



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: LAURA

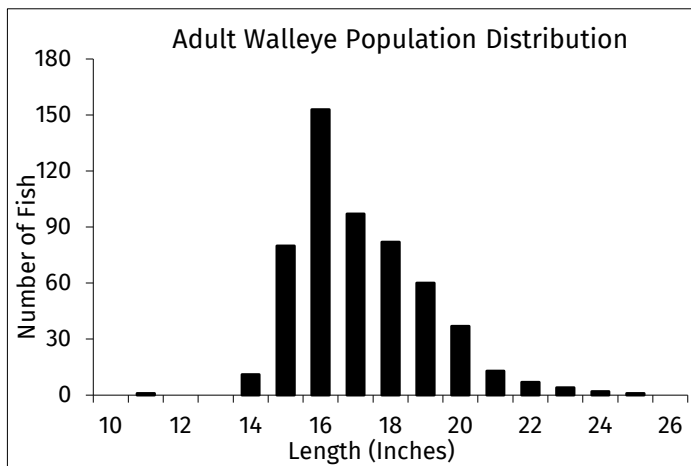
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2021-22

Introduction

Lake Laura is a seepage lake with predominately sand substrate with areas of gravel and cobble. The lake has a surface area of 599 acres, 4.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 43 feet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Lake Laura, Vilas County, from April 7-19, 2021, to assess the status of walleye and muskellunge. A muskellunge recapture survey was conducted May 11-17, 2023 to complete the population estimate. Additionally, on May 24, 2021, a bass and panfish survey was conducted using one electrofishing boat that shocked a total of 5.33 miles of shoreline, which included two half-mile stations where all fish species were collected. Only gamefish (i.e. largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge) were collected for the remaining 4.33 miles. Lake Laura's walleye population has historically been sustained by natural reproduction, but recent stocking was initiated in response to failed juvenile recruitment. The muskellunge population is maintained primarily by stocking.

WALLEYE

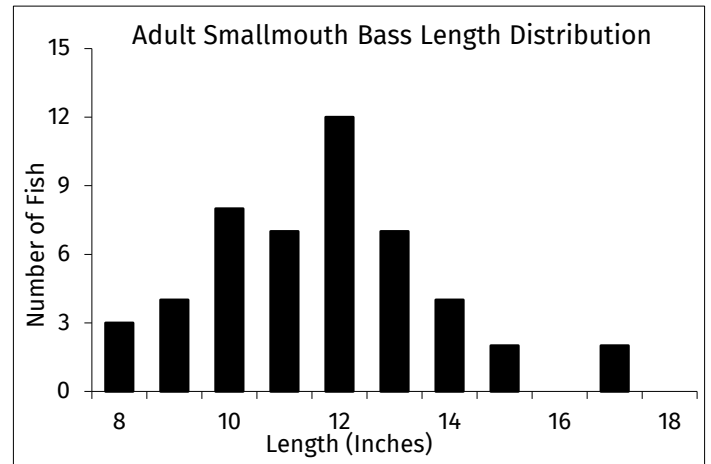


During five days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 548 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and caught 204 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 45% (91 of 204) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Lake Laura was estimated to contain 1,214 adult walleyes (2.0/acre). An estimated 96.7% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 25.5-inch female. Note: adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

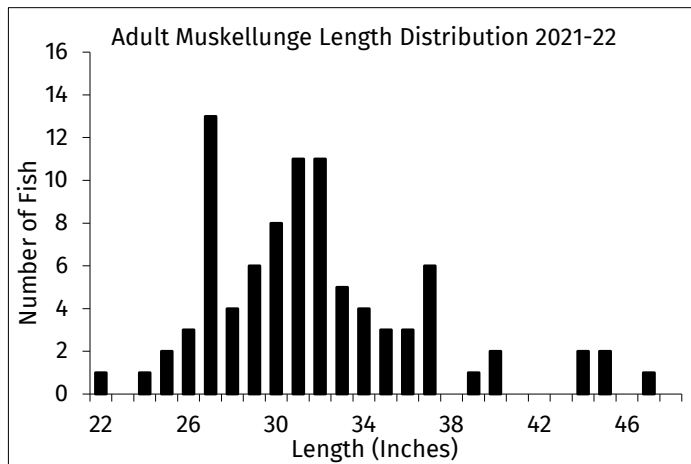
SMALLMOUTH BASS



Survey sampling conducted through May 24, 2021, resulted in 50 smallmouth bass being caught. Of the 50 caught, 49 were considered adults at 8 inches or larger, and 16% were 14 inches or longer, with the largest measuring 17.5 inches. During the May 24 electrofishing survey, adult smallmouth bass were caught at a moderate rate of 7.1 per mile of shoreline. No largemouth bass were captured during surveys.



MUSKELLUNGE



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling in 2021, 29 adult muskellunge were caught, as well as 12 juveniles. Of the adult muskellunge, 14% (4 of 29) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 47.0-inch female.

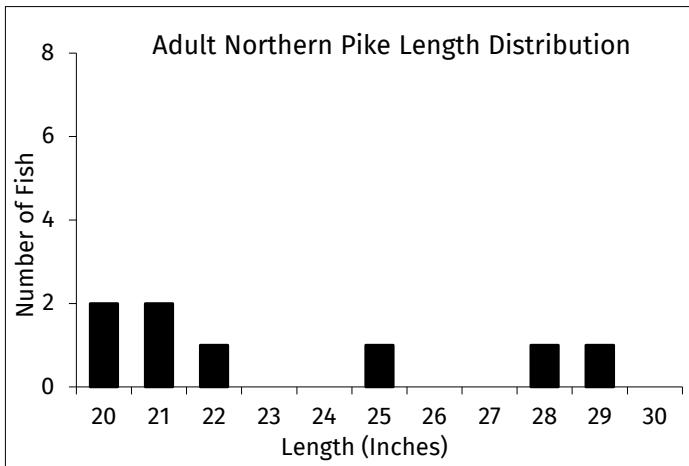
In 2022, a muskellunge recapture survey was conducted, and 57 adult muskellunge were caught, as well as one juvenile. Of the adults captured 14% (8 of 57) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 45.7-inch female. The estimated adult muskellunge population was 336 (0.56/acre).

Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.

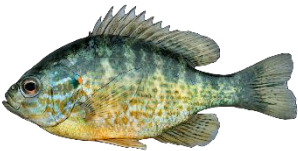
NORTHERN PIKE



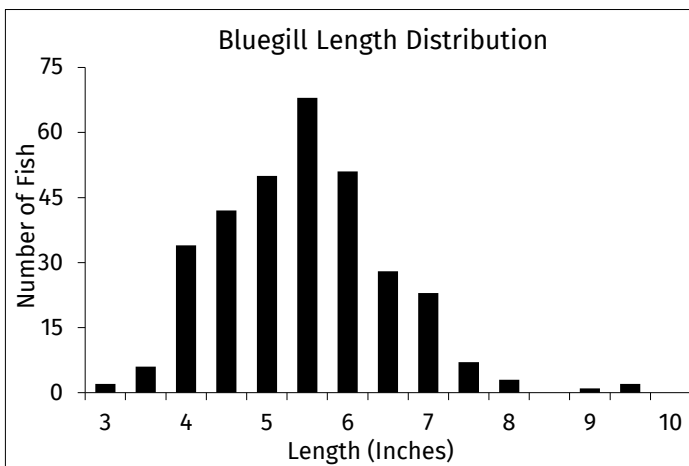
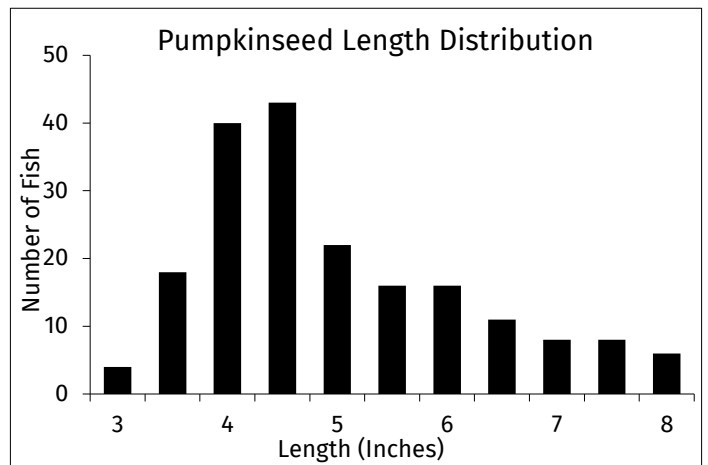
Sampling Lake Laura through May 24, 2021 resulted in the catch of nine adult northern pike. The largest northern pike measured 29.0 inches. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.



PUMPKINSEED



A total of 388 pumpkinseeds were caught during the course of surveying. Pumpkinseed were captured at a low rate (15/mile) during the May 24 electrofishing survey. The average length of pumpkinseeds measured was 5.2 inches, with the largest being 8.2 inches and 11% being 7 inches or larger.



BLUEGILL

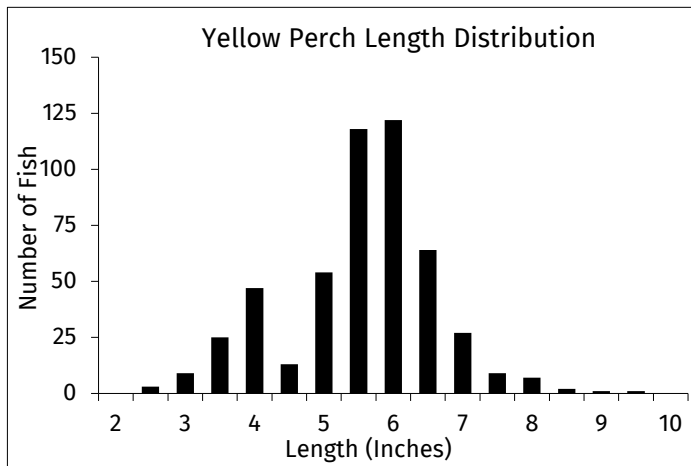
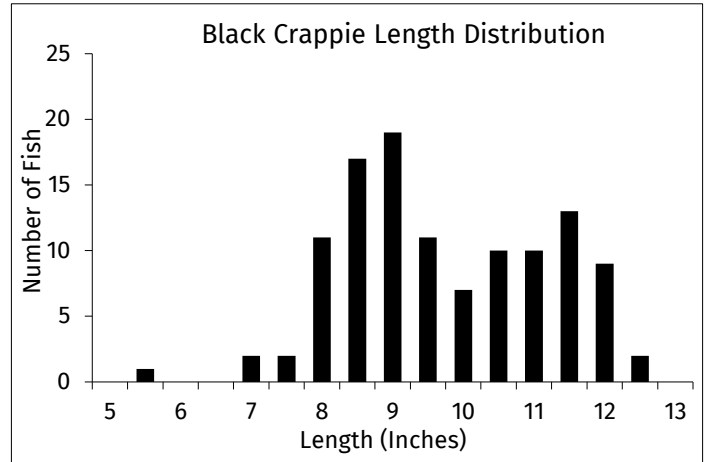


A total of 1,058 bluegills were caught during the course of surveying. Bluegills were captured at a low rate (16/mile) during the May 24 electrofishing survey. The average length of bluegills that were measured was 5.7 inches, with the largest being 9.6 inches and 11% being 7 inches or larger.

BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 177 black crappies were caught during the course of surveying. Black crappies were captured at a low rate (1.1 per net lift) during muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of black crappies measured was 9.9 inches, with the largest being 12.8 inches and 45% being 10 inches or larger.



YELLOW PERCH



A total of 5,122 yellow perch were caught during the course of surveying. Yellow perch were captured at a moderate rate (34.7 per net lift) during the walleye and muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of yellow perch measured was 5.7 inches, with the largest being 9.8 inches.

OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Lake Laura resulted in the catch of five species of fish including: bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, Iowa darter, rock bass and white sucker.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Lake Laura, in Vilas County Wisconsin, 2022-23.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 7 – March 5	1	18" min length, 22-28" no harvest slot
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 7 – March 5	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 18 – March 5	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 – December 31	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 – March 5	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Lake Laura are summarized above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license or download a copy from the [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Lake Laura, contact:

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