



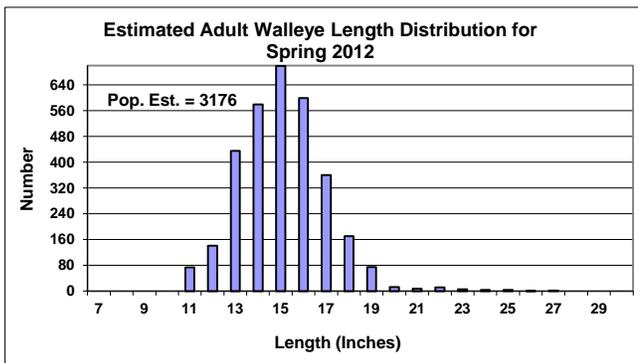
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: PLUM

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Plum Lake, Vilas County, from March 27 through May 29, 2012, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Plum Lake is a drainage lake of moderate fertility with substantial areas of gravel substrate and a high quality walleye population. Plum Lake has a surface area of 1033 acres, 14.5 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 57 feet.



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

Walleye

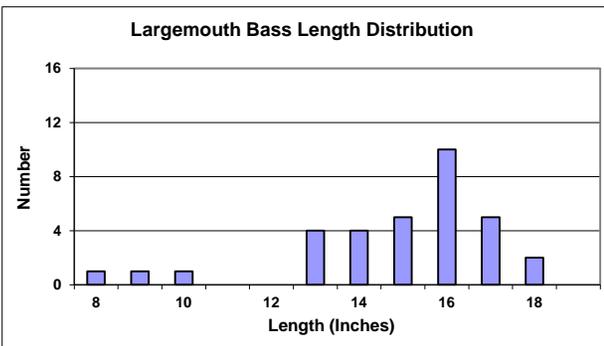
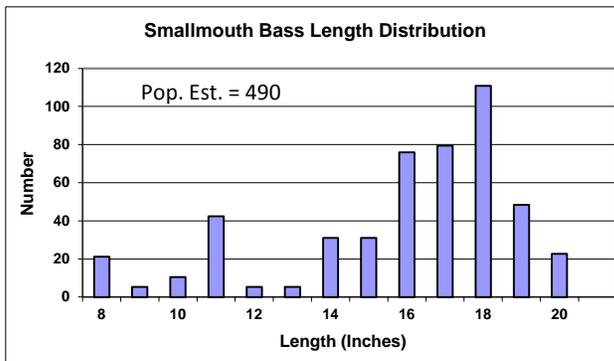


A mark-recapture survey of Plum Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from March 27 - April 14, 2012. During 18 days of fyke netting, 1264 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. On April 14, three crews sampled Plum Lake with electro-fishing boats and captured 290 adult walleye. During electrofishing, 39% (112 of 290) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Plum Lake was estimated to contain 3176 adult walleye (3.1 /acre). Approximately 80% (2528 of 3176) of adult walleye were 14 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured during the survey was a 27.7-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass



A mark-recapture survey of Plum Lake's smallmouth bass population (fish greater than 8 inches) was conducted from March 27 - May 29, 2012. During sampling, 144 smallmouth bass were captured and marked with a fin clip. On May 29, three crews sampled Plum Lake with electro-fishing boats and captured 38 smallmouth bass. Nine of these bass bore the fin clip given during earlier sampling. Based on those results, Plum Lake was estimated to contain 490 smallmouth bass greater than 8 inches. Within the population an estimated 69% (337 of 490) of the smallmouth bass are greater than 18 inches. The largest smallmouth captured during the survey was 20.7 inches in length.



Largemouth Bass



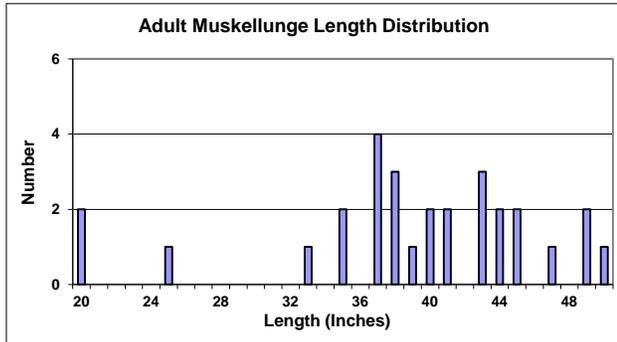
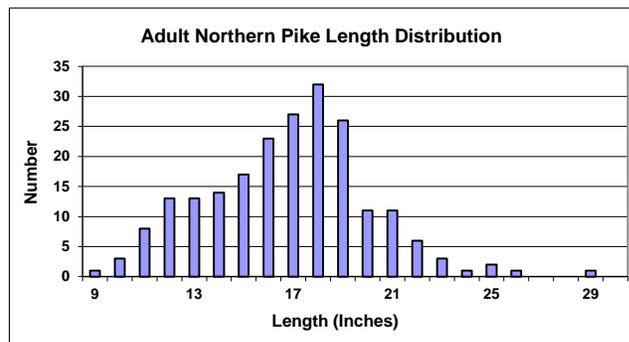
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from Plum Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 25, 29 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth, 7 percent (2 of 29) were 18 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 18.0 inches long.

Northern Pike



From March 27-April 14, 2012, 213 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in Plum Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured, 99% (211 of 213) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 29.7-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 Plum Lake, 28 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 54% (15 of 28) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 50.4-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, 11 species of fish were captured during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Plum Lake. Yellow perch, bluegill and black crappie were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of rock bass and pumpkinseeds. Other species sampled included black and yellow bullheads, burbot, brook trout, white sucker, and greater redhorse.

A creel survey will be conducted on Plum Lake throughout the 2012-13 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Lynn Robinson 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 Plum Lake, Vilas County, 2012-2013

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	3	No minimum, 14-18" protected slot with only 1 over 18"
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 Plum 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

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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