



2023 SPRING FISHERIES SURVEY SUMMARY

LOST LAND LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY

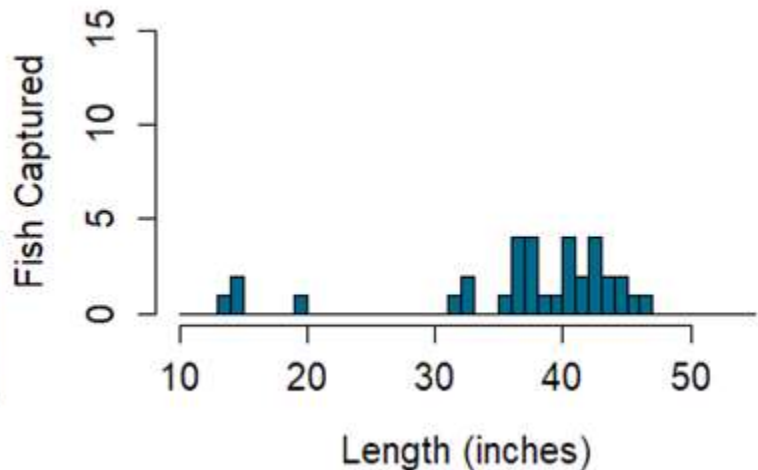
Report by Evan Sirianni

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hayward Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Lost Land Lake from May 3-6, 2023. The primary targets were walleye and muskellunge, but useful data was also gathered on northern pike, black crappie and yellow perch. Up to nine nets were set overnight for three total nights, which resulted in 20 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey was conducted on May 29, 2023 to target largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bluegill and included 4 miles of shoreline. Quality, preferred and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

MUSKELLUNGE



Captured 0.4 per net-night \geq 20 inches	
Quality Size \geq 30"	90%
Memorable Size \geq 42"	33%

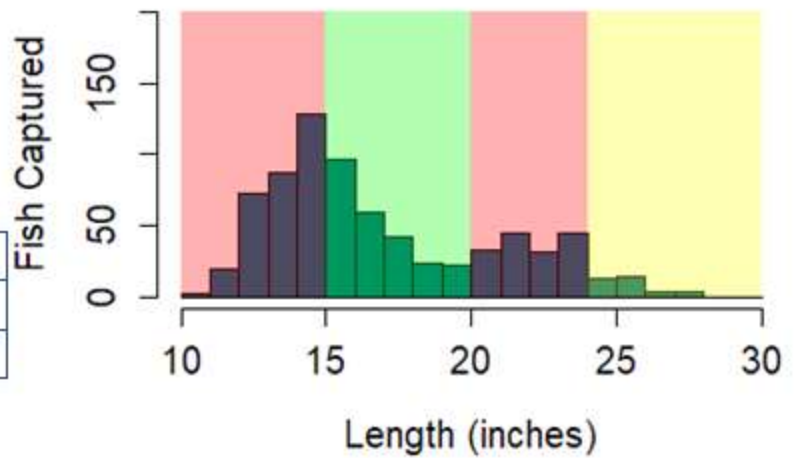


*This figure includes muskellunge captured during netting and electrofishing portions of the 2023 survey.

WALLEYE



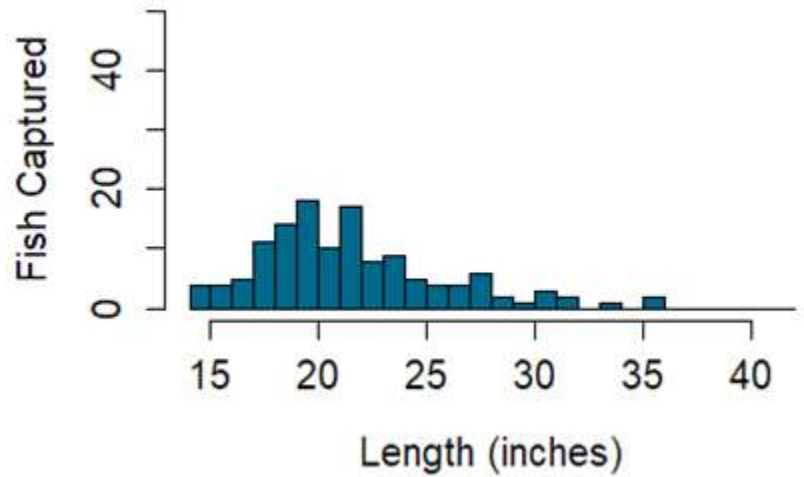
Captured 21 per net-night ≥ 10 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 15''$	58%
Preferred Size $\geq 20''$	25%



NORTHERN PIKE



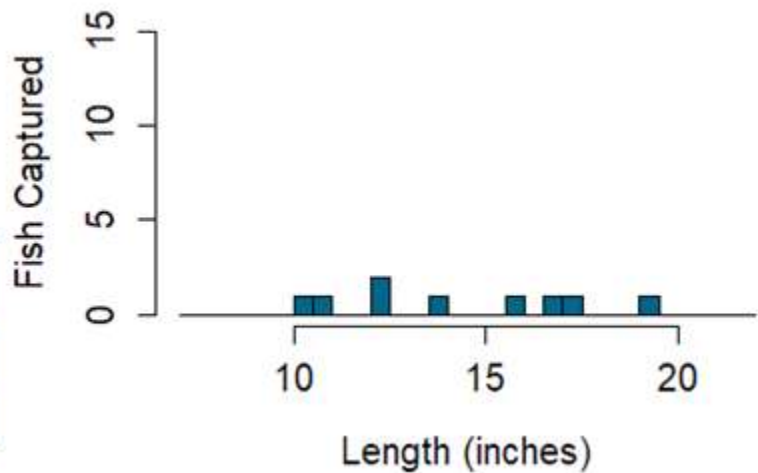
Captured 7 per net-night ≥ 14 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 21''$	49%
Preferred Size $\geq 28''$	9%



SMALLMOUTH BASS



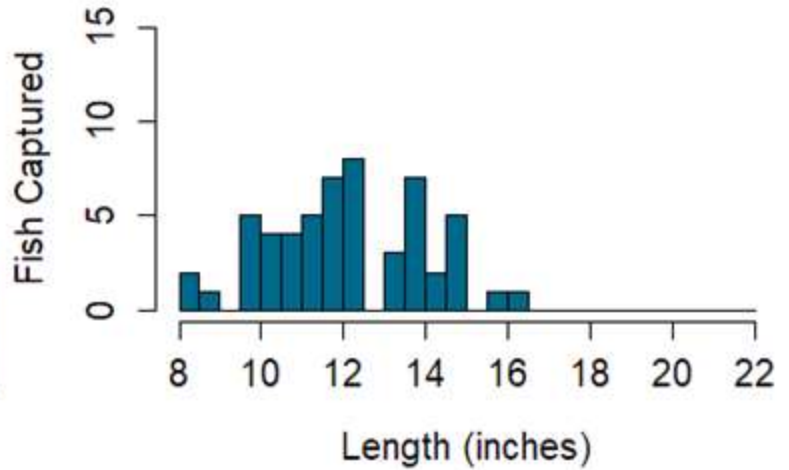
Captured 2.3 per net mile ≥ 7 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 11''$	78%
Preferred Size $\geq 14''$	44%
Memorable Size $\geq 17''$	22%



LARGEMOUTH BASS



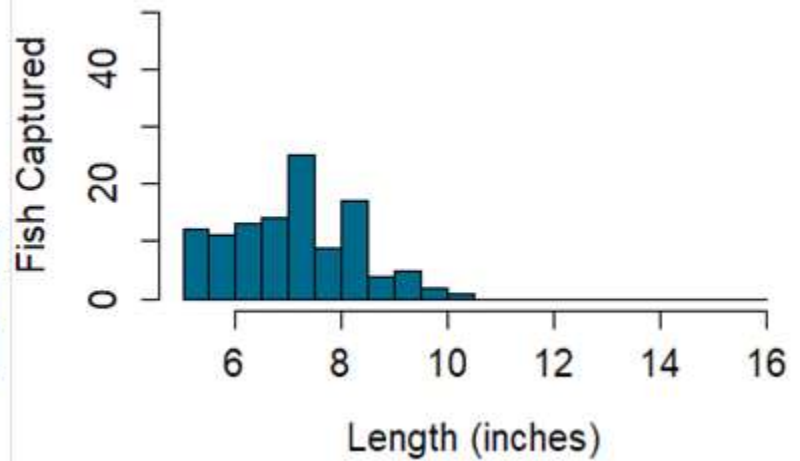
Captured 14 per mile \geq 8 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12"	49%
Preferred Size \geq 15"	4%



BLACK CRAPPIE



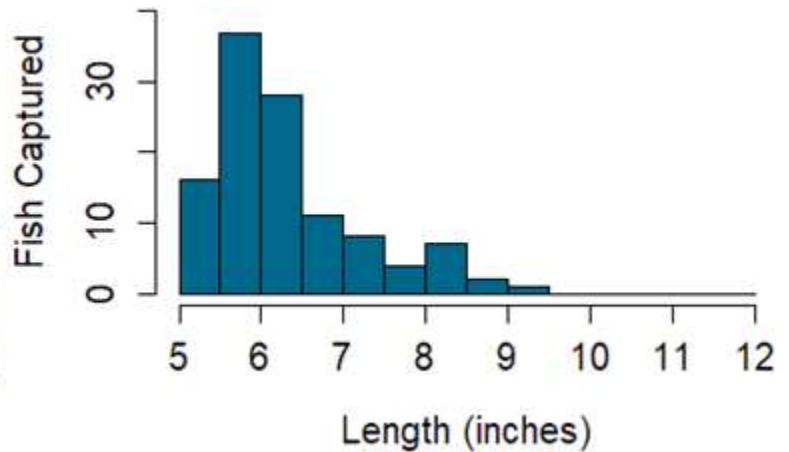
Captured 51 per net-night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8"	26%
Preferred Size \geq 10"	1%



YELLOW PERCH



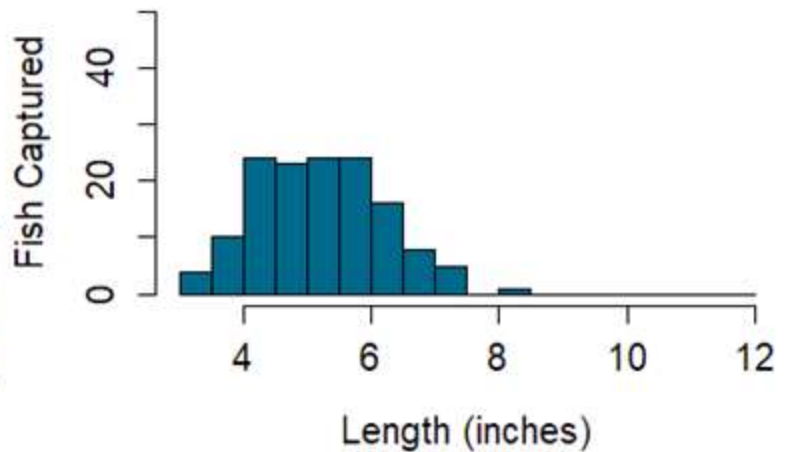
Captured 12 per net-night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8"	9%
Preferred Size \geq 10"	0%



BLUEGILL



Captured 146 per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6"	22%
Preferred Size \geq 8"	1%



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The netting survey was well-timed for capturing muskellunge, northern pike and walleyes during ice out. The survey was impacted by ice and wind that forced crews to move several nets. The timing of the electrofishing effort aligned well for capturing bass and bluegills. Lost Land Lake is defined as a Complex-Cool-Dark lake according to the DNR fisheries lake classification system. The term “Complex” refers to the number of gamefish within the lake system. The terms “Cool” and “Dark” refer to the lake’s water temperature and clarity. This report compares catch rate results to lakes of the same classification of Complex-Cool-Dark.

MUSKELLUNGE

The capture rate of muskellunge (0.4 per net-night) was below the average for a lake of this classification but above the 25th percentile. Impressively, 90% of musky captured were above a “quality” size of 30 inches, and 33% were above a “memorable” size of 42 inches. There were a handful of small fish surveyed that were stocked by the state hatchery from the previous year (2022), and many of the larger fish captured were a part of the 2012 stocking year class of fish. There is a daily bag limit of one muskellunge with a 40-inch minimum length limit.

WALLEYE

Walleyes had demonstrated excellent catch rates and quality size. The catch of walleyes (21 per net-night) was between the 90th and 95th percentile of lakes of the same classification. Of the walleyes caught, 58% were greater than 15 inches in length, and 25% of walleyes were above 20 inches. Walleyes are stocked in Lost Land Lake on an “every-other-year” basis in odd numbered years. The regulations for walleye on Lost Land Lake is a daily bag limit of five walleyes between 15-20 inches

may be kept, with one fish over 24 inches (corresponding to the colors in the figure above).

NORTHERN PIKE

Northern pike were captured at a rate of seven per net-night, which is in the 90th percentile for lakes of this classification. The size of the northern pike captured was average, with 49% of the northern pike caught measuring over 21 inches and only 9% over 28 inches. The daily bag limit for northern pike on Lost Land Lake is five, with no minimum length limit.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

A low number of smallmouth bass were captured during the spring electrofishing survey this year. There was a slightly above-average capture rate of smallmouth (2.3 fish per mile), which is above the median (50th percentile) but beneath the 3rd quartile (75th percentile) for lakes of the same classification. The size of the smallmouth bass captured was rather impressive, with 44% of the fish captured being over 14 inches in length and 22% of the fish were above a “memorable” size of 17 inches. The daily bag limit for bass in Lost Land Lake is five (both species combined), with a 14-inch minimum length limit.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass were captured at a high rate of 14 fish per mile (between 75th and 90th percentile) during the spring electrofishing survey. Half of the largemouth bass captured were over 12 inches and only 4% were over 15 inches. The daily bag limit for bass in Lost Land Lake is five (both species combined), with a 14-inch minimum length limit.

BLACK CRAPPIE

Black crappies were caught at an impressive rate of 51 fish per net-night (above 95th percentile). In Lost Land Lake, there were plenty of crappies, but the size of these fish was underwhelming, with only 26% being over 8 inches in length and only one fish captured being 10 inches. There is a daily bag limit of 25 panfish on Lost Land Lake, but no more than 10 of any species.

YELLOW PERCH

Yellow perch were caught at a rate of 12 fish per net-night, which is just above the average for lakes of the same classification. The size of the perch was small, with 9%

of the catch longer than 8 inches, and no fish were above 10 inches in length. There is a daily bag limit of 25 panfish on Lost Land Lake, but no more than 10 of any species.

BLUEGILL

Bluegills were caught at a slightly above-average rate of 146 fish per mile during the electrofishing survey. Size was nothing to write home about, with 22% of bluegills longer than 6 inches and only one fish longer than 8 inches. There is a daily bag limit of 25 panfish on Lost Land Lake, but no more than 10 of any species.

Survey Crew: Max Wolter, Scott Braden and Evan Sirianni, with volunteers Brenda Maier, John Maier, Stu Neville and Levi Meetz

Reviewed and approved by Aaron Cole