



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: PRESQUE ISLE CHAIN

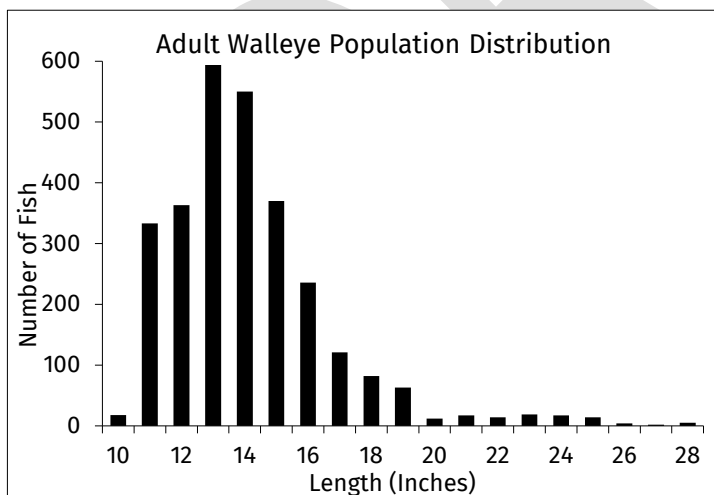
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2024

Introduction

Presque Isle Chain, Vilas County includes Presque Isle, Averill and Van Vliet lakes, which comprise 1,571 acres. Presque Isle Lake has surface area of 1,280 acres, 9.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 80 feet. Averill Lake has a surface area of 71 acres, 1.8 miles of shoreline and max dept of 5 feet. Van Vliet Lake has a surface area of 220 acres, 4.7 miles of shoreline and max depth of 20 feet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed Presque Isle Chain, from April 5-26, 2024, to assess the status of walleye and muskellunge. Walleye fyke nets were set on April 5 and lifted daily from April 6-15 after which they were moved to muskellunge sets and lifted from April 16-26. A walleye recapture electrofishing run was completed on the evening of April 15. Additional bass/panfish electrofishing surveys were conducted on the evenings of May 20 and 28. The walleye population is entirely supported by natural reproduction (NR) while the muskellunge population is supported by limited NR and supplemented by stocking.

WALLEYE

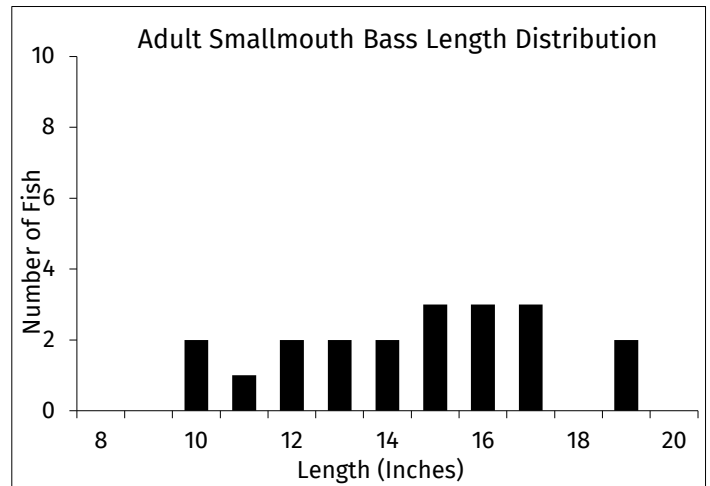


During ten days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 833 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 238 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 30% (71 of 238) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Presque Isle Chain was estimated to contain 2,829 adult walleyes (1.8/acre). An estimated 34.4% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 28.8-inch female. Note: Adult walleyes are defined as all sexable walleyes, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

SMALLMOUTH BASS



Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in 24 smallmouth bass caught. Smallmouth bass were captured at a low rate (1.3/mile) during the May 20 & 28 electrofishing surveys. The average length of smallmouth bass captured was 13.3 inches, with the largest caught being 19.8 inches.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

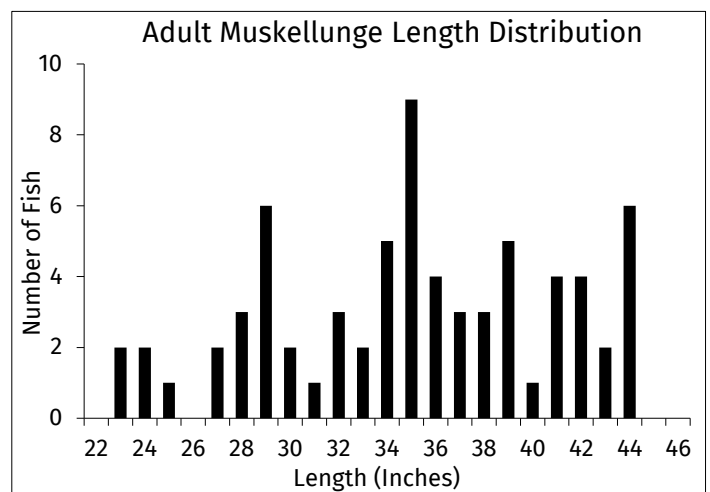


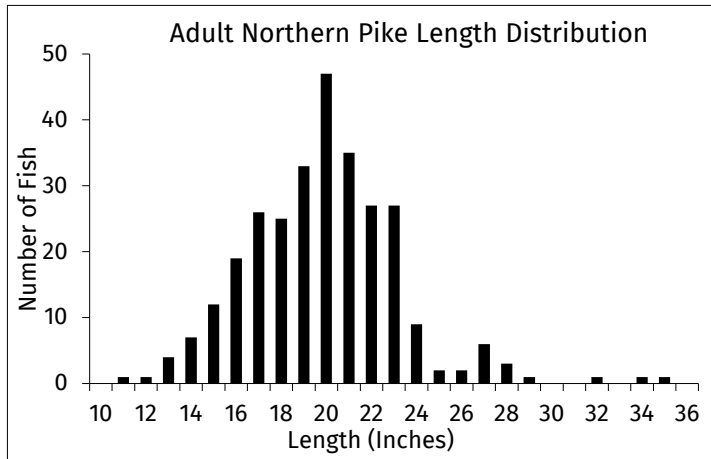
Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in four largemouth bass caught all of which were juvenile. Largemouth bass were captured at a low rate (0.2/mile) during the May 20 & 28 electrofishing surveys. The average length of largemouth bass captured was 4.9 inches, with the largest caught being 6.0 inches.

MUSKELLUNGE



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, 70 adult muskellunge (including one tiger muskellunge) were caught, as well as 13 juveniles. Of the adult muskellunge, 24% (17 of 70) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 44.8-inch female. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.



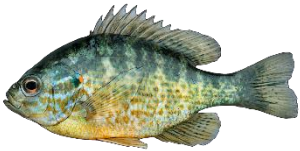


NORTHERN PIKE

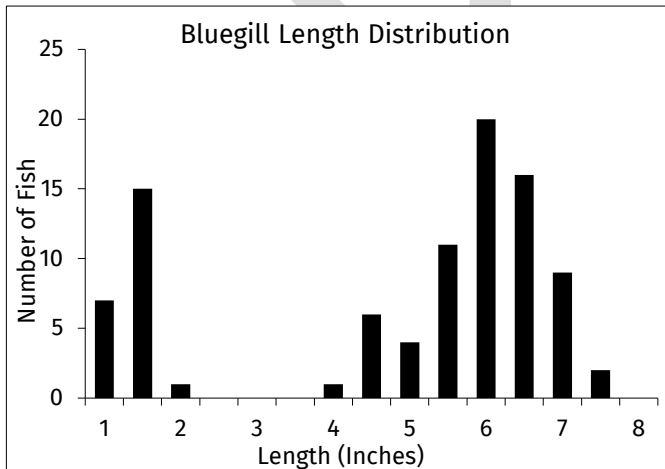
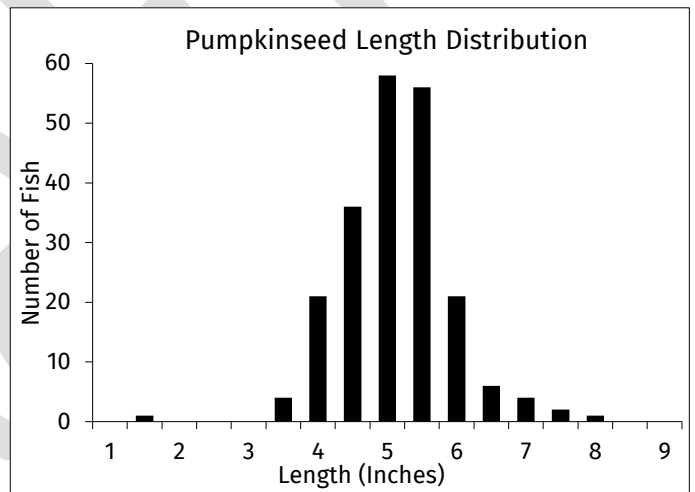


Sampling Presque Isle Chain through May 28 resulted in the catch of 309 adult northern pike. The average length of adult northern pike was 20.3 inches, and the largest measured 35.7 inches. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 1,151 pumpkinseeds were caught during the course of surveying. Pumpkinseed were captured at a moderate rate (23.6/mile) during the May 20 & 28 electrofishing surveys. The average length of pumpkinseeds (≥ 3 ") measured was 5.3 inches, with the largest being 8.2 inches and 3% were 7 inches or larger.



BLUEGILL

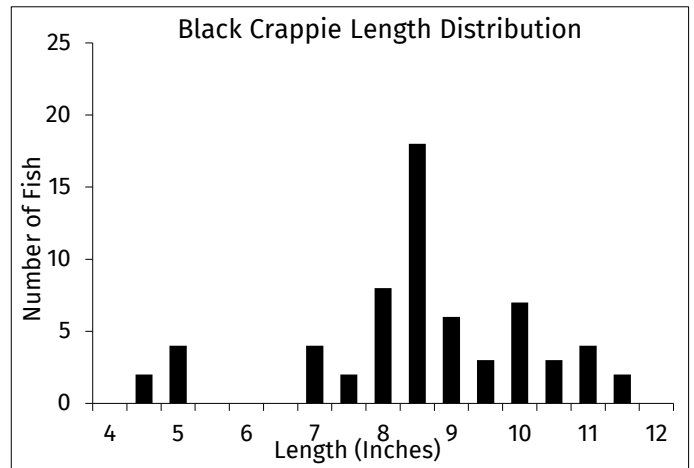


A total of 300 bluegills were caught during surveying. Bluegills were captured at a low rate (11.4/mile) during the May 20 & 28 electrofishing surveys. The average length of bluegills (≥ 3 ") measured was 6.2 inches, with the largest being 7.8 inches and 16% were 7 inches or larger.

BLACK CRAPPIE



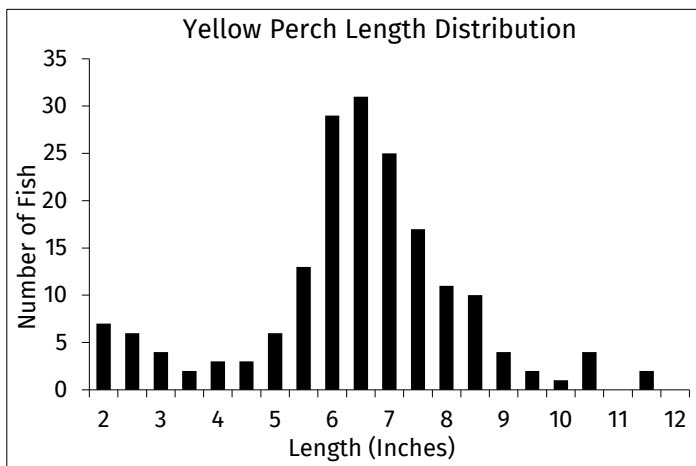
A total of 256 black crappies were caught during the course of surveying. Black crappies were captured at a low rate (0.7 per net lift) during muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of black crappies ≥ 5 " measured was 8.9 inches, with the largest being 11.5 inches and 26% were 10 inches or larger.



YELLOW PERCH



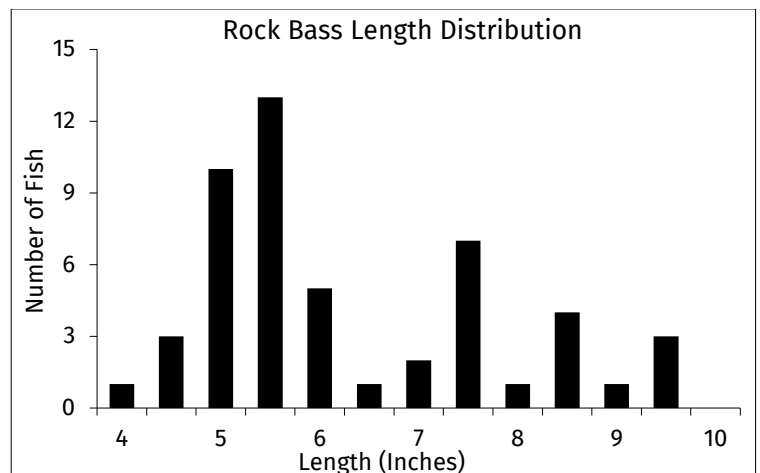
A total of 630 yellow perch were caught during surveying. Yellow perch were captured at a low rate (2.9 per net lift) during the walleye and muskellunge targeted fyke netting. Average length of yellow perch (≥ 5 " measured was 7.2 inches, with the largest being 11.6 inches.



ROCK BASS



A total of 188 rock bass were caught during surveying. The average length of rock bass measured was 6.5 inches, with the largest being 9.6 inches.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Presque Isle Chain resulted in the catch of nine species of fish, including: white sucker, burbot, golden shiner, black bullhead, bluntnose minnow, yellow bullhead, mimic shiner, johnny darter and common shiner.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Presque Isle Chain, Vilas County, Wisconsin, 2024-25.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 4 – March 2	3	None, but only 1 walleye over 14 inches
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 4 – March 2	1 in total with SMB	18 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 15 – March 2	1 in total with LMB	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 25 – December 31	1	50 inches
Northern Pike	May 4 – March 2	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Presque Isle Chain 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 [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Presque Isle Chain, contact:

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