



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: LITTLE SAINT
GERMAIN

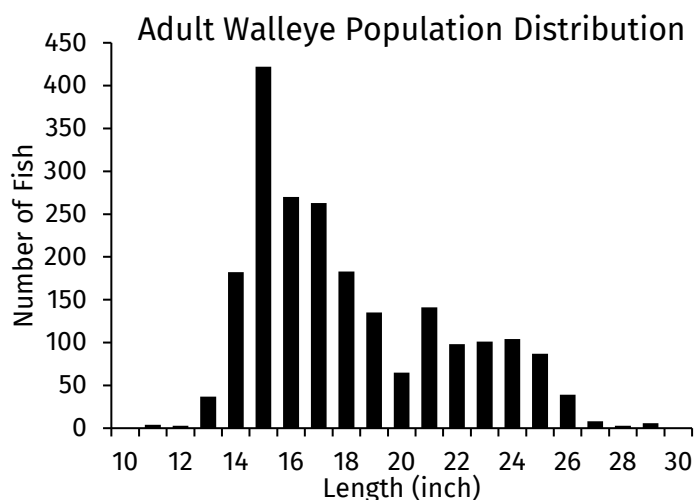
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

Little Saint Germain Lake is a moderately fertile drainage lake with mainly sand, gravel and muck substrates. It has a surface area of 980 acres, 14.7 miles of shoreline, a maximum depth of 53 feet and is classified as a complex-two story lake. On April 18th, 2025, six fykes nets were set in areas where walleye were thought to spawn. An additional four walleye nets were added in the following days as ice retreated from other areas of the lake. Nets were lifted every day until April 24th when they were moved to areas targeting muskellunge. Musky nets were run daily through April 29th. A walleye recapture electrofishing run was completed on the evening of April 24th. However, due to low walleye recapture numbers, a second recapture run was completed on April 30th to complete the walleye population estimate. Only gamefish (walleye, bass, pike and muskellunge) were collected during electrofishing surveys. The walleye fishery is entirely supported by stocking. There is very limited natural reproduction of muskellunge, so the fishery is primarily sustained by stocking.

WALLEYE

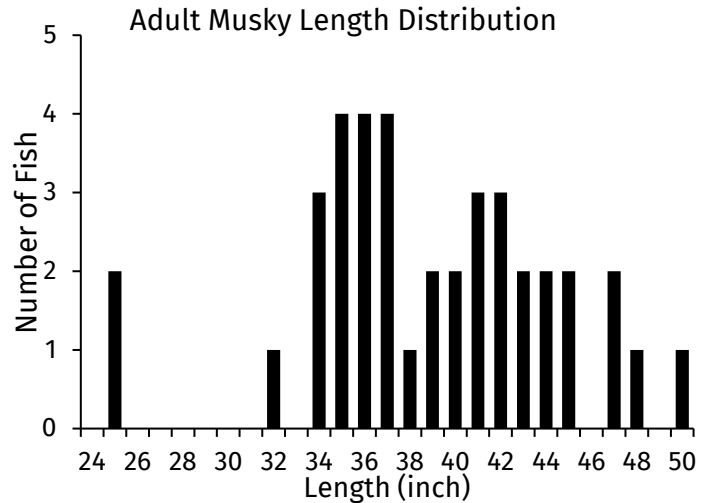


During fyke netting and the first electrofishing run, 678 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats on April 30th and caught 225 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 30% (67 of 225) of walleyes were found to have a fin clip. Based on those results, Little Saint Germain was estimated to contain 2,150 adult walleyes (2.2/acre). An estimated 89.5% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 29.5-inch female. Note: adult walleyes are defined as all sexable walleyes, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

MUSKELLUNGE



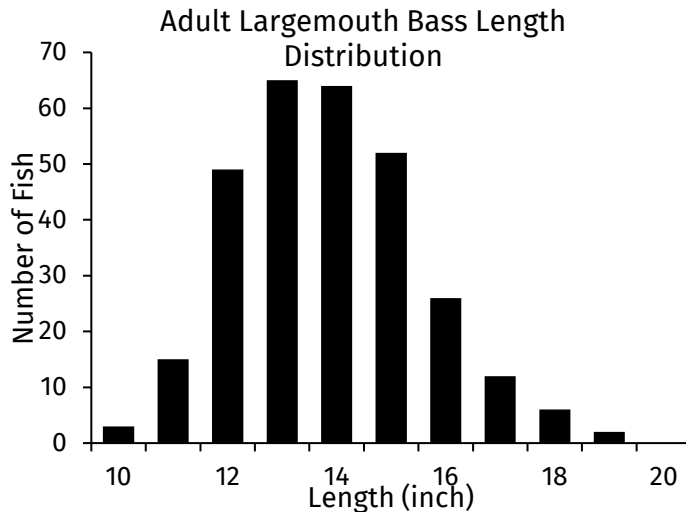
During fyke netting and electrofishing, 39 adult muskellunge were caught, as well as one juvenile. Adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.31 per net lift during musky targeted netting, which ranks between the 25th and 50th percentile for similar classed lakes. Adult muskellunge ranged in length from 25.0 to 50.6 inches and averaged 39.4 inches. Of the adult muskellunge captured, 46% were 40 inches or larger. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.



LARGEMOUTH BASS



During fyke netting and electrofishing, 302 adult largemouth bass caught, as well as two juveniles. Adult largemouth bass ranged in length from 10.0 to 19.9 inches, averaged 14.7 inches and 56% were 14 inches or larger. Note: adult largemouth bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches in length.



SMALLMOUTH BASS



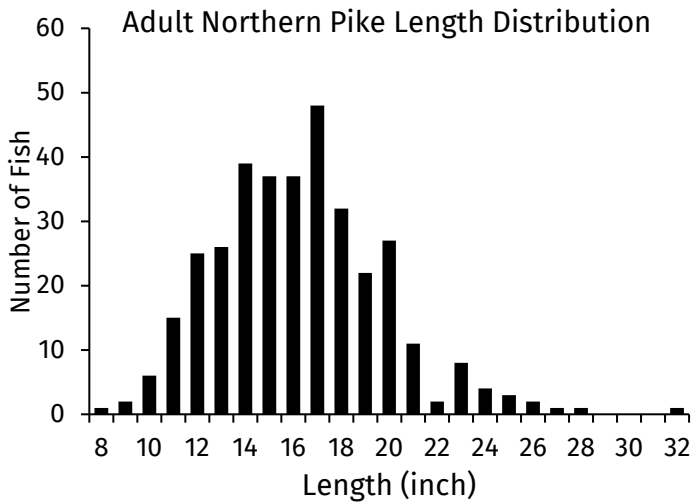
During fyke netting and electrofishing, six adult smallmouth bass were caught. Adult smallmouth bass ranged in length from 11.5 to 20.0 inches and averaged 15.0 inches. Note: adult smallmouth bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches in length.



NORTHERN PIKE



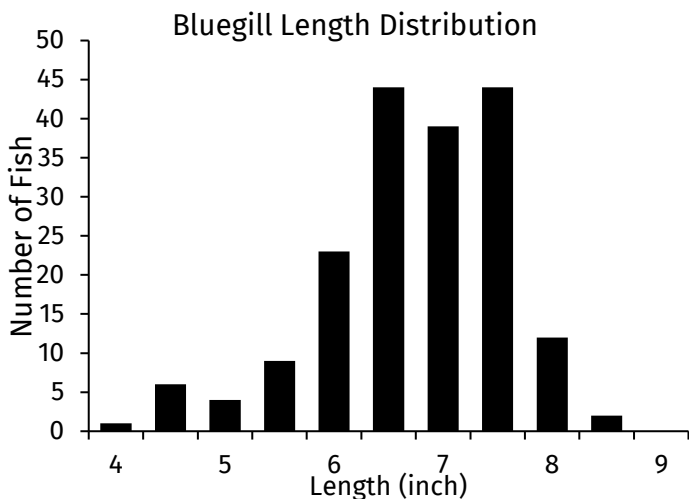
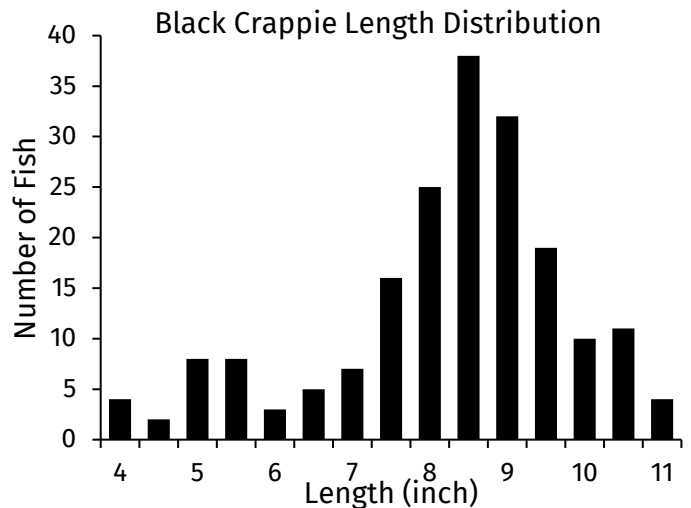
During fyke netting and electrofishing, 350 adult northern pike were caught as well as five juveniles. Northern pike were caught at a rate of 3.6 per net lift which falls in the 90th percentile for the lake class. Adult northern pike ranged in length from 8.9 to 32.5 inches, averaged 16.6 inches and 9% were 21 inches or larger. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.



BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 1,525 black crappie were caught in fyke nets at a rate of 17.3 per net lift, which is near the 95th percentile for complex-two story lakes. Lengths were taken from a random subsample of crappies caught. Black crappies ranged in length from 4.0 to 11.4 inches, averaged 8.4 inches and 13% were 10 inches or greater.



BLUEGILL

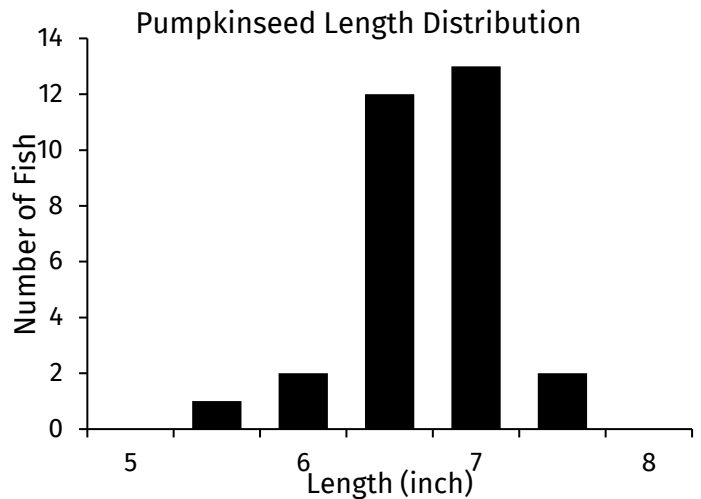


A total of 1,763 bluegills were caught in fyke nets. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Bluegills ranged in length from 4.0 to 8.8 inches, averaged 6.9 inches and 53% were 7 inches or greater.

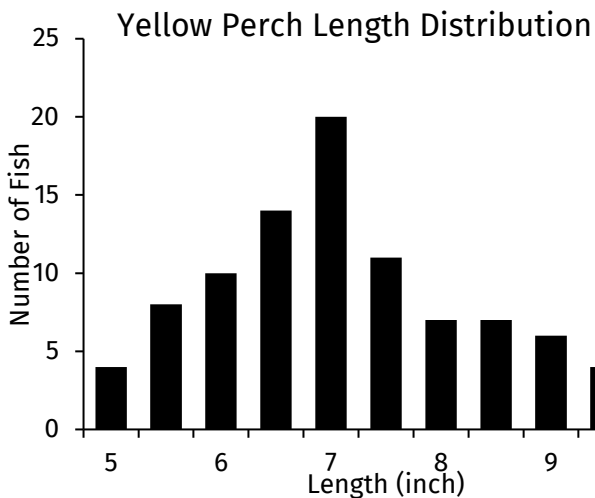
PUMPKINSEED



A total of 1,763 pumpkinseeds were caught in fyke nets. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Pumpkinseeds ranged in length from 5.9 to 7.7 inches, averaged 6.9 inches and 50% were 7 inches or greater.



YELLOW PERCH

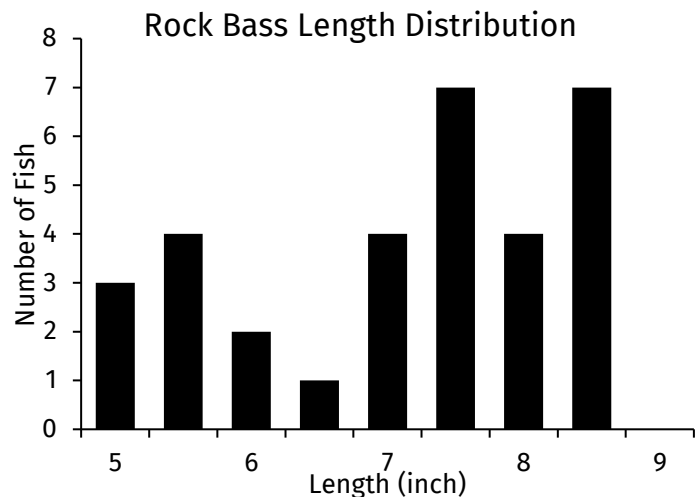


A total of 315 yellow perch were caught in fyke nets at a rate of 3.6 per net lift, which is below the 50th percentile for similar class lakes. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Yellow perch ranged in length from 5.2 to 10.2 inches, averaged 7.4 inches and 29% were 8 inches or longer.

ROCK BASS



A total of 60 rock bass were caught in fyke nets. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Rock bass ranged in length from 5.1 to 8.9 inches and averaged 7.3 inches.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Little Saint Germain resulted in the catch of three species of fish, including: yellow bullhead (1,834), white sucker (17) and black bullhead (6). Yellow bullhead were captured at a high rate of 20.8 per net lift, which falls in the 98th percentile for complex-two story lakes.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Little Saint Germain Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, 2025-26.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25 total but only 10 of any one species	None
Walleye	May 3 – March 1	3	15" min length, 20-24" no harvest, 1 allowed over 24"
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 3 – March 1	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 21 – March 1	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 24 – December 31	1	50 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 – March 1	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Little Saint Germain 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 [Department of Natural Resources Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Little Saint Germain, contact:

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