



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: BONE

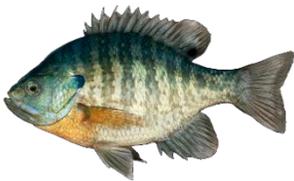
COUNTY: POLK

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

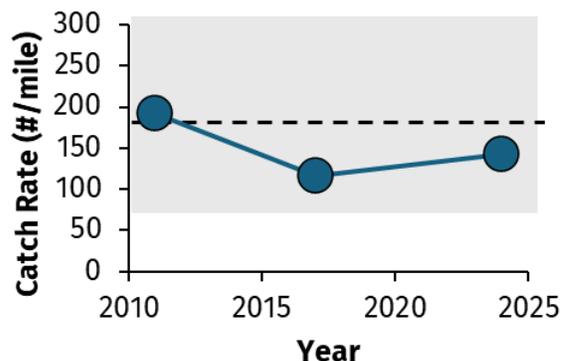
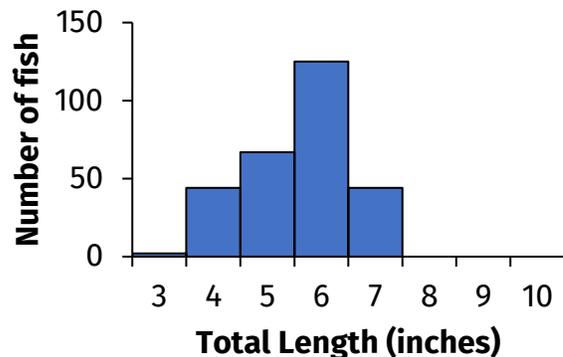
Bone Lake (WBIC 2628100) is a 1,781-acre drainage lake in central Polk County, Wisconsin. The lake has a maximum depth of 43 feet, and a mean depth of 20 feet. A late spring electrofishing survey (SE2) was conducted on June 3rd and 5th, 2024. All species were collected along 2 miles of shoreline and only gamefish were collected along an additional 6 miles of shoreline. SE2 surveys primarily target bass and bluegill, but other species observed in this survey include pumpkinseed, green sunfish, rock bass, yellow perch, black crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, common shiner and golden shiner. Comparisons were made with previous surveys and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

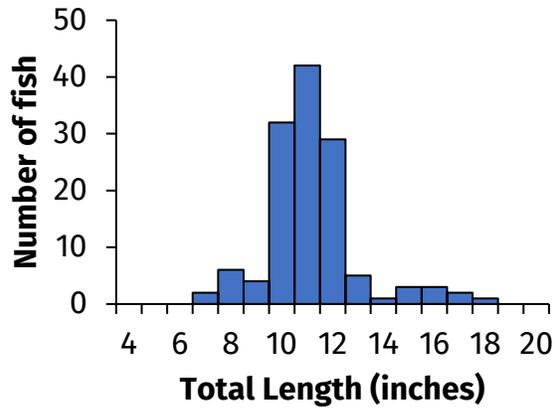
BLUEGILL



There were 285 bluegills captured, and lengths ranged from 3 to 7.9 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was slightly below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2017 survey, the bluegill catch rate increased and size structure increased. Twenty 6–7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Bluegill age ranged from 4–7 years with a mean age of 4.5 years, which indicated growth was moderate-fast compared to other bluegill populations in Barron and Polk counties.

Year	2011	2017	2024
# Captured Per Mile	192	117	142
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	57%	46%	60%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	0%	1%	0%

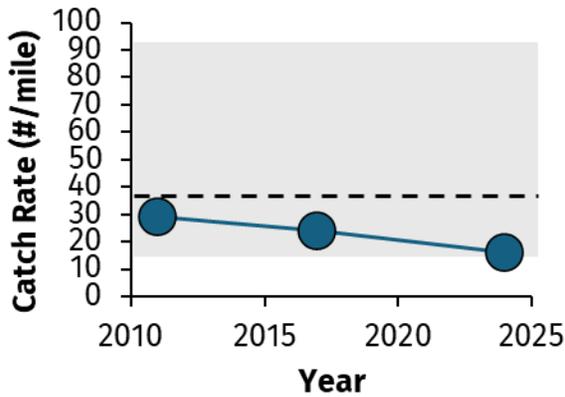




LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 130 largemouth bass captured, and length ranged from 7.5 inches to 18.0 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was below the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2017 survey, the largemouth bass catch rate and size structure both decreased slightly.



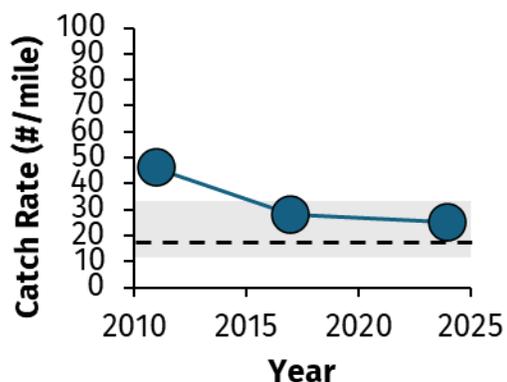
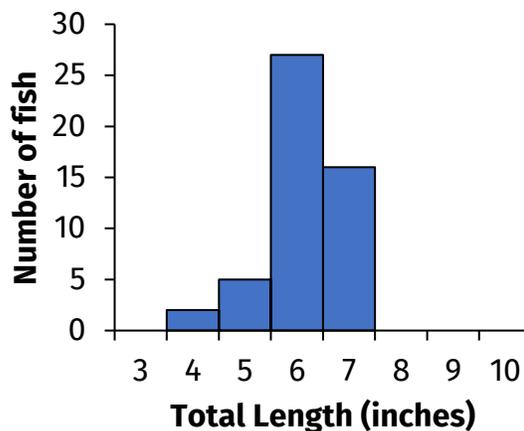
Year	2011	2017	2024
# Captured Per Mile	29	24	16
Quality Size ($\geq 12"$)	50%	57%	34%
Preferred Size ($\geq 14"$)	23%	20%	8%

PUMPKINSEED



There were 92 pumpkinseeds captured, and length ranged from 4.2 to 7.7 inches. Pumpkinseed catch rate (blue dots) was above average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2017 survey, pumpkinseed catch rates remained stable, but size structure increased.

Year	2011	2017	2024
# Captured Per Mile	46	28	25
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	38%	50%	90%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	0%	2%	0%



OTHER SPECIES

There were 41 rock bass captured, and length ranged from 4.6 to 8.1 inches. There were 15 black crappie captured, and length ranged from 7.7 to 9.6 inches. There were eight yellow perch captured, and length ranged from 3.4 to 7.3 inches. There were eight green sunfish captured, and length ranged from 5.7 to 8.1 inches. Two muskellunge were captured and were 13.5 and 14.5 inches. Other species captured in low numbers (less than five fish) included northern pike, common shiner and golden shiner.

Summary

Bone Lake features a productive fishery for a variety of gamefish and panfish species. Largemouth bass have moderate abundance with a low size structure. Bluegill and pumpkinseed offer moderate abundance and low size structure. Yellow perch and black crappie were sampled in low abundance in this survey, but SE2 surveys typically do not adequately sample these species. A muskellunge population estimate was completed in the spring of 2025 and results will be compiled in a separate fisheries report published in 2026.

General fishing regulations for Bone Lake, in Polk County, Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass	1st Saturday in May to 1st Sunday in March	5	14 inches
Northern Pike	1st Saturday in May to 1st Sunday in March	5	None
Panfish	Open all year	25	None
Muskellunge	1st Saturday in May to Dec 31	1	50 inches

For fisheries management questions about Bone Lake, contact:

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