



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

**LAKE:** Lake Delta

**COUNTY:** Bayfield

**YEAR:** 2023

### Introduction

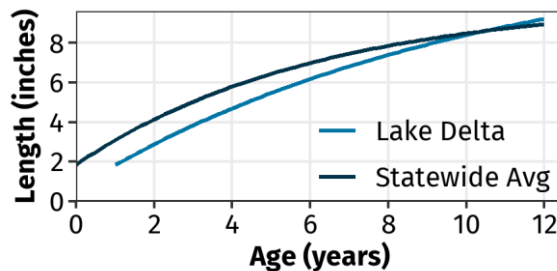
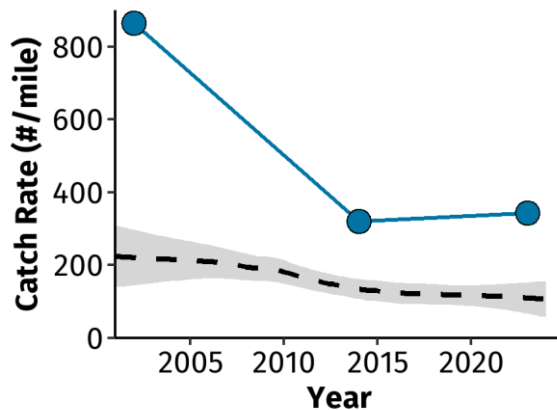
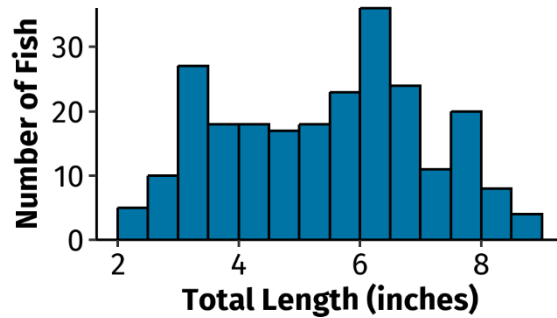
A late spring electrofishing (SE2) survey was conducted on Lake Delta (WBIC 2901700) in Bayfield County on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All species were collected along 0.7 miles of shoreline and gamefish were collected along an additional 4.6 miles of shoreline. Although SE2 surveys primarily target bass and panfish, species observed included largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, rock bass, golden shiner and blacknose shiner.

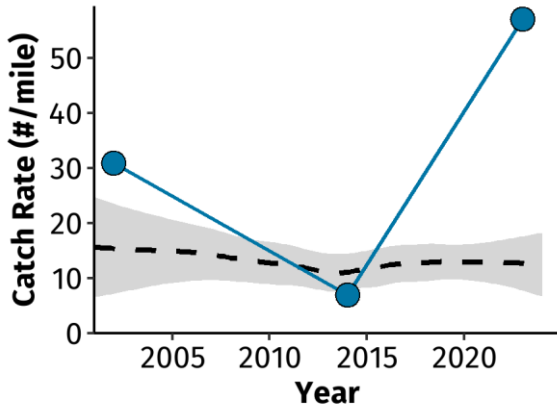
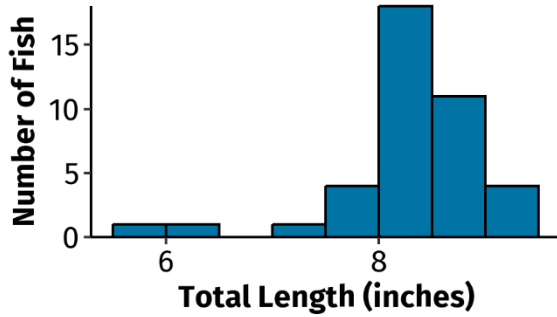
### BLUEGILL



There were 240 bluegills captured and length ranged from 2.1-8.7 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was well above average for simple-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Bluegill catch rate and size structure remained similar to the 2014 survey. There were 71 bluegills kept for aging. Age ranged from 1-12 years and growth was slower than the statewide average.

| Year                          | 2014 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| # Captured Per Mile           | 320  | 343  |
| Quality Size ( $\geq 6''$ )   | 55%  | 43%  |
| Preferred Size ( $\geq 8''$ ) | <1%  | 5%   |





## BLACK CRAPPIE



There were 40 black crappies captured and length ranged from 5.8-9.1 inches. Black crappie catch rate (blue dots) was well above average for simple-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2014 survey, the black crappie catch rate and size structure improved substantially. There were 21 black crappies were kept for aging. Ages ranged from 3-8 years, but 18 were age-4. The average length at age-4 was 8.3 inches, indicating slightly slower growth than the statewide average (8.5 inches).

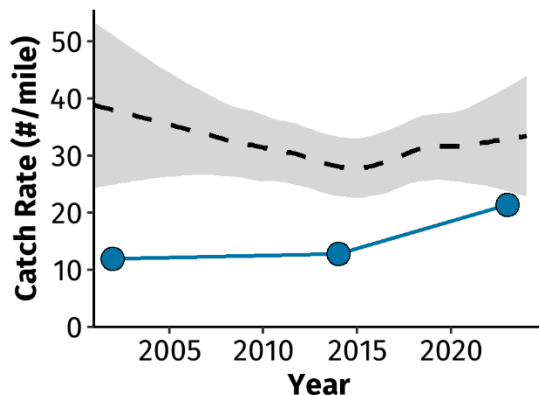
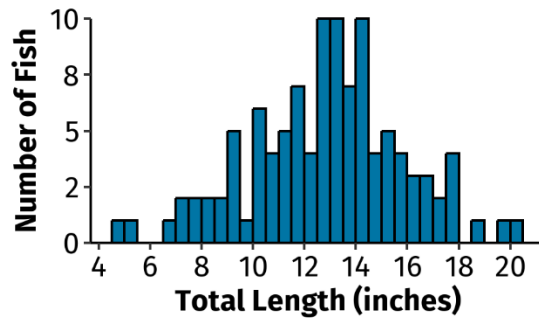
| Year                           | 2014 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| # Captured Per Mile            | 7    | 57   |
| Quality Size ( $\geq 8''$ )    | 14%  | 83%  |
| Preferred Size ( $\geq 10''$ ) | 0%   | 0%   |

## LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 109 largemouth bass captured and length ranged from 4.7-20.5 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was slightly below average for simple-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2014 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate and size structure increased.

| Year                           | 2014 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| # Captured Per Mile            | 13   | 21   |
| Quality Size ( $\geq 12''$ )   | 51%  | 63%  |
| Preferred Size ( $\geq 15''$ ) | 15%  | 22%  |



## OTHER SPECIES

There were 12 pumpkinseeds captured and length ranged from 2.4-5.9 inches. Four northern pike were captured and length ranged from 10.2-23.3 inches. Other species captured in low numbers (less than ten fish) included golden shiner, green sunfish, rock bass and blacknose shiner.

## Summary

Overall, the fisheries in Lake Delta are healthy and productive and feature one of the best panfish fisheries in Bayfield County. Bluegills and black crappies were abundant with good size structure and slightly slower than average growth. Black crappies were dominated by one age-class, which is common for black crappie as a “boom or bust” species. High abundance of panfish with slower growth indicated that a more restrictive regulation would not benefit panfish populations in Lake Delta. Largemouth bass abundance was low, but size structure was good, and both improved since 2014.

*General fishing regulations for Lake Delta in Bayfield County, Wisconsin.*

| SPECIES         | SEASON DATES  | DAILY BAG LIMIT | SIZE LIMIT |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May to<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March | 5               | 14 inches  |
| Northern Pike   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May to<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March | 5               | None       |
| Panfish         | Open all year   | 25              | None       |

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

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