



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Pickerel Lake

COUNTY: Bayfield

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

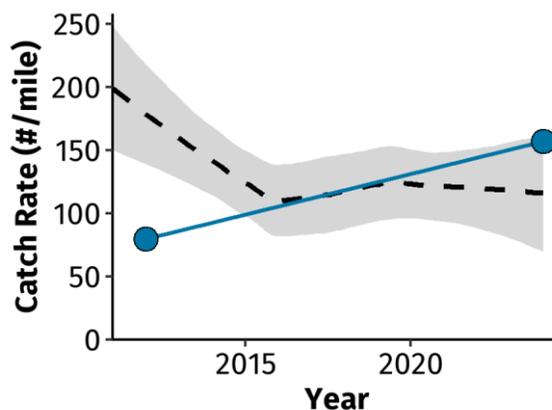
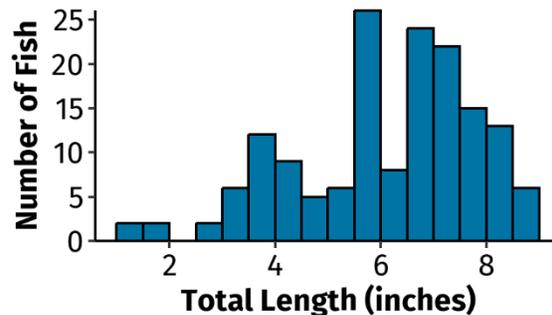
A late spring electrofishing (SE2) survey was conducted on Pickerel Lake (WBIC 2489200) in Bayfield County on May 8th, 2024. All species were collected along one mile of shoreline and gamefish were collected along an additional 1.4 miles of shoreline. Although SE2 surveys primarily target bass and panfish, species observed in the 2024 survey included bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, largemouth bass, walleye, northern pike, rock bass, fathead minnow, yellow bullhead, central mudminnow and johnny darter.

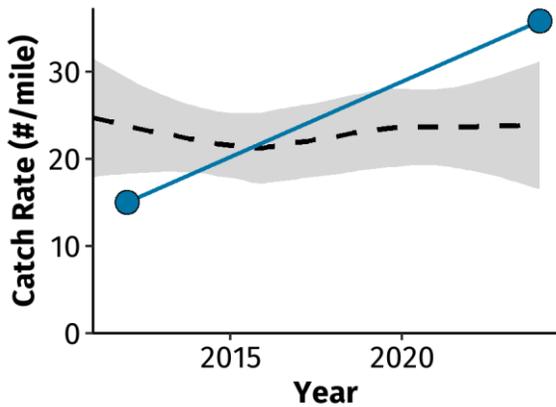
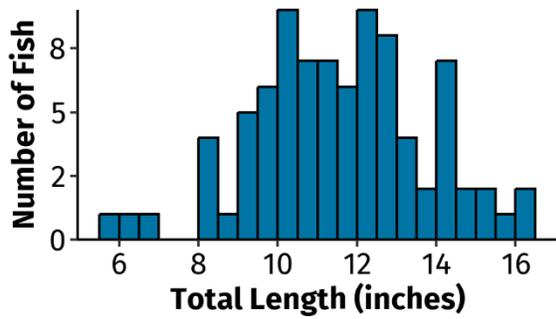
BLUEGILL



There were 157 bluegills captured and length ranged from 1.3-9.0 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was slightly above the average for complex-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2012 survey, the bluegill catch rate and size structure increased. Twenty-one 6-7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Age of these 6-7-inch fish ranged from 4-7 years with a mean of 5.2 years, which is slightly faster than average for Douglas and Bayfield counties.

Year	2012	2024
# Captured Per Mile	80	157
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	28%	56%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	5%	12%





LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 86 largemouth bass captured and length ranged from 5.7-16.2 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was above average for complex-cool-clear lakes in Wisconsin (dashed line; 95% confidence interval shaded). Since the 2012 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate more than doubled, but overall size structure declined with more 10-14-inch largemouth bass in the system.

Year	2012	2024
# Captured Per Mile	15	36
Quality Size ($\geq 12''$)	97%	43%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15''$)	33%	6%

OTHER SPECIES

There were 13 black crappies captured and length ranged from 6.3-10.2 inches. Many black crappies were observed in the gamefish survey sections, but very few were present where all species were collected. Other species captured in low numbers (5 or fewer fish) included rock bass, pumpkinseed, walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, fathead minnow, yellow bullhead, central mudminnow, johnny darter and pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrid.

Summary

Overall, the fisheries in Pickerel Lake are healthy and improving. Bluegills increased substantially in abundance and size. Largemouth bass abundance more than doubled, with many more 10-14-inch fish than previously. A few black crappies were captured but were not sampled well by this survey. Although infrequent, adult walleye and northern pike were still documented.

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

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM 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 Pickerel Lake, contact:

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