



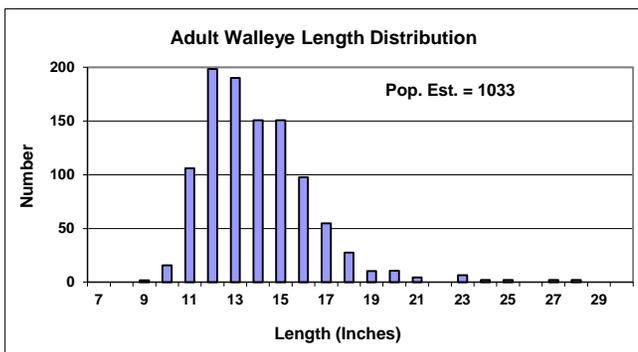
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** PAPOOSE

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Papoose Lake, Vilas County, from March 25 through May 30, 2012, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Papoose Lake is a spring lake with predominantly gravel/rock substrate and an average walleye population. It has a surface area of 422 acres, 6.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 65 feet.



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

**Walleye**

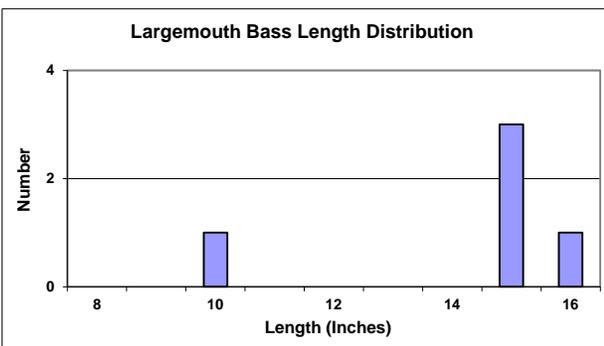
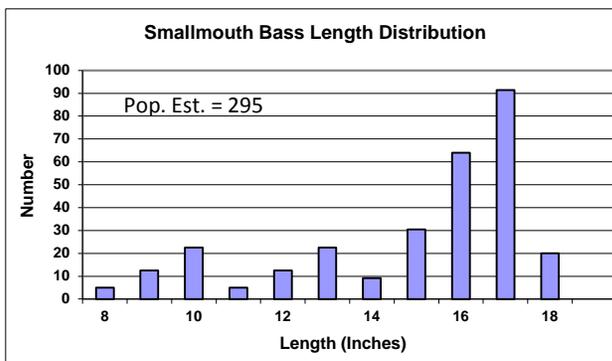


A mark-recapture survey of Papoose Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from March 25 to April 9, 2012. During 16 days of fyke netting, 613 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Papoose Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 9 and captured 198 adult walleye. During electrofishing, 59% (117 of 198) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Papoose Lake was estimated to contain 1033 adult walleye (2.4 /acre). An estimated 36% (371 of 1033) of the adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 28.2-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**



A mark-recapture survey of Papoose Lake's smallmouth bass population (fish greater than 8 inches) was conducted from March 25 to May 30, 2012. During sampling conducted through May 22, 105 smallmouth bass were captured and marked with a fin clip. On May 30, a crew sampled Papoose Lake by electrofishing and captured 49 smallmouth bass. Sixteen of these bass bore the fin clip from earlier sampling. Based on those results, Papoose Lake was estimated to contain 295 smallmouth bass greater than 8 inches. Within the population an estimated 7% (20 of 295) of the smallmouth bass are greater than 18 inches. The largest smallmouth captured during sampling was 18.7 inches long.



**Largemouth Bass**



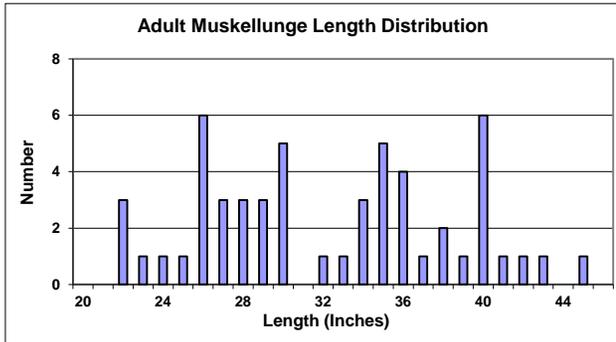
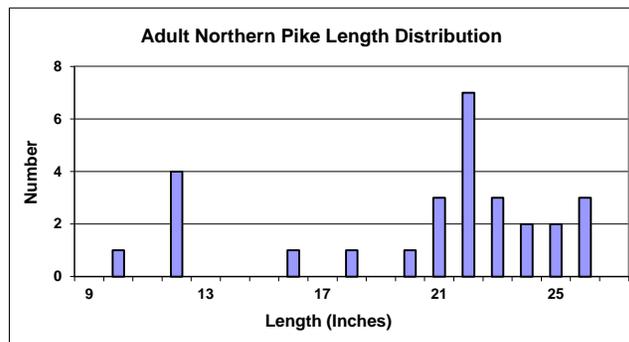
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from Papoose Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 27, 3 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger were captured. The largest largemouth captured was 15 inches long.

## Northern Pike



From March 25 through April 27, 2012, 28 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in Papoose Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 89% (25 of 28) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 26.8-inch female.

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



## Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Papoose Lake 54 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured 19% (10 of 54) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 45.1-inch female.

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

## Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 9 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Papoose Lake. Rock bass were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of bluegill, yellow perch and pumpkinseeds. Other species sampled included black crappie, creek chub, burbot, white sucker, and grass pickerel.

A creel survey will be conducted on Papoose Lake throughout the 2012-2013 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Chuck Janov will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Papoose Lake, Vilas County, 2012**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 5 - June 15 (C&R) June 16 - March 3 (Harvest)	None 1 in total	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 26 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 5 - March 3	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Papoose 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://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations\\_index.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations_index.html)

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2013. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Papoose Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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