



WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: SNIPE

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2009

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Snipe Lake, Vilas County, from April 19 through April 23, 2009, to assess the lake's walleye fishery. Snipe Lake currently has a moderate-density, natural walleye population.

Snipe Lake is an infertile seepage lake with a surface area of 239 acres, maximum depth of 15 feet and 3.5 miles of shoreline. The dominant substrate types in Snipe Lake are sand and gravel.

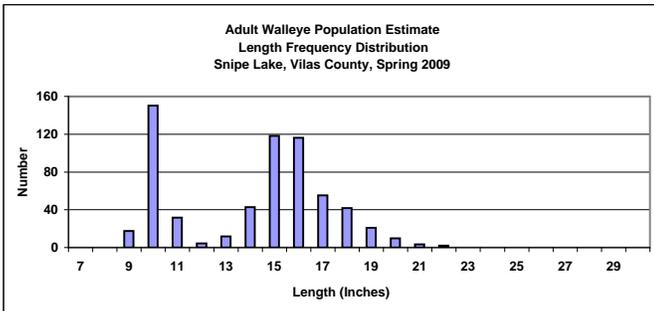


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 626 adult* walleye estimated to be in Snipe Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

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

Walleye

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Snipe Lake's adult* walleye population from April 19-23, 2009. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 352 adult walleye in five days of fyke netting. A crew sampled Snipe Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 23rd and captured 53 adult walleye. Nearly 55% (29 of 53) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Snipe Lake is home to 626 adult walleye (2.6/acre). Approximately 59% (367 of 626) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 22.7-inch female.

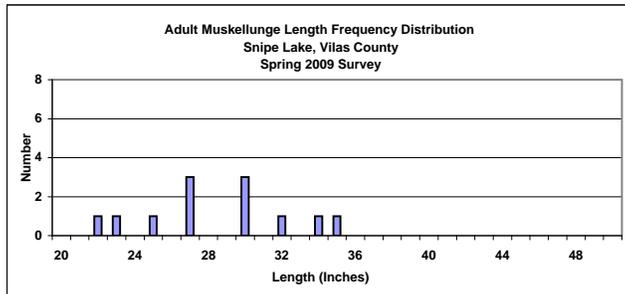


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 12 adult* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Snipe Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2009.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex >= 20 inches long.

Muskellunge

We captured 12 adult* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 35.2-inch female.

Other Species

We captured one 11.6-inch smallmouth bass from Snipe Lake. We caught six species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Yellow perch were common in our catches. Black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and white sucker were caught in moderate numbers through the sampling period. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2009.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Snipe Lake this year. Creel clerk John Logan will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2009 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Snipe Lake, Vilas County, 2009

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 7	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 7 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 23 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 2 - March 7	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Snipe 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://www.dnr.wi.gov/fish/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2010. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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