



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** STEVENS

**COUNTY:** FOREST

**YEAR:** 2008

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Stevens Lake, Forest County, from April 29 through May 1, 2008, to determine the health of its fishery. The primary objective of the survey was to estimate the abundance of the lake's walleye population. Stevens Lake is a hard-water drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 297 acres, 3.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 10 feet.

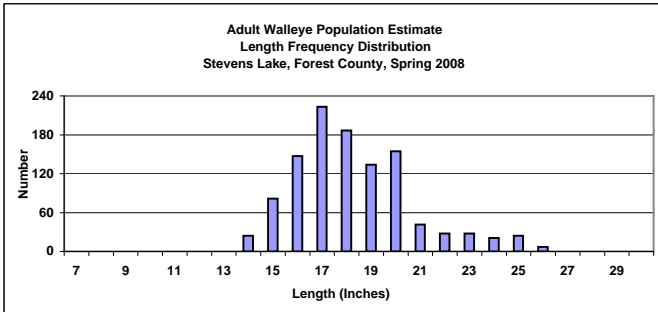


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 1,100 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Stevens Lake, Forest County, based on a spring 2008 survey.

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

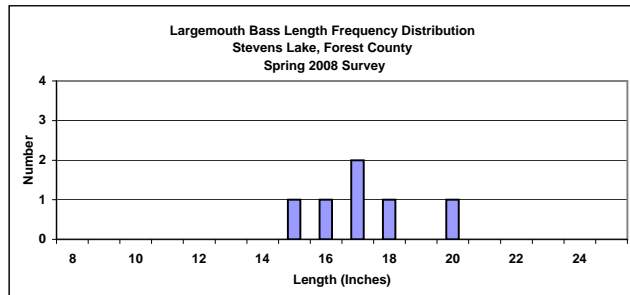


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of six largemouth bass  $\geq 8$ " captured during a fisheries survey of Stevens Lake, Forest County, in spring 2008.

**Northern Pike**

We captured 44 adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Stevens Lake from April 29 through May 1, 2008. Nearly 30% (13 of 44) of the adult northern pike we captured were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike we captured was a 37.7-inch female.

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

**Walleye**

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Stevens Lake's adult\* walleye population from April 29 through May 1, 2008. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 387 adult walleye in three days of fyke netting. A crew sampled Stevens Lake with an electro-fishing boat on May 1st and captured 107 adult walleye. Nearly 35% (37 of 107) of those walleye had been marked during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Stevens Lake is home to 1,100 adult walleye (3.7/acre). Approximately 98% (1,075 of 1,100) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 26.7-inch female.

**Largemouth Bass**

Largemouth bass were not a primary target of our survey of Stevens Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak largemouth spawning. However, we did capture six largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Stevens Lake. All of those largemouth were greater than 14 inches long. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 20 inches long.

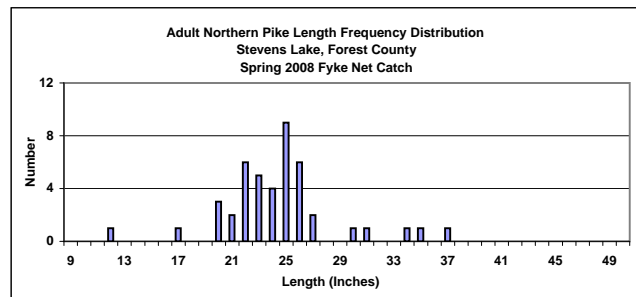


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 44 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Stevens Lake, Forest County, in spring 2008.

## Other Species

We captured eight species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Stevens Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Yellow perch were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught black crappie, bluegill, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, white sucker and yellow bullhead. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2008.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Stevens Lake this year. Creel clerk Don Morrell will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2008 open-water fishing season.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Stevens Lake, Forest County, 2008**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 3 - March 1	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 3 - June 20 (C&R) June 21 - March 1 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 24 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 - March 1	2	26

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Stevens 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 2009. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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