

Lake Mendota Spring Fyke Netting – 2002

Fish sampling on the Madison Chain follows a 5 year rotation. Every year, 1 lake receives a **COMPREHENSIVE** survey, and the other lakes receive spring and fall **INDEX** sampling. Comprehensive surveys combine intensive spring netting efforts and spring and fall electro-fishing runs to cover the entire lake shore. Comprehensive surveys target walleye, northern pike, and musky, provide insight on the adult component of those fisheries, and are used to determine population estimates. Estimates are derived from a mark period (fyke netting) and recapture period (spring electro-fishing). **The last comprehensive survey conducted on Lake Mendota occurred in 2002.** Index sampling uses only electro-fishing directed at selected sites in spring and fall. Index sampling monitors bass, panfish, and young-of-year fish most effectively. Our purpose is to describe the size and condition of major fish populations of recreational interest, assess regulation, and suggest necessary management actions. These brief summaries represent the most recent data and comparisons to the previous survey. Questions can be directed to: Kurt Welke, Fisheries Manager for Dane County, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711. Phone: 608-273-5946, E-mail: Kurt.welke@dnr.state.wi.us. This information is also posted at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/fish/pages/reports/final.html>

2002

Northern Pike

Total Captured:	611
Avg. Length (in.):	24.7
Length Range (in.):	7.1 – 44.4
% Legal (>40"):	0.8
Population Est.(>26"):	0.10 / acre



Walleye

Total Captured:	3,352
Avg. Length (in.):	17.4
Length Range (in.):	9.6 – 29.6
% Legal (>18"):	27.9
Population Est.(>18"):	0.29 / acre



Largemouth Bass

Total Captured:	660
Avg. Length (in.):	10.8
Length Range (in.):	5.0 – 22.0
% Legal (>18"):	10.6
Population Est. (>4")	0.8 / acre



Smallmouth Bass

Total Captured:	63
Avg. Length (in.):	13.8
Length Range (in.):	11.3 – 17.0
Population Est. (All)	0.12 / acre



Channel Catfish

Total Captured:	173
Avg. Length (in.):	20.7
Length Range (in.):	8.8 – 32.7



Bluegill

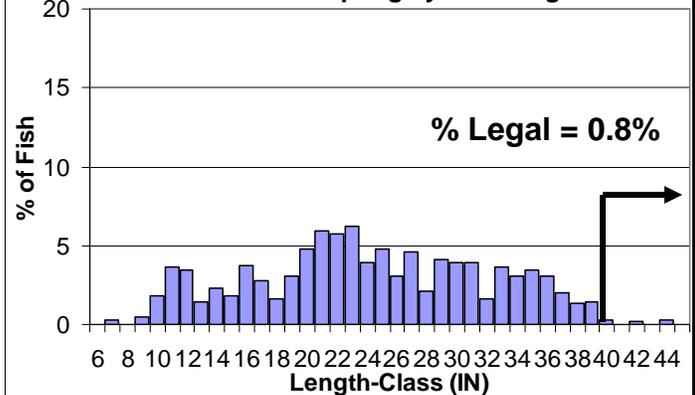
Total Captured:	294
Avg. Length (in.):	7.4
Length Range (in.):	3.2 – 10.1



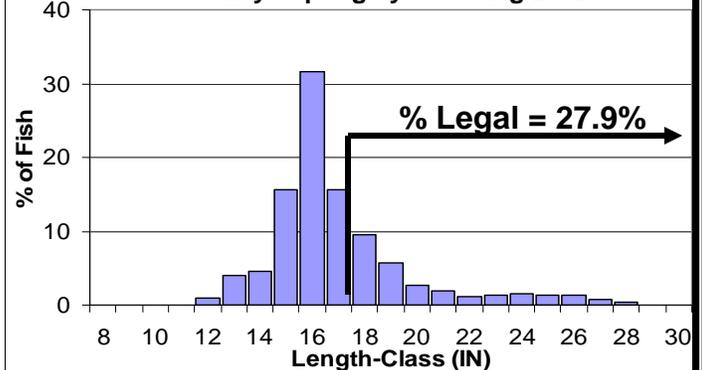
What this all means:

The "big lake" has established walleye and pike populations that compare favorably or surpass similar stocked fisheries statewide. The pike size distribution is well balanced with good numbers of quality length fish (>28") and 9% poised to surge into the 40" minimum (trophy) size. Walleye size structure appears heavily influenced by harvest with a significant drop in fish > 18". Largemouth and smallmouth are common in their respective preferred habitats, with strong year classes evident for both in 2005. 2006 perch surveys indicated a good spawn and modest improvements in adult fish numbers.

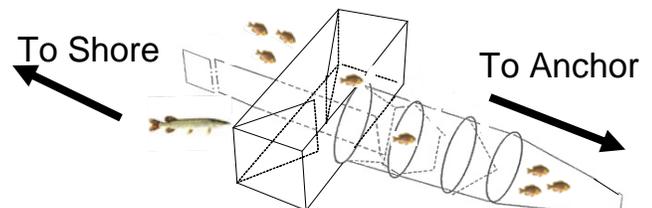
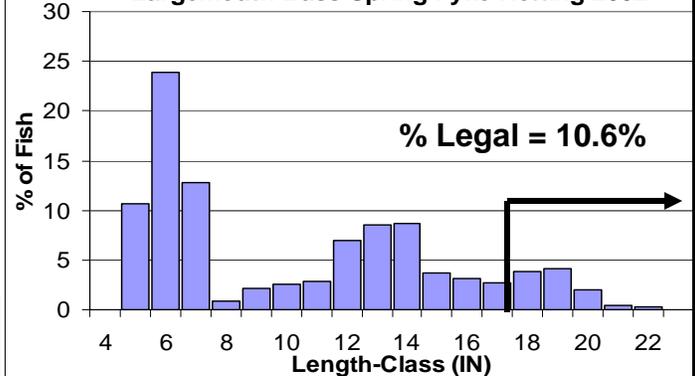
Northern Pike Spring Fyke Netting 2002



Walleye Spring Fyke Netting 2002



Largemouth Bass Spring Fyke Netting 2002



Lake Mendota Fall Electrofishing – 2007

WALLEYE

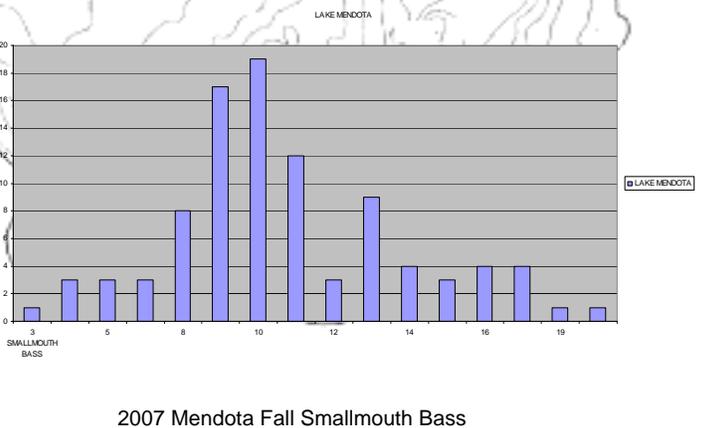
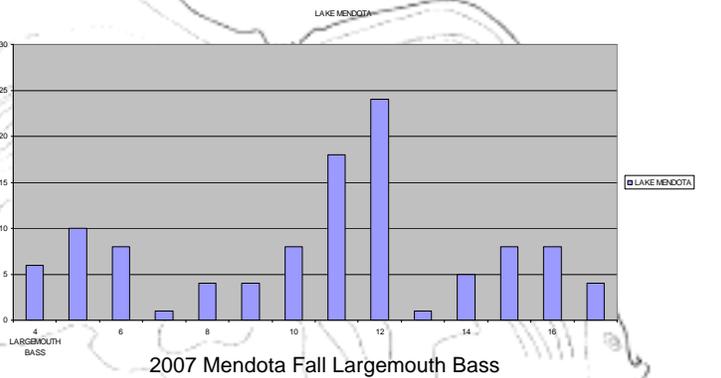
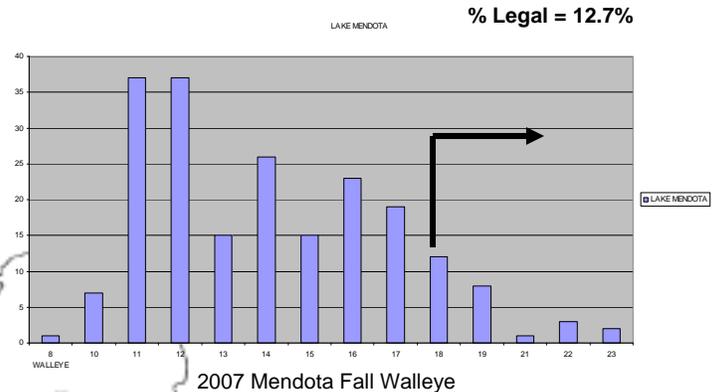
	2005	2006	2007
Total Captured	123	171	206
Ave. length (inches)	14.2	14.6	14.5
Length Range	4.0 – 20.2	5.0 – 22.6	8.6 - 23.9
% legal (> 18")	18.7	19.3	12.7
% YOY (<7")	23.3	11.7	1.0

LARGEMOUTH BASS

	2005	2006	2007
Total Captured	80	42	109
Ave. length (inches)	9.0	11.3	11.1
Length Range	3.8 – 17.1	5.0-19.0	4.0 – 17.8
% YOY (<7")	58.8	2.4	22.9
% legal (>18")			0

SMALLMOUTH BASS

	2005	2006	2007
Total Captured	16	69	95
Ave. length (inches)	8.8	10.3	11.1
Length Range	3.6 – 17.0	3.7 – 16.7	3.7 – 20.6"
% legal (> 18")			2.2
% YOY (<5.0")	37.5	23.2	7.3



Stocking:

Year	Species	Number stocked	Ave length
2000	Northern Pike	2,500	7.5
2000	Northern Pike	8,466	7.5
2000	Walleye	100,122	1.5
2001	Walleye	600	5.0
2001	Northern Pike	6,755	7.5
2002	Northern Pike	7,500	7.8
2002	Walleye	48,645	1.3
2002	Walleye	52,703	1.3
2004	Walleye	50,000	1.4
2004	Walleye	54,377	1.4
2004	Northern Pike	200,000	0.1 (fry)
2006	Walleye	344,890	2.2
2006	Northern Pike	2,508	7.4
2006	Northern Pike	3,298	2.8



Mendota is scheduled for comprehensive sampling in 2009