



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: FAY

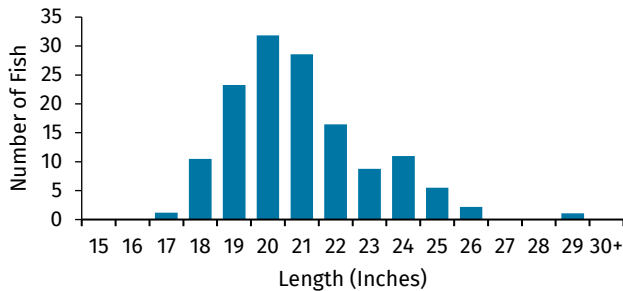
COUNTY: FLORENCE

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Fay Lake in Florence County to assess the status of its gamefish and panfish populations. Additionally, bullhead removal was incorporated into all survey efforts. Fay Lake is a drainage lake with sand, muck and gravel substrates. It has a surface area of 282 acres, 4.5 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 10 feet. Fay Lake's walleye population is sustained through stocking.

Adult Walleye Population Distribution



WALLEYE

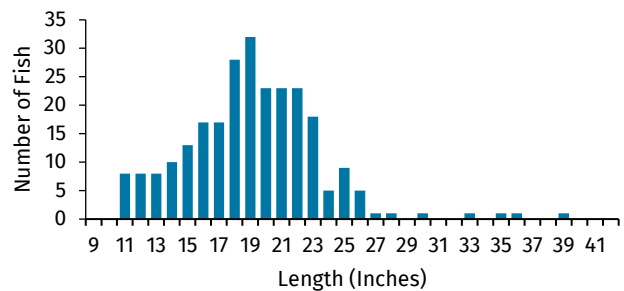
Fyke netting and electrofishing surveys through April 8 captured 129 adult walleye (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 142 (0.5/acre) adult walleye present in Fay Lake. All adult walleyes were ≥ 15 inches, and the largest captured was a 29.2-inch female.



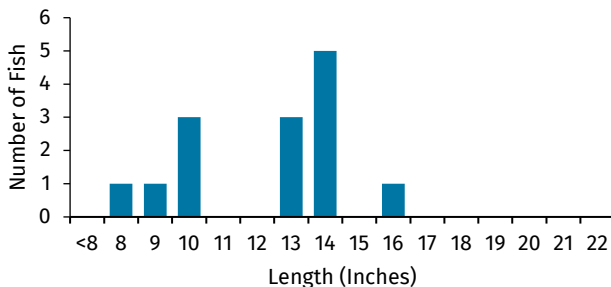
NORTHERN PIKE

Surveys captured 254 adult pike (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) during fyke netting. Forty percent of adults were ≥ 21 inches, with the largest being a 37.2-inch female. Mark-recapture procedures estimated 1,306 (4.6/acre) adult northern pike in Fay Lake.

Adult Northern Pike Length Frequency

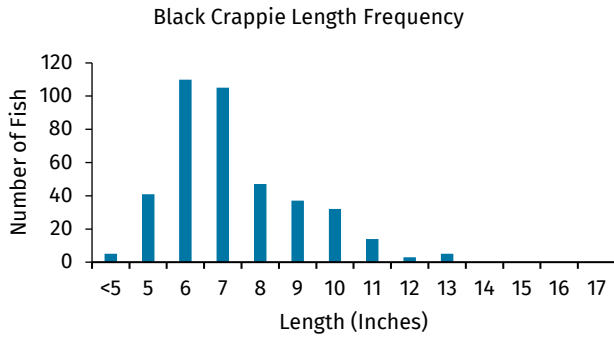


Largemouth Bass Length Frequency



LARGEMOUTH BASS

A targeted late-spring electrofishing survey resulted in the capture of 14 adult largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) at a relatively low rate of 3.9 per mile. Of largemouth bass captured, 43% were ≥ 14 inches (largest 16.2 inches).



BLACK CRAPPIE

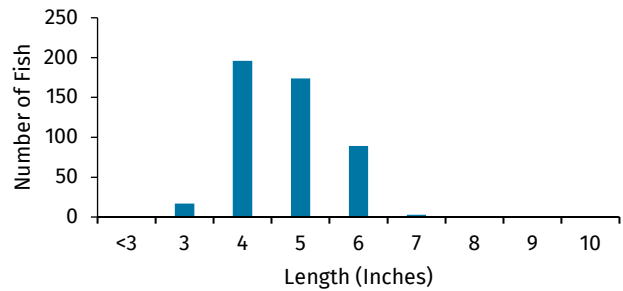
Survey efforts captured a total of 617 black crappie. Early June panfish netting captured an average of nine black crappie per net. The measured subsample (399) had a mean length of 7.3 inches, and 35% were ≥ 8 inches.



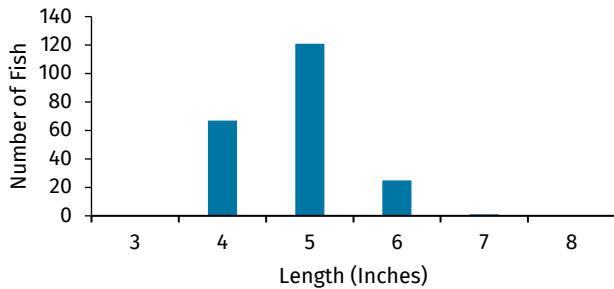
BLUEGILL

Survey efforts captured a total of 5,391 bluegill. Early June panfish netting captured an average of 137 bluegill per net. The measured subsample (479) had a mean length of 4.7 inches, and 19% were ≥ 6 inches.

Bluegill Length Frequency



Pumpkinseed Length Frequency



PUMPKINSEED

Survey efforts captured a total of 2,317 pumpkinseed. Early June panfish netting captured an average of 66 pumpkinseed per net. The measured subsample (214) had a mean length of 4.8 inches, and 12% were ≥ 6 inches.

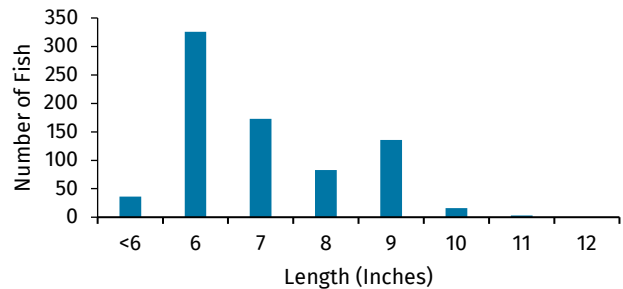
BULLHEAD SPP.



Survey efforts captured and removed a total of 10,490 bullheads. The measured subsample (773) had a mean length of 6.9 inches, and 20% were ≥ 9 inches.

Two targeted bullhead removal surveys were conducted. An early May survey resulted in the capture and removal of 4,780 bullhead, averaging 30 per net. A mid-June survey captured and removed an additional 2,757 bullhead, averaging 49 per net.

Bullhead Length Frequency



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the species mentioned above, a few white suckers (37, mean length 12.8 inches) were captured.

Table 1. 2024 fishing regulations for Fay Lake, in Florence County Wisconsin.

SPECIES	2024-25 SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Walleye	May 4 – March 2	3	15" to 20", 1 over 24"
Largemouth bass	May 4 – March 2	5 in total with SMB	14"
Smallmouth bass	June 15 – March 2	5 in total with LMB	14"
Muskellunge	May 25 – December 31	1	40"
Northern pike	May 4 – March 2	5	none
Panfish	Open all year	25	none
Bullheads	Open all year	none	none

Acknowledgements & Questions

This report was compiled by DNR Fisheries Technician Mark Love. United States Forest Service fisheries staff (Jake Carleen, Matt Messer, and Jeremy Hubbard) took the lead on this survey effort. Contact the treaty fisheries biologist for questions about this report. Contact the Florence County fisheries biologist for questions regarding fisheries management activities on Fay Lake.

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