



# FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET. POOL 7, LAKE ONALASKA. MISSISSIPPI RIVER GAME FISH.

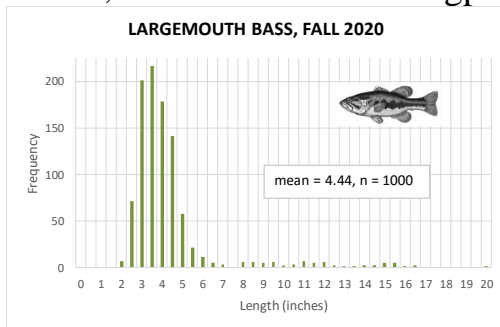
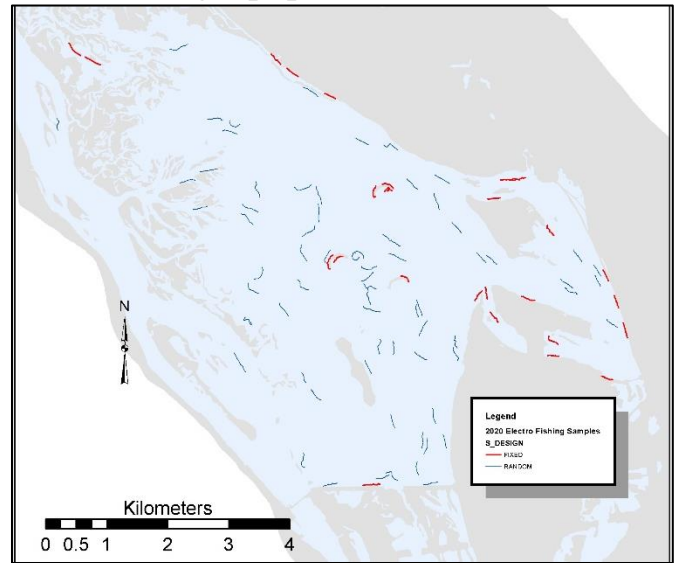
**WATERBODY: LAKE ONALASKA**

**COUNTY: LA CROSSE**

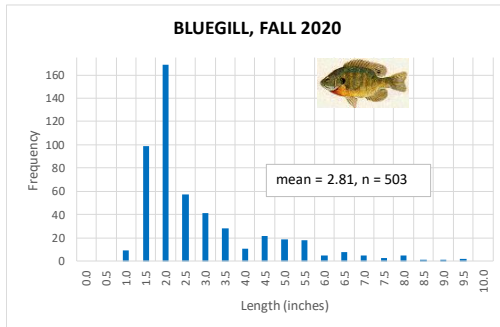
**YEAR: 2020**

The WDNR surveyed the Lake Onalaska (LO) area (9400 acres) located in Pool 7 of the Mississippi River during September of 2020 using electro fishing equipment to determine the health of the fishery. A total of 2707 fish were collected with 43 species represented.

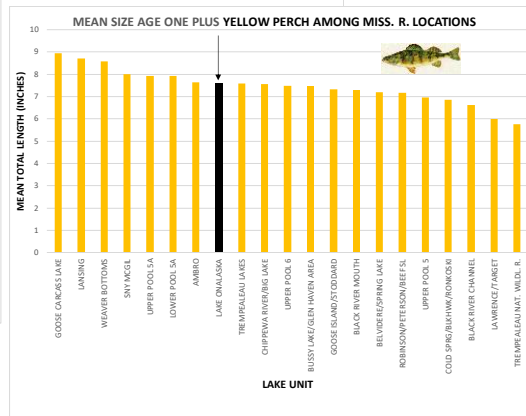
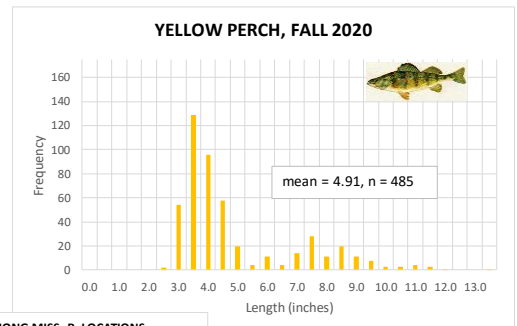
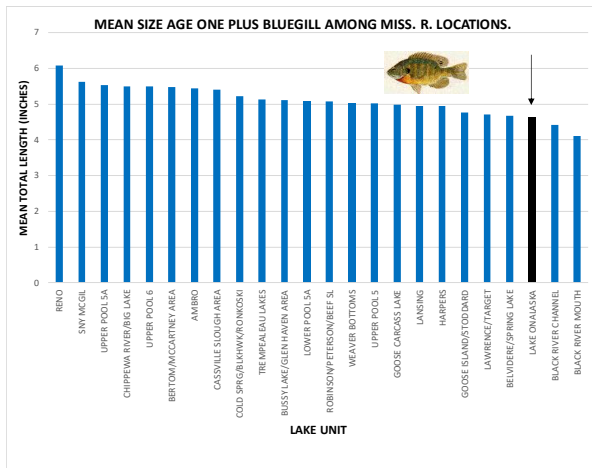
Largemouth bass was the most abundant followed by bluegill, yellow perch, spotted sucker, emerald shiner and logperch.

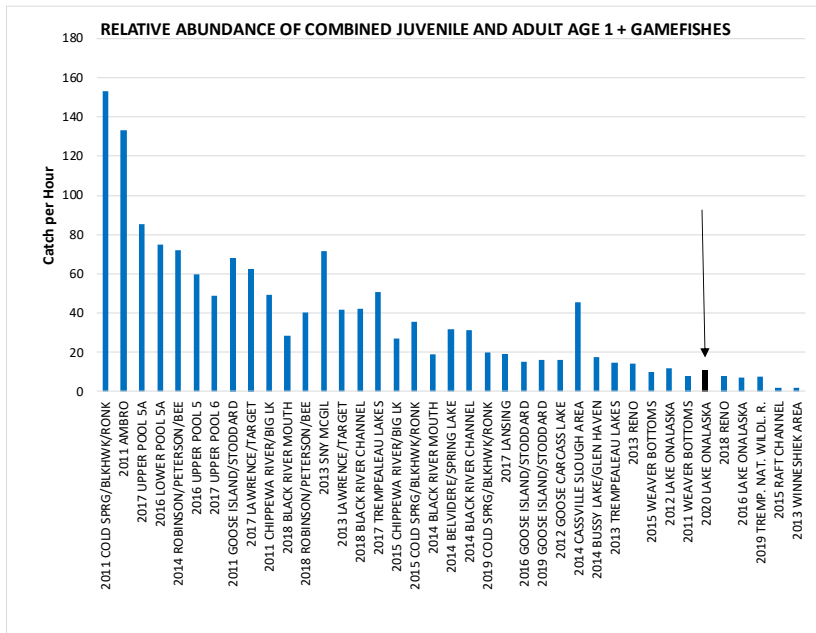


We did similar sampling in 2008, 2012, and 2016. Since then, average largemouth bass, yellow



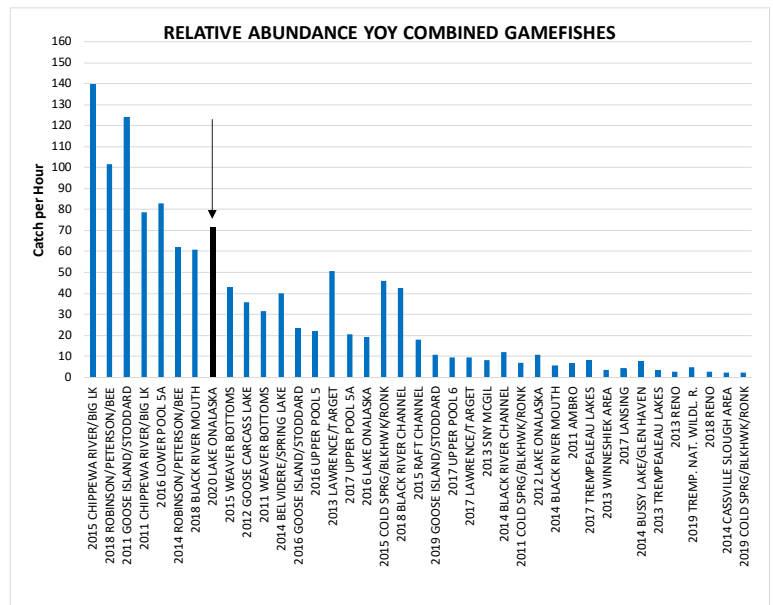
perch and pumpkinseed sizes have all increased (0.6 to 2.0 inches). Compared to other 24 other Mississippi River locations from pools 4 through 11 (includes 57 surveys), LO largemouth bass and bluegill were smaller. Yellow perch were average.



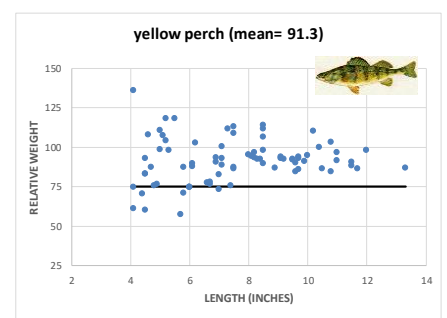
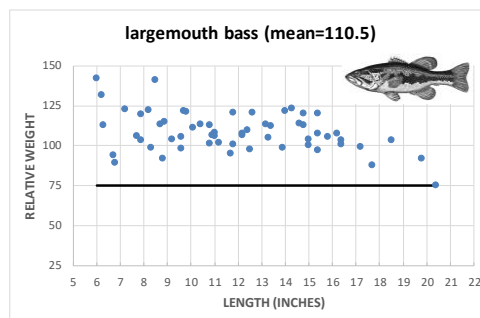
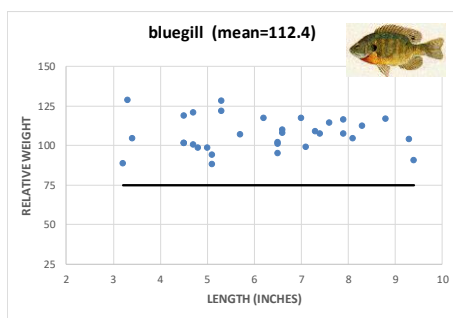


LO had a below average relative population abundance of gamefishes. Abundance of combined bluegill, crappies, largemouth bass, northern pike, rock bass, sauger, smallmouth bass, walleye, pumpkinseed, and yellow perch was 10.9 per hour. Bluegill (1.8 per hour) ranked in the lower tier of other similar surveys which averaged 39.5 per hour. Yellow perch (4.7) ranked in the lower tier. The average of these 39 other surveys was 7.1 per hour. The catch rate for largemouth bass (1.3) was also below average (8.7).

In contrast, abundance of young-of-the-year (YOY, i. e. fish born in 2020) combined gamefishes was high (71.3 per hour). Also, bluegill (8.9), largemouth bass (40.0), and yellow perch (20.1) were above average. The average for these species is 4.8, 17.5, and 7.7, respectively.



Body condition (how plump a fish is) were excellent for bluegill and largemouth bass. These were about 10 percent above normal. Yellow perch was good.



**Contact Information:** For a full report, contact *David Heath - Fisheries Biologist; 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.; La Crosse, WI 54601; Telephone: 608-785-9993. [David.heath@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:David.heath@Wisconsin.gov).*