



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Eagle Lake, Vilas County, 2025

Waterbody Information

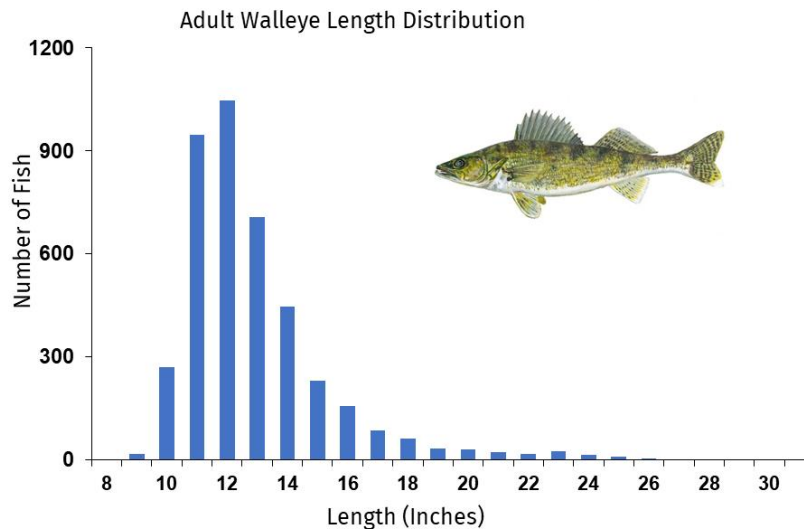
Eagle Lake is a 572-acre hard-water drainage lake with 4.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 34 feet. Eagle Lake is classified as a complex-cool-dark system. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand and muck with lesser amounts of rock. Eagle Lake is part of the 3,565-acre Eagle River 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 spring netting and electrofishing surveys of Eagle Lake targeting adult walleye (April 22 – 27), adult muskellunge (April 28 – May 2) and adult bass (May 19). Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the surveys, but the catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution.

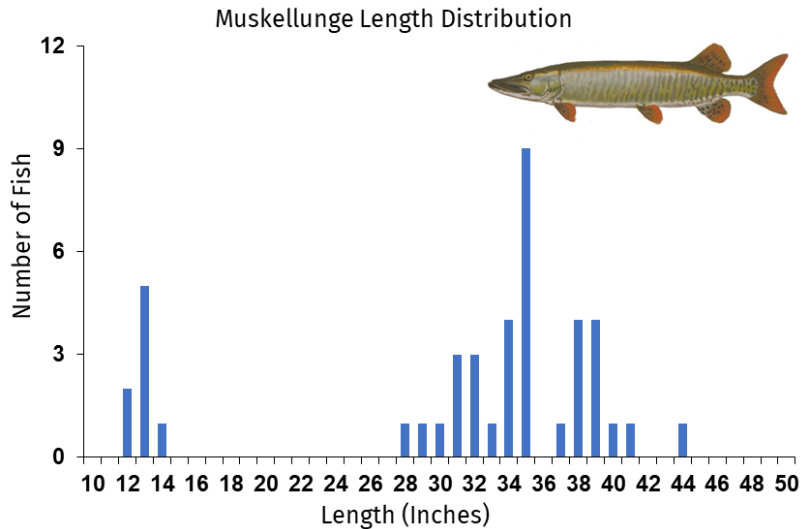
Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 1,680 adult walleye (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 4,139 (7.2/acre) adult walleye in Eagle Lake. An estimated 17% of adult walleye were ≥ 15 inches, and the largest captured was a 26-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 9 to 26 inches and a peak occurring at 12 inches.



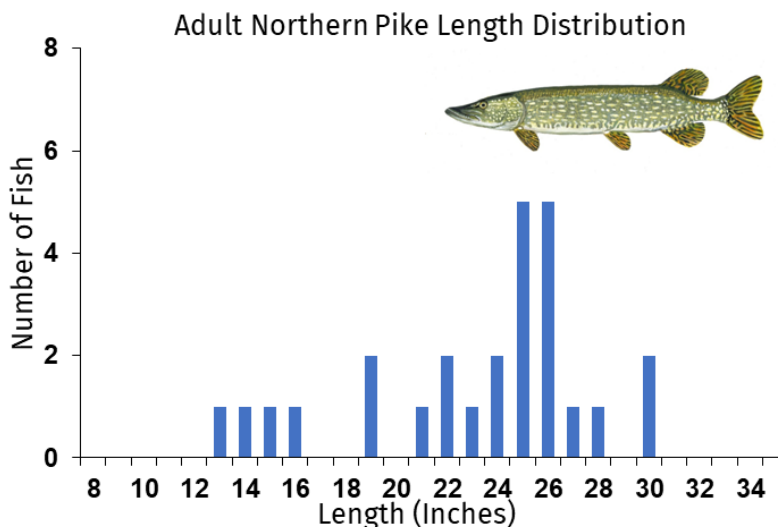
Muskellunge

During the surveys, 35 adult (sexually mature or ≥ 30 inches) and eight juvenile muskellunge (including one hybrid “tiger” muskellunge) were captured. During muskellunge-targeted netting, adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 1.7 per net night, placing it above the 95th percentile for its lake class. Of the adults captured, 9% were ≥ 40 inches, and the largest captured was a 44.9-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 12 to 44 inches and a peak occurring at 35 inches.



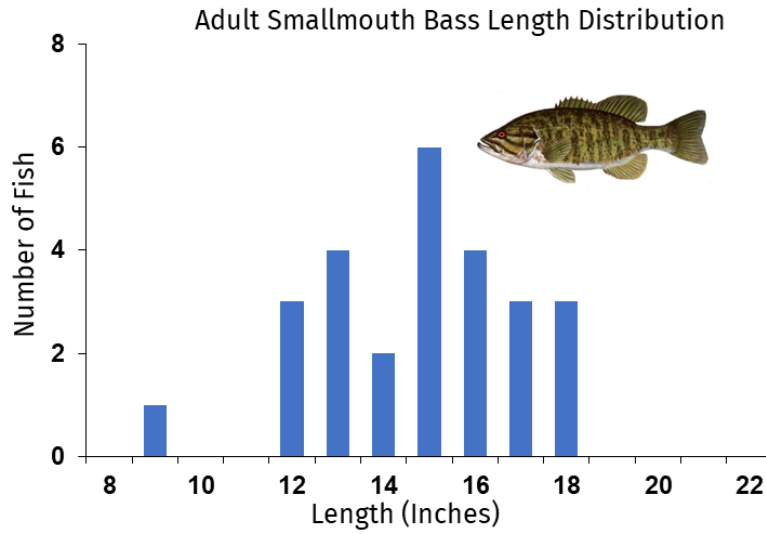
Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 26 adult northern pike (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) at a rate of 0.7 per net night, placing it between the 10th and 25th percentiles for its lake class. Approximately 77% of adult northern pike were ≥ 21 inches, and the largest was 30.5 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult northern pike length distribution with fish ranging from 13 to 30 inches and a peak occurring at 25 to 26 inches.



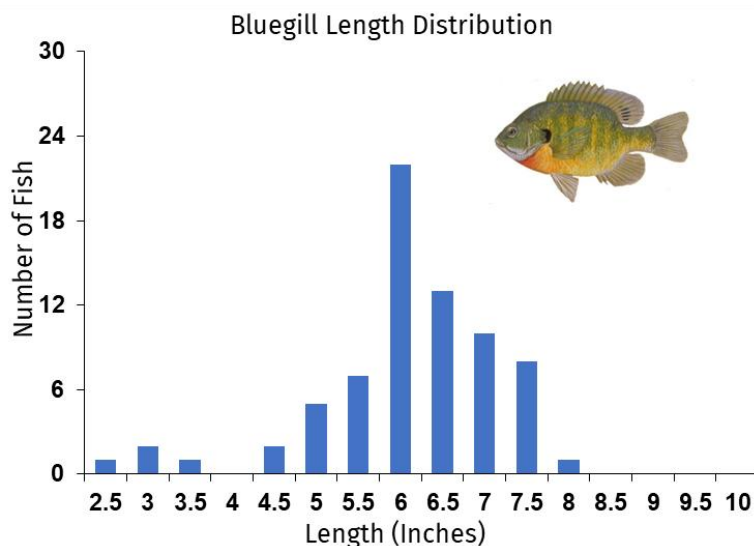
Smallmouth & Largemouth Bass

A total of 26 adult smallmouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were captured, 69% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 18.8 inches. A targeted electrofishing survey caught adult smallmouth bass at a rate of 4.0 per mile of shoreline, placing it above the 75th percentile for its lake class. Only two largemouth bass were caught during the surveys of Eagle Lake (largest was 15.8 inches). The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 9 to 18 inches and a peak occurring at 15 inches.



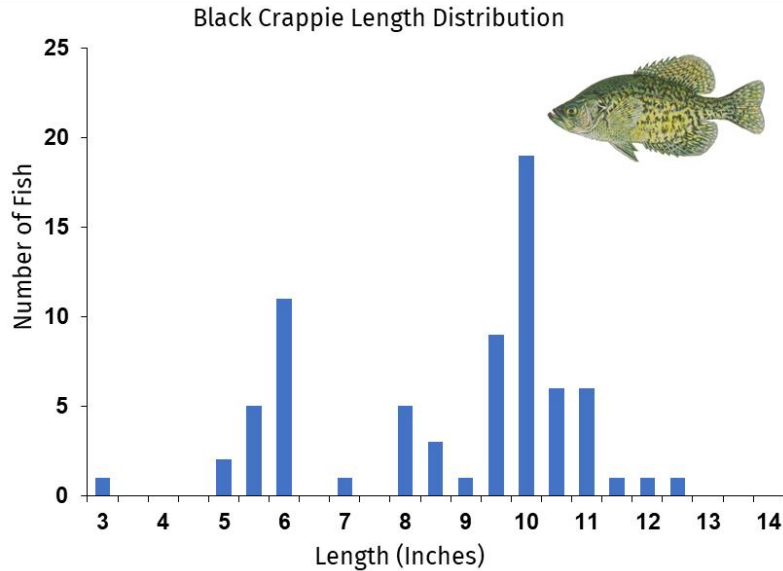
Bluegill

A total of 111 bluegill were captured. A targeted electrofishing survey captured bluegill at a rate of 40.0 fish per mile, placing it just below the 25th percentile for its lake class. Of 72 bluegill measured, the average length was 6.3 inches, 26% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 8.3 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 2.5 to 8 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



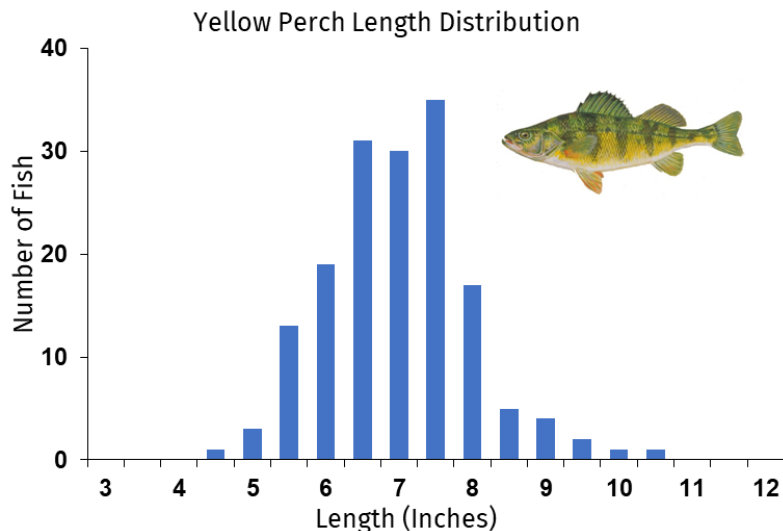
Black Crappie

A total of 173 black crappie were captured at a rate of 4.3 fish per net night, placing it just below the 50th percentile for its lake class. Of 72 black crappie measured, the average length was 8.9 inches, 47% were ≥ 10 inches and the largest was 12.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 12.5 inches and a peak occurring at 10 inches.



Yellow Perch

A total of 5,759 yellow perch were captured at a rate of 147.2 fish per net night, placing it above the 90th percentile for its lake class. Of 162 yellow perch measured, the average length was 7.2 inches, 19% were ≥ 8 inches and the largest was 10.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 4.5 to 10.5 inches and a peak occurring at 7.5 inches.



Other Species

Other species not directly targeted and/or captured in low abundance were black bullhead, burbot, creek chub, golden redhorse, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, rock bass, trout perch and white sucker.

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

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth bass (LMB)	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 rd Saturday in June – 1 st Sunday in March	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Northern pike	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	Sat of Memorial weekend – Dec 31 (open water only)	1	40 inches
Walleye	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	3 in total	No minimum; fish from 14 to 18 inches may not be kept; only one over 18 inches.
Panfish	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 Lawrence Eslinger. Fish illustrations by Virgil Beck.

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