



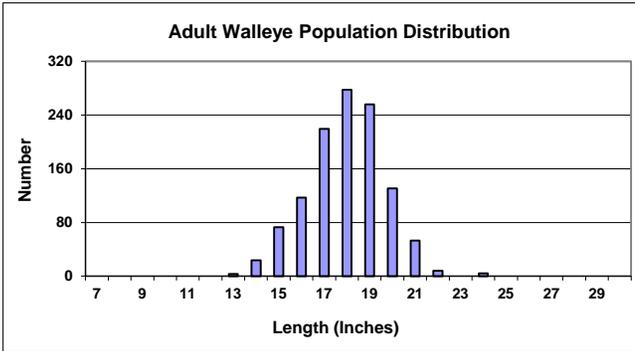
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: THUNDER

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2015

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Thunder Lake, Oneida County, from April 13th through April 18th, in order to assess the status of the walleye population. Thunder Lake is a drained lake with sand, muck, and some rocky substrates. It has a surface area of 1,768 acres, 10.6 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 9 feet. Thunder Lake's walleye population is maintained through stocking.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex \geq 15 inches in length.

Walleye



During five days of fyke netting, 185 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews then sampled with electro-fishing boats and captured 33 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 9% (3 of 33) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 24.2-inch female.

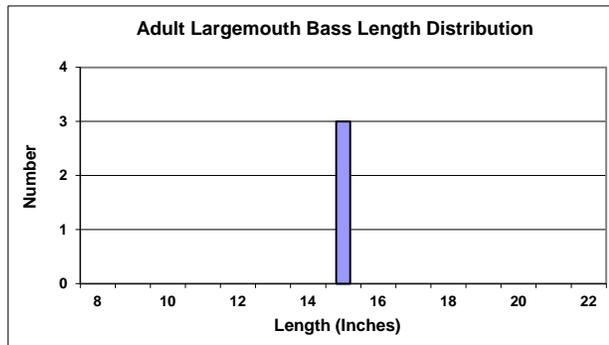
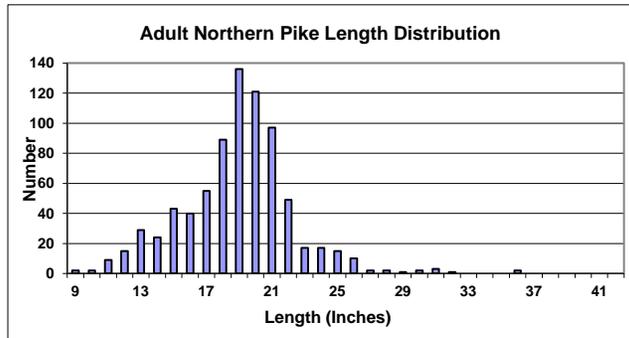
Based on those results, Thunder Lake was estimated to contain 1,167 adult walleye (0.7 /acre). An estimated 98% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Northern Pike



During our netting and electro-fishing surveys of Thunder Lake, we captured 804 adult northern pike. Of the adult northern pike captured, 97% were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 36.2-inch female.

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



Largemouth Bass



Largemouth bass were not a primary target of our survey of Thunder Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak largemouth spawning. Therefore, only three largemouth were captured during sampling; the largest being 15.5 inches in length. No smallmouth bass were sampled during our surveys.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, nine species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Thunder Lake. Yellow perch were fairly abundant and black crappie were common, while bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish (along with bluegill-pumpkinseed hybrids) were present in lower numbers. Other species sampled included black and yellow bullheads, white sucker, golden shiner, and one musky (24.5 inches).

A creel survey will be conducted on Thunder Lake throughout the 2015-16 fishing season. Creel clerks Shae Flood and Rich Cechal will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler catch and harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Thunder Lake, Oneida County, 2015-16

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 6	3	18" minimum length
Largemouth Bass	May 2 - March 6	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 6 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 23 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 2 - March 6	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Thunder Lake is included above (Table 1). In addition, motor trolling is permitted on Thunder Lake. 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/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June 2016 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrlsruvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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