



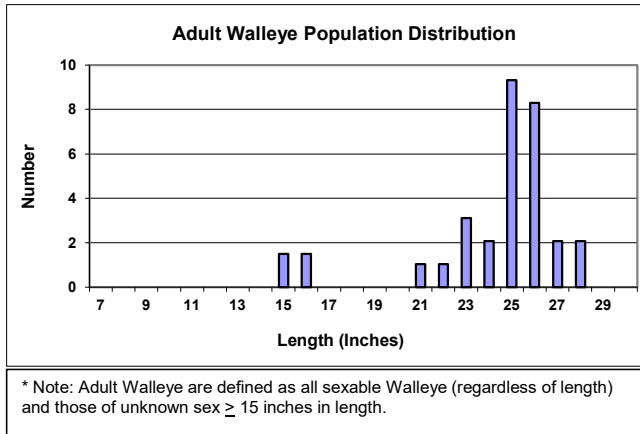
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** CHAIN L

**COUNTY:** ONEIDA

**YEAR:** 2022

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Chain Lake in Oneida County between May 1-4, 2022 to assess the status of the Walleye population. Chain Lake is a stained, soft water drainage lake with predominately sand and muck substrates and some rock. The lake has a surface area of 219 acres, 3.4 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 19 feet. Chain Lake's Walleye population was sustained through natural reproduction, but it has declined to a remnant population. The Muskellunge population is maintained through stocking.



**Walleye**



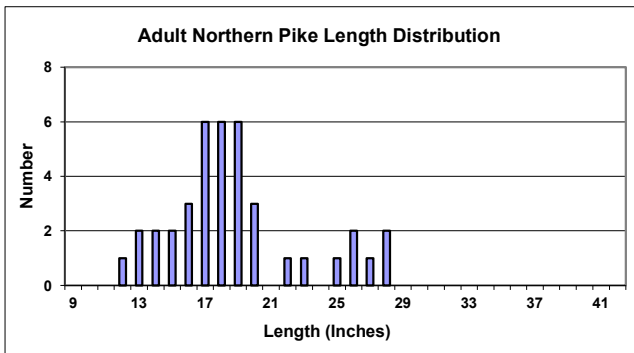
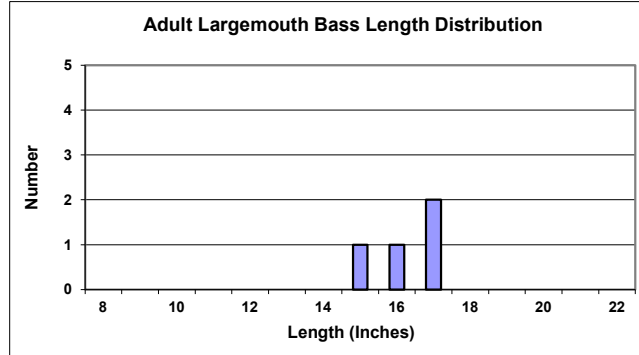
During four days of Walleye-targeted fyke netting, 30 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and caught five adult Walleye. During electrofishing, 100% (all five) of Walleye caught bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Chain Lake was estimated to contain 34 adult Walleye (0.2/acre).

An estimated 100% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer. The largest Walleye caught was a 28.9-inch female.

**Largemouth Bass**



Bass were not a primary target during the survey of Chain Lake, as sampling occurred prior to peak bass spawning. Four adult Largemouth Bass eight inches or larger were caught (all  $>$  14 inches), and the largest measured 17.2 inches. Additionally, one adult Smallmouth Bass (15.5 inches) was caught.

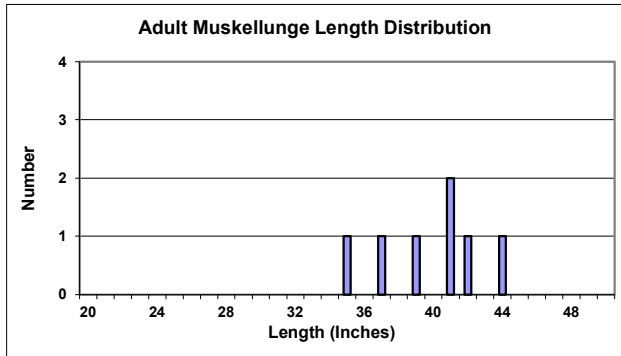


**Northern Pike**



Survey sampling resulted in the catch of 39 adult Northern Pike. Five (13%) of those pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 28.9 inches.

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



**Muskellunge**



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, seven adult Muskellunge were caught. Of the adult Muskellunge, 57% (4 of 7) were 40 inches or longer, with the largest being a 44.3-inch female.

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

**Other Species**

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Chain Lake resulted in the catch of nine pan- and non-gamefish species. Black Crappie, Bluegill and Yellow Perch were common in survey catches. Other species caught included Black Bullhead, Golden Shiner, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, White Sucker and Yellow Bullhead.

A creel survey was conducted on Chain Lake throughout the 2022 open-water fishing season, in which a creel clerk counted and interviewed anglers and examined their catch. The information gathered is used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Chain Lake, Oneida County, 2022-23**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed
*Largemouth Bass (harvest season)	May 7 - March 5	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
*Smallmouth Bass (harvest season)	June 18 - March 5	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Dec. 31 (on open water)	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

\*Catch and release fishing is allowed year-round for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

A summary of selected fishing regulations for Chain 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 the [DNR's Fishing Regulations page](#).

This, and other spring survey summaries, can be found on the [DNR's Spring Fisheries Surveys Northern Wisconsin page](#).

2022 creel survey results for Chain Lake will be posted on the [DNR's Ceded Territory Creel Survey Reports page](#).

For questions about this survey, or the results within, contact:

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

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