Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Thompson Lake, Oneida County, 2025

Waterbody Information

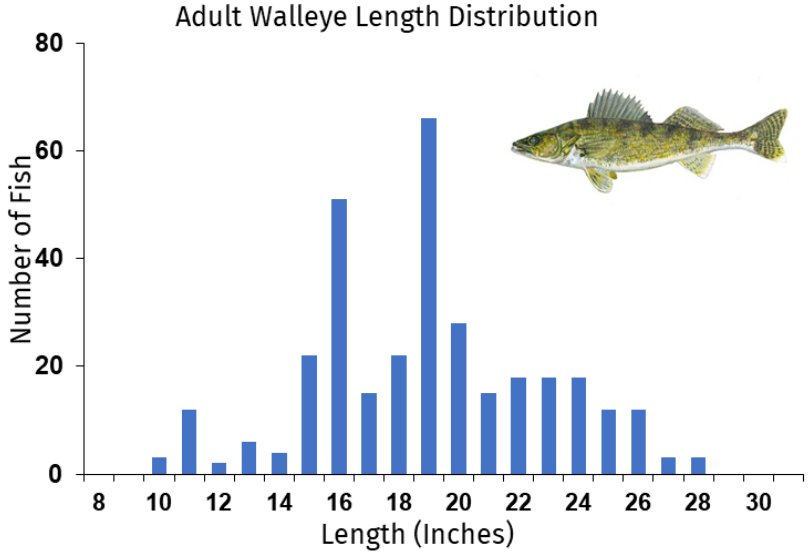
Thompson Lake is a 382-acre soft-water drainage lake with 6.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 35 feet. Thompson Lake is classified as a complex-cool-dark system. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand with lesser amounts of muck and rock. Thompson Lake's walleye population is sustained primarily through stocking, whereas the muskellunge population relies on natural reproduction.

Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted early-spring netting and electrofishing surveys of Thompson Lake targeting adult walleye during April 17 – 22, 2025. Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the surveys, but the catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution.

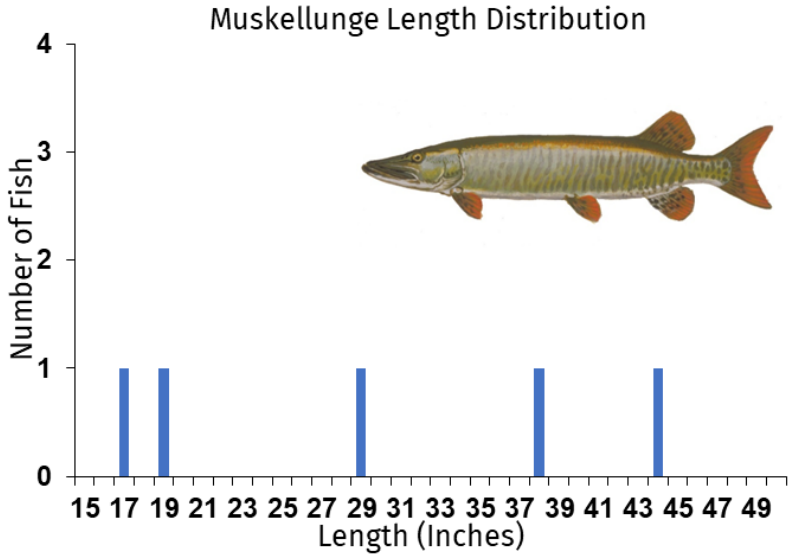
Walleye

Survey efforts captured 99 adult walleye (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 330 (0.9/acre) adult walleye in Thompson Lake. An estimated 92% of adult walleye were ≥ 15 inches, and the largest captured was a 28-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 10 to 28 inches and a peak occurring at 19 inches.



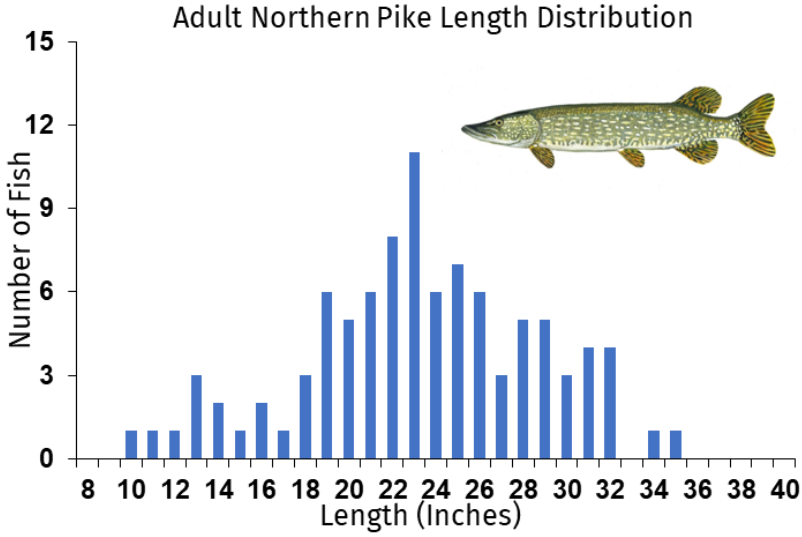
Muskellunge

Although targeted muskellunge netting did not occur, three adult muskellunge (sexually mature or ≥ 30 inches) and two juveniles were captured. Adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.1 per net night, placing it just below the 10th percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 17 to 44 inches.



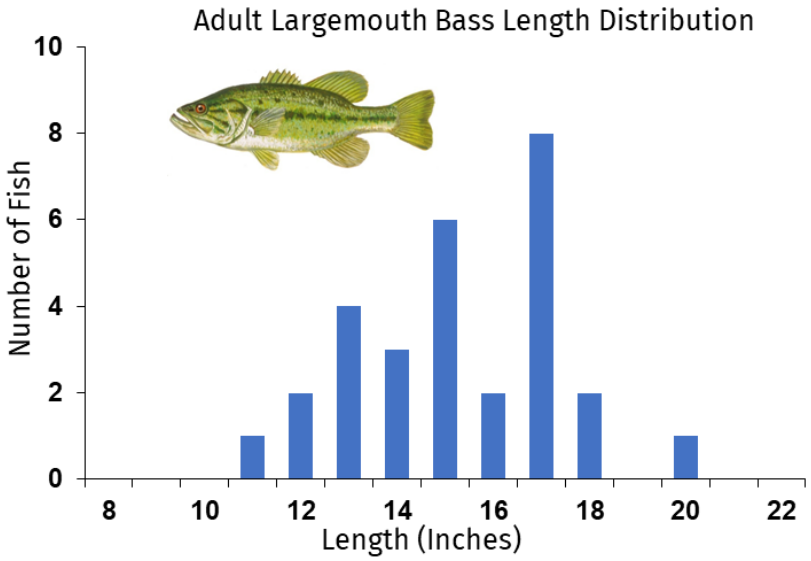
Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 96 adult northern pike (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) at a rate of 2.8 per net night, placing it between the 50th and 75th percentiles for its lake class. Approximately 73% of adult northern pike were ≥ 21 inches, and the largest was a 35.1-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult northern pike length distribution with fish ranging from 10 to 35 inches and a peak occurring at 23 inches.



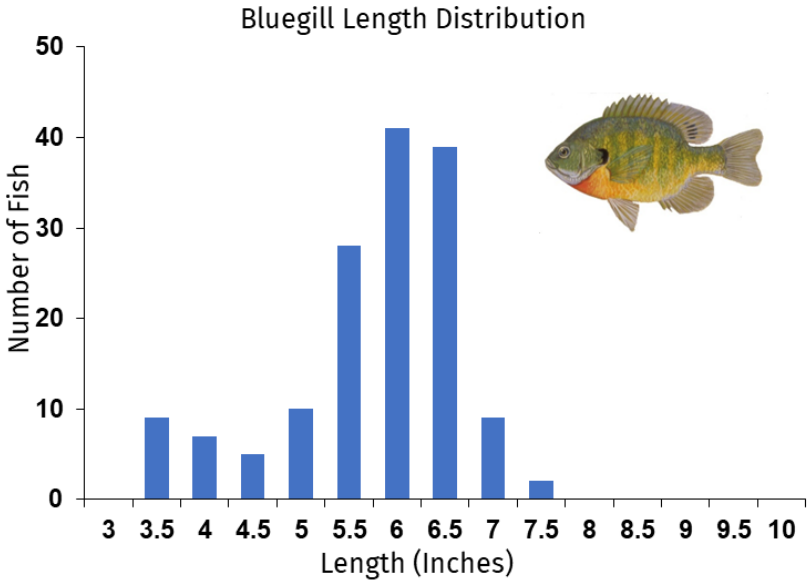
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass

A total of 29 adult largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were captured, 76% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 20.1 inches. A single, 20.7-inch smallmouth bass was caught. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult largemouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 11 to 20 inches and a peak occurring at 17 inches.



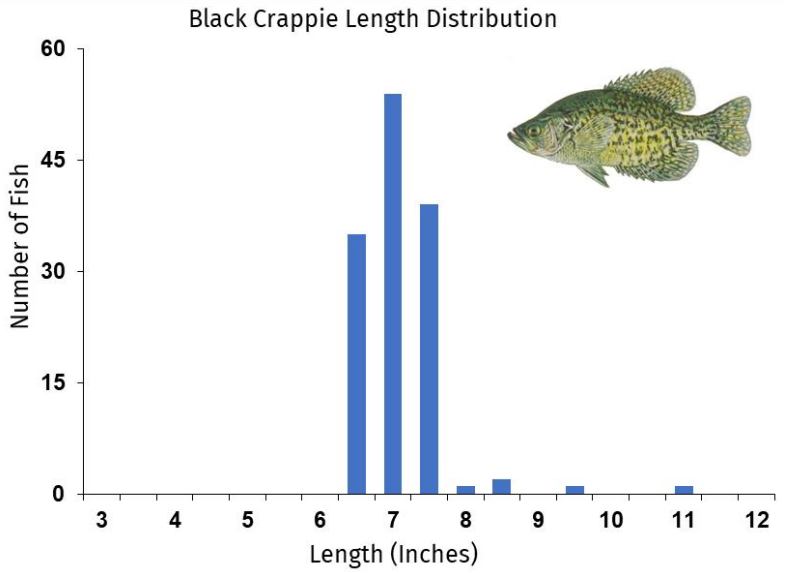
Bluegill

A total of 391 bluegill (including bluegill-pumpkinseed hybrids) were captured. Of 150 bluegill measured, the average length was 6.0 inches, 7% were ≥ 7 inches, and the largest was 7.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 3.5 to 7.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



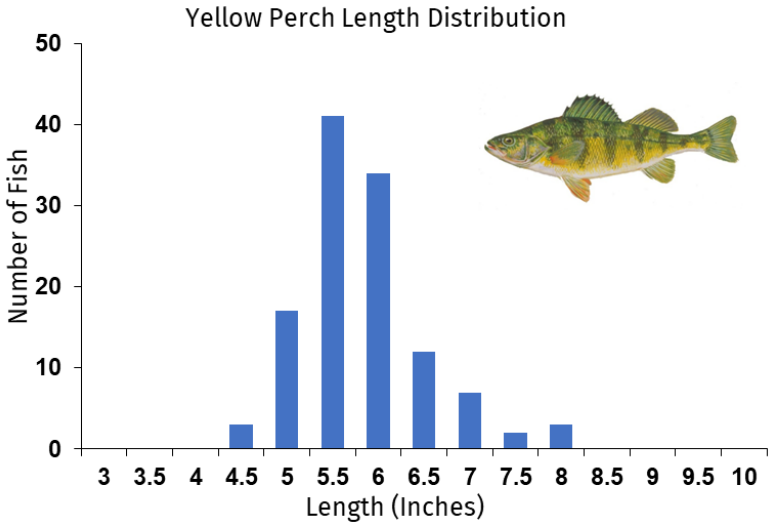
Black Crappie

A total of 522 black crappies were captured. Black crappie were caught at a rate of 15.4 per net night, placing it above the 75th percentile for its lake class. Of 133 black crappie measured, the average length was 7.3 inches and one (< 1%) was ≥ 10 inches (11.2 inches being the largest). The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 6.5 to 11 inches and a peak occurring at 7 inches.



Yellow Perch

A total of 170 yellow perch were caught during the surveys. Yellow perch were caught at a rate of 5.0 per net night, placing it above the 25th percentile for its lake class. Of 119 yellow perch measured, the average length was 6.0 inches, and the largest was 8.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 4.5 to 8 inches and a peak occurring at 5.5 inches.



Other Species

Other species not directly targeted and/or captured in low abundance were golden shiner, pumpkinseed, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

Table 1. Fishing regulations during the 2025-26 fishing season on Thompson Lake followed all general inland water standards for open seasons, length limits and bag limits (select species for Thompson Lake listed below).

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Size Limit
Muskellunge	Saturday of Memorial Day wekeend – Dec. 31 (open water only)	1	40
Walleye	1st Saturday in May – 1st Sunday in March	3 in total	15 inches, but fish from 20 to 24 inches may not be kept; only one may be over 24 inches

Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on Thompson Lake, contact Oneida County Fisheries Biologist Nathan Lederman. For questions about this report, contact Treaty Fisheries Biologist Lawrence Eslinger.
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