



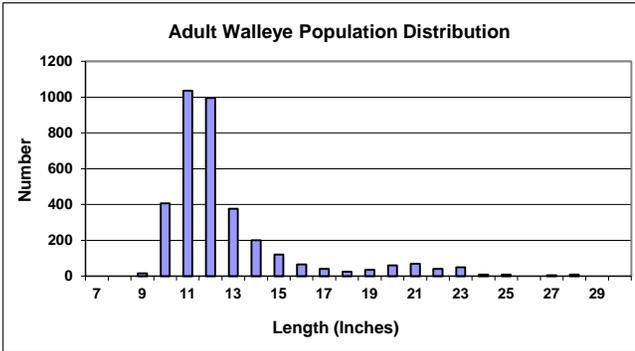
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: BEARSKIN

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2015

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Bearskin Lake, Oneida County, between April 12th and May 12th, in order to assess the status of the gamefish populations. Basic results of a more targeted survey of the panfish community (completed on May 5th) are mentioned here. Bearskin Lake is a drainage lake with rock, muck, and sand substrates. It has a surface area of 400 acres, 5.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 26 feet. All gamefish populations are sustained through natural reproduction, no stocking occurs.



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

Walleye



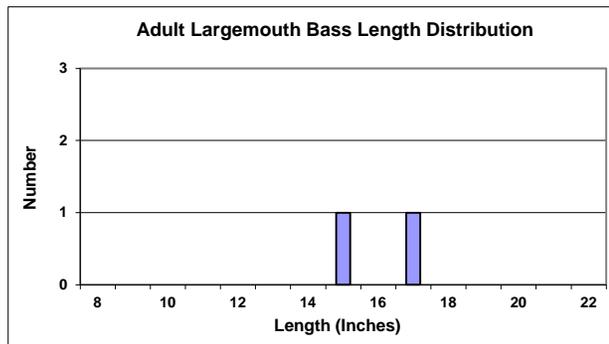
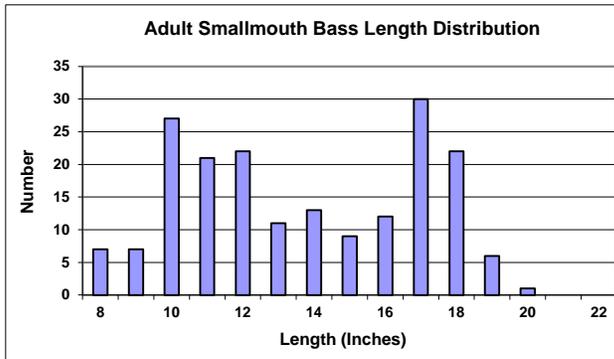
During four days of fyke netting, 1,242 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews then sampled with electro-fishing boats and captured 416 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 29% (145 of 416) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 28.2-inch female.

Based on those results, Bearskin Lake was estimated to contain 3,571 adult walleye (8.9 /acre). An estimated 15% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey crews were able to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Bearskin Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through May 12th, 188 smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 49% were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 20.1 inches long. The smallmouth bass population in Bearskin Lake (eight inches or larger) was estimated to be 578 fish (1.4 /acre).



Largemouth Bass



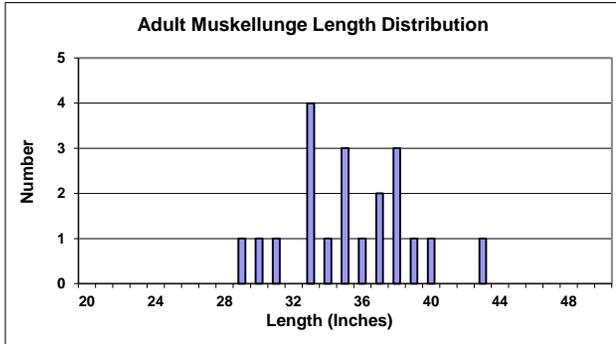
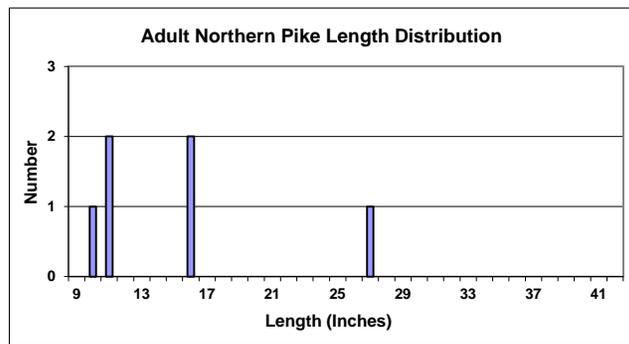
Although survey sampling occurred prior to peak largemouth bass spawning, results are indicative of a population at very low abundance levels. During sampling, just two largemouth bass were captured.

Northern Pike



Northern pike were also sampled at very low abundance levels during our surveys. Just six pike were captured, with the largest being 27.1 inches in length.

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



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Bearskin Lake, 20 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the adults captured, 10% (2 of 20) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was 43.3 inches in length. In addition, 21 immature muskellunge (all but one less than 20 inches) were captured; indicative of good natural reproduction.

* 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, seven species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Bearskin Lake. Yellow perch were abundant (especially in our fyke net catches), and during the May 5th electrofishing survey their sizes ranged between 6 and 9.4 inches. White sucker were common, while bluegill were captured at lower rates (sizes during electrofishing ranging between 6.5 and 8.4 inches). Other species sampled in low numbers included rock bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed, and yellow bullhead.

A creel survey will be conducted on Bearskin Lake throughout the 2015-16 fishing season. Creel clerks Doug Day and Marty Kiepke will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler catch and harvest.

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 6	3	No minimum length, 1 fish over 14"
Largemouth Bass	May 2 - March 6	1 in total with SMB	18 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 6 (Harvest)	1 in total with LMB; harvest season only	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 23 - Nov. 30	1	28 inches
Northern Pike	May 2 - March 6	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Bearskin 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/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June 2016 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrisrvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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

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