The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted a comprehensive survey of Twin Falls Flowage, Florence County, to analyze the health of its fishery. Twin Falls Flowage is an impoundment of the Menominee River located between Florence, WI and Iron Mountain, MI. The entire flowage is considered a WI-MI Boundary water and can be fished with either state’s fishing licence. There are multiple boat access points on this flowage, but the most improved access is in Vagabond Park, just off US HWY 2 on the WI side of the flowage. Twin Falls Flowage covers approximately 928 acres and achieves a maximum depth of 50 feet.

The largemouth bass population was assessed during an electrofishing survey conducted the night of 6/7/2016. During this survey a total of 42 different largemouth bass were captured, with 39 considered to be adults (>8 inches). Relative abundance of adult largemouth bass was measured at 7.8 adults per mile. However, actual abundance is likely higher than what was measured since only a single netter was used during the survey. All in all, the Twin Falls Flowage largemouth bass population is considered to be of moderate abundance, when compared to other populations in the area.

The walleye and northern pike populations within the flowage were assessed by nets set at ice-out to the abnormal spring weather the netting survey was much more thorough than a typical spring survey. However, even with tremendous effort put forth, only 11 walleye were captured. With a relative abundance of one walleye captured for every 27 net-nights of effort this population is well below what is considered a "fishable" population.

Every walleye captured during our spring survey was measured to assess size structure. From this small sample, approximately 81.8% of the fish sampled were ≥15 inches and 36.4% were ≥20 inches.

Northern pike were captured and marked with an identifiable fin clip during the spring fyke net survey from 3/26 to 4/15/2016. A second sample of northern pike was collected with fyke nets from 4/16-18/2016. The data from these surveys estimate the adult (≥12 inches) northern pike population in Twin Falls Flowage at approximately 2,903 fish (3.1/acre). At just over 3 adults per acre, the northern pike population in this flowage is of average abundance when compared to other populations in the area.

During the 2016 survey we captured a total of 814 different northern pike, all of these fish were measured to assess size structure. The size structure of the northern pike population in Twin Falls Flowage is below average with only 39.7% of the fish sampled being ≥21 inches, and 5.7% ≥28 inches in length. The largest northern pike captured during our survey was 36.4 inches long.

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Every largemouth bass captured during the bass electrofishing survey was measured to assess the size structure of the population. The size structure of the Twin Falls Flowage largemouth bass population is good with approximately 51.3% of the largemouth bass captured being ≥14 inches and 17.9% ≥16 inches in length.
Relative abundance of yellow perch during the spring fyke net survey was measured at 0.4 fish per net-night. A catch rate of less than half of one fish per net-night suggests that yellow perch are of low abundance in Twin Falls Flowage.

All 39 yellow perch captured during the 2016 survey were measured to assess the size structure of their population. Yellow perch size structure seems to be good with 27% of the fish sampled being ≥ 8 inches.

Other Species

The species listed above were the focus of the 2016 survey, with surveys designed to best sample these individual species. Other species captured during our survey efforts include; brook trout, pumpkinseed, hybrid bluegill, rock bass, white sucker, golden shiner, and common shiner. Based on catch rates and observations during this survey, pumpkinseed are considered to be of moderate abundance, white sucker and shiners are of low to moderate abundance, while rock bass and hybrid bluegill are considered to be of low abundance. Brook trout are of low abundance and can only survive in the flowage seasonally. Angler access is considered sufficient with multiple boat landings on Twin Falls Flowage. This flowage seems to have moderate fishing pressure and a creel survey would enhance our management of these waters.

Comments

Flowages like Twin Falls Flowage are tough to properly assess due to early ice out, water temperatures controlled by inflow and the ability of fish to migrate to areas that are inaccessible due to high flows and shallow water.

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Twin Falls Flowage contact:

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