The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Duck Lake, Vilas County, from May 7 through May 14, 2013, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to assess the lake’s walleye and musky fishery. Duck Lake is a drainage lake with muck/sand substrate and a naturally reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 106 acres, 1.7 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 20 feet.

During sampling, 6 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured none were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 12.7-inches long.

A mark-recapture survey of Duck Lake’s adult walleye population was conducted from 5/7-5/12, 2013. During 6 days of fyke netting, 47 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Duck Lake with an electro-fishing boat on May 12 and captured 9 adult walleye. The largest walleye we captured was a 24.2-inch female.

Based on those results, Duck Lake was estimated to contain 208 adult walleye (2.0 /acre). An estimated 79% (164 of 208) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass

No smallmouth bass were sampled during spring sampling.

During sampling, 6 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured none were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 12.7-inches long.
During sampling, 63 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets and electrofishing of Duck Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 94% (59 of 63) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 28.2-inch female.

During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Duck Lake, 49 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 8% (4 of 49) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 42.7-inch female.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 10 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Duck Lake. Yellow perch, bluegill, and black crappie were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of pumpkinseeds, rockbass, and white suckers. Other species sampled included golden shiners, shorhead redhorse, yellow bullhead, and silver redhorse.

A creel survey will be conducted on Duck Lake throughout the 2013-14 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Tom Lima 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 Duck Lake, Vilas County, 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISH SPECIES</th>
<th>OPEN SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT</th>
<th>MINIMUM LENGTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>May 4 - March 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No minimum length, no harvest 14-18&quot; and only 1 over 18&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>May 4 - June 14 (C&amp;R)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 15 - March 2 (Harvest)</td>
<td>5 in total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>May 25 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>May 4 - March 2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Duck Lake are 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 2014. Watch for survey summaries at: http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html or contact:

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

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

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

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By: Jonathan Pyatskowit