



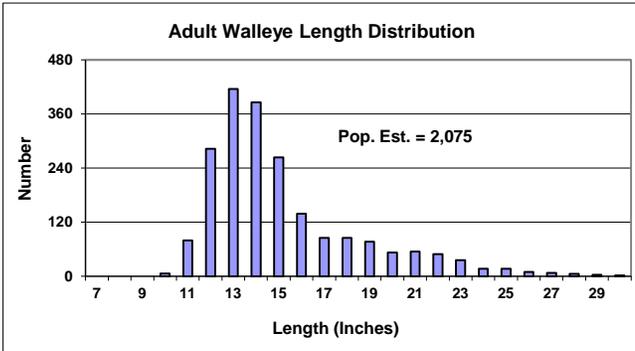
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: PRESQUE ISLE CHAIN

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed the Presque Isle Chain of lakes, Vilas County, from March 26 through June 5, 2012, to determine the health of its fishery. The primary objective of the survey was to estimate walleye and muskellunge abundance in the chain. The Presque Isle Chain, composed of Averill, Presque Isle and Van Vliet lakes, is a drainage system with predominantly sand substrate and a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 1,571 acres, 15.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 80 feet.



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

Walleye

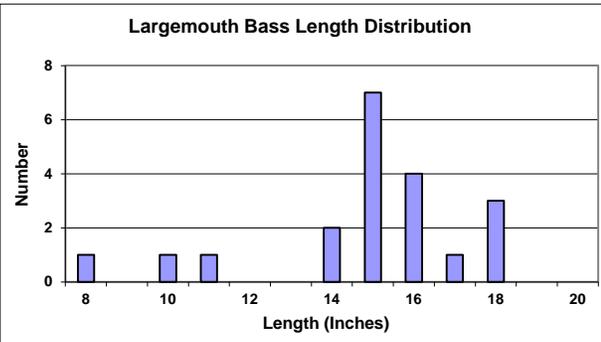
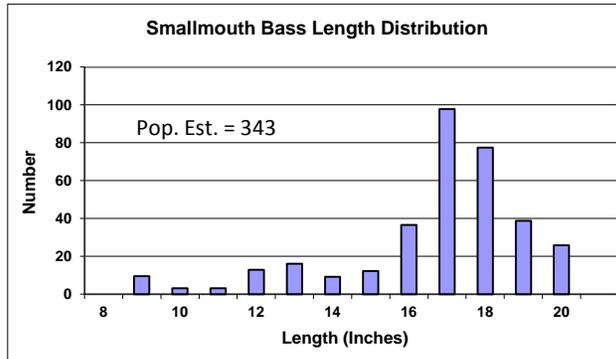


A mark-recapture survey of the Presque Isle Chain adult walleye population was conducted from March 26 through April 17, 2012. During 23 days of fyke netting, 1,033 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Three crews sampled the Presque Isle Chain with electro-fishing boats on April 17th and captured 250 adult walleye. During electrofishing 51% (127 of 250) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Presque Isle Chain was estimated to contain 2,075 adult walleye (1.3/acre). An estimated 44% (905 of 2,075) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 30.1-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass



A mark-recapture survey of the Presque Isle Lake's smallmouth bass population (greater than 8 inches) was conducted from March 26 through June 5, 2012. A total of 120 fish were marked during the sampling period. On June 5, three crews sampled the lake by electrofishing and captured 60 smallmouth bass. Twenty of these bass bore the mark given during earlier sampling. Based on those results, Presque Isle Lake was estimated to contain 343 smallmouth bass greater than 8 inches in length. Within the population an estimated 41% (142 of 343) of the smallmouth bass are greater than 18 inches. The largest fish captured during the survey was 21.4 inches in length.



Largemouth Bass



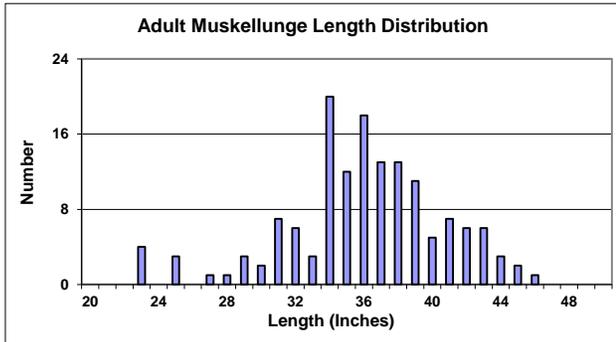
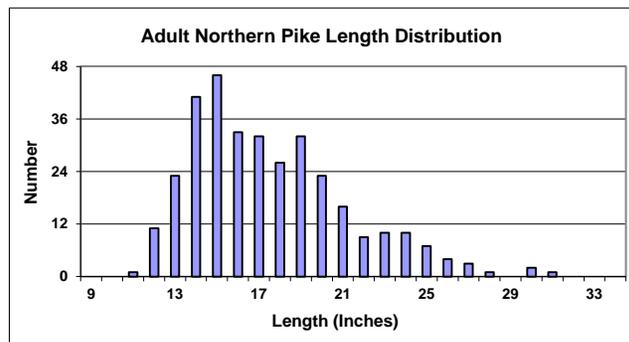
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 27th, 20 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 15% (3 of 20) were 18 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 18.4 inches long.

Northern Pike



From March 26 through April 27, 2012, 331 adult northern pike were captured during Presque Isle Chain sampling. Of the adult northern pike captured, 3% (11 of 331) were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike captured was a 31.1-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 the Presque Isle Chain, 147 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 20% (30 of 147) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 46.1-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, 12 species of fish were captured during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of the Presque Isle Chain. Bluegill, pumpkinseed and yellow perch were the most common species in our fyke net catches. Also caught were black bullhead, black crappie, burbot, common shiner, creek chub, lake herring (cisco), rock bass, tiger muskellunge and white sucker.

A creel survey will be conducted on the Presque Isle Chain throughout the 2012-2013 fishing season. Creel clerk Marty Kiepkie 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 the Presque Isle Chain, Vilas County, 2012-13

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	2	No minimum, only one over 14"
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 the Presque Isle Chain 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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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for the Presque Isle Chain, Vilas County, contact:

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