



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: ASHIPGUN

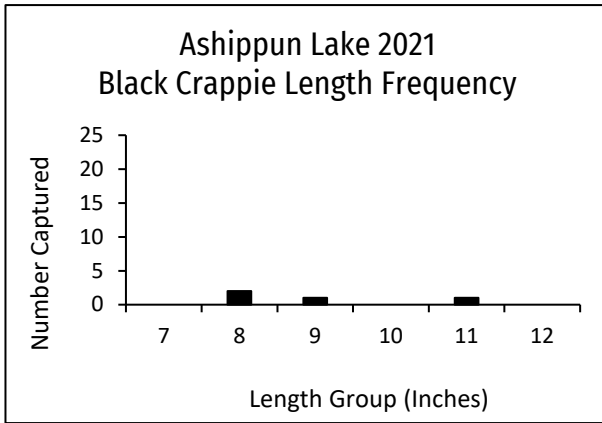
COUNTY: Waukesha

YEAR: 2021

Introduction

On June 2, 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a two-person spring electrofishing (SEI) survey on Ashippun Lake (WBIC 854300) in Waukesha County. The survey included the entire shoreline (approximately 2.0 miles) and targeted primarily largemouth bass and panfish species. The survey station included 15 minutes of sampling targeting all species encountered and the remaining 45 minutes was targeting gamefish species. Water temperature was 70 degrees Fahrenheit and air temperature was 76 degrees Fahrenheit. Water clarity was moderately clear and the wind was calm, providing for fair electrofishing conditions and catchability.

A total of 166 fish were sampled in the survey, representing a moderately diverse fishery of eight different species. Non-game species sampled included white sucker and yellow bullhead. Native panfish species sampled included black crappie, bluegill, yellow perch and warmouth. Common carp were observed in low abundance, but none were sampled during the survey. Ashippun Lake has a history of quality sized northern pike and continues to provide excellent northern pike angling opportunities. Additional fisheries surveys during cooler water temperatures are needed to further evaluate the status of the northern pike population in Ashippun Lake.



BLACK CRAPPIE



4 black crappie were sampled. Lengths ranged from 8.1 to 11.8 inches and the average length was 9.4 inches.

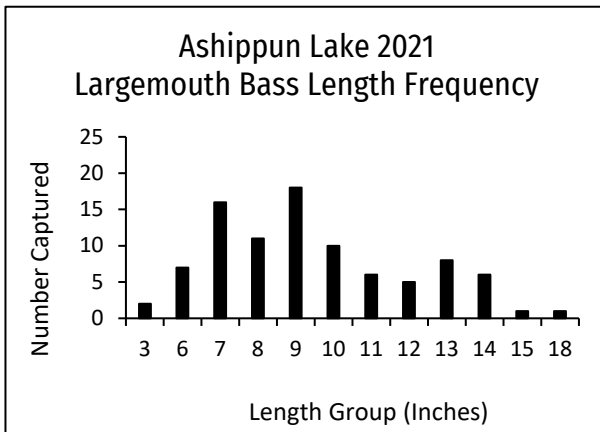
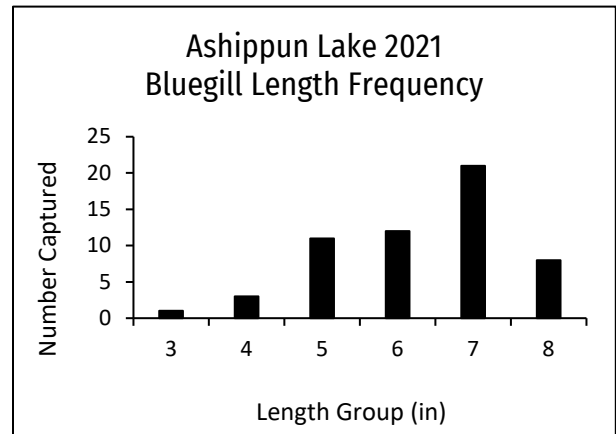
# Captured Per Mile = 8	
Quality Size \geq (8 inches)	4
Preferred Size \geq (10 inches)	1

BLUEGILL



56 bluegill were sampled. Lengths ranged from 3.1 to 8.8 inches and the average length was 6.6 inches.

# Captured Per Mile = 112	
Quality Size \geq (6 inches)	41
Preferred Size \geq (8 inches)	8



LARGEMOUTH BASS



91 largemouth bass were sampled. Lengths ranged from 3.1 to 18.7 inches and average length was 9.7 inches.

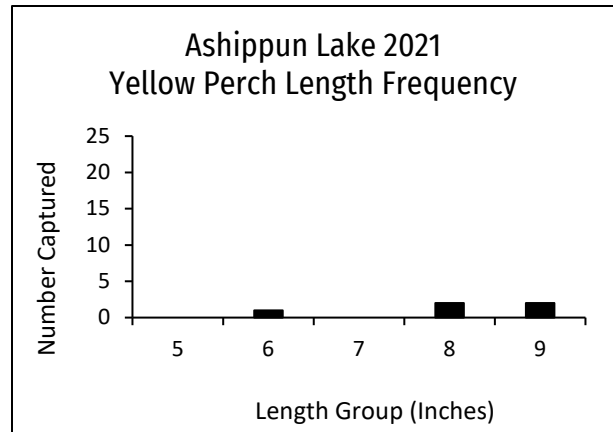
# Captured Per Mile = 45.5	
Quality Size \geq (12 inches)	21
Preferred Size \geq (15 inches)	2

YELLOW PERCH



5 yellow perch were sampled. Lengths ranged from 6.1 to 9.4 inches and the average length was 8.4 inches.

# Captured Per Mile = 10	
Quality Size \geq (8 inches)	4
Preferred Size \geq (10 inches)	0



NORTHERN PIKE



1 northern pike, measuring 25.1 inches was sampled. This survey was not intended to sample this species.

# Captured Per Mile = 0.5	
Quality Size \geq (21 inches)	1
Preferred Size \geq (28 inches)	0

OTHER SPECIES

A total of four white suckers were sampled for a catch rate of 8.0/mile. White suckers serve as an important food source for gamefish including northern pike. One rock bass was sampled for a catch rate of 2.0/mile. Four warmouth were sampled for a catch rate of 8.0/mile.

Summary

The overall species diversity present in this survey is an indication of moderate fisheries habitat potential found in this 85 acre lake. Spawning, nursery, summer and winter habitat appears to be adequate for maintaining gamefish, panfish and non-game fish species. Catch rates can be confounded by weather conditions, gear and

timing, therefore caution should be used when interpreting electrofishing catch rate data. When comparing the 2021 SEII survey to the 2012 SEII, panfish catch rates increased from 74 to 112 per mile. Largemouth bass catch rate slightly decreased from 65 per mile in 2012 to 46 per mile in 2021. Based on the catch rate data and size structure, both largemouth bass and bluegill appear to be naturally reproducing and are relatively stable with typical levels of variation. Bluegill average length increased from 4.9 inches in 2012, to 6.6 inches in 2021. However, largemouth bass average size slightly decreased from 10.8 inches in 2012, to 9.7 inches in 2021. Changes in the size structure and abundance are limited by the small sample size and the frequency of the two surveys being separated by nine years.

High levels of nutrients, aquatic plant growth and overall productivity are supporting a moderately abundant largemouth bass and bluegill population with average size structure in Ashippun Lake. Periodic changes in fisheries habitat can be driven by several factors including increased frequency and severity of precipitation (directly resulting in increased external nutrient loading), sustained high water levels (as seen in 2013-2020), internal nutrient loading (wind and wave action), warm water temperatures, increased riparian land development and other anthropogenic influences.

Common carp are a concern for many lakes in southern Wisconsin. Based on the inability to sample any common carp during the 2021 SEII, carp abundance does not appear to be a limiting factor in Ashippun Lake. However, carp are present in Ashippun Lake and pose a potential threat to the current water quality and balance of this lake ecosystem. Based on these fisheries surveys and the good number of native species, the Ashippun Lake fishery appears to currently be in a very productive, healthy state. However, continued habitat protection and enhancement will ensure continued sustainability of this important sport fishery.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Ashippun Lake, Waukesha County, Wisconsin. General southern zone seasons apply, refer to current fishing regulations for updates on seasonal updates.

SPECIES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth bass	5	14 inches
Northern pike	2	26 inches
Panfish	25	No minimum

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Ashippun Lake, contact:

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