disappeared. In addition, a large crack has opened up on the west shore of Lake Winnebago that stretches from Oshkosh to Neenah and is within several hundred yards of shore in the Payne's Point area. In addition much of Little Lake Butte des Morts has completely opened up and many other areas are offering poor ice conditions. Anglers are reporting anything from open water to 7 or 8 inches of ice along the north-east, northern, and western shores of Lake Winnebago.