



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Owen

COUNTY: Bayfield

YEAR: 2025

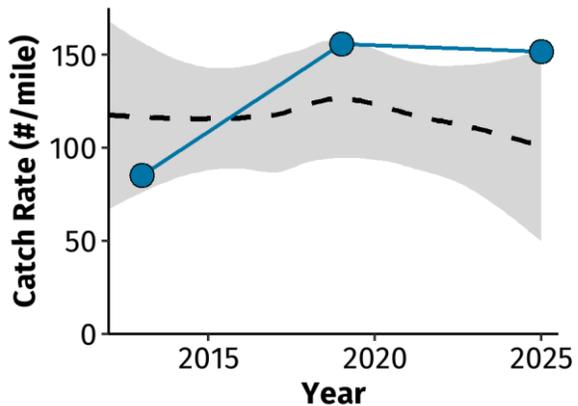
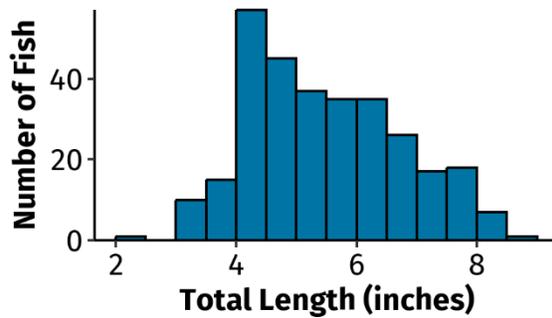
Introduction

A late spring electrofishing survey was conducted on Lake Owen (WBIC 2900200) in Bayfield County on May 19th and 21st, 2025. All species were collected along 2 miles of shoreline and gamefish were collected along an additional 6 miles of shoreline. Although these surveys primarily target bass and bluegill, other species observed included smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, pumpkinseed, black crappie, yellow perch, rock bass, white sucker, logperch, bluntnose minnow and blacknose shiner. Comparisons were made to previous surveys and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

BLUEGILL



There were 304 bluegills captured and length ranged from 2.2 to 8.8 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was above average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2019 survey, the bluegill catch rate remained similar and size structure improved. Sixteen 6–7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Age ranged from 4-6 years with a mean of 5.0 years, which is slightly faster than average growth for Douglas and Bayfield counties.



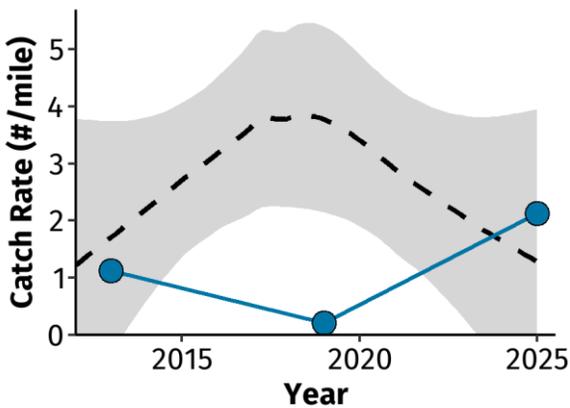
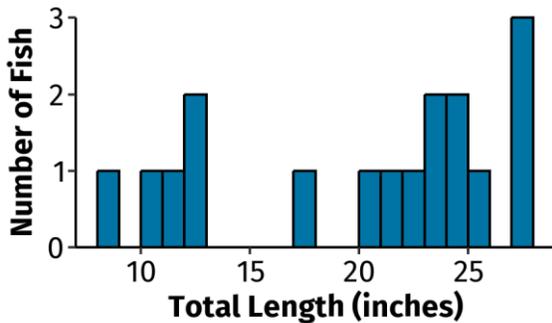
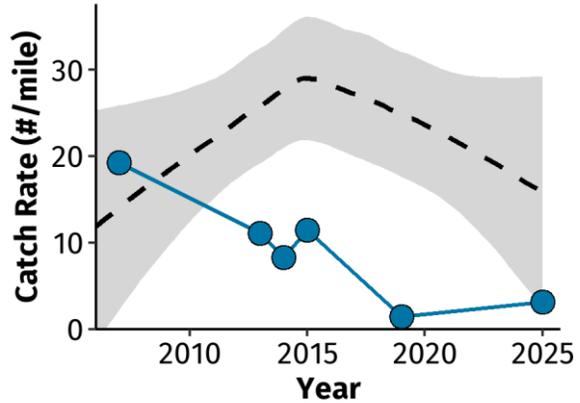
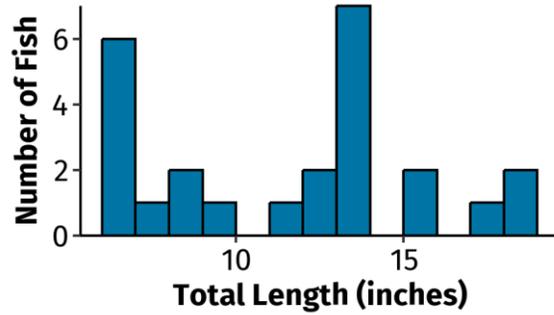
Year	2019	2025
# Captured Per Mile	156	152
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	17%	34%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	5%	3%

LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 25 largemouth bass captured and length ranged from 6.2 to 18.4 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2019 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate and size structure both increased.

Year	2019	2025
# Captured Per Mile	1.5	3.1
Quality Size ($\geq 12''$)	14%	56%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15''$)	7%	20%



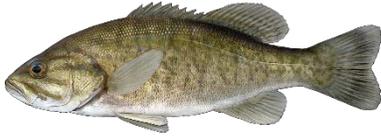
NORTHERN PIKE



There were 17 northern pike captured and length ranged from 8.5 to 28.0 inches. Northern pike catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2019 survey, the northern pike catch rate and size structure both increased.

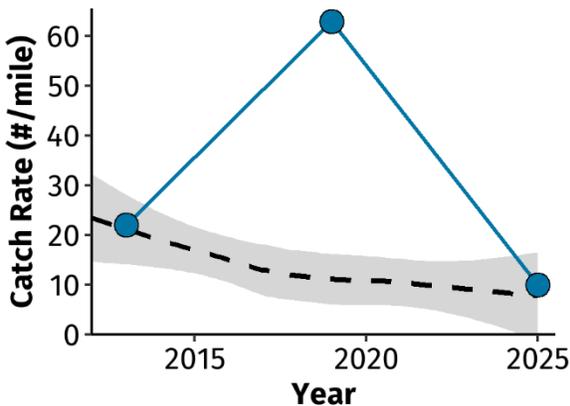
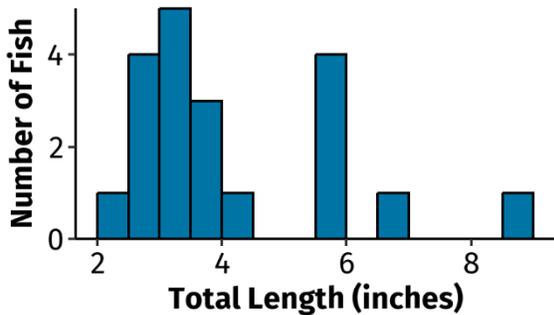
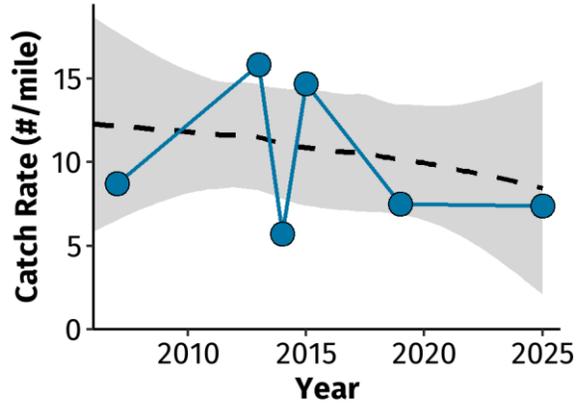
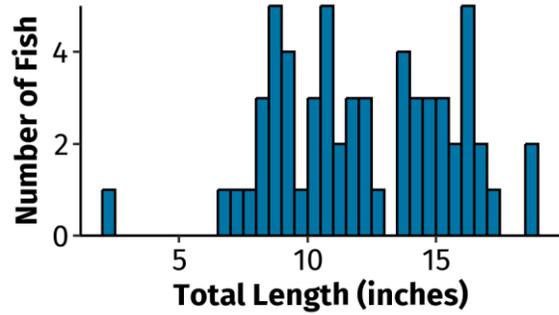
Year	2019	2025
# Captured Per Mile	0.2	2.1
Quality Size ($\geq 21''$)	0%	59%
Preferred Size ($\geq 28''$)	0%	6%

SMALLMOUTH BASS



There were 59 smallmouth bass captured and length ranged from 2.2 to 18.7 inches. Smallmouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2019 survey, the smallmouth bass catch rate remained similar and size structure increased.

Year	2019	2025
# Captured Per Mile	7.5	7.4
Quality Size ($\geq 11"$)	3%	58%
Preferred Size ($\geq 14"$)	2%	36%



YELLOW PERCH



There were 20 yellow perch captured and length ranged from 2.4 to 8.7 inches. Yellow perch catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2019 survey, the yellow perch catch rate decreased but size structure improved.

Year	2019	2025
# Captured Per Mile	63	10
Stock Size ($\geq 5"$)	21%	30%
Quality Size ($\geq 8"$)	0%	5%

OTHER SPECIES

There were 73 rock bass captured, and length ranged from 3.6 to 9.4 inches. There were 16 pumpkinseeds captured, and length ranged from 4.1 to 7.6 inches. Seven black crappies were captured, and length ranged from 7.2 to 11.0 inches. Six walleyes were captured, and length ranged from 12.3 to 26.7 inches. Other species captured in low numbers (less than ten fish) included bluntnose minnow, blacknose shiner, logperch and white sucker.

Summary

Lake Owen features one of Bayfield County's best clear water smallmouth bass fisheries, quality panfish and ample high-quality habitat for these species to thrive. Steep shorelines and a cold front during this survey may have decreased catch rates slightly, particularly for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Still, this survey found productive largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and northern pike fisheries with good size structure. Bluegills remain abundant with a good growth rate, and improved size structure. Yellow perch primarily serve as an important food source for predators, but some can reach harvestable size. A few walleyes and black crappies were captured but are better sampled with fyke nets. A fyke net survey and walleye population estimate was completed in April 2025 and results will be compiled with this electrofishing survey in a comprehensive fisheries survey report in 2026.

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

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass (LMB)	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5 in total with SMB	None
Smallmouth Bass (SMB)	3 rd Saturday in June to 1 st Sunday in March	1	18 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	18 inches

For fisheries management questions about Lake Owen, contact:

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