



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

POOLS 9 AND 10, MISSISSIPPI RIVER WALLEYE AND SAUGER

Mississippi River, Pools 9 and 10

Crawford and Vernon

2025

Introduction

The tailwaters in pools 9 and 10 have specific habitat types that cause many different species to use these areas during certain time of year. This habitat includes sandy and rocky bottoms with higher flows. There are also many wing dams located in the tailwaters. During the spring and fall the walleye and sauger congregate in the tailwaters and are generally the target species for many people during those specific time periods.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Pools 9 and 10 of the Mississippi River to determine the health of the walleye and sauger fishery. Over a four-day period during late-October a DNR electrofishing crew conducted a survey at night in the near shore areas and around wing dams below Lock and Dam 8 and 9.

Adult Walleye

A total of 254 adult walleye were collected. They ranged in size from 9.0 to 26.9 inches (Figure 1). Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) was 35 adult walleye per hour (Figure 2). Of the total walleye collected 41.3% of the walleye collected were above 15 inches in length.

Figure 1. Length frequency of adult walleye caught electrofishing Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.

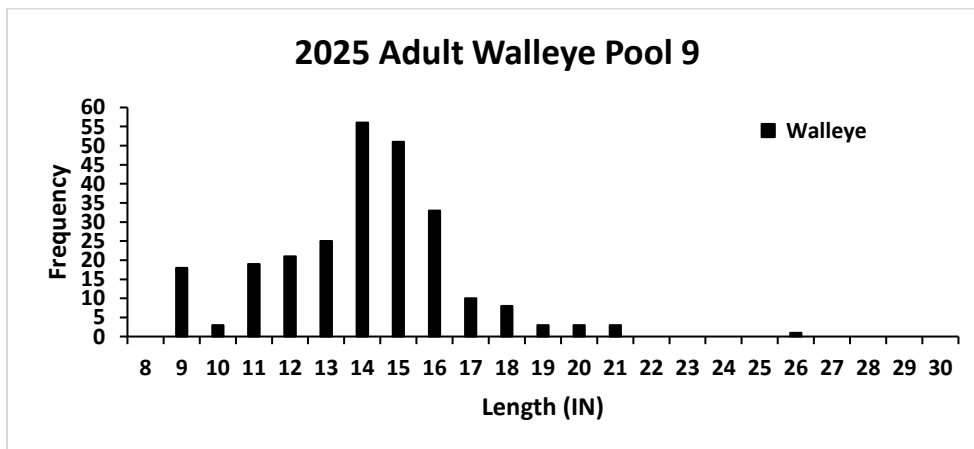
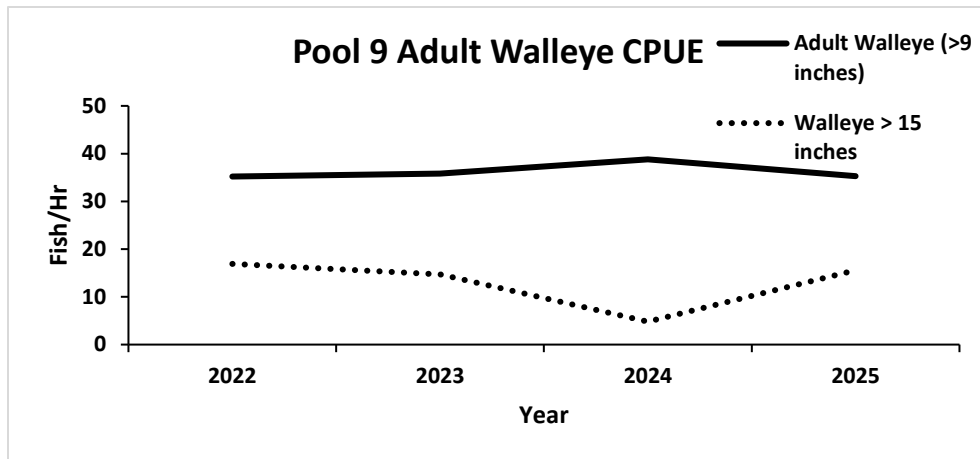


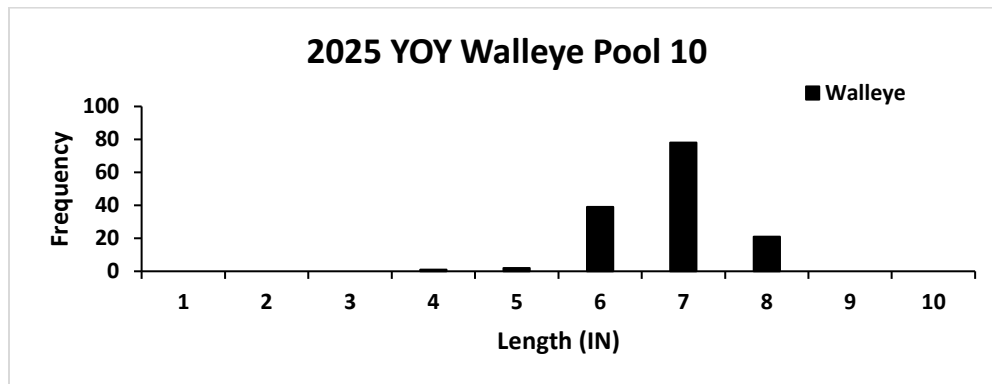
Figure 2. Catch rates of adult walleye on Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.



Young of Year Walleye

A young of year (YOY) walleye is defined as a walleye less than 9 inches. A total of 141 (YOY) walleye were collected. They ranged in size from 4.0 to 8.8 inches (Figure 3) with a CPUE of 50.4 YOY walleye per hour (Figure 7).

Figure 3. Length frequency of YOY walleye caught electrofishing Pool 10 of the Mississippi River.



Adult Sauger

A total of 133 adult sauger were collected. They ranged in size from 8.0 to 16.3 inches (Figure 4). CPUE was 18.5 adult sauger per hour (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Length frequency of adult sauger caught electrofishing Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.

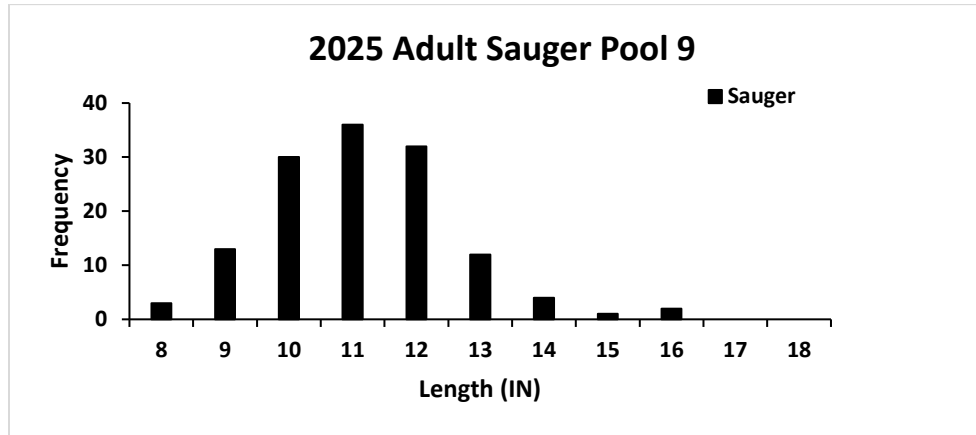
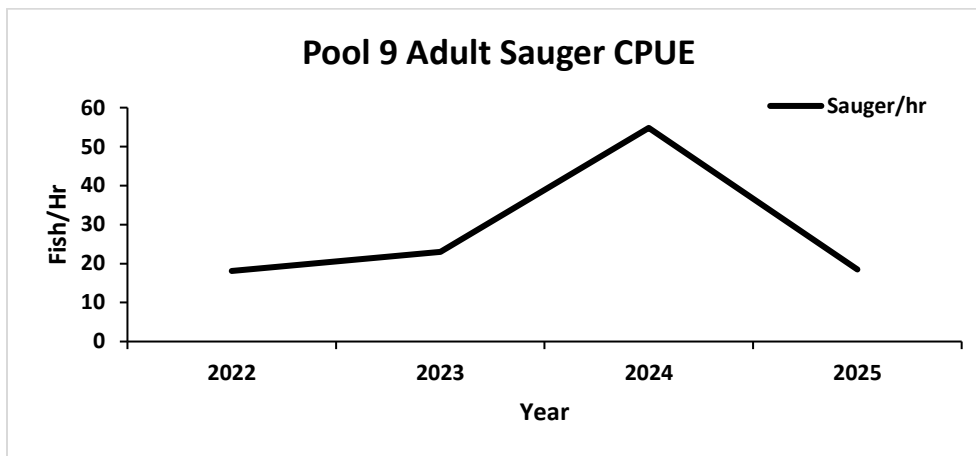


Figure 5. Catch rates of adult sauger on Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.



Young of Year Sauger

A YOY sauger is defined as a sauger less than 8.6 inches. A total of 248 YOY sauger were collected. They ranged in size from 4 to 8.6 inches (Figure 6) with a CPUE of 88.6 YOY sauger per hour (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Length Frequency of YOY sauger caught electrofishing Pool 10 of the Mississippi River.

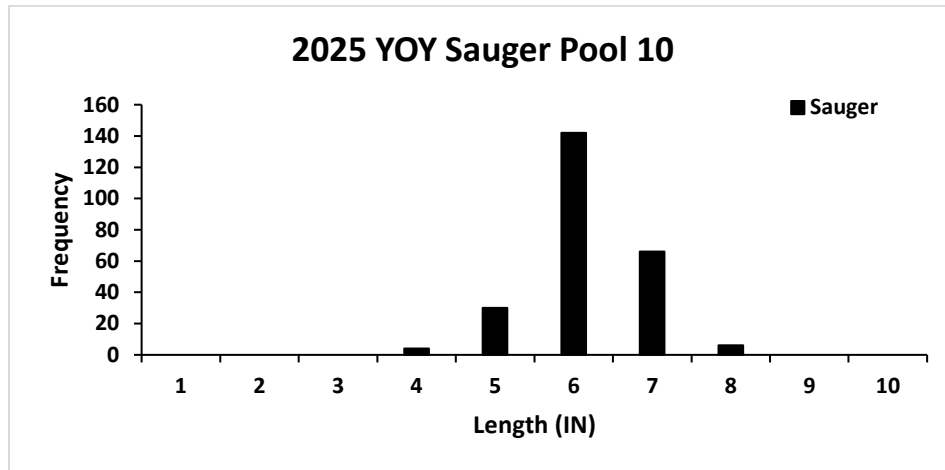
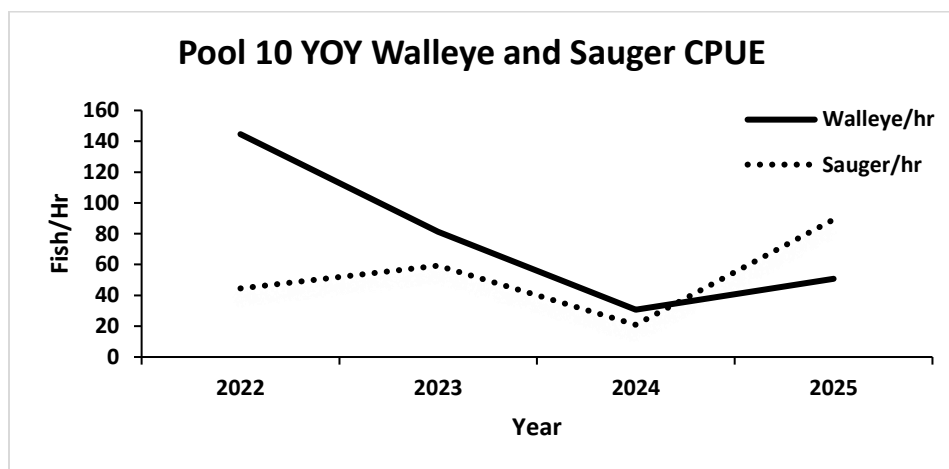


Figure 7. Catch rates of young of year walleyes and saugers on Pool 10 of the Mississippi River.



Summary

The large number of walleye and sauger in the 11 to 16 inch size range is the result of strong year-classes that were produced over the past few years. Adult walleye catch rates in 2025 for walleye greater than 15 inches increased 225% when compared to 2024, but was similar to what was observed in 2022 and 2023. While adult sauger catch rates were lower in 2025 when compared to 2024, they were comparable to catch rates seen in 2022 and 2023. YOY sauger catch rates in 2025 were the highest of all sampling events from 2022-2024 and a strong 2025 sauger year class is present. Walleye YOY catch rates were higher in 2025 when compared to 2024, but still lower than what was observed in 2022 and 2023.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for The Mississippi River Pools 9-12, in Wisconsin.

| Species | Season Dates | Daily Bag Limit | Size Limit |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| Walleye | Open all year | 6 | 15" for walleye, walleye 20-27" must be released only one over 27" may be kept. |
| Sauger | Open all year | None | None |

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on The Mississippi River, Pools 9-12, contact:

Jessica Westhoff

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

1502 E Lessard St

Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

608-412-3846

Jessica.Westhoff@wisconsin.gov