



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Cranberry

COUNTY: Douglas

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

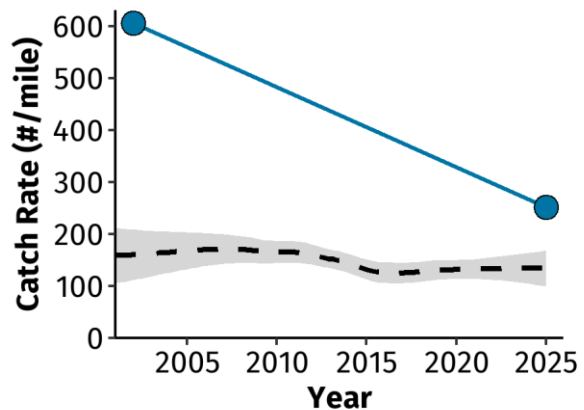
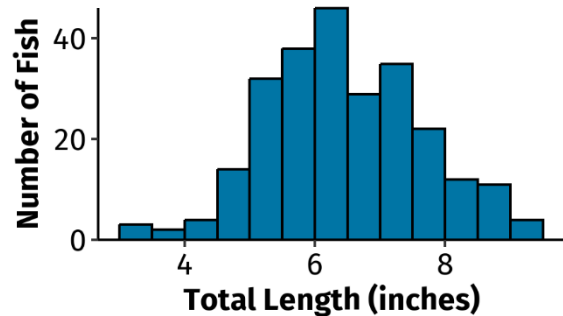
A late spring electrofishing survey was conducted on Cranberry Lake (WBIC 2693100) in Douglas County on May 8th, 2025. Gamefish were collected along the entire shoreline (2.4 miles) and all species were collected along 1 mile of shoreline. Although these surveys primarily target bass and bluegill, other species observed included walleye, northern pike, pumpkinseed, black crappie, yellow perch, rock bass, bowfin, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, golden redhorse and white sucker. Comparisons were made to previous surveys and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

BLUEGILL



There were 252 bluegills captured and length ranged from 3.2 to 9.4 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was well above average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2002 survey, the bluegill catch rate decreased, but size structure improved substantially. Twenty 6–7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Age ranged from 5 to 10 years with a mean of 6.6 years, which is slower than average growth for Douglas and Bayfield counties.

Year	2002	2025
# Captured Per Mile	606	252
Quality Size ($\geq 6"$)	15%	63%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8"$)	1%	11%

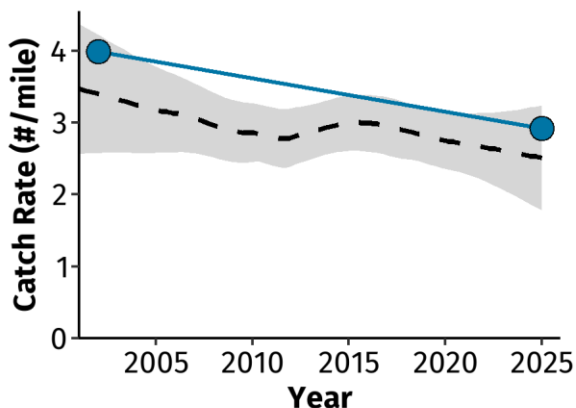
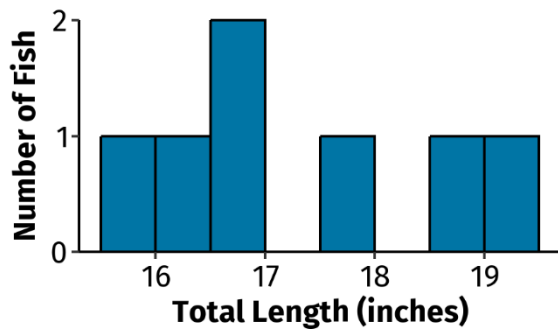
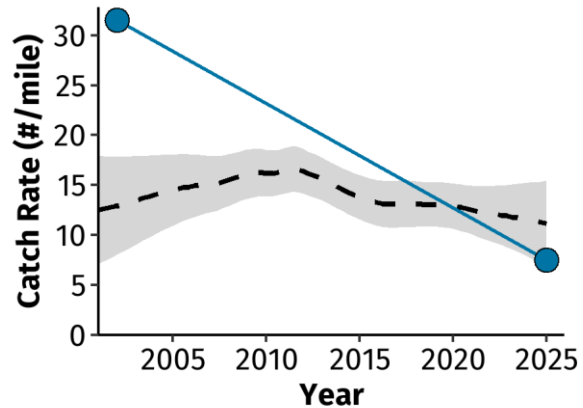
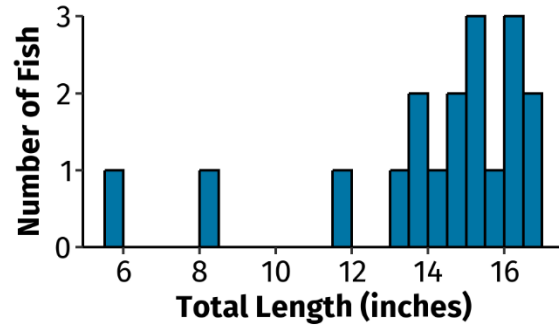


LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 18 largemouth bass captured and length ranged from 5.9 to 17.0 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was slightly below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2002 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate decreased, but size structure improved.

Year	2002	2025
# Captured Per Mile	32	8
Quality Size ($\geq 12"$)	55%	83%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15"$)	26%	50%

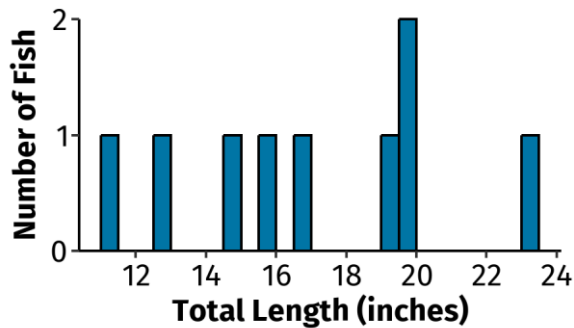


NORTHERN PIKE



There were seven northern pike captured and length ranged from 15.5 to 19.2 inches. Northern pike catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2002 survey, the northern pike catch rate decreased slightly and size structure remained poor.

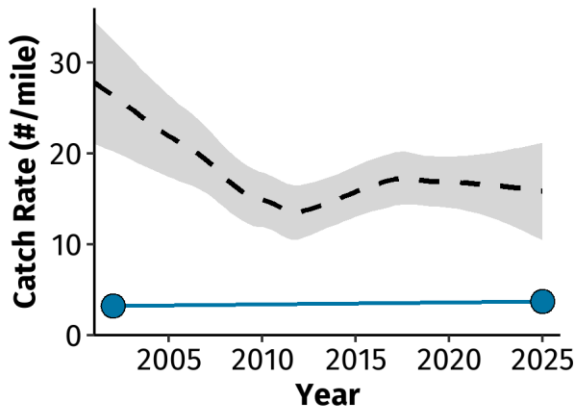
Year	2002	2025
# Captured Per Mile	4	3
Quality Size ($\geq 21"$)	0%	0%



WALLEYE



There were nine walleyes captured and length ranged from 11.1 to 23.1 inches. Walleye catch rate (blue dots) was below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2002 survey, the walleye catch rate remained similar and size structure declined.



Year	2002	2025
# Captured Per Mile	3.3	3.8
Quality Size ($\geq 15"$)	94%	67%
Preferred Size ($\geq 20"$)	19%	11%

OTHER SPECIES

There were 12 pumpkinseeds captured and length ranged from 4.6 to 8.6 inches. Other species captured in low numbers (less than five fish) included bowfin, rock bass, black crappie, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, golden redhorse, white sucker and yellow perch.

Summary

Cranberry Lake features an abundant bluegill fishery and quality largemouth bass fishery. Since the previous survey, bluegills and largemouth bass both had lower abundance, but higher size structure. This increase in size structure provides a higher quality fishery than in 2002 despite the lower abundance. Slow growth of bluegill is likely due to their high abundance, so a more restrictive panfish regulation would not benefit panfish populations in Cranberry Lake and could instead further decrease size structure. Northern pike and walleye populations remained similar to previous surveys. A total of 13 fish species were documented in this survey, indicating a diverse fish community, and other species were likely present but not captured.

General fishing regulations for Cranberry Lake in Douglas 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	Only 1 over 14 inches

For fisheries management questions about Cranberry Lake, contact:

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