



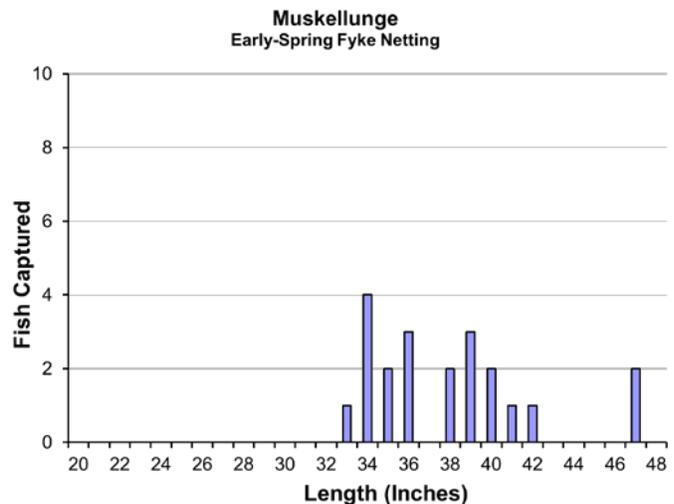
Early-Spring Fyke Netting Survey Summary Chippewa Flowage (East), Sawyer County, 2012

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on the east side of the Chippewa Flowage during April 24-25 and May 1-2, 2012 to assess the muskellunge and crappie populations. Eight nets were set overnight for four nights which resulted in 29 total net-nights of effort (3 nets did not fish properly). An electrofishing survey conducted in late May documented the status of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and bluegill. Those results are summarized in a separate survey report. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Muskellunge



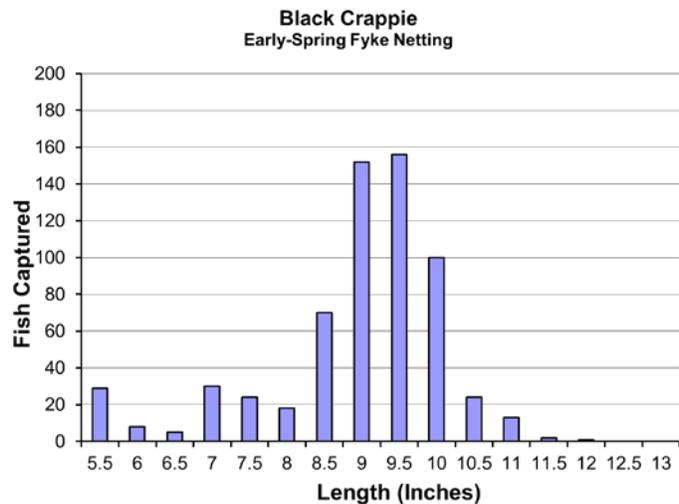
Captured 1 per net-night $\geq 20''$	
Quality Size $\geq 30''$	100%
Memorable Size $\geq 42''$	14%



Black Crappie



Captured 23 per net-night $\geq 5''$	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	82%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	22%



Summary of Results

These surveys targeted muskellunge and black crappies during their respective spawning seasons. Both male and female muskellunge were ripe at the time of the survey, and crappies were in shallow water beginning to set up on spawning beds. Water temperatures at the time of these surveys ranged between 55 and 59°F. Netting effort was spread throughout the east side (east of County Hwy CC) of the Flowage, including several sets on islands.

Muskellunge were captured at a moderate rate of 1 per net-night (slightly above the northern Wisconsin average), and size structure was good with many fish 40 inches and longer. However, only 14% of all muskellunge sampled were over 42 inches long, far below the desired range of 30-40% in the Chippewa Flowage Fishery Management Plan. We are concerned about the inadvertent mortality that can occur when large muskellunge are caught on live bait (large suckers) in the fall, depending significantly on the skill and ethics of individual anglers. The Chippewa Flowage continues to support a trophy muskellunge fishery with some natural reproduction which is supplemented by stocked fingerlings from the WDNR every third year. Muskellunge captured during this survey were implanted with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to track future growth and help identify fish used previously as broodstock.

Quality-size black crappies were captured at a moderate to high rate. The proportion of “preferred-size” crappies 10 inches and longer (22%) was within the 20-40% target range identified in our 2007 Management Plan. It appears that several large consecutive year classes are present in the Chippewa Flowage, symptomatic of reduced predation on juvenile crappie by a much-reduced population of adult walleye (only 3.1/acre in spring of 2011). The numerous 9- to 10-inch crappies provided excellent fishing in spring of 2012.

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