



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Information Sheet

Stella Lake, Oneida County, WI 2025

### Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assessed bass and panfish in Stella Lake during the spring of 2025 with electrofishing and fyke netting. Stella is a 405-acre spring lake with a max depth of 22 feet and 4.4 miles of shoreline. During electrofishing, gamefish were collected over two electrofishing transects covering 4.1 miles of shoreline. All species were collected during two half mile transects. During netting, panfish were targeted with four fyke nets checked daily over four nights.

### Black Crappie

A total of 113 black crappies were captured while surveying Stella Lake (23 electrofishing, 90 netting). Black crappie catch per net night was around the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes (i.e., 50% of similar lakes have lower relative abundance of black crappie) and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. Lengths of measured black crappies varied between 3.8 inches and 12.5 inches, with a mean length of 8.6 inches. Seventy-three percent of measured black crappies were 8 inches or greater.

Table 1: 7.5 black crappie captured per net night  $\geq$  5 inches.

<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 8 inches</b>	<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq</math> 10 inches</b>
6.3 per net night	1.5 per net night

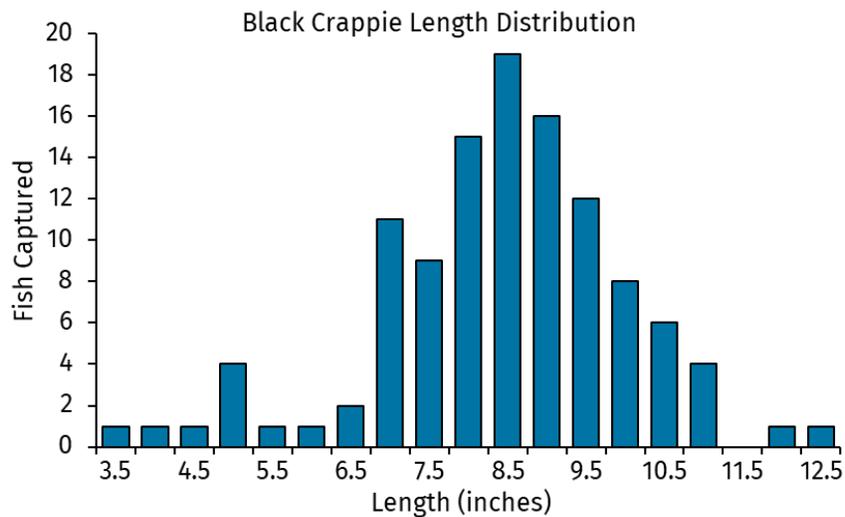


Figure 1. Size histogram of black crappie captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

## Bluegill

A total of 1,514 bluegills were captured while surveying Stella Lake (201 electrofishing, 1,313 netting). Bluegill catch per mile was around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured bluegills varied between 2.3 inches and 8.4 inches, with a mean length of 6.4 inches. Seventy-six percent of measured bluegill were 6 inches or greater.

Table 2: 193.0 bluegills captured per mile  $\geq$  3 inches.

Quality Size $\geq$ 6 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 8 inches
73.0 per mile	1.0 per mile

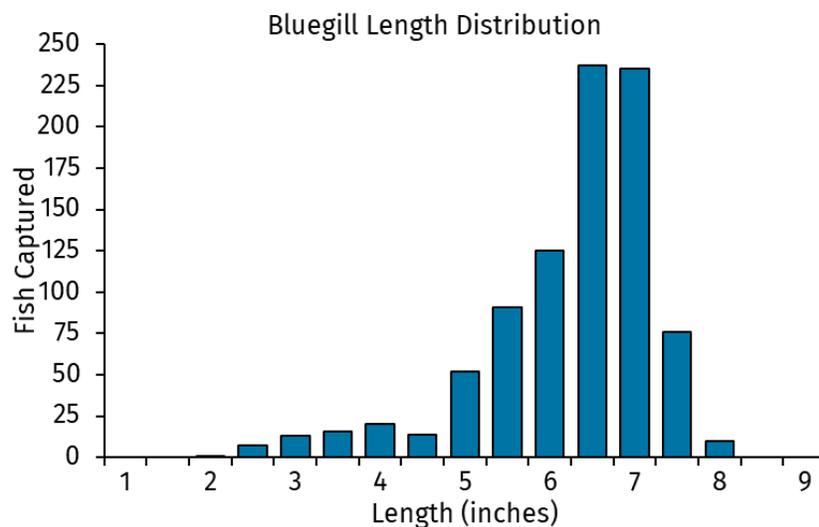


Figure 2. Size histogram of black crappie captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

## Largemouth Bass

A total of 235 largemouth bass were captured while surveying Stella Lake (71 electrofishing, 164 netting). Largemouth bass catch per mile was slightly above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes and in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured largemouth bass varied between 4.2 inches and 18.7 inches, with a mean length of 10.9 inches. Twenty-three percent of measured largemouth bass were 12 inches or greater.

Table 3: 17.5 largemouth bass captured per mile  $\geq$  8 inches.

Quality Size $\geq$ 12 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 15 inches
6.2 per mile	1.0 per mile

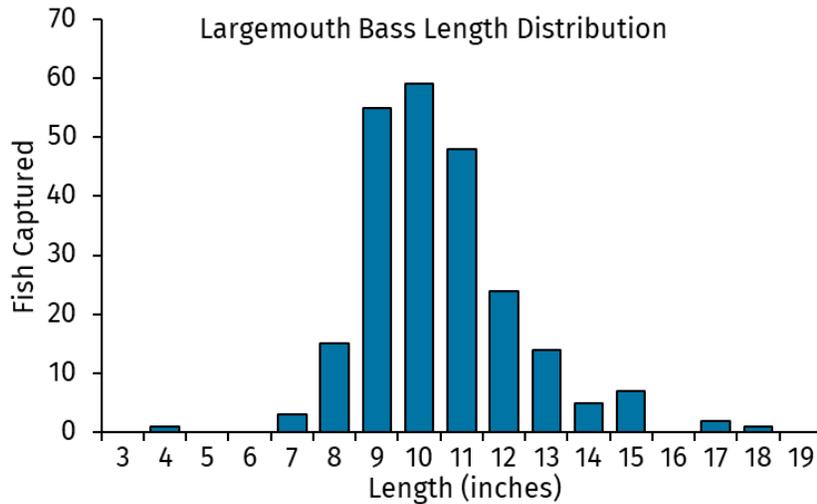


Figure 3. Size histogram of largemouth bass captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

### Northern Pike

A total of 31 northern pike were captured while surveying Stella Lake (11 electrofishing, 20 netting). Northern pike catch per net night was above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. Lengths of measured northern pike varied between 12.9 inches and 24.4 inches, with a mean length of 16.1 inches. Three percent of measured northern pike were 21 inches or greater. Caution should be applied when interpreting northern pike abundance and size structure as a low number were captured were not a targeted species.

Table 4: 1.6 northern pike captured per net night  $\geq$  14 inches.

Quality Size $\geq$ 21 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 28 inches
0.1 per net night	0.0 per net night

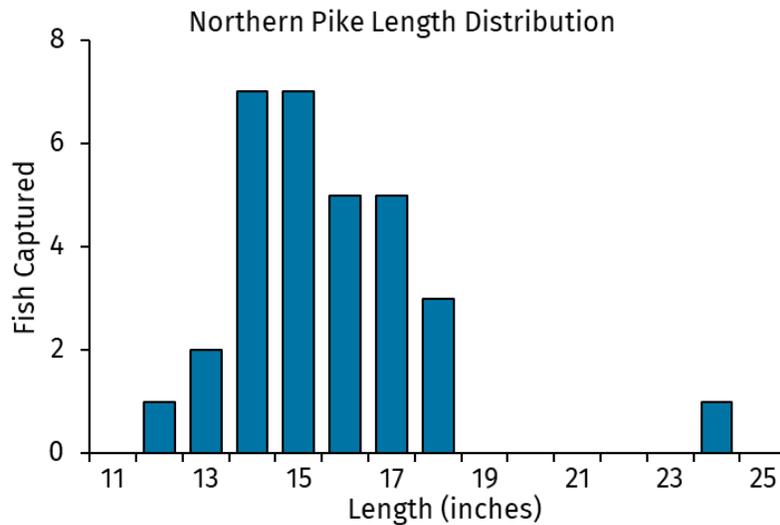


Figure 4. Size histogram of northern pike captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

### Pumpkinseed

A total of 179 pumpkinseeds were captured while surveying Stella Lake (9 electrofishing, 170 netting). Pumpkinseed catch per mile was around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes and around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured pumpkinseeds varied between 4.8 inches and 8.1 inches, with a mean length of 7.0 inches. Ninety-nine percent of measured pumpkinseeds were 6 inches or greater.

Table 5: 14.2 pumpkinseed captured per net night  $\geq$  3 inches.

<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 6 inches</b>	<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq</math> 8 inches</b>
13.9 per net night	0.2 per net night

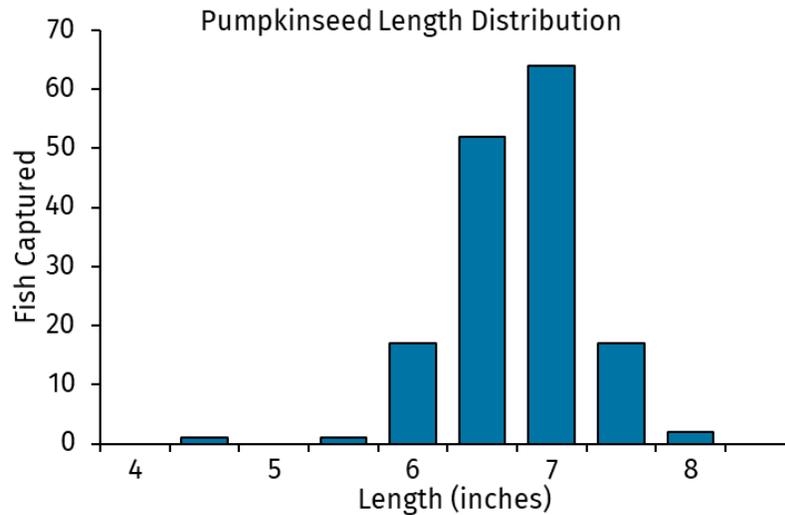


Figure 5. Size histogram of pumpkinseed captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

### **Pumpkinseed X Bluegill Hybrid**

A total of 157 pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids were captured while surveying Stella Lake (7 electrofishing, 150 netting). Relative abundance of these hybrids was much higher than most lakes in the area. The lengths of measured pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids varied between 3.5 inches and 8.9 inches, with a mean length of 7.9 inches. Ninety-nine percent of measured pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids were 6 inches or greater.

Table 6: 12.5 pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids captured per net night  $\geq$  3 inches.

Quality Size $\geq$ 6 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 8 inches
12.4 per net night	6.2 per net night

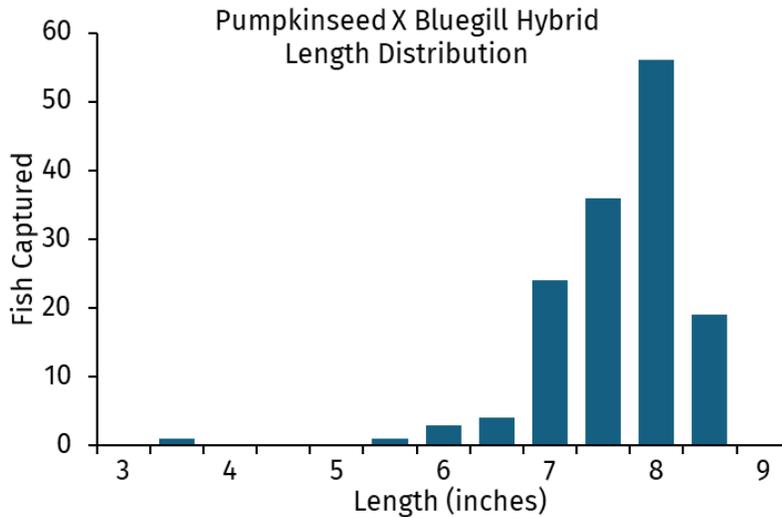


Figure 6. Size histogram of pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

### Walleye

A total of 23 walleye were captured while surveying Stella Lake (11 electrofishing, 12 netting). Walleye catch per net night was slightly above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for complex-cool-dark lakes and 10<sup>th</sup> percentile among other Oneida County lakes. The lengths of measured individuals varied between 7.6 inches and 29.1 inches with a mean length of 16.4 inches. Caution should be applied when interpreting walleye abundance and size structure as a low number were captured and were not a targeted species.

Table 7: 1.0 walleye captured per net night  $\geq 10$  inches.

Quality Size $\geq 15$ inches	Preferred Size $\geq 20$ inches
0.9 per net night	0.8 per net night

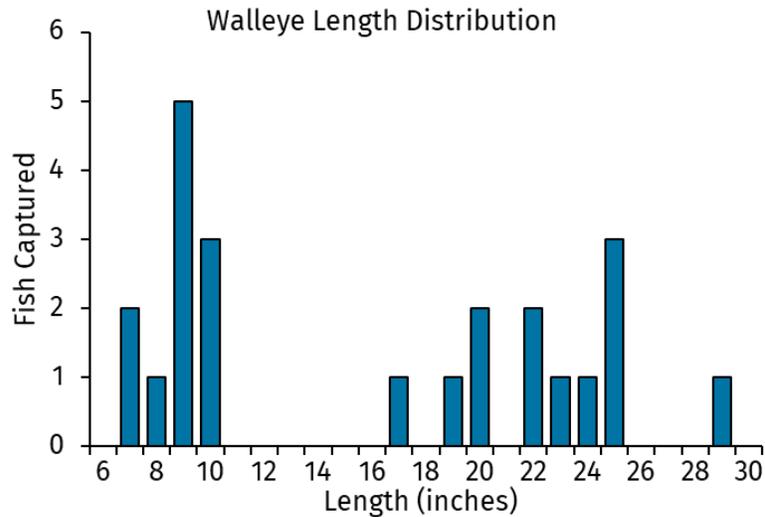


Figure 7. Size histogram of walleye captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing and fyke netting survey of Stella Lake in Oneida County, Wisconsin

### Other Species

Other species captured in Stella Lake included black bullhead (6), bluntnose minnow (16), central mudminnow (two), golden shiner (two), johnny darter (one), muskellunge (one at 48.3”), rock bass (six), smallmouth bass (two), white sucker (three), yellow bullhead (14) and yellow perch (nine).

### Summary

Stella Lake is a complex-cool-dark lake possessing cool-water and warm-water fish species. It is accessible by a gravel boat ramp on the west side of the lake off Stella Lake Road. Panfish dominated the fishery in Stella Lake with bass, muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye serving a smaller role. The number of pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids captured during this survey shows a unique angling opportunity. The hybridization of pumpkinseed and bluegill occurs when both populations exist, and their spawning areas overlap. Hybrids often experience faster growth rates, but shorter lifespans. Panfish and gamefish relative abundance and size structure has remained similar to the last survey in 2018.

Table 8. General fishing regulations for Stella Lake, in Oneida Wisconsin in 2025. For current regulations or species not listed below, check the most recent state fishing regulations pamphlet or information can be found on the [DNR's website](#).

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Size Limit</b>
Largemouth bass	May - March	1	18" minimum length
Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass	Mid-June- March	1	18" minimum length
Muskellunge	End May to Dec 31	1	40" minimum length
Northern Pike	May - March	5	No minimum length
Panfish	Open all year	25	No minimum length
Smallmouth bass	May- mid-June	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Walleye	May-March	3	18" minimum length

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

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