



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Horsehead

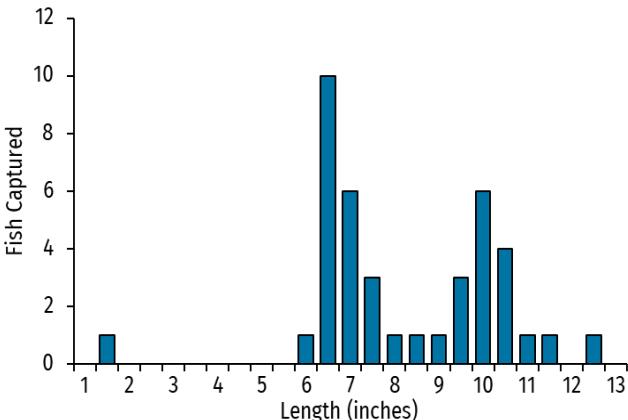
COUNTY: Oneida

YEAR: 2025

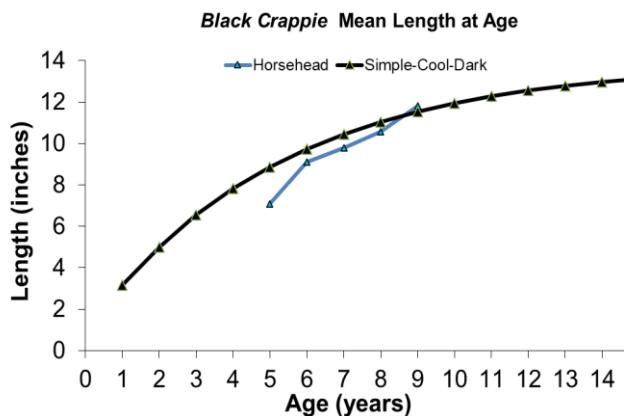
### Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assessed the gamefish and panfish fisheries in Horsehead Lake during the spring of 2025. Horsehead Lake is a 367-acre spring lake with 5 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 11 feet. Gamefish were collected over two electrofishing transects covering 4.3 miles of the shoreline. All species were collected during two half mile transects covering one mile of shoreline.

#### BLACK CRAPPIE



Forty black crappies were captured while surveying Horsehead. Black crappie catch per mile was above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured black crappies varied between 1.8 inches and 12.5 inches. Eighteen black crappies were sampled for age analysis using otoliths. Of those eighteen samples, 5 unique age classes were observed. Average growth appeared slower for fish at age 5, but at average by age-9 when compared to other simple-cool-dark lakes.



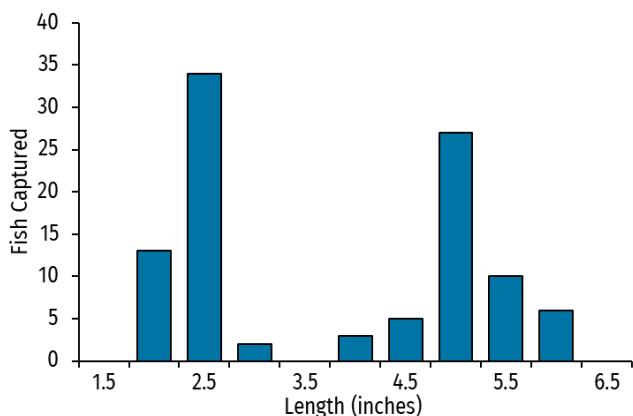
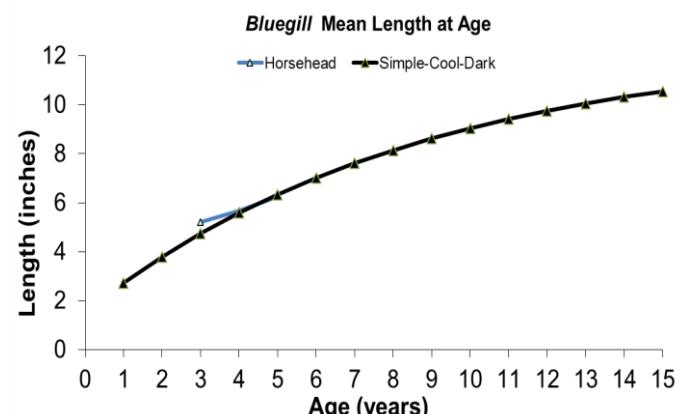
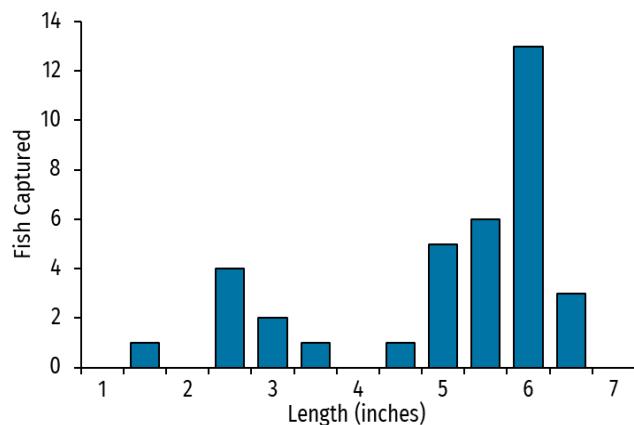
40.0 black crappie per mile	
Quality size $\geq$ 8 inches	19.0 per mile
Preferred size $\geq$ 10 inches	13.0 per mile

## BLUEGILL

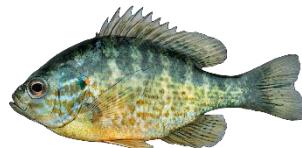


Thirty-six bluegills were captured while surveying Horsehead. Bluegill catch per mile was around the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for simple-cool-dark lakes and between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured bluegills varied between 1.7 inches and 6.7 inches, with a mean length of 5.2 inches. Forty four percent of measured bluegill were 6 inches or greater. Ten bluegills were sampled for age analysis using otoliths. Of those ten samples, 3 unique age classes were observed. Growth aligned with the average for simple-cool-dark lakes for ages-3,4 and 5.

36.0 bluegill per mile	
Quality size $\geq$ 6 inches	16.0 per mile
Preferred size $\geq$ 8 inches	0.0 per mile



## PUMPKINSEED



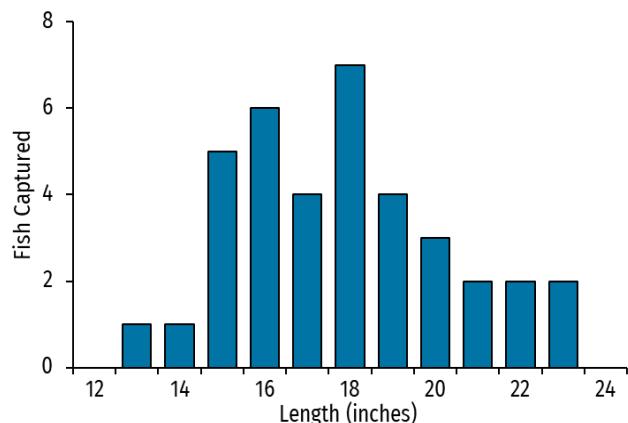
One hundred pumpkinseeds were captured while surveying Horsehead. Pumpkinseed catch per mile was slightly above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for simple-cool-dark lakes. Lengths of measured pumpkinseeds varied between 2.2 inches and 6.1 inches, with a mean length of 4.0 inches. Six percent of measured pumpkinseeds were 6 inches or greater.

100.0 pumpkinseed per mile	
Quality size $\geq$ 6 inches	6.0 per mile
Preferred size $\geq$ 8 inches	0.0 per mile

## NORTHERN PIKE



Thirty-seven northern pike were captured while surveying Horsehead Lake. Northern pike catch per mile was above 50<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured northern pike varied between 13.6 inches and 23.9 inches, with a mean length of 18.3 inches. Sixteen percent of measured northern pike were 21 inches or greater.



8.5 northern pike per mile	
Quality size $\geq$ 21 inches	1.4 per mile
Preferred size $\geq$ 28 inches	0.0 per mile

## OTHER SPECIES

Other species encountered while surveying Horsehead Lake included: black bullhead (191), golden shiner (29), yellow bullhead (28), and yellow perch (six).

## Summary

Horsehead is a simple-cool-dark lake with a mixed fishery of warm-water species that can be accessed by a paved boat ramp on Kildeer Road. Horsehead has experienced significant winterkill over the years with the most recent being documented during the winter of 2021-2022. Recent stocking of black crappie and bluegill appear to have created a decent fishery for those species as they were not captured at all during the previous survey in 2019. Since the 2019 survey, northern pike (11.7/mile) and yellow perch (54.7/mile) catch rates have declined. Bullhead abundance has increased dramatically since the 2019 survey where only 4 yellow bullheads were captured. The 2025 catch rate was 146.7 per mile of black and yellow bullheads combined.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Horsehead Lake, in Oneida County Wisconsin in 2025.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Bullheads	Open all year	Unlimited	No minimum length
Largemouth bass	May to mid-June	5	14" minimum length
largemouth bass and Smallmouth Bass	Mid-June to March	5	14" minimum length
Northen pike	May to March	5	No minimum length
Panfish	Open all year	25	No minimum length
Smallmouth bass	May to mid-June	Catch and release only	Catch and release only

Selected fishing regulations for Horsehead Lake are summarized above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time of surveying, it should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations by downloading a copy from the [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

## Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Horsehead Lake, contact:

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