



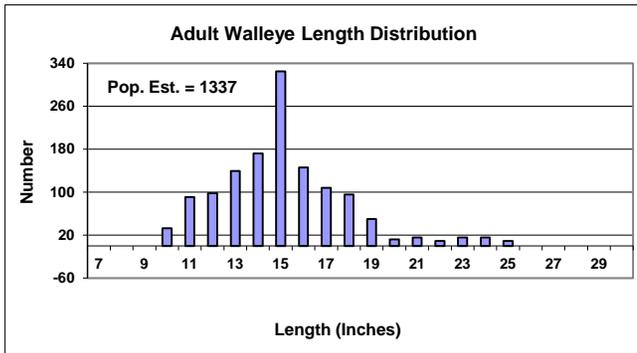
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: YELLOW BIRCH (EAGLE CHAIN)

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2013

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Yellow Birch Lake, Vilas County, from May 7 through May 14, 2013, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Yellow Birch Lake is a drainage lake with sand/gravel/rock substrate and a naturally reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 192 acres, 4.2 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 23 feet.



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

Walleye



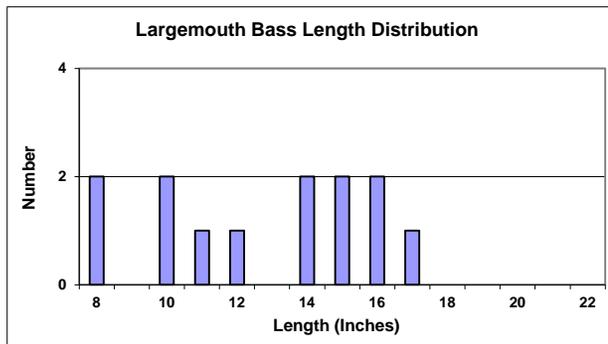
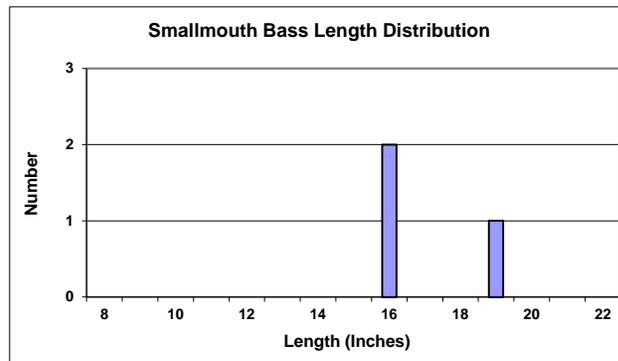
A mark-recapture survey of Yellow Birch Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from 5/7-5/12, 2013. During 6 days of fyke netting, 379 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Yellow Birch Lake with an electro-fishing boat on May 12 and captured 99 adult walleye. During electrofishing 28% (28 of 99) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye we captured was a 25.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Yellow Birch Lake was estimated to contain 1337 adult walleye (7.0/acre). An estimated 60% (803 of 1337) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



During sampling conducted through May 14, 2013 three smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 100% were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 19.7 inches long.



Largemouth Bass



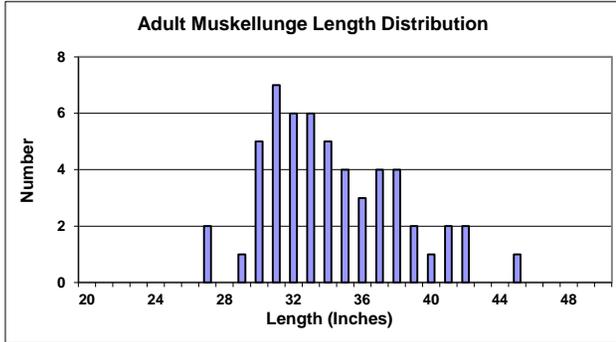
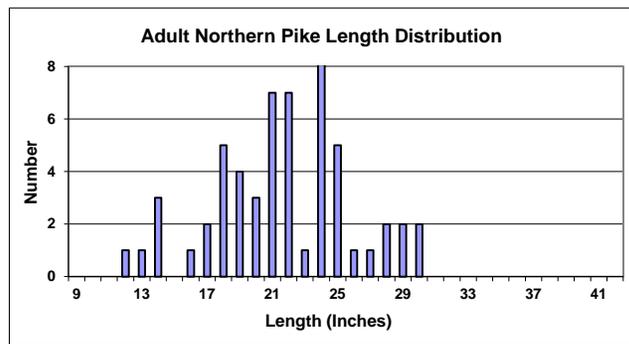
During sampling, thirteen largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 54% (7 of 13) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 17.2 inches long.

Northern Pike



From May 7 through May 14, 2013, 58 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets and electrofishing in Yellow Birch Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 86% (50 of 58) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 30.5-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 Yellow Birch Lake, 55 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 11% (6 of 55) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 45.3 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, fifteen species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Yellow Birch Lake. Yellow perch, bluegill, and black crappie were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of pumpkinseeds, rockbass, and white suckers. Other species sampled included burbot, golden shiner, shorthead redhorse, hornyhead chub, grass pickerel, yellow bullhead, creek chub, silver redhorse, and common shiner.

A creel survey will be conducted on Yellow Birch Lake throughout the 2013-2014 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Tom Lima 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 Yellow Birch Lake, Vilas County, 2013-14

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 4 - March 2	3	No minimum - 14-18" protected slot - only 1 over 18"
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 4 - June 14 (C&R) June 14 - March 2 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 25 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 4 - March 2	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Yellow Birch 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://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 2014. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Yellow Birch Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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