



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: CRAB

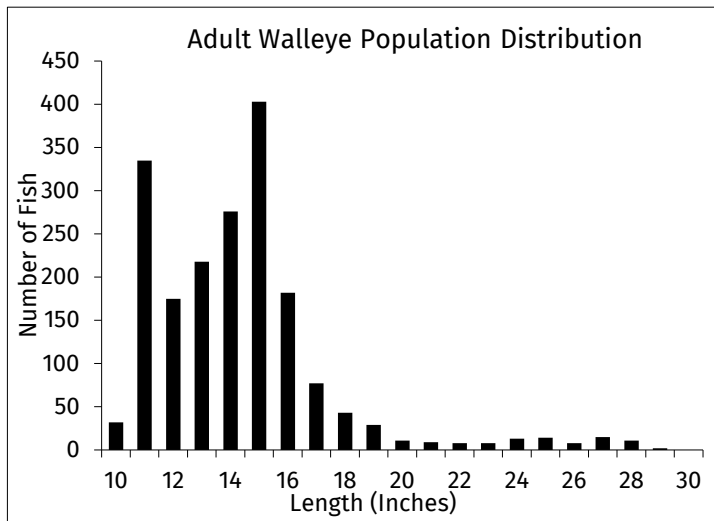
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

Crab Lake, Vilas County, has a surface area of 949 acres, 17.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 60 feet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed Crab Lake, from April 8-25, 2024, to assess the status of walleye and muskellunge. Walleye fyke nets were set on April 8 and lifted daily from April 9-22 after which they were moved to muskellunge sets and lifted from April 23-25. A walleye recapture electrofishing run was completed on the evening of April 22. An additional bass/panfish electrofishing survey was conducted on the evening of May 23. The walleye population is entirely supported by natural reproduction (NR) while the muskellunge population is supported by limited NR and supplemented by stocking.

WALLEYE

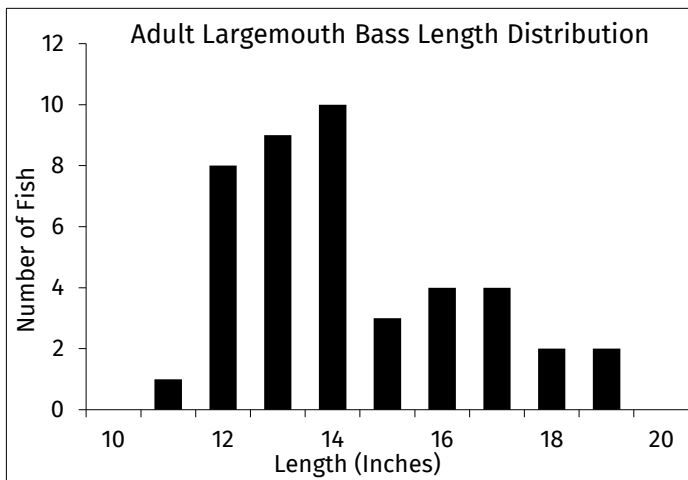
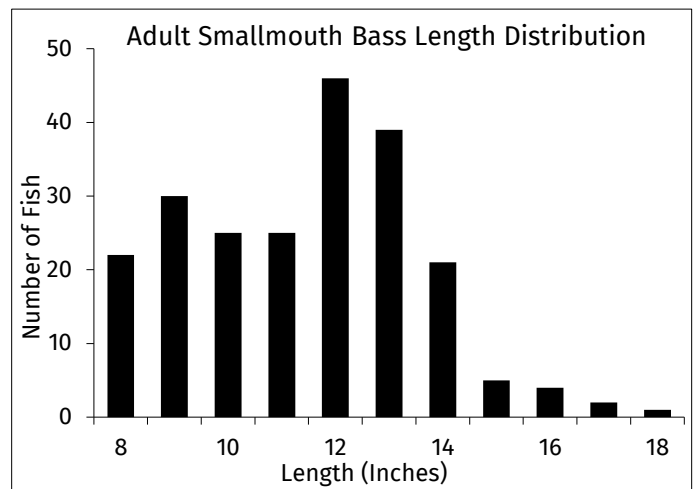


During 14 days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 629 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 255 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 34% (87 of 255) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Crab Lake was estimated to contain 1,867 adult walleyes (2.0/acre). An estimated 44.6% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 30.8-inch female. Note: Adult walleyes are defined as all sexable walleyes, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

SMALLMOUTH BASS



Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in 275 smallmouth bass caught. Adult smallmouth bass were captured at a high rate (18.9/mile) during the May 23 electrofishing survey. The average length of smallmouth bass (≥ 8 inches) captured was 11.9 inches, 15% were ≥ 14 " and the largest caught being 18.5 inches.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

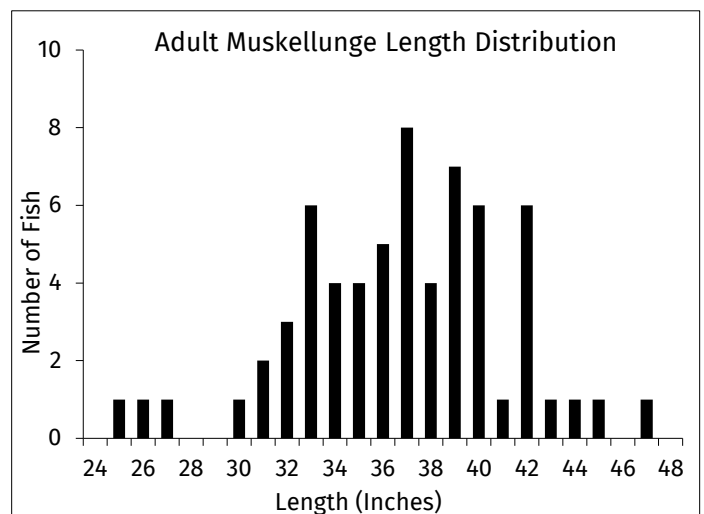


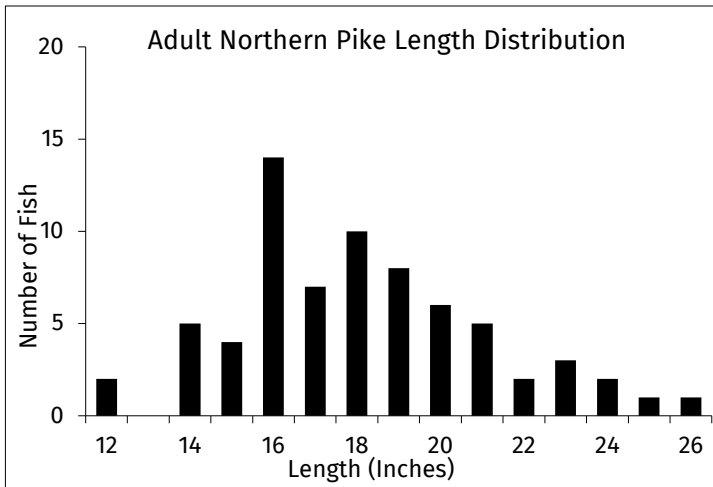
Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in 45 largemouth bass caught. Largemouth bass were captured at a low rate (1.9/mile) during the May 23 electrofishing survey. The average length of largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) captured was 14.8 inches, 58% were ≥ 14 " and the largest caught being 19.9 inches.

MUSKELLUNGE



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, 64 adult muskellunge were caught, as well as 28 juveniles (including 1 tiger muskellunge). Of the adult muskellunge, 27% (17 of 64) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 47.1-inch female. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.





NORTHERN PIKE

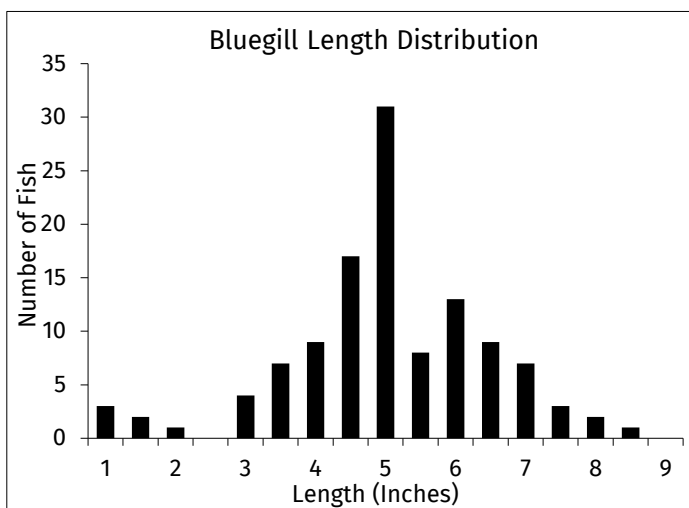
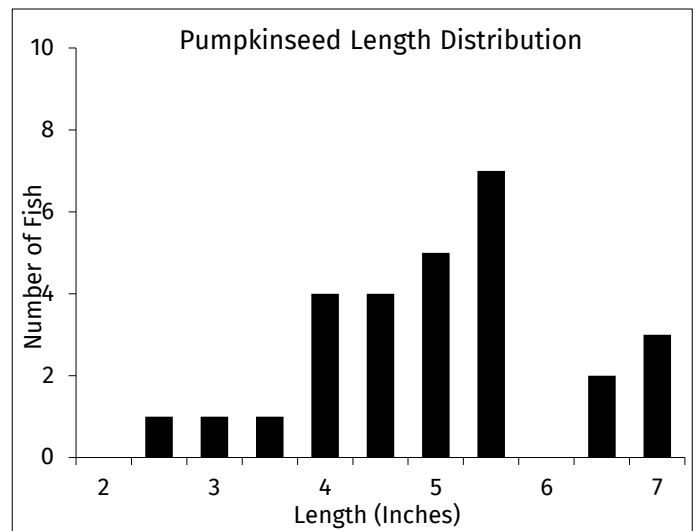


Sampling Crab Lake through May 23 resulted in the catch of 70 adult northern pike and 7 juveniles. The average length of adult northern pike was 18.4 inches, and the largest measured 26.4 inches. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 69 pumpkinseeds were caught during the course of surveying. Pumpkinseeds were captured at a low rate (10.0/mile) during the May 23 electrofishing survey. The average length of pumpkinseeds (≥ 3 ") measured was 5.3 inches, with the largest being 7.0 inches and 11% were 7 inches or larger.



BLUEGILL

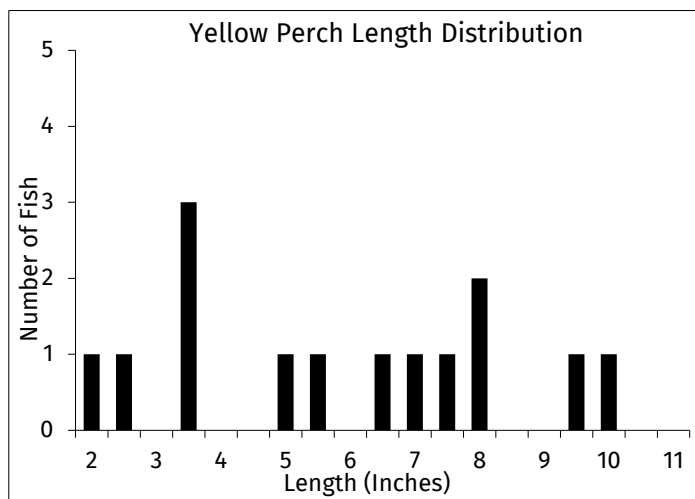
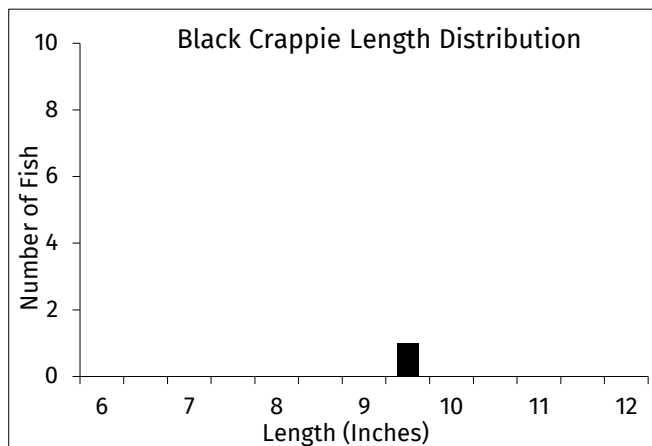


A total of 300 bluegills were caught during surveying. Bluegills were captured at a low rate (26.0/mile) during the May 23 electrofishing survey. The average length of bluegills (≥ 3 ") that were measured was 5.4 inches, with the largest being 8.7 inches and 12% were 7 inches or larger.

BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 1 black crappie was caught during the course of surveying and it was 9.7 inches in length.



YELLOW PERCH

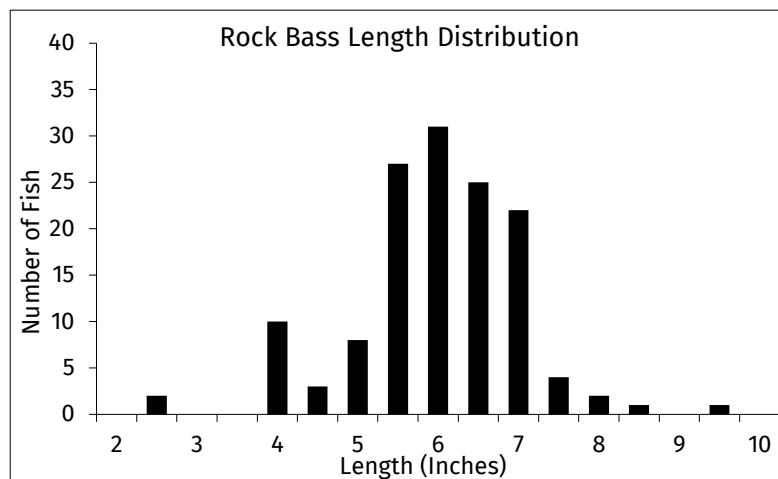


A total of 52 yellow perch were caught during surveying. Yellow perch were captured at a low rate (0.3 per net lift) during the walleye and muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of yellow perch ≥ 5 " measured was 7.7 inches, with the largest being 10.0 inches.

ROCK BASS



A total of 394 rock bass were caught during the course of surveying. The average length of rock bass measured was 6.2 inches, with the largest being 9.7 inches.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Crab Lake resulted in the catch of nine other species of fish, including: mimic shiner, white sucker, bluntnose minnow, logperch, burbot, golden shiner, mottled sculpin, yellow bullhead and common shiner.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Crab Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, 2024-25.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 4 – March 2	3	None, but only 1 walleye over 14 inches
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 4 – March 2	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 15 – March 2	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 25 – December 31	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 4 – March 2	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Crab Lake are summarized above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license or download a copy from the [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Crab Lake, contact:

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