The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Otter Lake, Langlade County, from April 10th through May 25th, to assess the status of the gamefish populations. Otter Lake is a drainage lake with predominantly gravel and sand substrates. It has a surface area of 83 acres, 2.4 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 27 feet. Otter Lake's walleye and other gamefish populations have all been sustained through natural reproduction.

**Walleye**

During six days of fyke netting, 30 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and captured 16 adult walleye. During electrofishing 56% (9 of 16) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye we captured was a 28.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Otter Lake was estimated to contain 54 adult walleye (0.6/acre). An estimated 100% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

**Smallmouth Bass**

During sampling conducted through May 25th, 15 smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, just one was 14 inches long or larger (14.2”). Due to the low number of smallmouth bass captured during the survey, we were unable to reliably estimate their population size.

**Largemouth Bass**

During sampling conducted through May 25th, 79 largemouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 41% were 14 inches long or larger, and the largest was 18.7 inches. Based upon the survey results, the largemouth bass population in Otter Lake (eight inches or larger) was estimated to be 145 fish (1.7/acre).
Northern Pike

From sampling between April 10th and May 25th, 92 adult northern pike were captured. Of those pike captured, 67% (62 of 92) were less than 26 inches long, and the largest was a 36.2-inch female.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.

Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, ten species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Otter Lake. Black Crappie (range: 3.5” - 11.4”) were common in our catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of Rock Bass (1.5” - 9.4”). Other species sampled included Bluegill (1.5” - 8.9”), Yellow Perch (3.5” - 10.9”), Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish, Brook Trout, White Sucker, Creek Chub, and Bluntnose Minnow.

A creel survey will be conducted on Otter Lake throughout the 2017-18 fishing season. Creel clerk Garrett Wilner 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 Otter Lake, Langlade County, 2017-18.

<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 6 - March 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15” min. length, 20-24” no harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>slot, 1 fish over 24” allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>May 6 - March 4</td>
<td>5 in total with SMB</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>May 6 - June 16 (C&amp;R)</td>
<td>5 in total with LMB; harvest season only</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17 - March 4 (Harvest)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>May 27 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>May 6 - March 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Otter 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; Watch for finalized summaries at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtyprngsrvys.html. Creel survey results should be available by August 2018 at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrlsrvys.html. For questions, contact:

Lawrence Eslinger, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
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8770 Highway J
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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Otter Lake, Langlade County, contact:

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