



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Island Lake

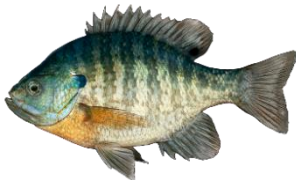
COUNTY: Bayfield

YEAR: 2023

Introduction

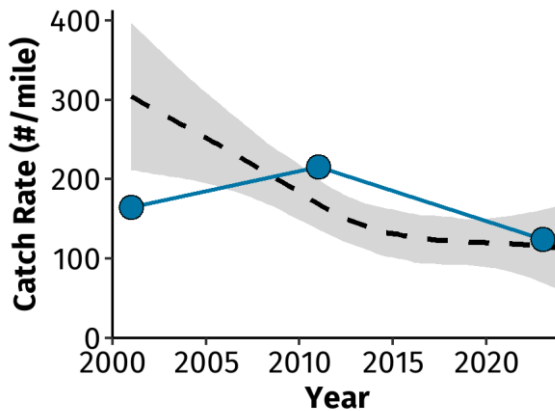
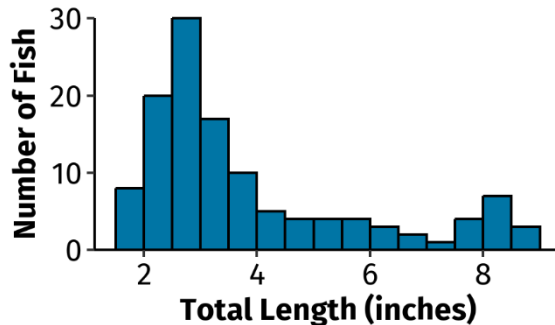
A late spring electrofishing (SE2) survey was conducted on Island Lake (WBIC 2470800) in Bayfield County on May 31st, 2023. All species were collected along one mile of shoreline and gamefish were collected along an additional 1.8 miles of shoreline. Although SE2 surveys primarily target bass and panfish, species observed included bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, rock bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye. High water levels and flooded trees along the shorelines made sampling difficult, and some larger northern pike and black crappie were observed but not captured.

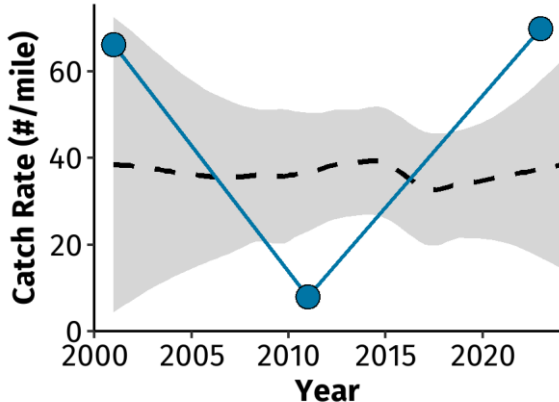
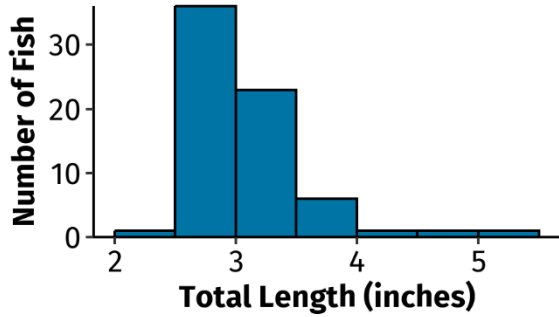
BLUEGILL



There were 124 bluegills captured and length ranged from 1.7-8.7 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for simple-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2011 survey, the bluegill catch rate decreased, but size structure improved.

Year	2011	2023
# Captured Per Mile	216	124
Quality Size ($\geq 6"$)	16%	16%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8"$)	1%	8%





YELLOW PERCH



There were 70 yellow perch captured and length ranged from 2.3-5.1 inches. Yellow perch catch rate (blue dots) was above average for simple-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2011 survey, the yellow perch catch rate increased substantially but size structure remained poor.

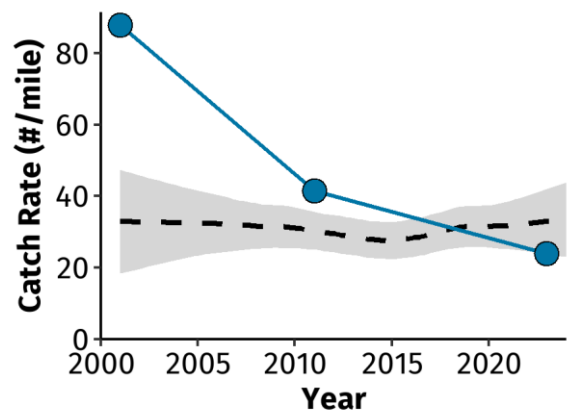
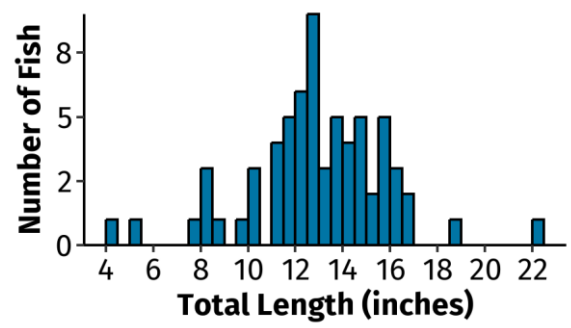
Year	2011	2023
# Captured Per Mile	8	70
Quality Size ($\geq 8''$)	0%	0%

LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 67 largemouth bass captured and length ranged from 4.2-22.4 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 2011 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate decreased but size structure improved, especially for fish over 15 inches.

Year	2011	2023
# Captured Per Mile	42	24
Quality Size ($\geq 12''$)	65%	69%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15''$)	6%	21%



OTHER SPECIES

There were three walleyes captured, two were 8.2 inches and one was 21.2 inches. Four northern pike were captured and length ranged from 19.6-23.9 inches. There were seven rock bass captured and length ranged from 2.9-9.5 inches. Two pumpkinseeds were captured and were 5.2 and 7.7 inches.

Summary

Overall, the fisheries in Island Lake are healthy. The largemouth bass and bluegill populations had good size structure and moderate catch rates. Yellow perch were abundant and likely serve as an important forage species for predators in Island Lake. Although infrequent, adult walleye were documented. Since walleye have not been stocked in Island Lake since 2016, the presence of juvenile walleye indicates there is some level of natural reproduction occurring.

General fishing regulations for Island Lake in Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5	14 inches
Northern Pike	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5	None
Panfish	Open all year	25	None
Walleye	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	3	15 inches but less than 20 inches, with 1 over 24 inches

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

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