



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

North Turtle Lake, Vilas County, 2026

Waterbody Information

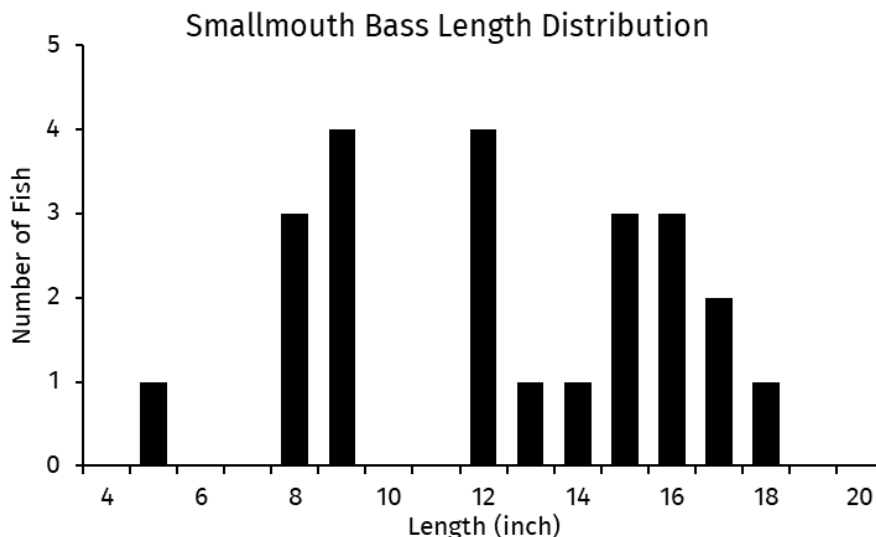
North Turtle Lake is a 369-acre drainage lake with five miles of shoreline and maximum depth of 58 feet. The lake is classified as a complex-two story lake. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand, gravel, and rock.

Survey Information

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a survey of North Turtle Lake targeting bass and panfish on the evening of June 2, 2026. Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the survey but catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution. One electrofishing boat shocked a total of 5.44 miles of shoreline, which included two, half-mile stations where all fish species were collected. Only gamefish (largemouth & smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge) were collected during the remaining 4.44 miles.

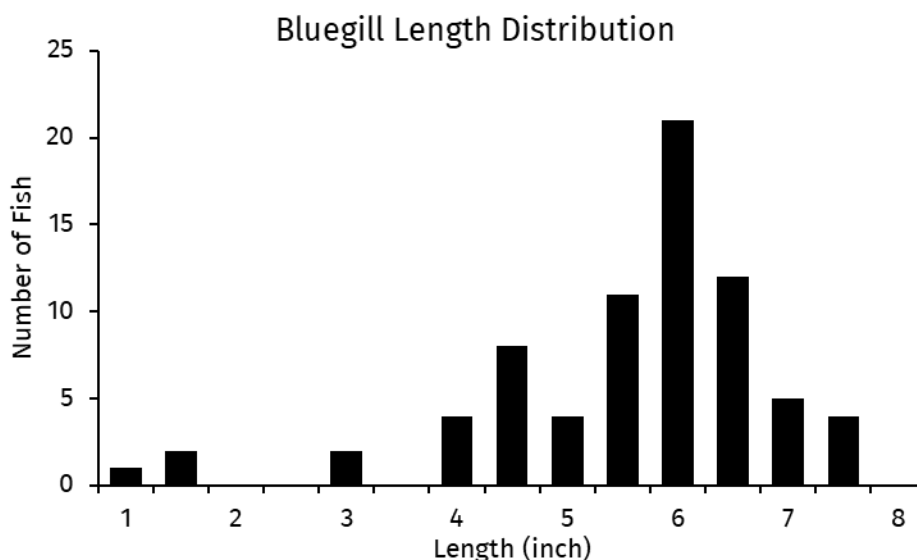
Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass

A total of 23 smallmouth bass were captured, 44% were ≥ 14 inches, average length was 12.8 and the largest was 18.1 inches. Smallmouth bass were captured at a rate of 4.23 per mile, placing it between the 50th and 75th percentile for its lake class. The bar chart below shows the observed smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 5 to 18 inches. Two largemouth bass were captured and measured at 13.0 and 17.9 inches. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 0.37 per mile, placing it just above the 10th percentile for its lake class.



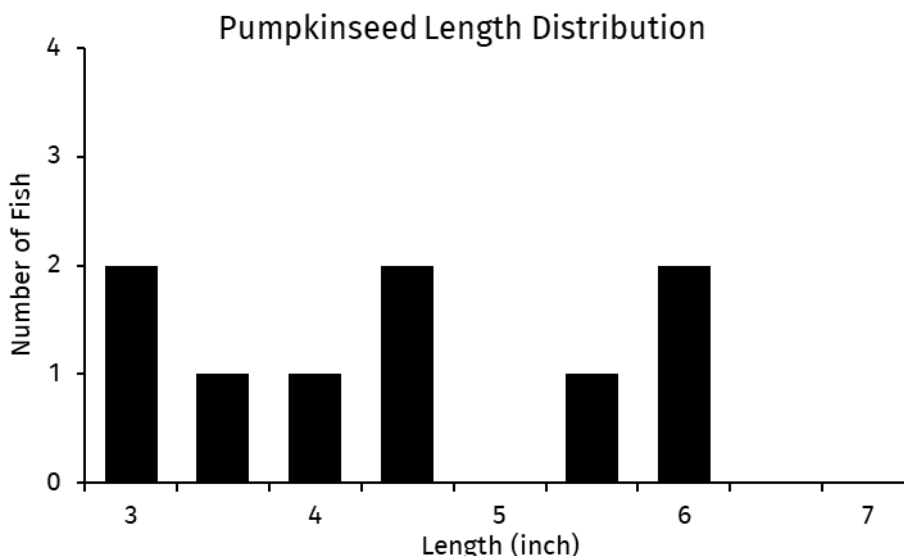
Bluegill

A total of 74 bluegill were captured during the survey. Bluegill were captured at a rate of 74.0 fish per mile, placing it between the 50th and 75th percentile for its lake class. Of the 71 bluegill ≥ 3 inches, average length was 5.9 inches, 13% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 7.9 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 1 to 7.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



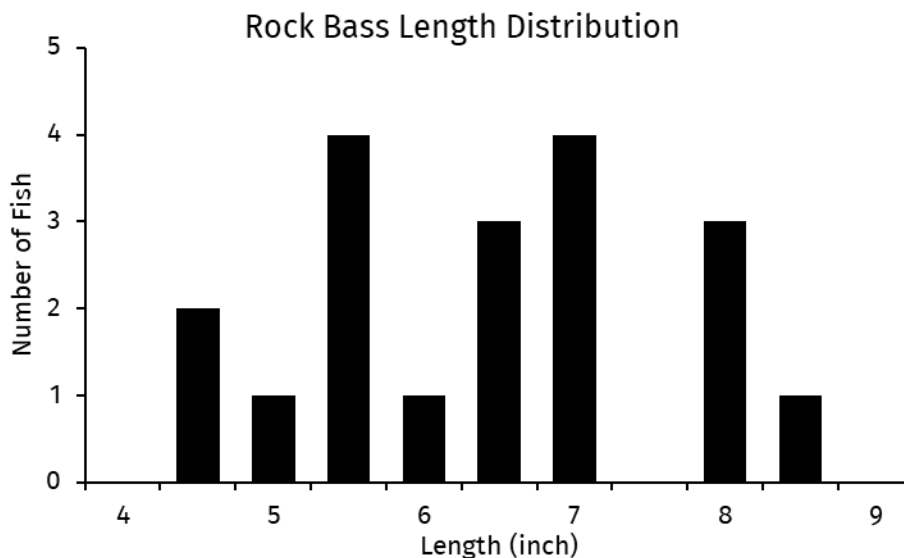
Pumpkinseed

A total of nine pumpkinseed were captured during the survey. Pumpkinseed were captured at a rate of 9.0 fish per mile, placing it below the 75th percentile for its lake class. Average length of pumpkinseed was 4.7 inches and the largest was 6.4 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed pumpkinseed length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 6 inches.



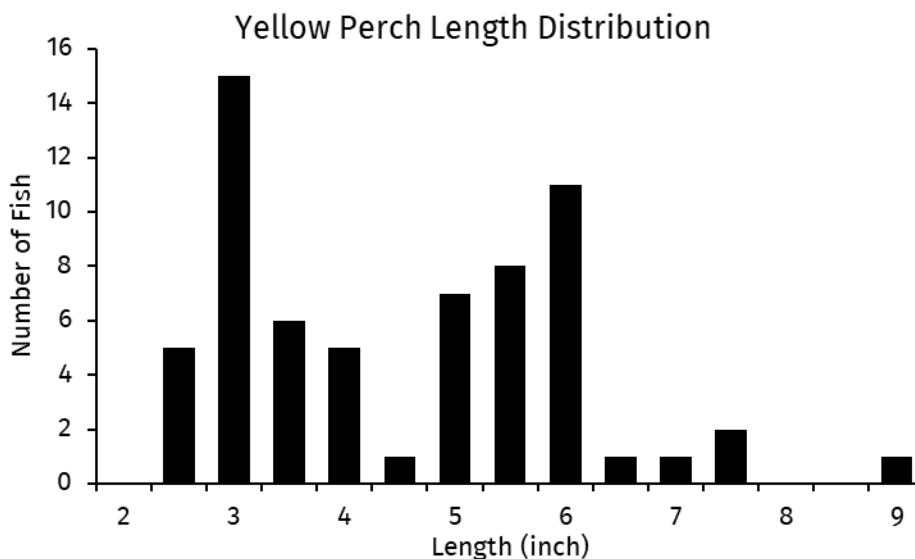
Rock Bass

A total of 19 rock bass were captured during the survey. Rock bass were captured at a rate of 19.0 fish per mile, placing it below the 75th percentile for its lake class. Average length of rock bass was 6.6 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.



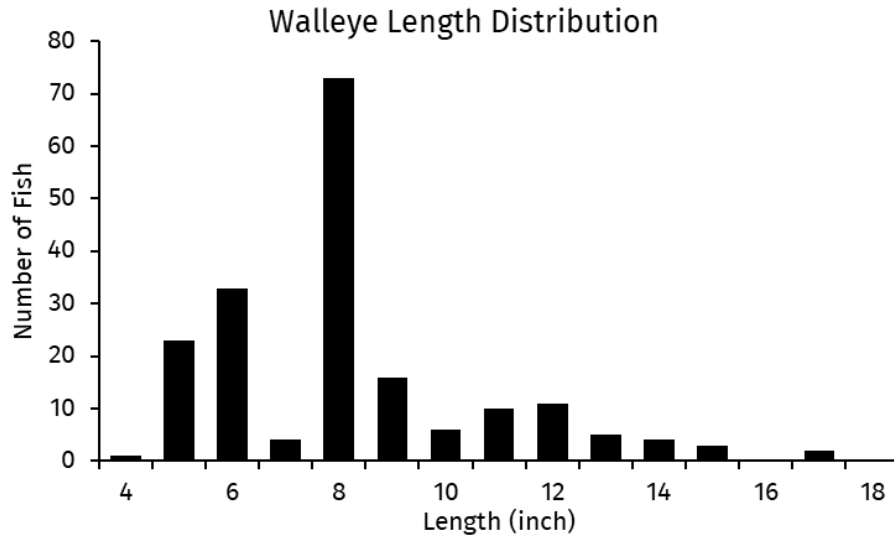
Yellow Perch

A total of 63 yellow perch were captured during the survey. Yellow perch ranged in length from 2.8 to 9.1 inches and averaged 4.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 2.5 to 9 inches and a peak occurring at 3 inches.



Walleye

A total of 276 walleye were captured during the survey. Walleye ranged in length from 4.9 to 17.0 inches and averaged 8.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 4 to 17 inches.



Other Species

Other species captured during the survey included three golden shiner, two white sucker, one black crappie, three northern pike and one muskellunge.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for North Turtle, Vilas County, WI in 2026-27.

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 inch minimum
Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 rd Saturday in June – 1 st Sunday in March	5 in total with LMB	14 inch minimum
Northern pike	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	1 st Saturday in May – Dec 31 (open water only)	1	40 inch minimum
Walleye	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	3 in total	No minimum, but only one walleye is allowed over 14 inches
Panfish	Open all year	25 in total	None

Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on North Turtle Lake, contact Vilas County Fisheries Biologist Eric Wogleitner.

Eric Wogleitner

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