The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Trout Lake, Vilas County, from May 8 through May 24, to assess the status of the adult Walleye and Muskellunge populations. Trout Lake is a drainage lake with predominately sand and gravel substrates. It has a surface area of 3,816 acres, 17.9 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 117 feet. Trout Lake’s Walleye and Muskellunge populations are maintained primarily through stocking.

Walleye

During six days of fyke netting, 2,019 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Four crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and captured 539 adult Walleye. During electrofishing 22% (118 of 539) of captured Walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Trout Lake was estimated to contain 9,050 adult Walleye (2.4/acre).

An estimated 71% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer. The largest Walleye we captured was a 30.2-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass were not a primary target during our survey of Trout Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak Smallmouth spawning. We captured 18 Smallmouth Bass eight inches or larger; 28% (five) were 14 inches or longer, and the largest was 19.4 inches.

Largemouth Bass were not a primary target during our survey of Trout Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak Largemouth spawning. We captured 26 Largemouth Bass eight inches or larger; 81% were 14 inches or longer, and the largest was 18.4 inches.
Northern Pike

From sampling between May 8 and May 13, 55 adult Northern Pike were captured in Trout Lake. Of those, 9% (5 of 55) were greater than 26 inches long, and the largest was 38.0 inches.

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

Muskellunge

During our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Trout Lake, 21 adult Muskellunge were captured. Of those, 24% (5 of 21) were 40 inches or longer, with the largest being a 45.4-inch female. Additionally, one juvenile, 20.1 inch Muskellunge was also captured. An adult Muskellunge population estimate will be completed for Trout Lake with these data at a later date. Trout Lake contains a very low-density Muskellunge population.

* Note: Adult Muskellunge are defined as all sexable Muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.

Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, 16 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Trout Lake. Species captured included: Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Cisco, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Black Bullhead, Burbot, Greater Redhorse, White Sucker, Creek Chub, Hornyhead Chub, Common Shiner, and Grass Pickerel.

A creel survey will be conducted on Trout Lake 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 Trout Lake, Vilas 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>1 in total with SMB</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>May 4 - June 14 (C&amp;R) June 15 - March 1 (Harvest)</td>
<td>1 in total with LMB; harvest season only</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>May 25 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>May 4 - March 1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whitefish &amp; Cisco (Lake Herring)</td>
<td>Open all year</td>
<td>10 in combination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Trout 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 spring survey report is available at:
Cree survey results should be available by August 2020 at:

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