



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Fox Lake

Dodge County

2025

Introduction

Fox Lake is a 2713-acre drainage lake located in northwestern Dodge County. The lake has a mean depth of seven feet, a maximum depth of 19 feet, 17.9 miles of shoreline and the water clarity is low. Public access is provided at Clausen Park in the City of Fox Lake on the Mill Creek outlet and Town Park in the Town of Fox Lake, on the northwest corner of the lake. Shore fishing access is available at these two locations as well as HWY A at the Cambria Creek inlet, HWY A/HWY 33 bridge and wayside and the Fox Lake Dam on the Mill Creek outlet in the City of Fox Lake and Chief Kuno Trail between The Jug and Wedges Bay. The fishery of Fox Lake is comprised of musky, northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass and panfish. The standard fishing regulations apply to Fox Lake however, the walleye minimum length limit is 18 inches (three fish daily bag limit), largemouth or smallmouth bass minimum length limit is 18 inches (one fish daily bag limit) and the northern pike minimum length limit is 32 inches (one fish daily bag limit) (Table 1). Over the years, Fox Lake has been stocked with various fish species, including walleye (Table 2).

On the night of October 22, 2025, fall electrofishing (FE) was conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate walleye recruitment by targeting juvenile walleye under 12 inches. Two 2.0-mile transects were sampled., including the Island Run (which encompassed McFetridge, Elmwood, and Brushwood Islands) and the North Shore Run (from Shorecrest Drive to Town Park). The FE was conducted with a DNR standard pulsed direct current (PDC) electrofishing boat, utilized two dippers and a total of four miles were sampled.

Walleye

A total of 47 walleye equal to or greater than 12 inches were sampled during the FE. Adult walleyes were observed but not collected as part of the survey. Of the 47 walleye sampled, ageing structures (scales) were taken from 35 fish for age estimation. Each scale sample underwent independent analysis by two skilled readers and any discrepancies were re-evaluated until a consensus age was reached. Of the 35 fish sampled for ageing, 30 were classified as young of the year (YOY) fish naturally produced or stocked in 2025. The 2025 FE catch rate was 7.5 YOY walleye per mile, with an average length of 7.2 inches (Figure 1). According to the age estimates, 9.5 inches is the threshold between age-0 (YOY) and age-1 walleye for 2025.

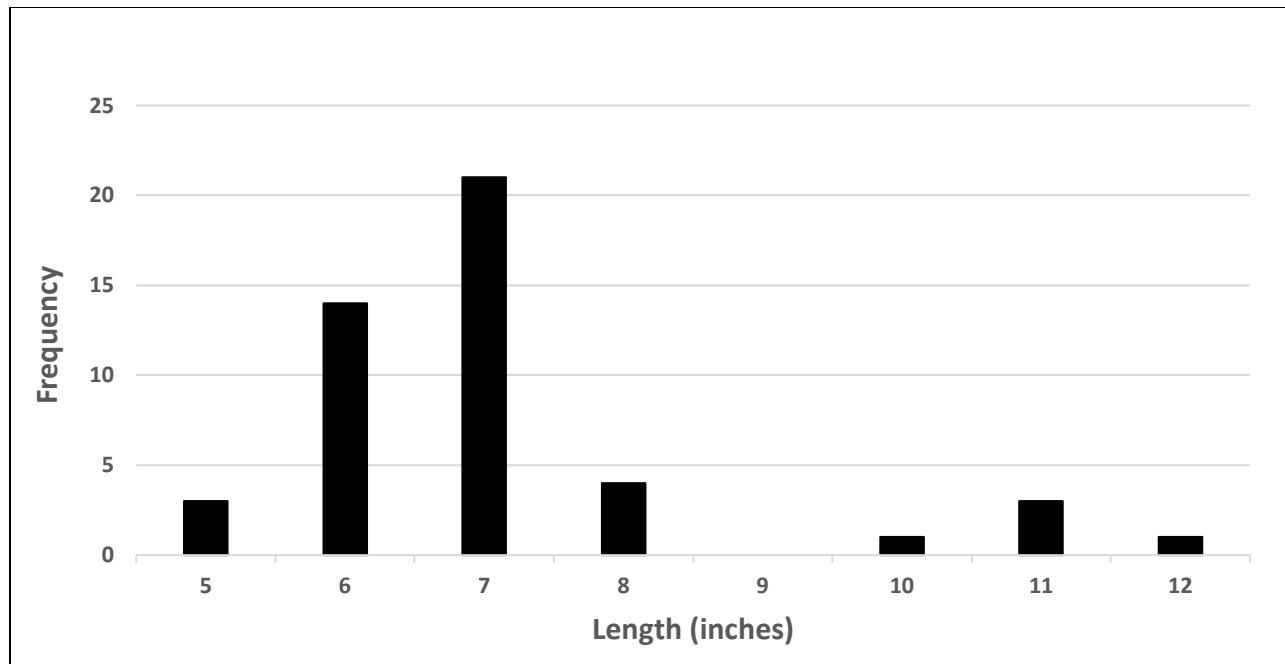


Figure 1. Length-frequency histogram of walleye equal to or greater than 12 inches sampled during the 2025 fall electrofishing (FE) survey of Fox Lake, Dodge County, Wisconsin.



Photo Credit: DNR Staff

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Fox Lake and its tributaries and connected open waters, in Dodge County Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Walleye	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3	18 inches
Northern Pike	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1	32 inches
Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18 inches
Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass	All other times of the year	0	Catch and release only
Panfish	Open Year Round	25 in total	None
Muskellunge	First Saturday in May to December 31	1	40 inches

Table 2: Walleye stocked in Fox Lake since 2020 including year stocked, source, average length and number of fish stocked.

YEAR	SOURCE	AVERAGE LENGTH (Inches)	NUMBER STOCKED
2020	Private	7	1,500
2021	Private	7	2,500
2021	DNR	1.6	105,200
2022	Private	7	2,600
2023	Private	7	1,500
2023	DNR	1.4	95,518
2024	Private	7	1,600
2025	Private	7	1,500
2025	DNR	1.5	95,196

Summary

Fox Lake continues to support a robust walleye population with multiple year classes of adult walleye present and consistent, stable recruitment of naturally reproduced and stocked juvenile fish. Fox Lake is a mixed recruitment lake with the walleye population sustained by natural reproduction and survival of stocked fish. The protection of critical fish habitat, frequent monitoring of the walleye population and continued stocking of small fingerling walleye by the DNR are recommended to maintain and preserve Fox Lake's high-quality walleye population. Future FE surveys will be conducted to evaluate the walleye recruitment. A whole lake comprehensive fishery survey is scheduled for

2026, where all fish populations will be evaluated using spring fyke netting and spring, summer and fall electrofishing surveys.

Acknowledgements

This report was written by DNR Advanced Fisheries Technician, Megan Drymalski.

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