



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: DEER LAKE

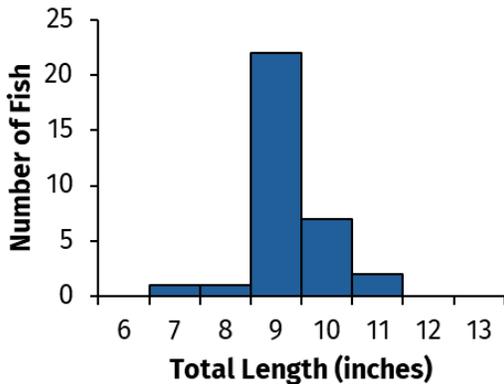
COUNTY: POLK

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

Deer Lake (WBIC 2619400) is a 786-acre located in Polk County, Wisconsin. The lake has a maximum depth of 46 feet and a mean depth of 26 feet. A late spring electrofishing survey (SE2) was conducted on the night of May 28th, 2025. All species were collected along 1.5 miles of shoreline and gamefish only were collected along an additional 4.5 miles of shoreline. SE2 surveys primarily target bass and panfish but species observed during the 2025 survey include bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie, yellow perch, largemouth bass, rock bass, green sunfish, muskellunge, northern pike and yellow bullhead. Comparisons were made with previous surveys, Barron and Polk counties averages and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

BLACK CRAPPIE



There were 33 black crappies captured and lengths ranged from 7.8 to 11.7 inches. Since the 2015 survey black crappie catch rates and size structure both decreased.

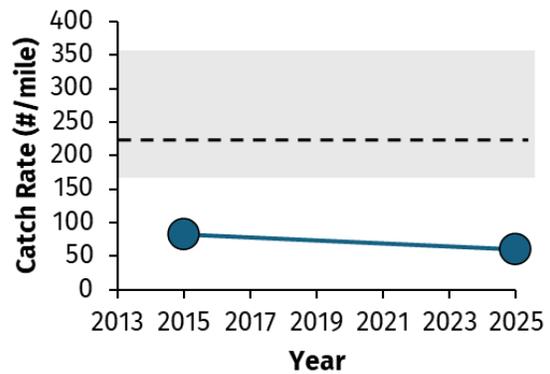
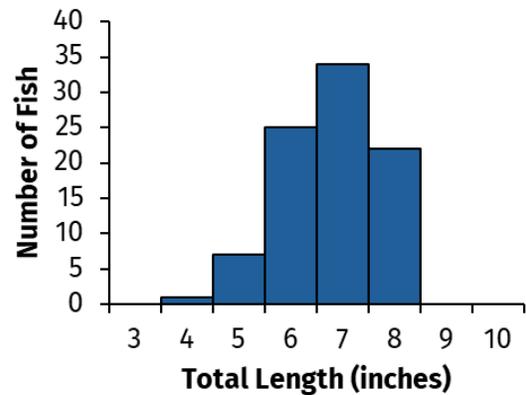
Year	2015	2025
# Captured Per Mile	44	22
Quality Size (≥ 10 ")	87%	27%
Preferred Size (≥ 12 ")	2%	0%

BLUEGILL



There were 89 bluegills captured and lengths ranged from 4.8 to 8.7 inches. Bluegill catch rate (blue dots) was well below average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2015 survey, bluegill catch rate decreased and size structure slightly increased. Twenty 6–7-inch bluegills were kept for aging. Bluegill ages ranged from 4-5 years with a mean age of 4.8 years, which indicated moderate-fast growth compared to other bluegill populations in Barron and Polk counties.

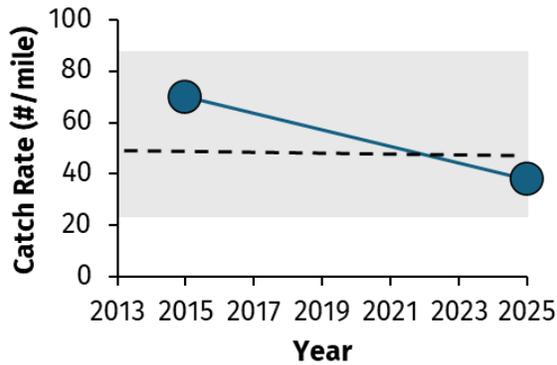
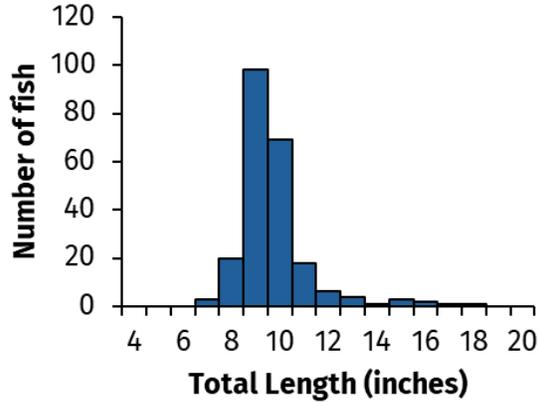
Year	2015	2025
# Captured Per Mile	83	60
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	87%	91%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	16%	25%



LARGEMOUTH BASS



There were 227 largemouth bass captured and lengths ranged from 7.0 to 18.5 inches. Largemouth bass catch rate (blue dots) was near the average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2015 survey, largemouth bass catch rate and size structure both decreased.

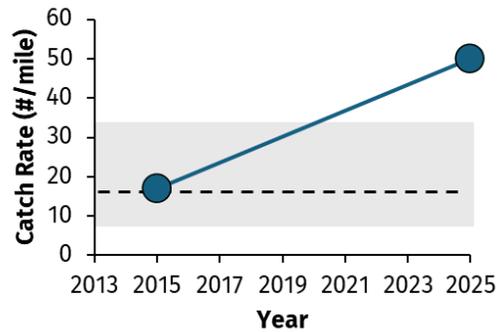
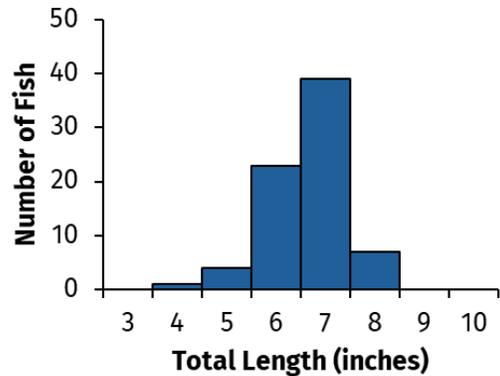


Year	2015	2025
# Captured Per Mile	70	38
Quality Size ($\geq 12''$)	20%	8%
Preferred Size ($\geq 15''$)	1%	3%

PUMPKINSEED



There were 74 pumpkinseeds captured and lengths ranged from 4.7 to 8.9 inches. Pumpkinseed catch rate (blue dots) was above average for similar Wisconsin lakes (dashed line). Since the 2015 survey, pumpkinseed catch rates increased while size structure remained stable.



Year	2015	2025
# Captured Per Mile	16	50
Quality Size ($\geq 6''$)	87%	93%
Preferred Size ($\geq 8''$)	4%	10%

OTHER SPECIES

There were 44 green sunfish captured and lengths ranged from 4.8 to 8.9 inches. There were eight northern pike captured and lengths ranged from 16.5 to 24.5 inches. Two muskellunge were captured and lengths were 12.5 and 14.0 inches. Other species captured included ten rock bass, six yellow perch and six yellow bullheads.

Summary

Deer Lake provides a healthy fishery for a variety of gamefish and panfish species. Although bluegill catch rates decreased, size structure has slightly increased and growth rates are moderate-fast compared to other Polk County lakes likely due to the low density and less competition for resources. Pumpkinseed offer a population with fair size structure and above average abundance. Largemouth bass catch rates have decreased since the 2015 survey but offer a harvest opportunity with the no minimum length limit and protected slot regulation. Black crappie catch rates and size structure both decreased since the 2015 survey but SE2 surveys typically do not adequately sample these species. Catch rate comparisons for similar Wisconsin lakes of black crappie were not made due to the sampling inefficiency of the species. Adult muskellunge were observed during the survey but not collected. A muskellunge population estimated will be completed in the spring of 2026 and results will be compiled in a separate fisheries report published in 2027. The next SE2 survey is scheduled for 2033.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Deer Lake, in Polk County Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass	1 st Saturday in May to 1 st Sunday in March	5	No minimum length, but largemouth bass and smallmouth bass from 14" to 18" may not be kept, and only 1 fish over 18 is allowed.
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

For fisheries management questions about Deer Lake, contact:

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