



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Information Sheet

Bass Lake, Price County, WI

Survey Year 2025

### Introduction

Bass Lake is located within the Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF). The lake is 94 acres, with a maximum and average depth of 45 feet and 21 feet respectively. It is classified as a simple-cool-clear lake. Public access is through a gated half mile trail at the end of Bass Lake Road. The lake is designated as a wilderness lake; therefore, no motors, motorized vehicles, or camping is allowed on or around the lake.

The Park Falls Fisheries Management Team of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a late spring electrofishing survey (SE2) on the night of June 3, 2025. The purpose of this was to evaluate size structure and abundance of bass and bluegills. The electrofishing sample surveyed one complete circuit, 2.17 miles, around the entire shoreline. All species were collected the entire survey. Bass Lake has low conductivity, limiting the effectiveness of our gear and allowing fish to swim away before being captured. The water temperature during our survey was 65.4 degrees Fahrenheit. While bass and bluegills were the primary target species, yellow perch were found to be in low abundance. Comparisons were made with a previous survey in 2015 on Bass Lake and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

### Bluegill

There were 128 bluegills captured, and lengths ranged from 1.8 to 10.4 inches with an average of 6.7 inches. The catch rate of the 2025 survey falls just short of the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of a simple-cool-clear lake. The abundance of bluegill has more than doubled since the 2015 survey, along with seeing great size improvement of the larger fish.

Table 1. Abundance and size structure of bluegills during late spring electrofishing survey in 2025 and 2015.

| Survey Year | Number per mile | Number per mile $\geq 3$ " (stock size) | Quality Size $\geq 6$ " | Preferred Size $\geq 8$ " |
|-------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2025        | 59.0            | 54.3                                    | 72%                     | 38%                       |
| 2015        | 23.1            | 23.1                                    | 79%                     | 21%                       |

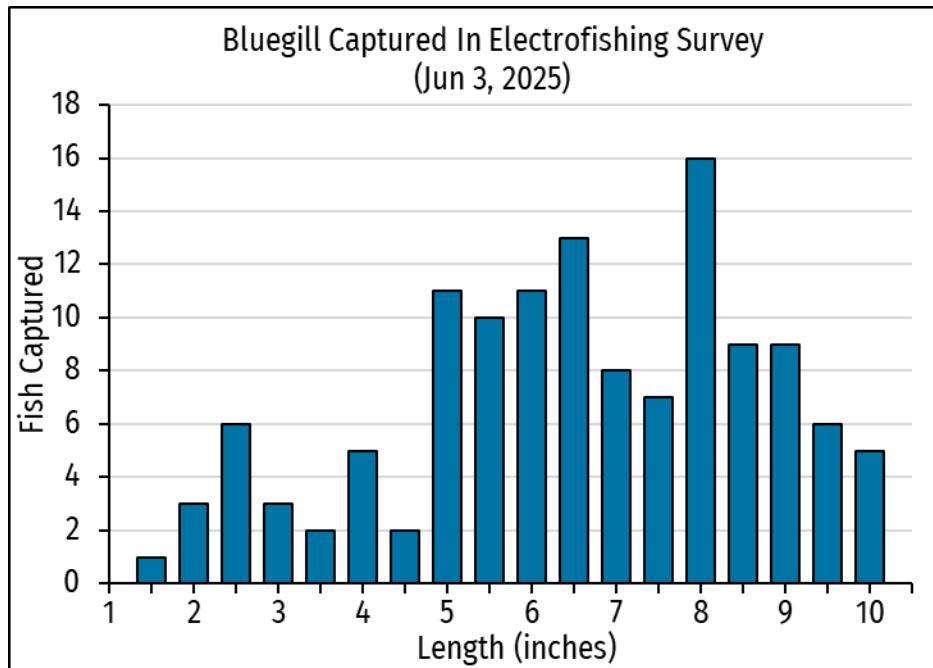


Figure 1. Size histogram of bluegill captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing survey of Bass Lake in Price County, Wisconsin.

### Largemouth Bass

There were 55 largemouth bass captured, and lengths ranged from 2.5 to 12.8 inches with an average of 9.4 inches. In this sample 0% of the bass were legal size. The catch rate of the 2025 survey falls just above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile classification for a simple-cool-clear lake. The bass abundance has decreased since the 2015 sample along with a large decrease in size structure.

Table 2. Abundance and size structure of largemouth bass during late spring electrofishing survey in 2025 and 2015.

| Survey Year | Number per mile | Number per mile $\geq 8''$ (stock size) | Quality Size $\geq 12''$ | Preferred Size $\geq 15''$ |
|-------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2025        | 25.3            | 18.0                                    | 10%                      | 0%                         |
| 2015        | 34.6            | 34.6                                    | 42%                      | 0%                         |

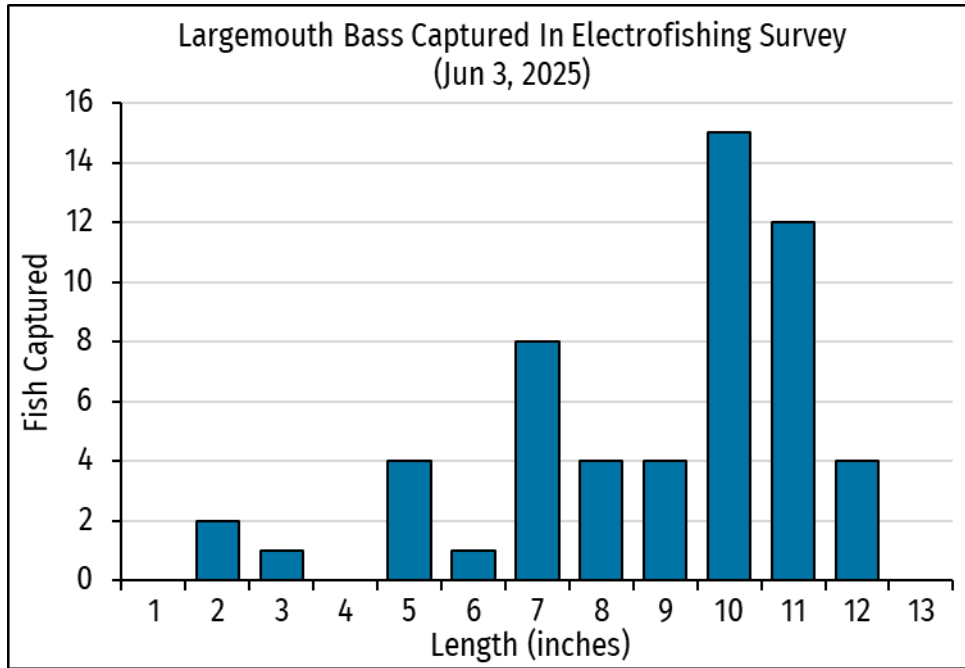


Figure 2. Size histogram of largemouth bass captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing survey of Bass Lake in Price County, Wisconsin.

### Other Species

There were 8 yellow perch captured during this survey.

## Summary

Bass Lake provides an excellent bluegill and largemouth bass fishery. Both bluegills and largemouth bass are found at a moderate abundance. Bluegills have a good number of quality sized fish, while the number of largemouth bass of quality sized has decreased no fish of legal size were seen. Removing the minimum length limit on largemouth bass will give the opportunity to harvest some of the smaller sized fish. A regulation change is being proposed for public input in 2026. According to our lake’s rotation schedule, Bass Lake is scheduled for a late spring electrofishing survey in 2034.

Table 3. General fishing regulations for Bass Lake, in Price County Wisconsin 2026-2027 fishing season.

| SPECIES         | SEASON DATES   | DAILY BAG LIMIT                 | SIZE LIMIT |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| Largemouth Bass | First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March (Catch and release at all other times) | 5 in total with smallmouth bass | 14"        |

|                 |  |                                 |  |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Muskellunge     | First Saturday in May through December 31 <sup>st</sup> . (open water only)                  | 1                               | 40"  |
| Northern Pike   | First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March  | 5                               | None   |
| Panfish         | Open all year  | 25                              | None   |
| Smallmouth Bass | Third Saturday in June through first Sunday in March. (Catch and release at all other times) | 5 in total with largemouth bass | 14"  |
| Walleye         | First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March  | 3                               | 15" but less than 20"<br>Except one over 24" |

Fishing regulations for Bass Lake, Price County and all Wisconsin lakes can be found online at [Fishing Regulations | Fishing Wisconsin | Wisconsin DNR](#)

For questions about fisheries management activities on Bass Lake, contact:

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