



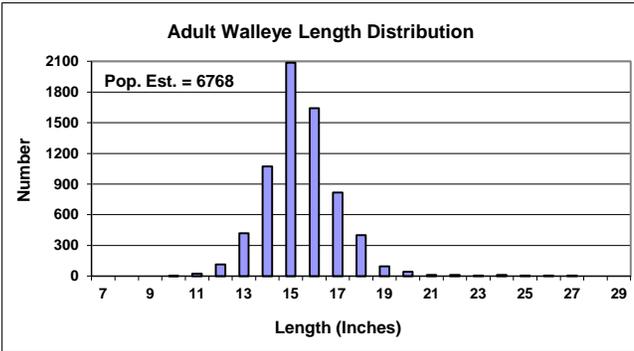
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: RAINBOW FLOWAGE

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Rainbow Flowage, Oneida County, from March 27 through April 13, 2012, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the flowage's fishery. Rainbow Flowage is an impoundment with predominantly sand substrate and a moderate walleye population. It has a surface area of 3153 acres, 22.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 28 feet. Rainbow Flowage fluctuates in capacity so the acreage, miles of shoreline, and maximum depth are based on full capacity.



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

Walleye

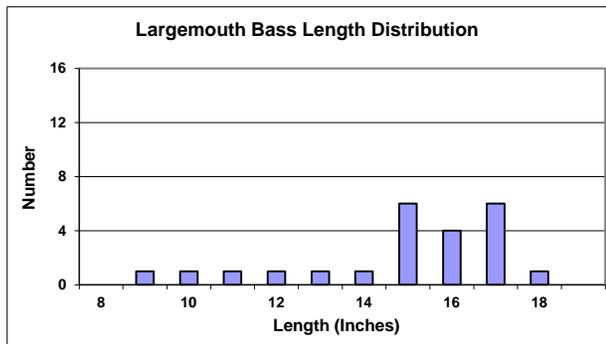
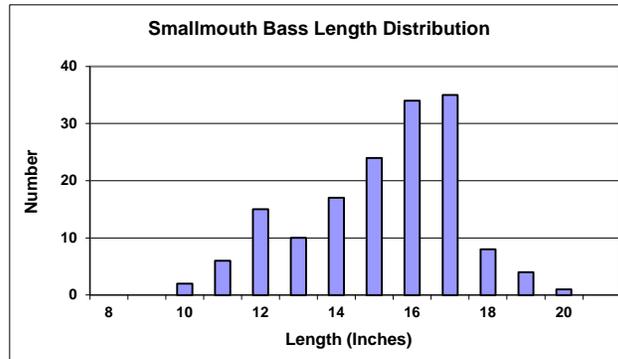


A mark-recapture survey of Rainbow Flowage's adult walleye population was conducted from March 27 through April 9. During 14 days of fyke netting and electrofishing, 1764 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews sampled with electro-fishing boats on April 12 and April 13 and captured 596 adult walleye. During electrofishing 26% (155 of 596) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Rainbow Flowage was estimated to contain 6768 adult walleye (3.3 /acre). An estimated 76% (5135 of 6768) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 27.2 inch female.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Rainbow Flowage to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 13, 156 smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 79 % (123 of 156) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 20.2 inches long.



Largemouth Bass



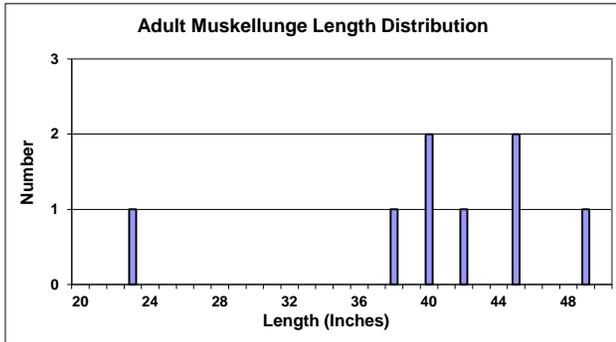
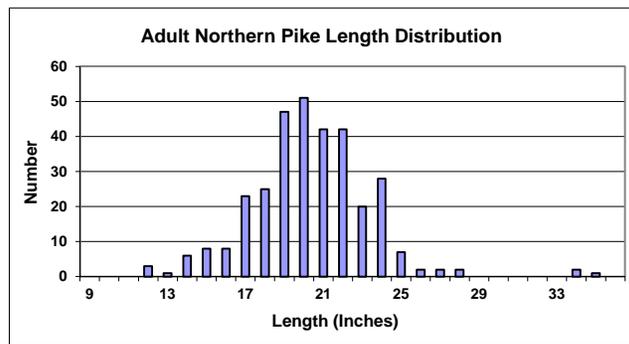
Survey crews were also unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from Rainbow Flowage to estimate the population size. During sampling, 23 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 78 % (18 of 23) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 18.7 inches long.

Northern Pike



From March 27 through April, 10 2012, 320 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in the flowage. Of the adult northern pike captured 97% (311 of 320) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 35.7 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 Rainbow Flowage, 8 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 75% (6 of 8) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 49.0 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, 18 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Rainbow Flowage. Black crappie and yellow perch were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of bluegill, yellow bullhead, white sucker, rockbass, and black bullhead. Other species sampled included pumpkinseed, silver redhorse, shorthead redhorse, golden redhorse, bluegill x pumpkinseed, golden shiner, northern hognose sucker, burbot, tiger musky, trout perch, and cisco.

A creel survey will be conducted on Rainbow Flowage throughout the 2012-2013 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Dean Johnson 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 Rainbow Flowage, Oneida County, 2012-13

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	2	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 5 - June 15 (C&R) June 16 - March 3 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 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 Rainbow Flowage 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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