



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources Fisheries Information Sheet

Duck Lake, Vilas County, 2025

## Waterbody Information

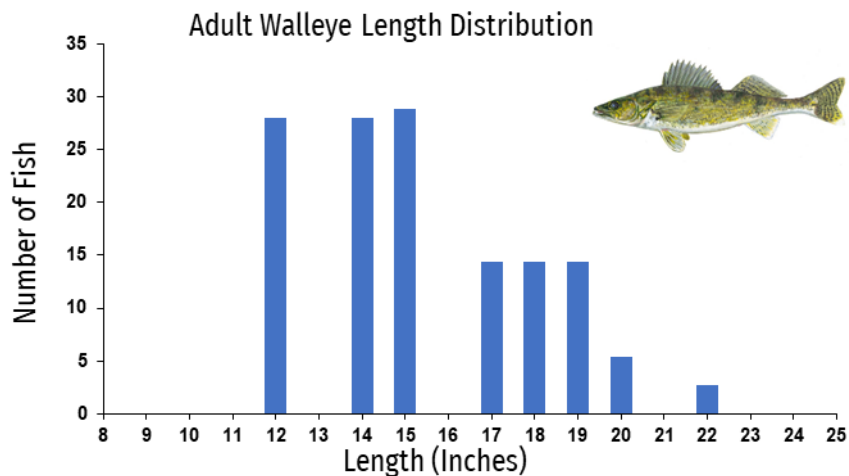
Duck Lake is a 108-acre drainage lake with 1.7 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 20 feet. Duck Lake is classified as a complex-riverine system. Bottom substrates are predominately sand and muck. Duck Lake is part of the 3,565-acre Eagle River Chain (Eagle Chain) of 10 lakes. The Eagle Chain's walleye population is sustained through natural reproduction, while the muskellunge population is produced from a combination of stocking and natural reproduction.

## Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted netting and electrofishing surveys of Duck Lake targeting adult walleye (April 22 – 25) and adult muskellunge (April 26 – May 2). Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the surveys, but the catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution.

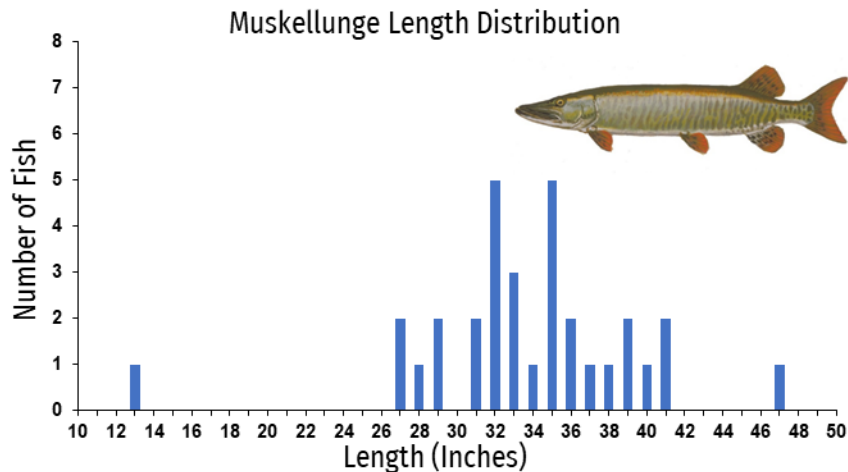
## Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 34 adult walleye (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 138 (1.3/acre) adult walleye in Duck Lake. An estimated 58% of adult walleye were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 22.7-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 12 to 22 inches and a peak occurring at 15 inches.



## Muskellunge

During the surveys, 31 adult and 1 juvenile muskellunge were captured. Adult muskellunge were caught at a rate of 3.7 per net night of targeted effort, placing it above the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of the adults captured, 13% were  $\geq 40$  inches. The largest was a 47.2-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 13 to 47 inches and peaks occurring at 32 and 35 inches.

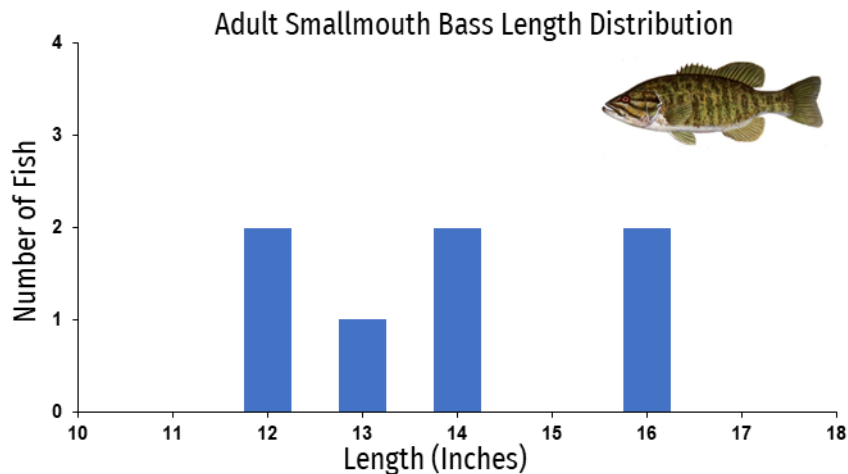


## Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 4 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 12$  inches) northern pike at a rate of 0.4 adults per net night, placing it near the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Measured northern pike were 13 inches, 25 inches and two at 26 inches.

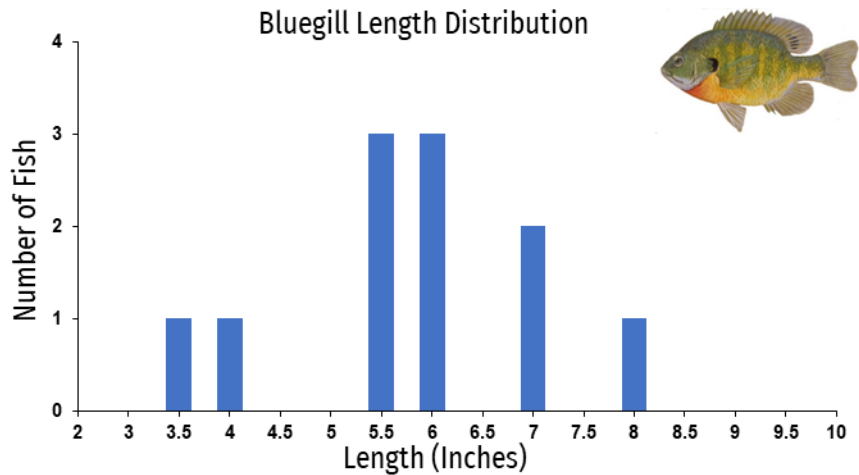
## Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass

A total of 7 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) smallmouth bass were captured, 57% were  $\geq 14$  inches, and the largest was 16.4 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult smallmouth bass length distribution with two fish at 12 inches, one at 13 inches, two at 14 inches and two at 16 inches. No largemouth bass were captured.



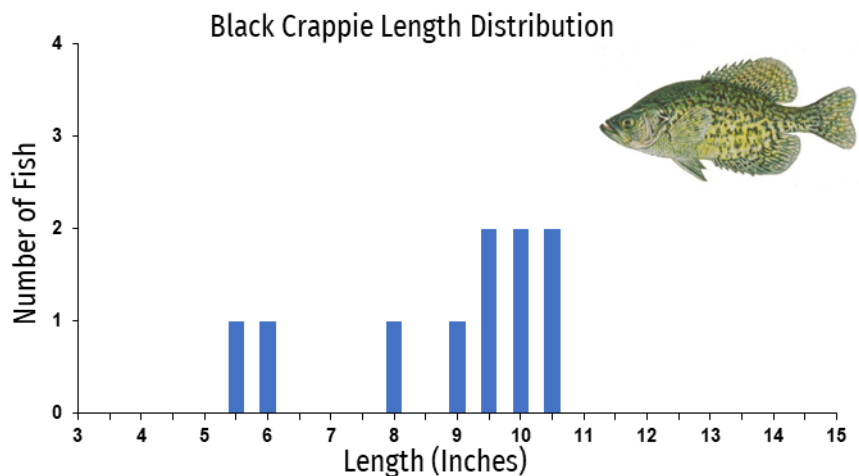
## Bluegill

A total of 16 bluegill were caught. Of 11 bluegill measured, the average length was 5.9 inches, 27% were  $\geq 7$  inches and the largest was 8.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 3.5 to 8 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



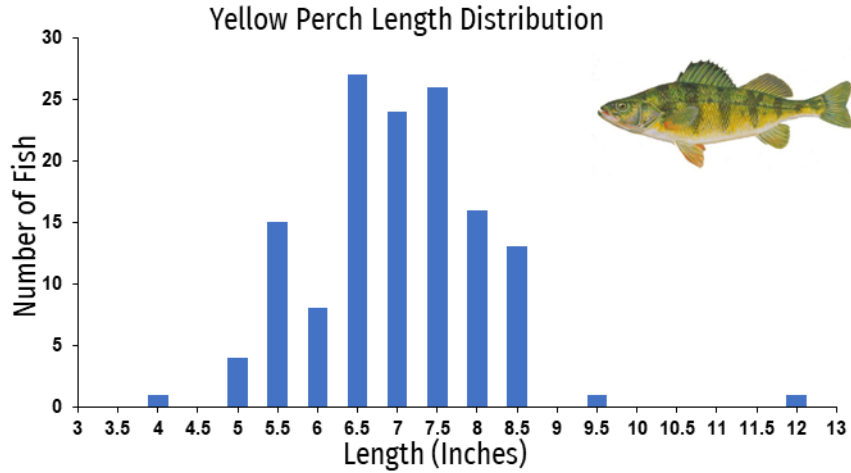
## Black Crappie

A total of 24 black crappie were captured at a rate of 2.2 fish per net night, placing it just below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 10 black crappie measured, the average length was 9.0 inches, 40% were  $\geq 10$  inches and the largest was 10.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 5.5 to 10.5 inches.



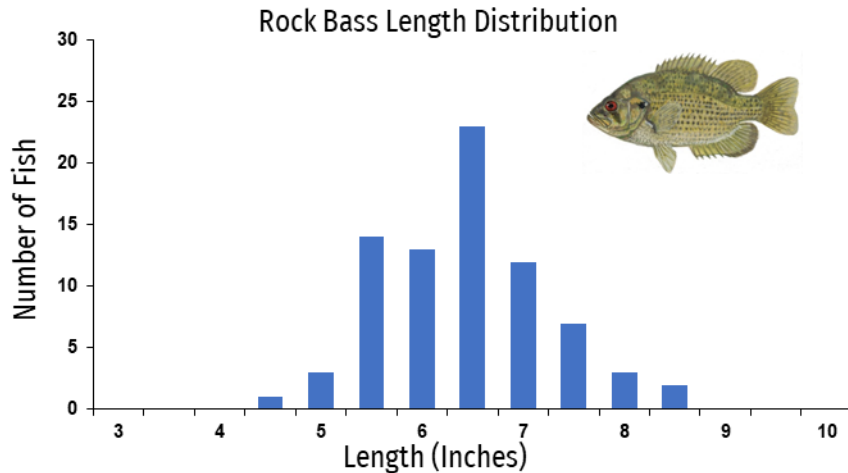
## Yellow perch

A total of 725 yellow perch were captured at a rate of 65.9 fish per net night, placing it above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 136 yellow perch measured, the average length was 7.2 inches, 23% were  $\geq 8$  inches and the largest was 12.0 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 4 to 12 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 inches.



## Rock bass

A total of 129 rock bass were captured. Of 78 rock bass measured, the average length was 6.6 inches, 6% were  $\geq 8$  inches and the largest was 8.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed rock bass length distribution with fish ranging from 4.5 to 8.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 inches.



## Other Species

Other species not directly targeted and/or captured in low abundance were burbot, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, trout perch and white sucker.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for the Eagle Chain of Lakes, Vilas County, WI.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Size Limit</b>
Largemouth bass (LMB)	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Northern pike	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	Sat of Memorial weekend – Dec 31 (open water only)	1	40 inches
Walleye	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	3 in total	No minimum; fish from 14 to 18 inches may not be kept; only one over 18 inches.
Bluegill, pumpkin- seed, crappie and yellow perch	Open all year	25 in total	None

## Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on the Eagle Chain, contact Vilas County Fisheries Biologist Eric Wegleitner. For questions about this report, contact Treaty Fisheries Biologist Lawrence Eslinger.

This report was created by Fisheries Biologist Mark Love.  
Fish illustrations by Virgil Beck.

### Lawrence Eslinger

Treaty Fisheries Biologist  
8770 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568-9635  
(715) 356-5211 Ext: 209  
[Lawrence.Eslinger@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Eslinger@wisconsin.gov)

### Eric Wegleitner

Vilas County Fisheries Biologist  
8770 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568-9635  
(715) 356-5211 Ext: 246  
[Eric.Wegleitner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Eric.Wegleitner@wisconsin.gov)