



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: METONGA

COUNTY: FOREST

YEAR: 2010

Michael Preul, Mole Lake Tribal Fisheries Biologist, and his crew sampled Lake Metonga, Forest County, from April 6 through June 7, 2010, to complete a survey focused on estimating the abundance of the lake's walleye and smallmouth bass populations. Lake Metonga is a deep, clear-water drainage lake with predominantly sand and gravel substrate and a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 1,991 acres, 7.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 79 feet.

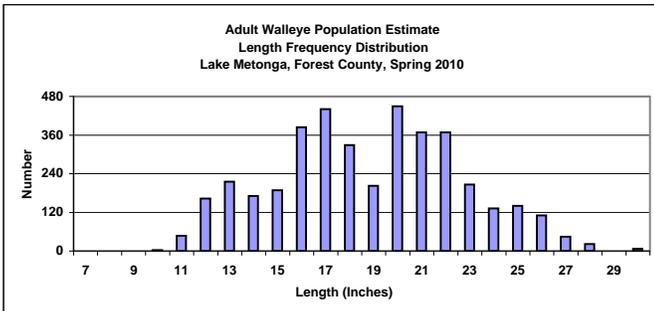


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 3,993 adult* walleye estimated to be in Lake Metonga, Forest County, based on a spring 2010 survey.

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

Walleye

The Mole Lake crew conducted a mark-recapture survey of Lake Metonga's adult* walleye population from April 6-19, 2010. They captured and marked (fin clipped) 1,245 adult walleye in 12 days of fyke netting and electrofishing. Their crew sampled Lake Metonga with an electro-fishing boat on April 19th and captured 171 adult walleye. Nearly 40% (68 of 171) of those walleye had been given the fin clip in previous sampling.

Based on those results, we estimated that Lake Metonga is home to 3,993 adult walleye (2.0/acre). Nearly 85% (3,392 of 3,993) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 30.7-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass

The Mole Lake crew also completed a mark-recapture survey of Lake Metonga's smallmouth bass population from April 6 through June 7, 2010. They captured and marked 468 smallmouth bass through June 6th. Their electro-fishing crew captured 133 smallmouth bass on June 7th. Nearly 17% (22 of 133) of those smallmouth had been marked (fin clipped) in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that 2,930 smallmouth bass, 8-inches or larger, inhabited Lake Metonga. Approximately 49% (1,445 of 2,930) of those smallmouth were 14 inches long or larger. Nearly 9% (257 of 2,930) were 18 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth we captured was 20.6 inches long.

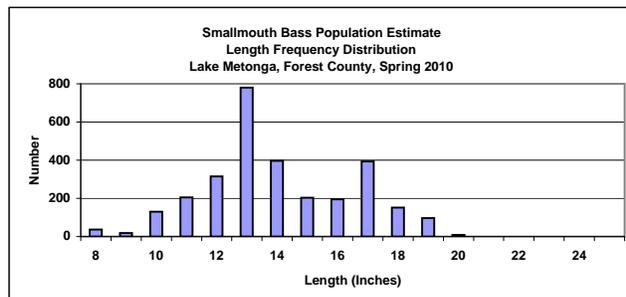


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 2,930 smallmouth bass \geq 8" estimated to be in Lake Metonga, Forest County, based on a spring 2010 survey.

* Note: All values given above are for smallmouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

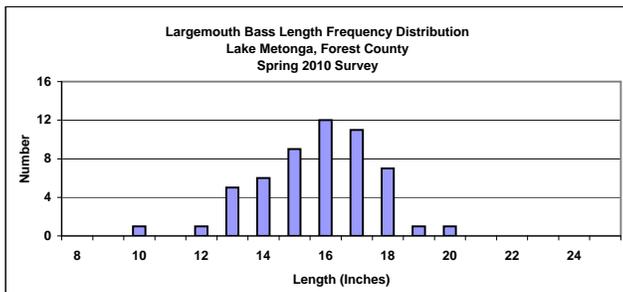


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 54 largemouth bass \geq 8" captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Metonga, Forest County, in spring 2010.

Largemouth Bass

The Mole Lake crew captured 54 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Metonga. Approximately 87% (47 of 54) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 20.2 inches long.

Northern Pike

The Mole Lake crew captured 15 adult* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Lake Metonga from April 6-30, 2010. Five of the adult northern pike they captured were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike captured was a 32.2-inch female.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex \geq 12 inches long.

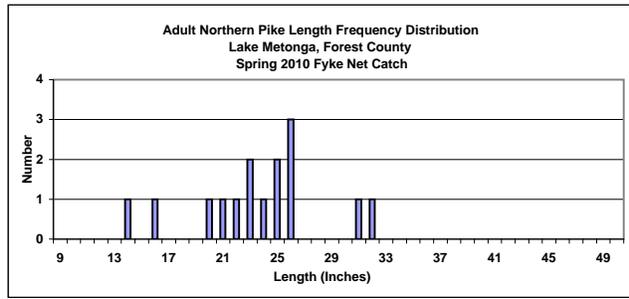


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 15 adult* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Lake Metonga, Forest County, in spring 2010.

Other Surveys

In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2010. We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Lake Metonga this year. Creel clerk Scott Yonker will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2010 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Lake Metonga, Forest County, 2010

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 1 - March 6	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 1 - June 18 (C&R) June 19 - March 6 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 29 - Nov. 30	1	34
Northern Pike	May 1 - March 6	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Lake Metonga 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 2011. Spring survey and creel survey summaries will be posted at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

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