



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: UPPER BUCKATABON

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2010

The Department of Natural Resources and WVIC surveyed Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, from April 3 through May 17, 2010, to determine the health of its fishery. Estimating walleye abundance was the primary objective of the survey.

Upper Buckatabon Lake is a drainage lake with predominantly sand and muck substrate and a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 494 acres, 7.4 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 47 feet.

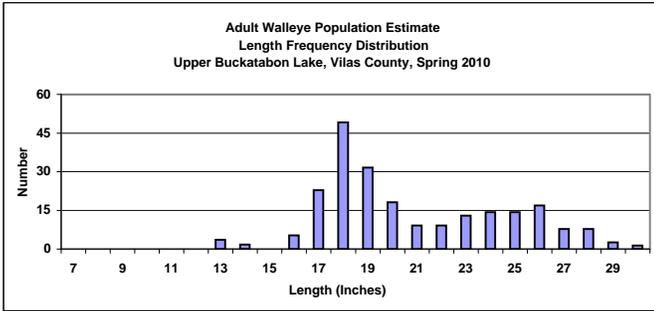


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 230 adult* walleye estimated to be in Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2010 survey.

* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex \geq 15 inches long.

Walleye

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake's adult* walleye population from April 3-11, 2010. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 153 adult walleye in six days of fyke netting. A crew sampled Upper Buckatabon Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 9th and 11th and captured 38 adult walleye. Roughly one-half (13 of 25) of those walleye had been fin-clipped during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Upper Buckatabon Lake was inhabited by 230 adult walleye (0.5 /acre). Approximately 97% (223 of 230) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 30.7-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass were an incidental catch in our survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake. Our sampling was not done during the peak of the smallmouth bass spawning season.

We captured 39 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Upper Buckatabon Lake. One-third (13 of 39) of those smallmouth were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 18.8 inches long.

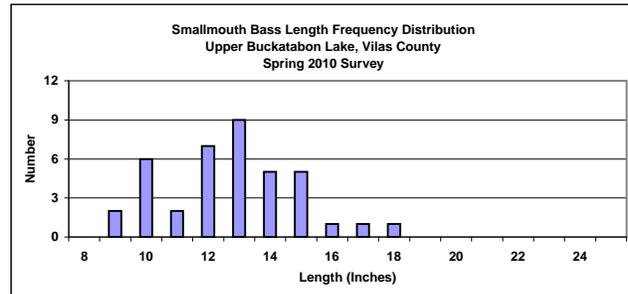


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 39 smallmouth bass \geq 8" captured during a fisheries survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

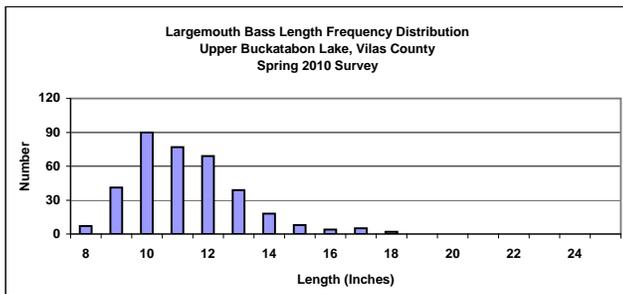


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 360 largemouth bass \geq 8" captured during a fisheries survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

Largemouth Bass

Our sampling of Upper Buckatabon Lake was also done outside the spawning period for largemouth bass. We captured 360 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Upper Buckatabon Lake. Approximately 10% (37 of 360) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 18.7 inches long.

Northern Pike

We captured 119 adult* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Upper Buckatabon Lake from April 3-8, 2010. Six of the adult northern pike we captured were larger than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike we captured was a 27.7-inch female.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex \geq 12 inches long.

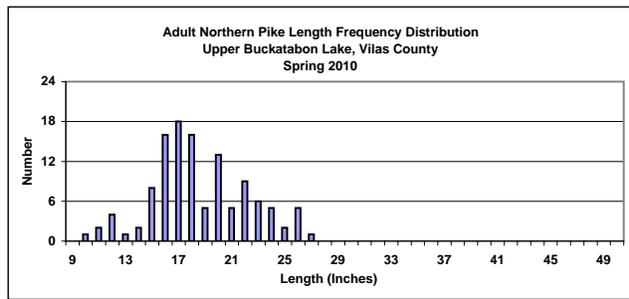


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 119 adult* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

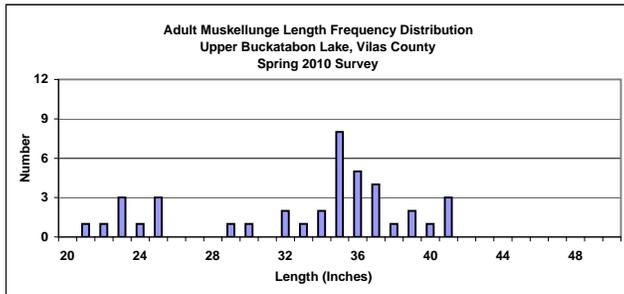


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 40 adult* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

Muskellunge

We captured 40 adult* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Upper Buckatabon Lake. Sixty-five percent (26 of 40) of the adult muskellunge we captured were 34 inches long or larger. Four of those muskellunge were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 41.7-inch female.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex \geq 20 inches long.

Other Species

We captured 10 species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Upper Buckatabon Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass, yellow bullhead and yellow perch were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught creek chub, golden shiner, grass pickerel and white sucker. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2010.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Upper Buckatabon Lake this year. Creel clerk Lynn Robinson will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2010 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Upper Buckatabon Lake, Vilas County, 2010

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 1 - March 6	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 1 - June 18 (C&R) June 19 - March 6 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 29 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 1 - March 6	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Upper Buckatabon Lake is included 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 our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/fish/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2011. Spring survey and creel survey summaries will be posted at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html>
 or contact:

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