



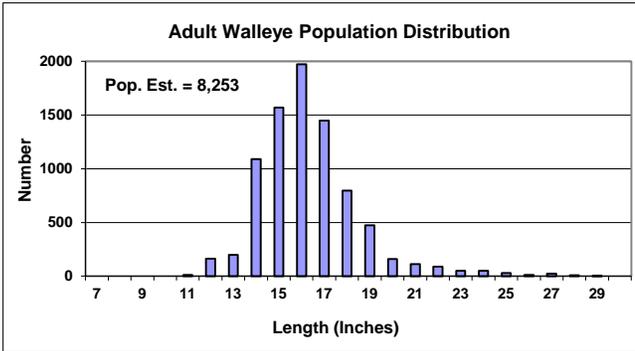
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: BIG ARBOR VITAE

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2014

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Big Arbor Vitae Lake, Vilas County, from May 11 through 18, 2014, to determine the health of its walleye fishery. Big Arbor Vitae Lake is a drainage lake with sand/gravel/rock substrate and a naturally reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 1090 acres, 7.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 41 feet.



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

Walleye



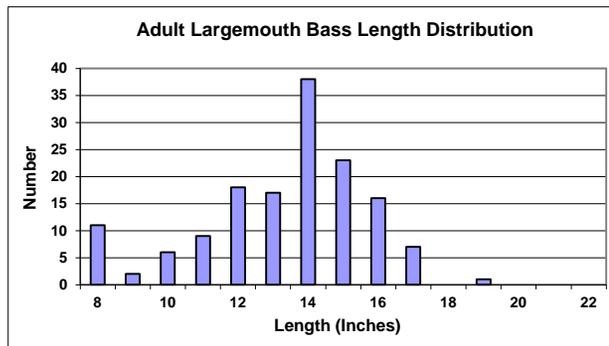
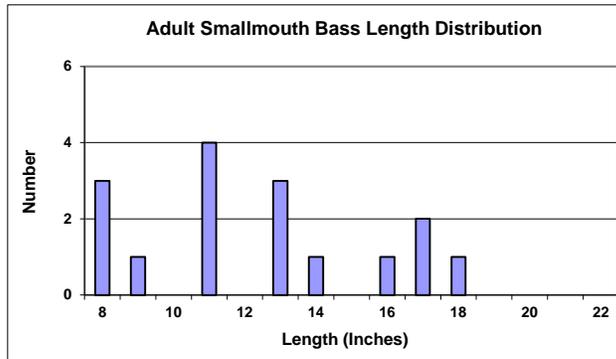
A mark-recapture survey of Big Arbor Vitae Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from May 11-15, 2014. During six days of fyke netting, 1224 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews sampled Big Arbor Vitae Lake with electro-fishing boats on May 15 and captured 431 adult walleye. During electrofishing, 13% (58 of 431) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 29.2-inch female.

Based on those results, Big Arbor Vitae Lake was estimated to contain 8,253 adult walleye (7.6 /acre). An estimated 82% (6789 of 8253) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



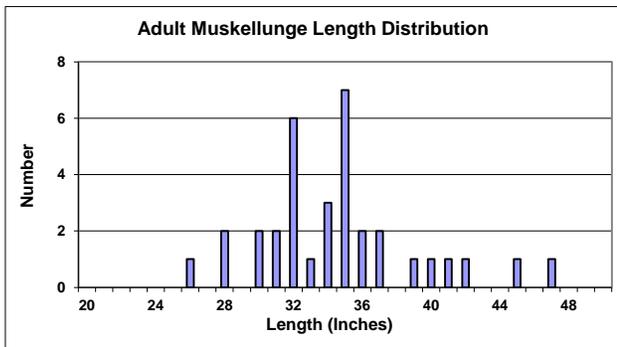
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Big Arbor Vitae Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through May 18, 16 smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 31% (5 of 16) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 18.8 inches long.



Largemouth Bass



Survey crews were also unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from Big Arbor Vitae Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling, 148 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 57% (85 of 148) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 19.2 inches long.



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Big Arbor Vitae Lake, 34 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 15% (5 of 34) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 47.2-inch female.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches long.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 10 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Big Arbor Vitae Lake. Yellow perch, black crappie, and bluegill were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of rock bass, white sucker, and pumpkinseeds. Other species sampled included golden shiners, creek chubs, bowfin, and yellow bullheads.

A creel survey will be conducted on Big Arbor Vitae Lake throughout the 2014-15 fishing season. Creel clerks John Davis, April Mikul, and Doug Day 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 Big Arbor Vitae Lake, Vilas County, 2014-15

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 3 - March 1	2	None but only 1 over 14" may be kept
Largemouth Bass	May 3 - March 1	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 3 - June 20 (C&R) June 21 - March 1 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 24 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 - March 1	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Big Arbor Vitae 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/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2015. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html> or contact:

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

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

Steve Gilbert, Fisheries Biologist
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 8770 HWY J
 Woodruff, WI 54568
 (715) 356-5211 Ext. 229
 Email: Stephen.Gilbert@Wisconsin.gov