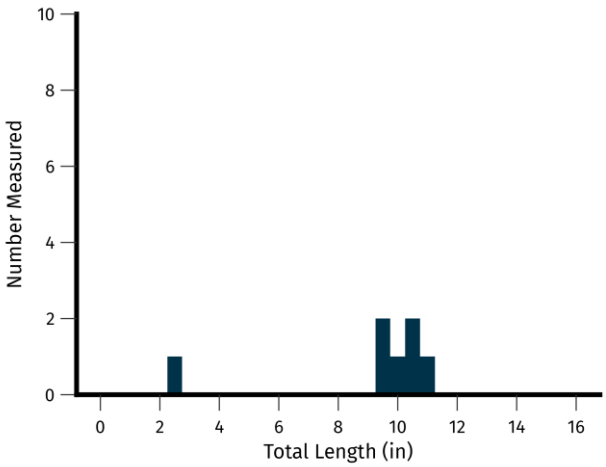
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Minocqua **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 of Minocqua Lake during the spring of 2024. Minocqua is a 1,360-acre drainage lake with 375 dwellings, 23 resorts, two restaurants, two parks and one golf course along the 19.1 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 sampled with fyke nets checked daily over nine nights and three nights of electrofishing.

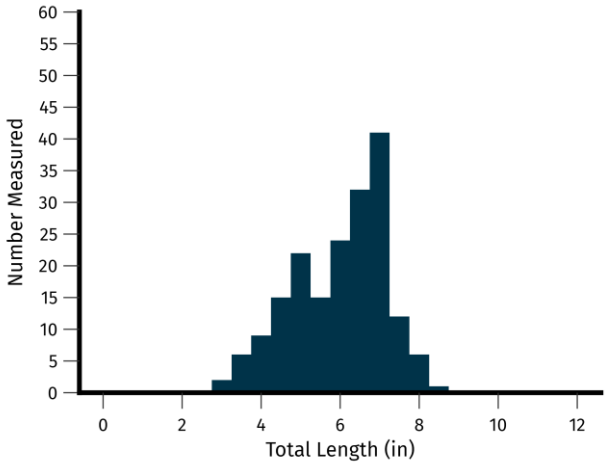


BLACK CRAPPIE

Seven black crappies were captured while electrofishing Minocqua**.** Counts of black crappies captured were not recorded during netting. Black crappie relative abundance was in the 34th percentile statewide and 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 2.5 inches and 11.2 inches, with a mean length of 9.1 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting black crappie findings as panfish data were not recorded during netting and the small sample size.

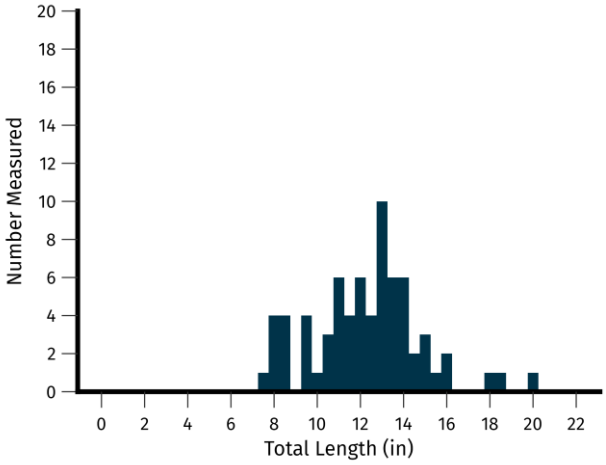
4.7 black crappie per mile	
Quality Size ≥ 8 inches	4.0 per mile
Preferred Size ≥ 10 inches	2.7 per mile

BLUEGILL



A total of 185 bluegills were captured while electrofishing Minocqua. Counts of bluegills captured were not recorded during netting. Bluegill relative abundance was around the 75th percentile for complex-two story lakes and 50th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. Lengths of measured bluegills varied between 2.9 inches and 8.4 inches, with a mean length of 6.0 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting bluegills findings as panfish data were not recorded during netting.

123.3 bluegill per mile	
Quality Size ≥ 6 inches	73.3 per mile
Preferred Size ≥ 8 inches	2.0 per mile



LARGEMOUTH BASS

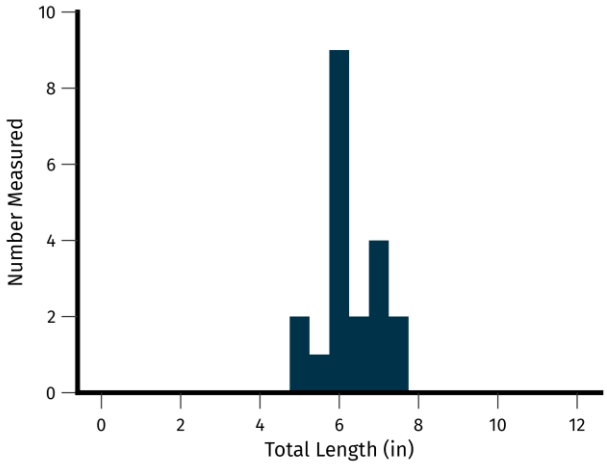
A total of 70 largemouth bass were captured while electrofishing Minocqua. Counts of largemouth bass captured were not recorded during netting. Largemouth bass relative abundance was slightly below the 60th percentile for complex-two story and below the 50th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured largemouth bass varied between 7.3 inches and 20.1 inches, with a mean length of 12.3 inches. Too few individuals were captured to calculate a population estimate.

6.6 largemouth bass per mile

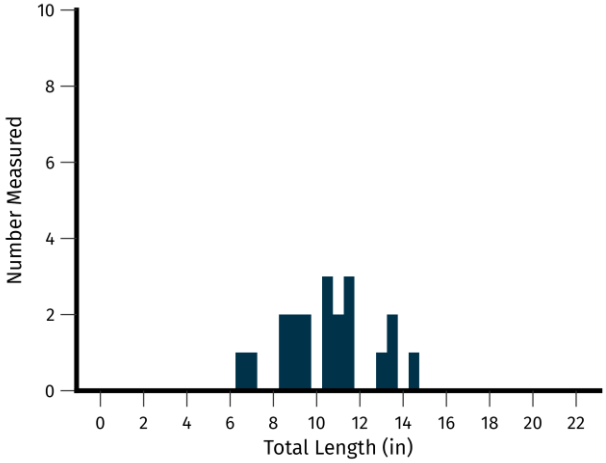
Quality size ≥ 12 inches	4.1 per mile
Preferred size ≥ 15 inches	0.8 per mile

PUMPKINSEED

Twenty pumpkinseeds were captured while electrofishing Minocqua. Counts of pumpkinseeds captured were not recorded during netting. Pumpkinseed relative abundance was around the 75th percentile for complex-two story lakes and above the 50th percentile among other Oneida County lakes. Lengths of measured pumpkinseeds varied between 5.0 inches and 7.5 inches, with a mean length of 6.3 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting pumpkinseed findings as panfish data were not recorded during netting.



13.3 pumpkinseed per mile	
Quality Size ≥ 6 inches	8.7 per mile
Preferred Size ≥ 8 inches	0.0 per mile



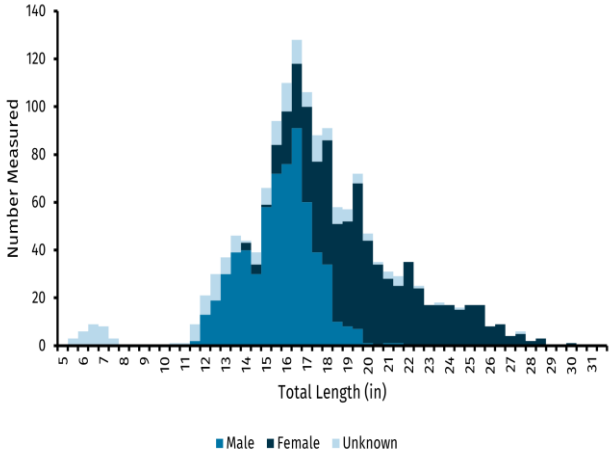
SMALLMOUTH BASS

Twenty smallmouth bass were captured while electrofishing Minocqua Lake. Counts of smallmouth bass captured were not recorded during netting. Smallmouth bass relative abundance was around the 50th percentile for complex-two story lakes and 25th percentile among other Oneida County lakes**.** The lengths of measured smallmouth bass varied between 6.5 inches and 14.2 inches, with a mean length of 10.5 inches. Too few individuals were captured to calculate a population estimate and data should be interpreted carefully.

1.9 smallmouth bass per mile	
Quality size ≥ 11 inches	0.8 per mile

Preferred size ≥ 14 inches	0.1 per net night

WALLEYE



A total of 1,464 walleye were captured while surveying Minocqua. The lengths of individuals varied between 5.7 inches and 30.0 inches. The walleye population was estimated to be around 3,880 adults. Walleye density was below the average density of 3.5 per acre for lakes in Oneida County and below the 3.0 per acre goal established in the walleye recovery plan.

Estimated 2.85 adult walleye per acre	
12 – 14.9 inches	0.29 per acre
15 – 19.9 inches	1.65 per acre
20 inches and greater	0.92 per acre

OTHER SPECIES

Other species encountered in Minocqua Lake included bluntnose minnow (eight), mimic shiner (two), northern pike (two), rock bass (25) and yellow perch (seven).

Summary

Minocqua Lake is a complex-two story lake possessing cold-water and warm-water fish species that can be accessed from one of the four public ramps or through the connection from Kawaguesaga Lake. A collaborative walleye rehabilitation project has been ongoing on the Minocqua Chain of lakes since 2015. Walleyes have increased in abundance since the low of 1.0 per acre observed in 2015 but decreased from the 3.8 per acre observed in 2019 and the 3.3 observed in 2021. Walleyes less than 8 inches were observed in the spring of 2024 likely indicating success from the 2023 stocking. Fall surveys have captured few age-0 walleye within Minocqua 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. Panfish display a sharp decline in relative abundance when they reach harvestable size which may indicate angler harvest impacts or some density dependance influence.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Minocqua 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
Northen 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 Minocqua Lake, contact:

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