



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: SOUTH TURTLE

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2010

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, from April 1 through May 5, 2010, to determine the health of its fishery. Estimating walleye abundance was the primary objective of the survey. South Turtle Lake is a drainage lake with chiefly sand and gravel substrate and a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 454 acres, 6.2 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 23 feet.

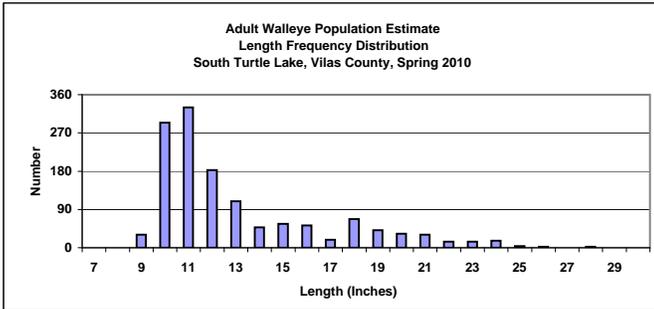


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 1,345 adult* walleye estimated to be in South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2010 survey.

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

Walleye

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of South Turtle Lake's adult* walleye population from April 1-10, 2010. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 396 adult walleye in 10 days of fyke netting. A crew sampled South Turtle Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 10th and captured 141 adult walleye. Approximately 26% (37 of 141) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that there were 1,345 adult walleye (3.0 /acre) in South Turtle Lake. Nearly 30% (399 of 1,345) of adult walleye were 14 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 28.2-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass

Our sampling of South Turtle Lake was not conducted at the appropriate time to estimate smallmouth bass abundance. Incidental to our other sampling we captured 28 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger. Roughly one-half of those smallmouth (15 of 28) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 19.3 inches long.

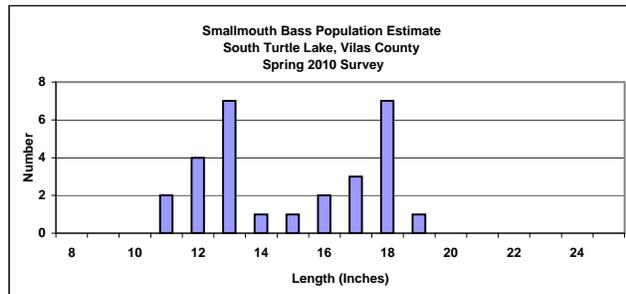


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 28 smallmouth bass ≥ 8 " captured during a fisheries survey of South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

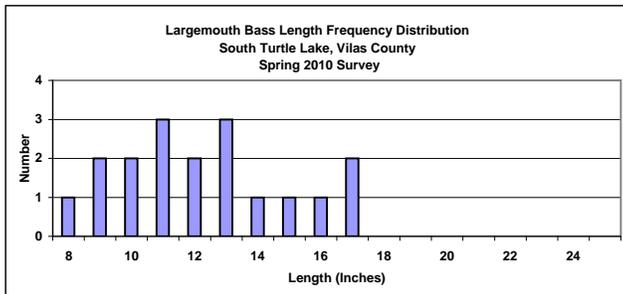


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 18 largemouth bass ≥ 8 " captured during a fisheries survey of South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

Largemouth Bass

Our sampling of South Turtle Lake was also done outside the spawning period for largemouth bass. We captured 18 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of South Turtle Lake. Nearly 28% (5 of 18) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 17.6 inches long.

Northern Pike

We captured 45 adult* northern pike in fyke nets fished in South Turtle Lake from April 1-10, 2010. The Largest northern pike we captured was a 26.1-inch female.

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

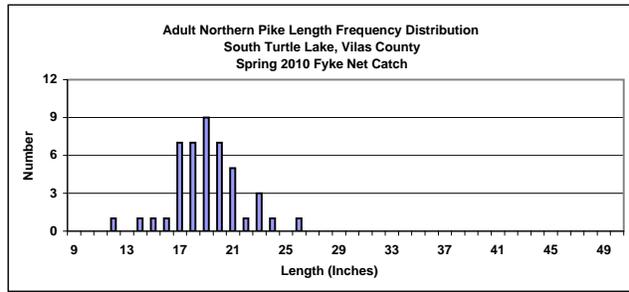


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 45 adult* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

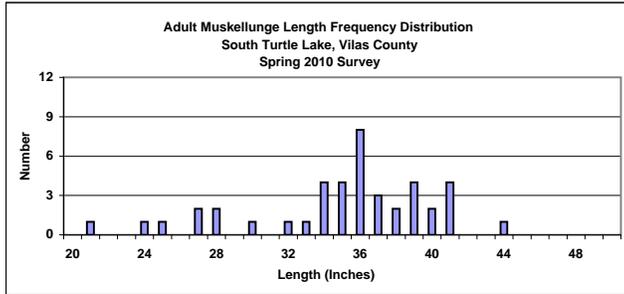


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 42 adult* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

Muskellunge

We captured 42 adult* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of South Turtle Lake. Over 76% of the adult muskellunge (32 of 42) we captured were 34 inches long or larger. One of every six muskellunge captured were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 44.7-inch female.

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

Other Species

We captured eight species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of South Turtle Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Yellow perch were the most abundant species in our fyke net catches. Black crappie, bluegill and rock bass were common. We also caught burbot, greater redhorse, pumpkinseed 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 South Turtle Lake this year. Creel clerk Marty Kiepke will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2010-11 fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, 2010

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 1 - March 6	2	No minimum, only one over 14"
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 South Turtle 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>

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