



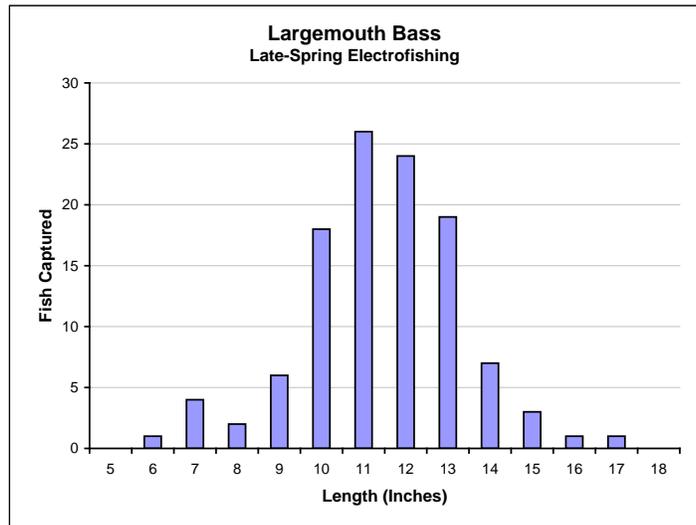
## Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Blueberry Lake, Sawyer County, 2011

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey on Blueberry Lake during June 3-4, 2011 as part of our baseline monitoring program. A total of 2.25 miles of shoreline was sampled (0.75 mile sub-sampled for panfish). Primary target species were largemouth bass and bluegill. A fyke netting survey conducted by our team in early May documented the status of the walleye, northern pike, and black crappie populations. Those results are presented in a separate survey summary. 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.

### Largemouth Bass



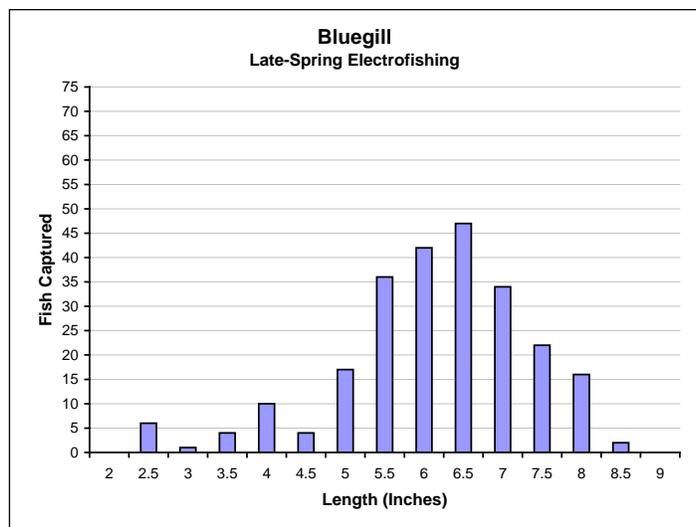
Captured 48 per mile $\geq 8''$	
Quality Size $\geq 12''$	51%
Preferred Size $\geq 15''$	11%



### Bluegill



Captured 313 per mile $\geq 3''$	
"Keeper" Size $\geq 7''$	31%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	8%



## Summary of Results

Water temperature of Blueberry Lake was 63°F at the time of this survey, allowing for a representative sample of the largemouth bass and bluegill populations.

Largemouth bass were captured at a high frequency (48 per mile), but size structure was poor. Most bass were “stacked up” below the minimum length limit of 14 inches. Growth data were not collected, but the relative abundance of small bass suggests that growth rates are very poor. Additionally, very few young bass (typically 3 inches at age 1 and 6-7 inches at age 2) were observed in this survey. The high volume of fish in the 10-14 inch size range may be limiting bass recruitment through cannibalism or intra-specific competition. This population would likely benefit from more liberalized harvest regulations to reduce the density of 10-14 inch fish.

The bluegill population in Blueberry Lake could be described as above average for the area in terms of abundance and size structure. Our sample contained a desirable proportion of “keeper size” bluegills. It appears that abundant largemouth bass are providing enough predation on small and mid-size bluegills to limit their density, allowing for adequate growth rates. Any reduction in the number of small bass through increased harvest should be coupled with efforts to protect mid-size bass and/or increase walleye abundance to maintain a level of predation that will sustain bluegill fishing quality.

Black bullhead, black crappie, pumpkinseed, rock bass, walleye, yellow bullhead, and yellow perch were also captured in low numbers during this survey.

Report By: Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County

Edited By: Dave Neuswanger – Fisheries Supervisor, Hayward Field Unit, 4/15/13

Approved for Posting By: Steve Avelallemant – Fisheries Supervisor, Northern District,  
12/23/13