



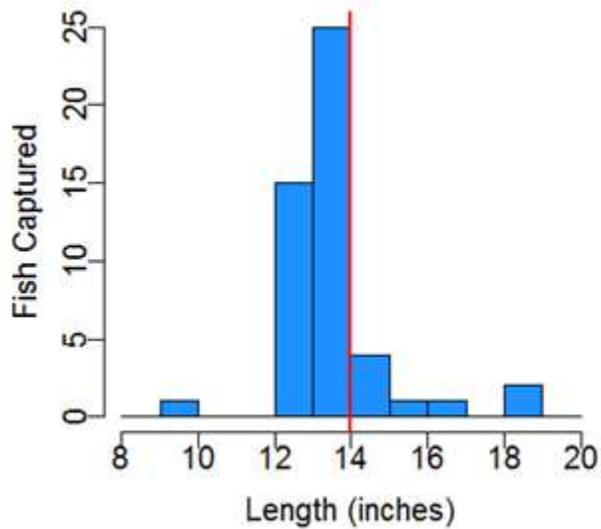
## Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Indian Lake, Sawyer County, 2016

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey on Indian Lake on May 10, 2016 to document the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. The entire shoreline of the lake (2 miles) was shocked. 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.

**Largemouth bass**



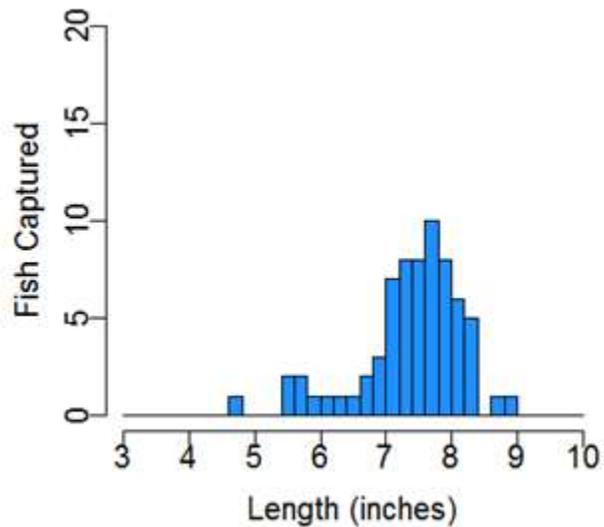
<b>Captured 25 per mile <math>\geq</math> 8 inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 12"</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq</math> 15"</b>	<b>8%</b>



**Bluegill**



<b>Captured 34 per mile <math>\geq</math> 3 inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 6"</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq</math> 8"</b>	<b>19%</b>



## Summary of Results

Indian Lake is a 76 acre seepage Lake in western Sawyer County with a maximum depth of 9 feet. The water is slightly stained and there is abundant aquatic plant growth and downed timber along the shoreline.

Indian Lake has a relatively simple fish community. Largemouth bass are the main predator but some stocked walleye also exist. The panfish population includes black crappie and yellow perch, but bluegill are the most abundant panfish species.

Largemouth bass were captured at a fairly high rate which corresponded to below average size. Populations like this are typical in small lakes where bass harvest is minimal. It may seem undesirable to have a population of bass that is mostly between 12-14 inches. However, the high density of small bass appears to be acting as an effective predator on bluegill which prevents bluegill stunting and delivers a quality panfishing opportunity. This is a common relationship observed in simple bass/bluegill lakes and actually represents a well-functioning fishery that offers good panfish size.

As stated before, bluegill benefit from having an abundant predator in Indian Lake which prevents them from “stunting”. Under these conditions bluegill can reach bigger sizes that are more attractive to anglers. About 1 in 5 bluegill in Indian Lake are over 8 inches.



Abundant small bass lead to quality-sized bluegill in Indian Lake. Photo by Max Wolter.

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