



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

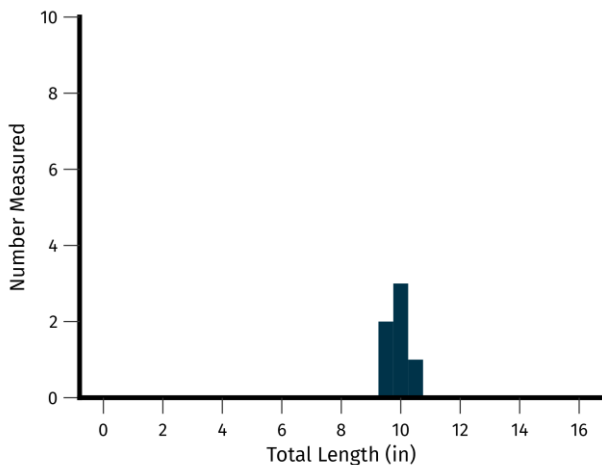
LAKE: Kawaguesaga

COUNTY: Oneida

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and Walleyes for Tomorrow collaboratively assessed the fishery in Kawaguesaga Lake during the spring of 2024. Kawaguesaga is a 670-acre drainage lake with 204 dwelling, five resorts, and one camp along the 11.1 miles of shoreline. Gamefish were collected over three electrofishing transects covering 4.5 miles of the shoreline. All species were collected during three half-mile transects covering one and a half miles of shoreline. Walleye were targeted with fyke nets checked daily over eight nights and five nights of electrofishing.



BLACK CRAPPIE



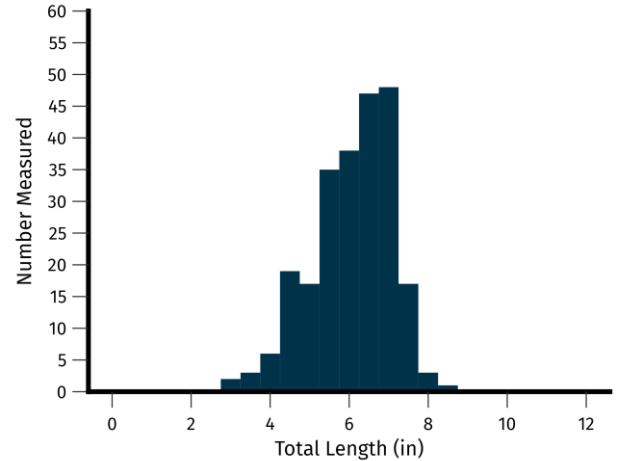
Six black crappies were captured during late spring electrofishing. Counts of black crappies captured were not recorded during netting. Black crappie relative abundance was around the 25th percentile among other Oneida County lakes (i.e., 25% of Oneida County lakes have lower relative abundance of black crappie). The lengths of measured black crappies varied between 9.3 inches and 10.5 inches, with a mean length of 9.8 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting black crappie findings as data were not recorded during netting.

4.0 black crappie per mile	
Quality Size \geq 8 inches	4.0 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 10 inches	2.0 per mile

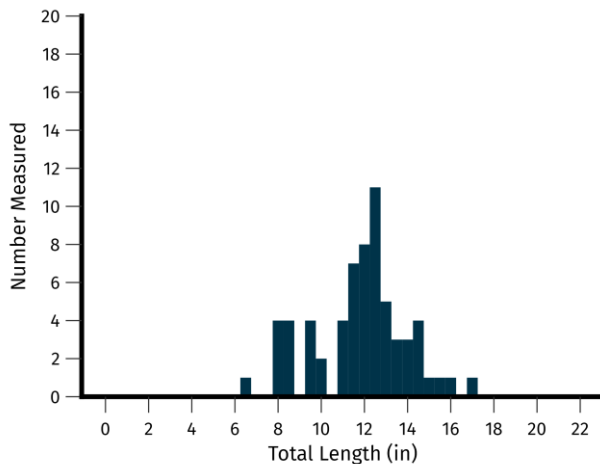
BLUEGILL



A total of 245 bluegills were captured during late spring electrofishing. Counts of bluegills captured were not recorded during netting. Bluegill relative abundance was around the 75th percentile for complex-two story lakes and 75th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured bluegills varied between 3.0 inches and 8.4 inches, with a mean length of 6.1 inches.



163.3 bluegill per mile	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	91.3 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	2.0 per mile



LARGEMOUTH BASS



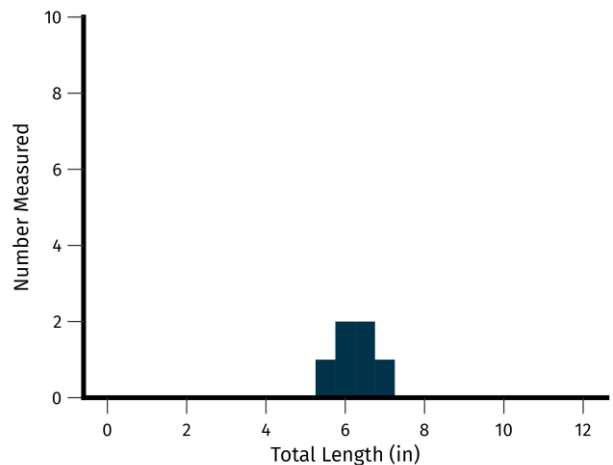
A total of 64 largemouth bass were captured during late spring electrofishing. Largemouth bass relative abundance was slightly below the 75th percentile for complex-two story and near the 50th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured largemouth bass varied between 6.4 inches and 16.8 inches, with a mean length of 11.8 inches. Growth of largemouth bass has improved since 2015 and is now similar to other complex-two story lakes. An insufficient number of individuals were captured to calculate a population estimate.

10.6 largemouth bass per mile	
Quality size \geq 12 inches	6.0 per mile
Preferred size \geq 15 inches	0.5 per mile

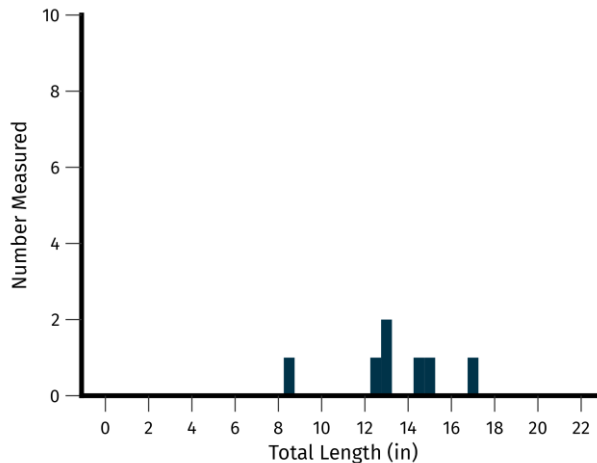
PUMPKINSEED



Six pumpkinseeds were captured during late spring electrofishing. Counts of pumpkinseeds captured were not recorded during netting. Pumpkinseed relative abundance was in the 50th percentile for complex-two story lakes and around the 25th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured pumpkinseeds varied between 5.7 inches and 7.1 inches, with a mean length of 6.4 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting pumpkinseed findings as data were not recorded during netting.



4.0 pumpkinseed per mile	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	2.6 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	0.0 per mile



SMALLMOUTH BASS



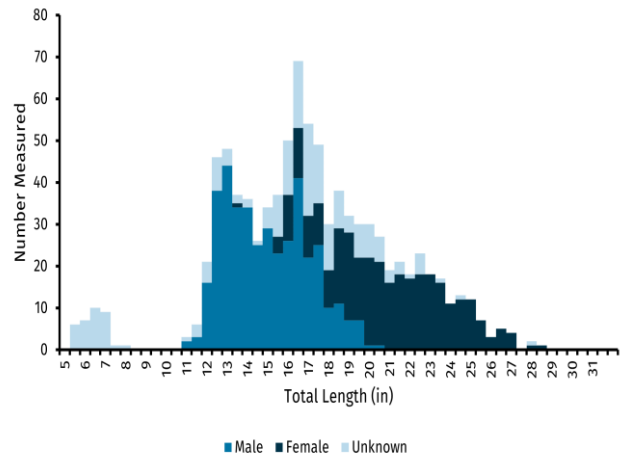
Seven smallmouth bass were captured during late spring electrofishing. Smallmouth bass relative abundance was around the 25th percentile for complex-two story lakes and 25th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured smallmouth bass varied between 8.5 inches and 17.2 inches, with a mean length of 13.3 inches. An insufficient number of individuals were captured to calculate a population estimate and data should be interpreted carefully.

1.2 smallmouth bass per mile	
Quality size \geq 11 inches	1 per mile
Preferred size \geq 14 inches	0.5 per net night

WALLEYE



A total of 876 walleye were captured while surveying Kawaguesaga. Lengths of individuals varied between 5.5 inches and 28.5 inches. The walleye population was estimated to be 1,905 adults. Walleye density was below the average density of 3.5 per acre for lakes in Oneida County.



Estimated 2.84 adult walleye per acre	
12 – 14.9 inches	0.46 per acre
15 – 19.9 inches	1.57 per acre
20 inches and greater	0.79 per acre

OTHER SPECIES

Other species encountered in Kawaguesaga Lake included bluntnose minnow (10) grass pickerel (2), mimic shiner (35), muskellunge (1), northern pike (2), rock bass (18) and yellow perch (2).

Summary

Kawaguesaga Lake is a complex-two story lake possessing cold-water and warm-water fish species that can be accessed by a concrete boat ramp off Dam Road or through the connection from Minocqua Lake. A collaborative walleye rehabilitation project has been ongoing Minocqua chain of lakes since 2015. The walleye population has increased in abundance since the low of 1.3 per acre observed in 2015 and slightly decreased from the 3.2 per acre observed in 2020 and the 3.4 observed in 2021. Walleyes less than 8 inches were observed in the spring of 2024 likely an indication of success of the 2023 stocking. Fall surveys have captured few age-0 walleye that were reproduced within Kawaguesaga in recent years. Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass appear to be responding to the no minimum length limit implemented in 2012 as relative abundance has decreased since the 2014 survey and growth rates have improved. Bluegill relative abundance sharply declined around 7 inches which may indicate angler harvest impact or some density dependence influence.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Kawaguesaga Lake, in Oneida Wisconsin in 2024. 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 the current fishing regulations by downloading a copy from the [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
*Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May to March	5	No minimum length
Muskellunge	End May to Dec 31	1	50" minimum length
Northern pike	May to March	5	No minimum length
Panfish	Open all year	25	No minimum length
*Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	Mid-June to March	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Walleye	May to March	1	18" minimum, 22" to 28" protected slot

* Catch and release fishing is allowed year-round for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass.

Acknowledgements

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

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