



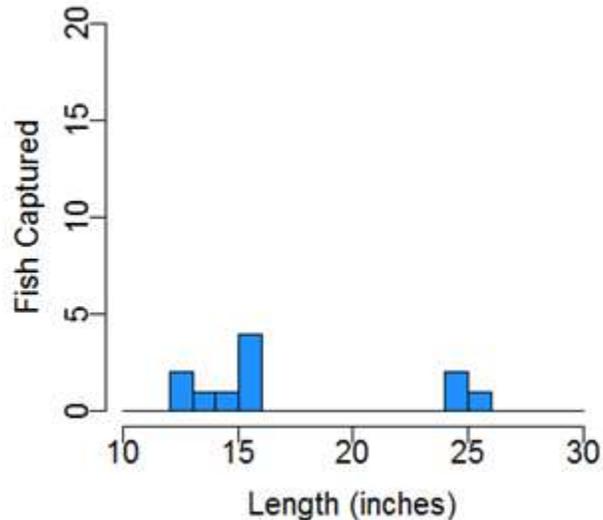
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Blaisdell Lake, Sawyer County, 2015

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Blaisdell Lake from April 11-14, 2015, to assess the adult walleye, muskellunge northern pike, yellow perch, and black crappie populations in the lake. Eight nets were set overnight for four nights which resulted in 27 total net-nights of effort (several nets were compromised by weather). An electrofishing survey conducted on May 13, 2015 documented the status of other game and non-game species in the lake and provided useful information on juvenile walleye. The entire shoreline of the lake was shocked (eight miles). 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.

Walleye (Adult)



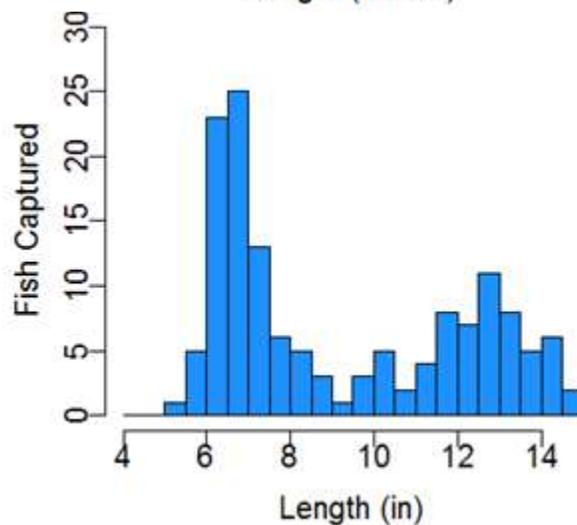
Captured 0.4 per net-night \geq 10 inches	
Quality Size \geq 15"	64%
Preferred Size \geq 20"	2.7%



Walleye (Juvenile)



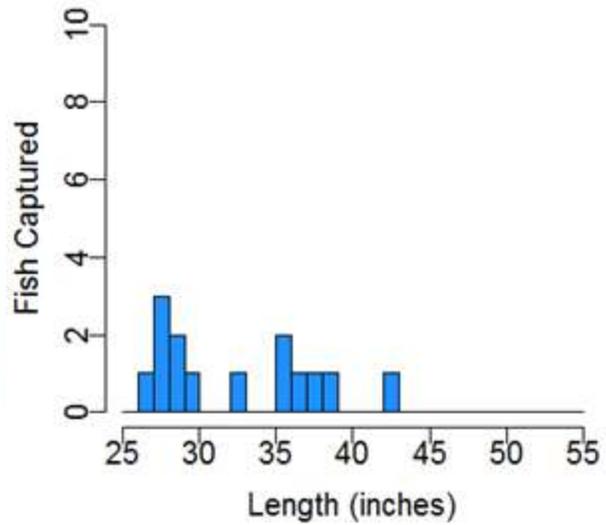
Captured 15 per mile \leq 10 inches



Muskellunge



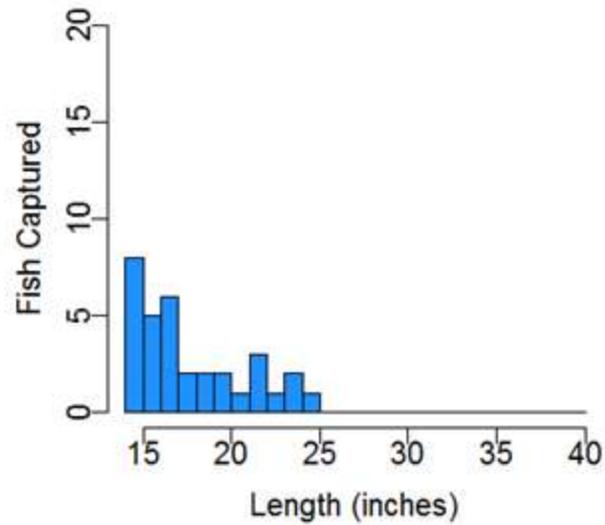
Captured 0.5 per net-night ≥ 20 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 30"	50%
Memorable Size ≥ 42"	7%



Northern Pike



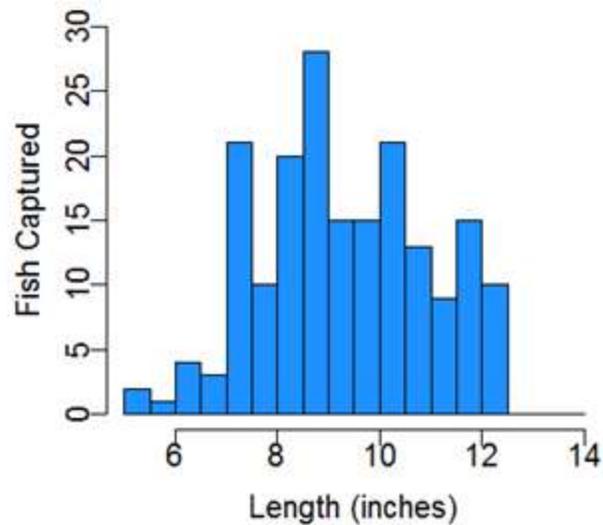
Captured 1.2 per net-night ≥ 14 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 21"	21%
Preferred Size ≥ 28"	0%



Black Crappie



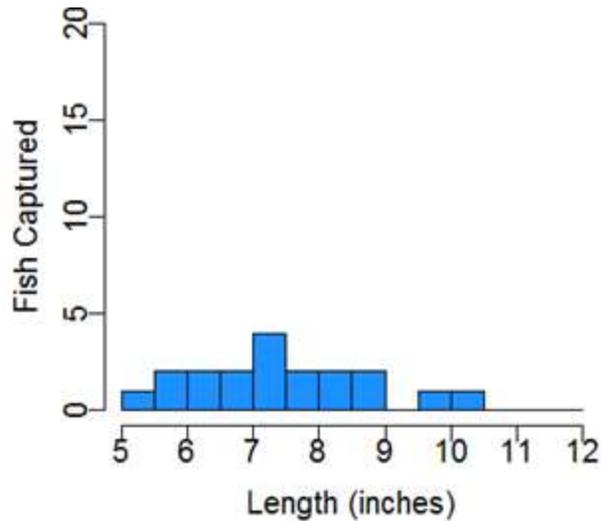
Captured 7 per net-night ≥ 5 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 8"	78%
Preferred Size ≥ 10"	36%



Yellow Perch



Captured 0.7 per net-night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8"	32%
Preferred Size \geq 10"	5%



Summary of Results

Adult walleye were captured at a low rate, indicating that overall walleye abundance is currently low in Blaisdell Lake. There are no other predators that have supplanted walleye and the habitat appears to still be excellent for supporting walleye. Recruitment surveys conducted in recent years indicated there was little natural reproduction happening that would supply new walleye to this population. As a result, stocking of extended growth walleye began in 2014. Those fish (now 6-8 inches long and common in our electrofishing survey) appear to be surviving at an acceptable rate and will hopefully contribute to the adult walleye fishery in coming years.

Muskellunge were captured at a moderate rate, but survey timing was not ideal to target this species. Blaisdell Lake has a reputation as an action muskellunge fishery with a lower average size, which was demonstrated in this survey where many 25-40 inch fish were captured.

Northern pike were captured at a higher rate than muskellunge, but pike abundance still appears to be lower than most other lakes in the area. In the past there was concern that pike would out-compete muskellunge in this lake, but those concerns now appear to be unwarranted. Northern pike typically do not excel in dark stained flowages like Blaisdell. A tiger muskellunge, a hybrid between a pike and a pure muskellunge, was observed during this survey.

The crappie population in Blaisdell was the highlight of this survey. Blaisdell has a very well balanced crappie population with excellent overall size. Crappie over 10 inches are common.

Yellow perch are present in Blaisdell Lake and may make up an important link in the food chain providing an intermediate sized prey item for muskellunge and walleye.

As a riverine system, Blaisdell Lake supports an impressive diversity of fish species. During this survey 15 different species were captured including four species of redhorse, trout perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, rock bass, smallmouth bass, white sucker, creek chub, and those species mentioned above. Blaisdell Lake also supports a sturgeon population.



Volunteer Carson Slattery with a nice Blaisdell crappie.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County

Survey conducted by Max Wolter, Russ Warwick (Fisheries Technician), and Scott Braden (Fisheries Technician)

Special thanks to volunteers Mike Fawley, Tom Heisler (WDNR), and Jason and Carson Slattery

Reviewed and approved by Mike Vogelsang