

Gaslyn Lake Walleye Rearing Ponds

Walleye stocking for the St. Croix Tribe started in the mid to late 1980's with co-op ponds with the WDNR. In the early 1990's the Tribe began to rent their own farm ponds and conducted walleye fingerling harvests and stockings alone. Although productive, the farm ponds were very inefficient on return rates of walleye fry to walleye fingerlings. Funding for man-made rearing ponds was established and then the Gaslyn Lake Walleye Rearing Ponds were created.

The St. Croix Tribe currently operates four walleye rearing ponds located on the Gaslyn Lake property, on the southwest shoreline of Gaslyn Lake, Burnett County. These four rearing ponds were created in 2012 and 2014. Each pond is approximately ½ surface acre in size with the deepest section around 9' and will hold about 800,000 gallons of water. We fill the ponds in the spring with ground water, then release the water into a retention pond which most of the water will seep back into the ground.

These four walleye rearing ponds will produce about 30,000-45,000 small fingerlings on a yearly basis. We could rear about 5,000-8,000 large fingerlings per pond on a yearly basis if we have the demand for stocking large fingerlings from outside sources. Currently, no other specie of fish is being reared on the premise.

Stocking of the small fingerlings is mainly for waterbodies that the St. Croix Tribe utilizes for spring adult walleye treaty harvests. Although we cannot stock every waterbody that the St. Croix Tribe harvests, we try to stock as many waterbodies that actually allow walleye stocking or is open to walleye stocking. Some waterbodies do not allow stocking due to natural reproduction that takes place, while other waterbodies do not have any natural reproduction. Waterbodies with very limited or no natural reproduction are where we concentrate stocking efforts.

In 2023, we started rearing large fingerlings for lake associations. The charge for those fingerlings to the lake associations is for the minnow feeding alone, as the St. Croix Tribe is not rearing the fish for profit. Since the walleye is a very important to both the tribal and non-tribal communities, the St. Croix Tribe only wishes to continue stocking efforts and enhance walleye populations.

Since the early 1980's to 2025, the St. Croix Tribe has stocked over 5.2 million walleye fingerlings into the waterbodies of NW Wisconsin. Although it is always best if the waterbody can reproduce on its own, we will continue stocking walleye fingerlings, as needed, into the future.

If the public is interested in touring either the walleye rearing ponds or our fish hatchery, please contact me at the phone number or at the email address below.

Thank you.

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