



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Apple River Flowage

COUNTY: Polk

YEAR: 2024

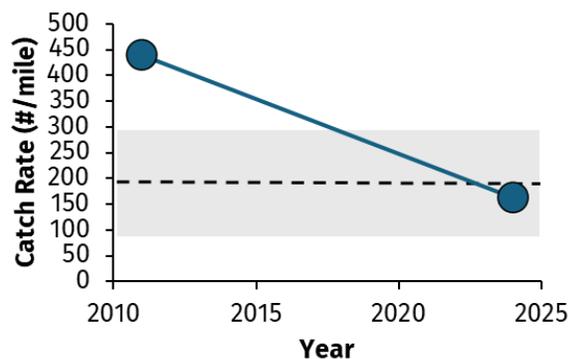
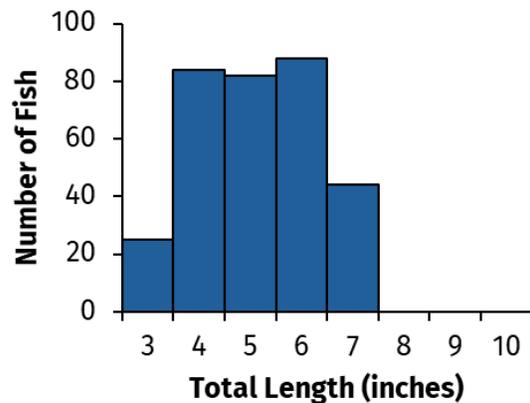
Introduction

Apple River Flowage (WBIC 2624200) is a 604-acre reservoir located in Polk County, Wisconsin. The lake has a maximum depth of 18 feet and a mean depth of 6 feet. A late spring electrofishing survey (SE2) was conducted during the nights of May 13th and 14th, 2024. All species were collected along 2 miles of shoreline and gamefish only were collected along an additional 6 miles of shoreline. SE2 surveys primarily target bass and panfish but species observed during the 2024 survey included bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie, rock bass, largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike and white sucker. Comparisons were made with previous surveys, Barron and Polk counties averages and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

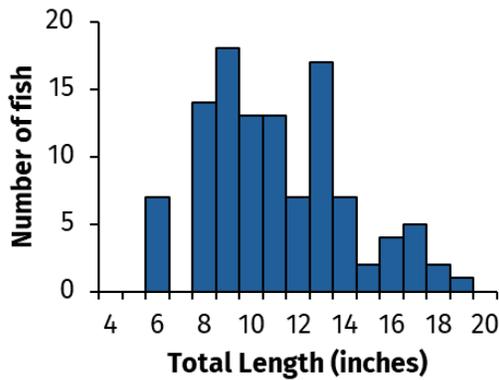
BLUEGILL



There were 326 bluegills captured and lengths ranged from 3.0 to 7.8 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was slightly below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2011 survey, bluegill catch rate decreased and size structure remained stable. Twenty 6–7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Bluegill ages ranged from 5-8 years with a mean age of 5.9 years, which indicated slow-moderate growth compared to other bluegill populations in Barron and Polk counties.



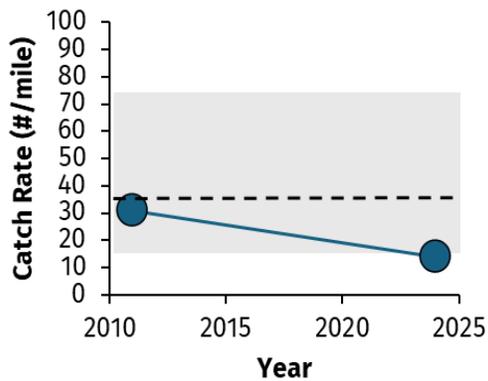
Year	2011	2024
# Captured Per Mile	439	163
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	43%	40%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	0%	0%



LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 110 largemouth bass captured and lengths ranged from 6.0 to 19.0 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was below the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2011 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate decreased but size structure remained stable.



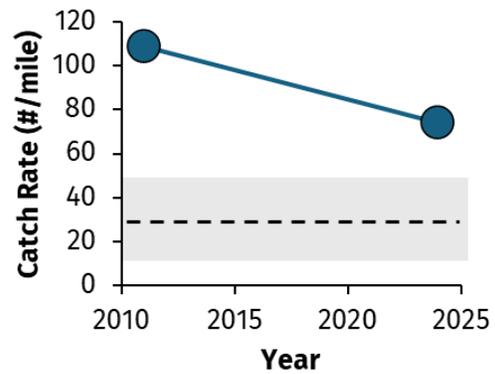
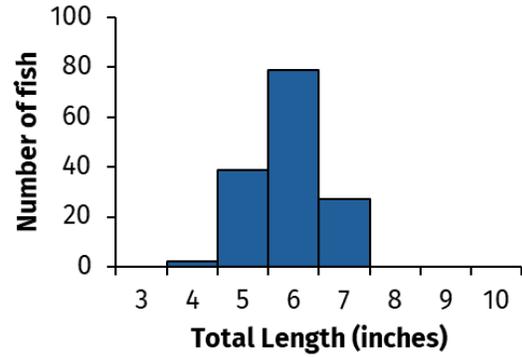
Year	2011	2024
# Captured Per Mile	31	14
Quality Size ($\geq 12''$)	38%	40%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15''$)	16%	13%

PUMPKINSEED



There were 147 pumpkinseeds captured and lengths ranged from 4.5 to 7.7 inches. Pumpkinseed catch rate (blue dots) was above average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2011 survey, pumpkinseed catch rates decreased, but size structure remained stable.

Year	2011	2024
# Captured Per Mile	109	74
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	73%	72%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	0%	0%



OTHER SPECIES

There were three black crappies captured and lengths ranged from 6.1 to 8.3 inches. There were three northern pike captured and lengths ranged from 17.5 to 28.0 inches. Five muskellunge were observed but not captured. Other species captured included one rock bass and seven white suckers.

Summary

Apple River Flowage features a productive fishery for a variety of panfish and gamefish species. In general, the catch rates of species varied during this survey, but the size structure of bluegill, largemouth bass and pumpkinseed was largely unchanged since the 2011 survey. Bluegill offer a moderate abundance with low size structure and slow-moderate growth. Slow growth is likely due to over-abundance so increased angler harvest could potentially improve growth rates and size structure. Bluegill catch rates have decreased since the 2011 survey but this result is speculative due to presumed poor sampling efficiency driven by the high abundance of vegetation. Largemouth bass have moderate abundance and low size structure. Black crappie were sampled in low abundance in this survey, but SE2 surveys typically do not adequately sample crappies. Muskellunge were observed during the survey but not collected. The next SE2 survey is scheduled for 2035.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Apple River Flowage, in Polk County Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5	14 inches
Northern Pike	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5	None
Panfish	Open all year	25	None
Muskellunge	1 st Saturday in May to Dec 31	1	40 inches

Acknowledgements

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