



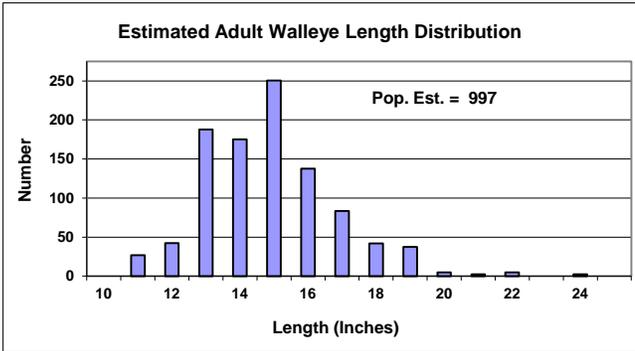
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: SNIPE

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Snipe Lake, Vilas County, from March 22 through April 15, 2012 to assess the lake's walleye fishery. Snipe Lake currently has a moderate-density, natural walleye population. Snipe Lake is an infertile seepage lake with a surface area of 239 acres, maximum depth of 15 feet and 3.5 miles of shoreline. The dominant substrate types in Snipe Lake are sand and gravel.



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

Walleye

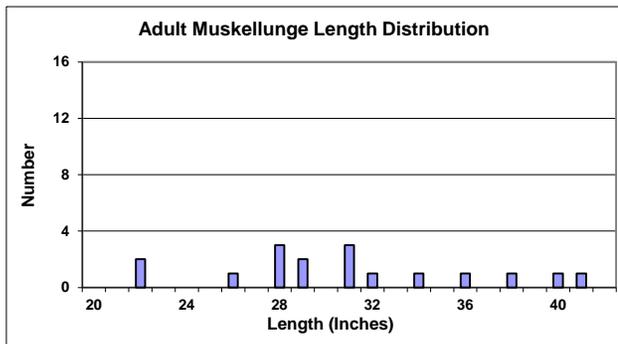
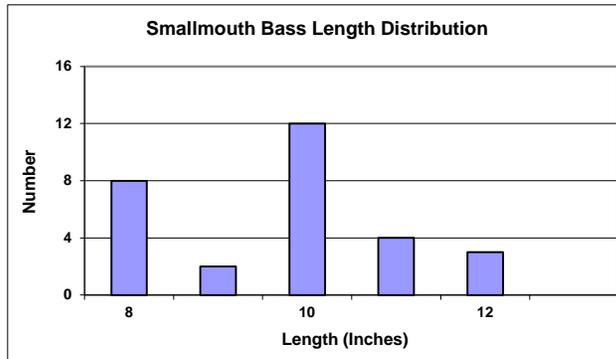


A mark-recapture survey of Snipe Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from March 22 through April 15, 2012. During 9 days of fyke netting and 1 day of electrofishing, 341 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Snipe Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 15 and captured 99 adult walleye. During electrofishing 38% (38 of 99) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Snipe Lake was estimated to contain 997 adult walleye (4.2 /acre). An estimated 57% (565 of 997) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 24.2-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Snipe Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 15th, 29 smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. None of the smallmouth captured were longer than 14 inches. The largest smallmouth captured was 12.2 inches long.



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake, 17 adult muskellunge were capture. Of the muskellunge captured, 12% (2 of 17) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 41.2-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, 5 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake. Yellow perch were abundant in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of bluegill and rockbass. Other species sampled included pumpkinseed and white sucker.

A creel survey will be conducted on Snipe Lake throughout the 2012-2013 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk John Logan 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 Snipe Lake, Vilas County, 2012

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 5 - June 15 (C&R) June 16 - March 3 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 26 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Snipe 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 2013. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 8770 Highway J
 Woodruff, WI 54568
 (715) 356-5211 Ext. 209
 Email: Jonathan.Pyatskowitz@Wisconsin.gov

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

Steve Gilbert, Fisheries Biologist
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 8770 Hwy J
 Woodruff, WI 54568
 (715) 356-9229
 Email: Stephen.Gilbert@Wisconsin.gov