



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: MUSKELLUNGE

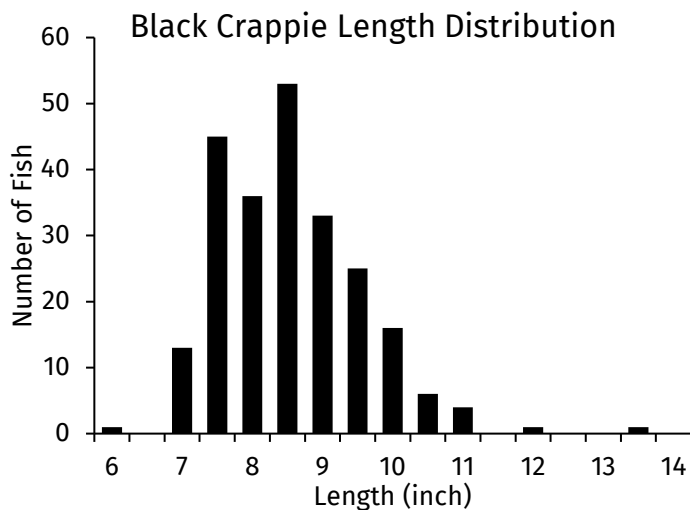
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

Muskellunge Lake, Vilas County, has a surface area of 272 acres, 3.6 miles of shoreline, a maximum depth of 19 feet and is classified as a complex-warm-dark lake. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed Muskellunge Lake, from May 6 to May 13, 2025, to assess the status of panfish and bass. A total of five fyke nets were set on May 6 and lifted daily from May 7 to May 9. An electrofishing survey was also conducted on the evening of May 13.

BLACK CRAPPIE

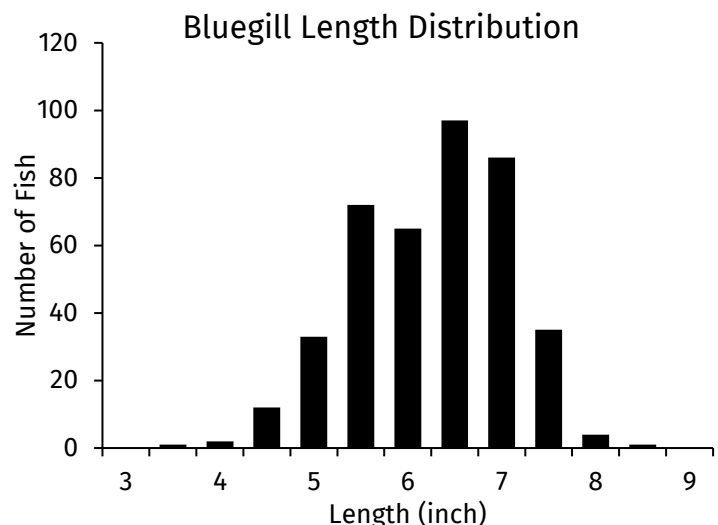


A total of 984 black crappies were caught during the survey. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Black crappies ranged in length from 6.3 to 13.8 inches, averaged 8.8 inches and 12% were 10 inches or greater. Black crappie were captured in fyke nets at a rate of 63.6 per net lift, which is above the 95th percentile for the lake class.

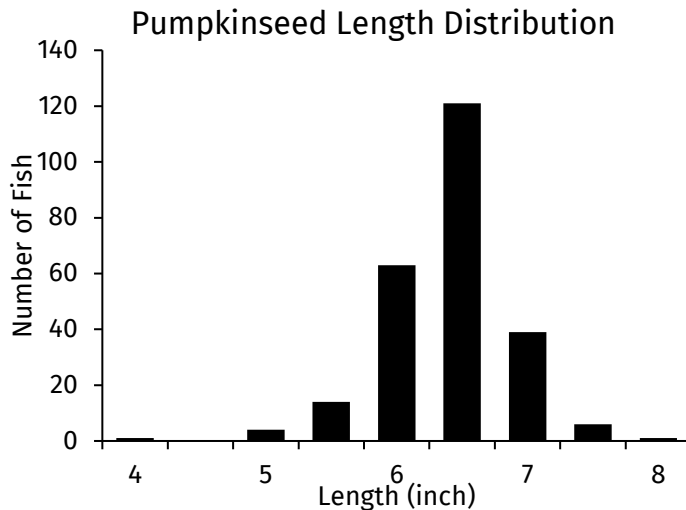
BLUEGILL



A total of 3,093 bluegills were caught during the survey. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Bluegills ranged in length from 1.9 to 8.9 inches, averaged 6.4 inches and 31% were 7 inches or greater. During electrofishing bluegills were captured at a rate of 302 per mile of shoreline sampled, which is above the 90th percentile for the lake class.



PUMPKINSEED

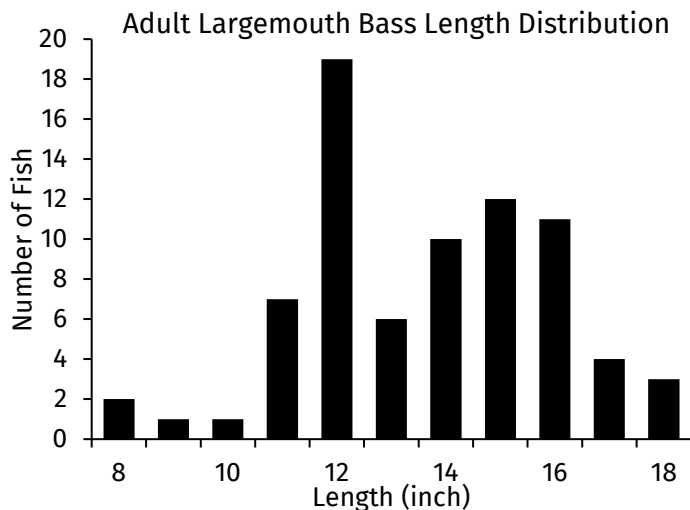
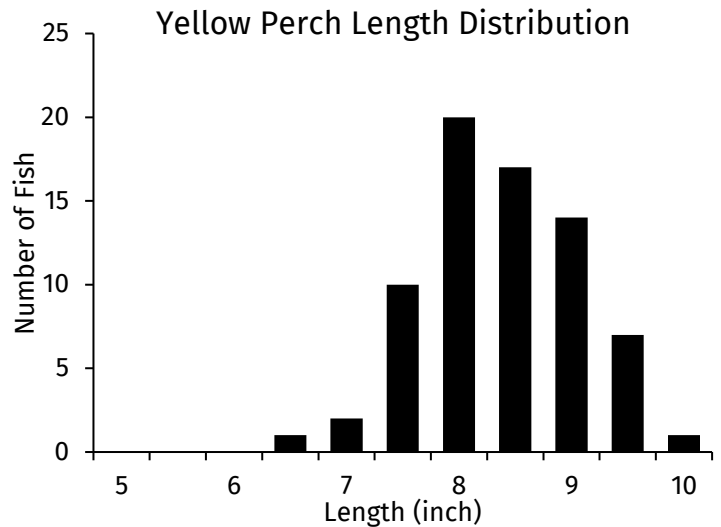


A total of 1,253 pumpkinseeds were caught during the survey. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Pumpkinseeds ranged in length from 4.2 to 8.1 inches, averaged 6.6 inches and 19% were 7 inches or greater. During electrofishing pumpkinseeds were captured at a rate of 49 per mile of shoreline sampled, which is above the 95th percentile for the lake class.

YELLOW PERCH



A total of 111 yellow perch were caught during the survey. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Yellow perch ranged in length from 2.8 to 10.0 inches. Of those 5 inches or greater, the average length was 8.6 inches and 82% were 8 inches or greater.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

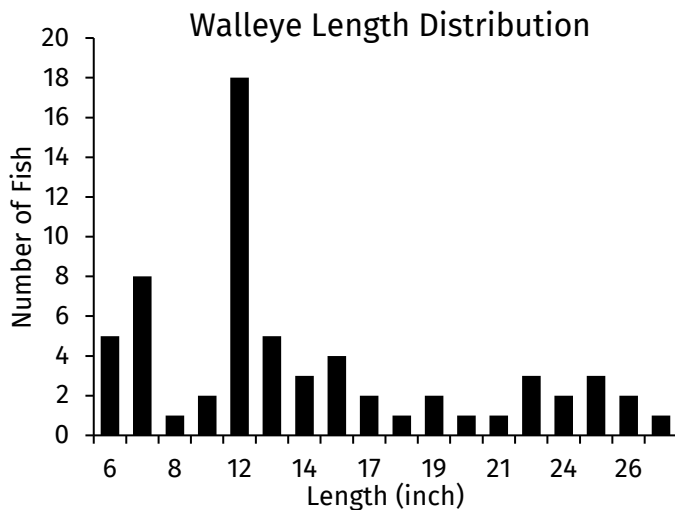
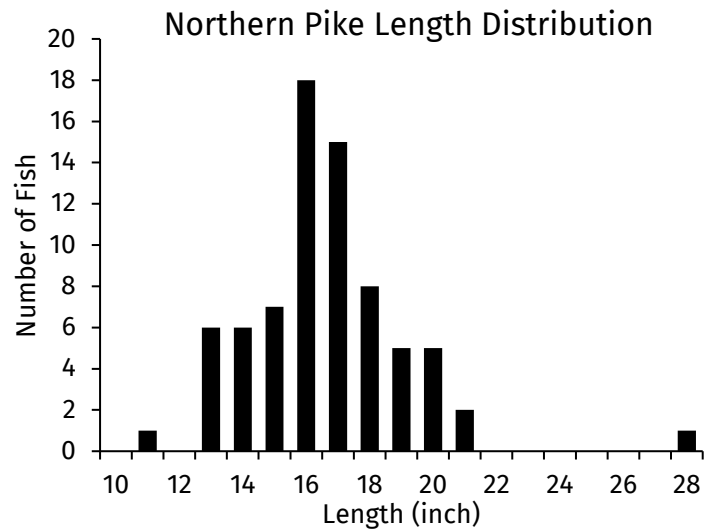


A total of 76 adult largemouth bass were caught during the survey, as well as nine juveniles. Largemouth bass ranged in length from 3.1 to 18.9 inches, adults averaged 14.0 inches and 53% of adults were 14 inches or greater. During electrofishing adult largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 8.1 per mile of shoreline sampled, which is below the 25th percentile for the lake class. Note: adult largemouth bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches in length.

NORTHERN PIKE



A total of 75 northern pike were caught during the survey. Northern pike ranged in length from 11.7 to 28.5 inches, averaged 17.1 inches and 4% were 21 inches or greater.



WALLEYE

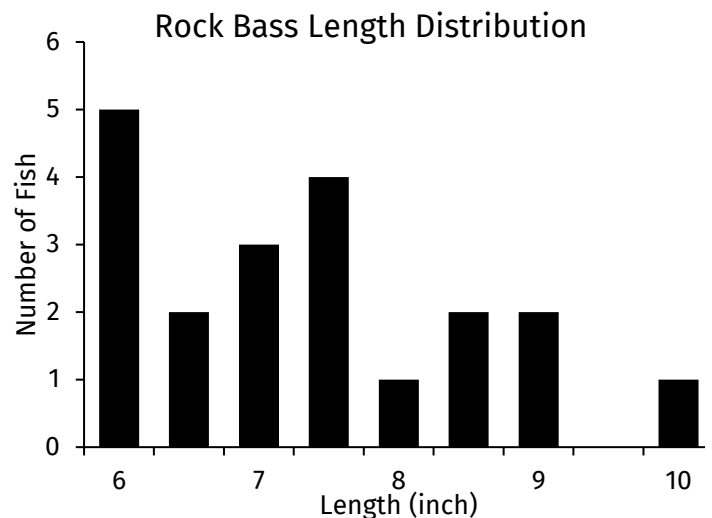


A total of 64 walleye were caught during the survey. Walleye ranged in length from 6.4 to 27.0 inches, averaged 14.5 inches and 34% were 15 inches or greater.

ROCK BASS



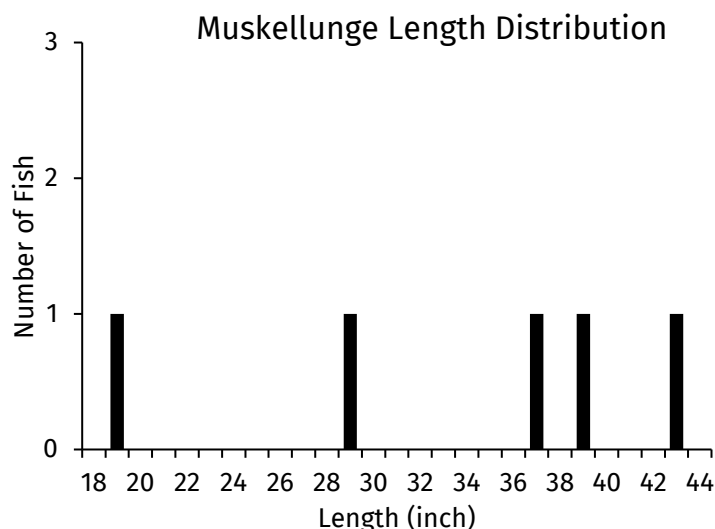
A total of 32 rock bass were caught during the survey. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Rock bass ranged in length from 6.2 to 10.0 inches and averaged 7.5 inches.



MUSKELLUNGE



A total of five muskellunge were caught during the survey and ranged in length from 19.7 to 43.7 inches.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Muskellunge Lake resulted in the catch of nine species of fish, including: yellow bullhead (59), golden shiner (17), white sucker (6), bluntnose minnow (2), and johnny darter (1).

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Muskellunge Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, 2025-26.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 3 – March 1	3	15" min, no harvest 20-24", one 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	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 – March 1	5	None

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

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

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