The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Lake Metonga, Forest County, from May 1 through May 7. The primary objective was to assess the status of the adult Walleye population. Lake Metonga is a drainage lake with predominately sand and gravel substrates. It has a surface area of 1,991 acres, 7.9 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 79 feet. Lake Metonga's Walleye population is sustained through natural reproduction.

**Walleye**

During five days of fyke netting, 1,194 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and captured 80 adult Walleye. During electrofishing 14% (11 of 80) of captured Walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Lake Metonga was estimated to contain 7,627 adult Walleye (3.8/acre).

An estimated 99% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer. The largest Walleye we captured was a 28.7-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**

Smallmouth Bass were not a primary target during our survey of Lake Metonga. Sampling occurred prior to peak Smallmouth spawning. We captured 12 Smallmouth Bass eight inches or larger; 92% (11) were 14 inches or longer, and the largest was 19.0 inches. We also captured one 17.6 inch Largemouth Bass during the survey.

**Northern Pike**

During our survey of Lake Metonga we captured 53 adult Northern Pike. Of those, 15% (eight) were greater than 26 inches long, and the largest was a 36.2-inch female.
Although Yellow Perch were not a primary target during our survey of Lake Metonga, we captured relatively high numbers of them and measured a subsample to index the size structure of the population. Of the Yellow Perch measured, 8% were eight inches or longer, with the largest being 12.6 inches.

### Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, six species of fish were captured during fyke net sampling of Lake Metonga. Species captured included: Black and Yellow Bullheads, White Sucker, Brook Trout, Rock Bass, and Pumpkinseed.

A creel survey will be conducted on Lake Metonga throughout the 2019-20 fishing season. A creel clerk will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest.

#### Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Lake Metonga, Forest County, 2019-20.

<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 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15” min. length, 20-24” no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24” allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>May 4 - March 1</td>
<td>5 in total with SMB</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>May 4 - June 14 (C&amp;R)</td>
<td>5 in total with LMB; harvest season only</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 15 - March 1 (Harvest)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>May 4 - March 1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Lake Metonga 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 spring survey report is available at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html.

Creeel survey results should be available by August 2020 at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrlsrvys.html. For questions, contact:

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

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**Drafted: June 2019**

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