



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources Fisheries Information Sheet

Razorback Lake, Vilas County, 2025

Waterbody Information

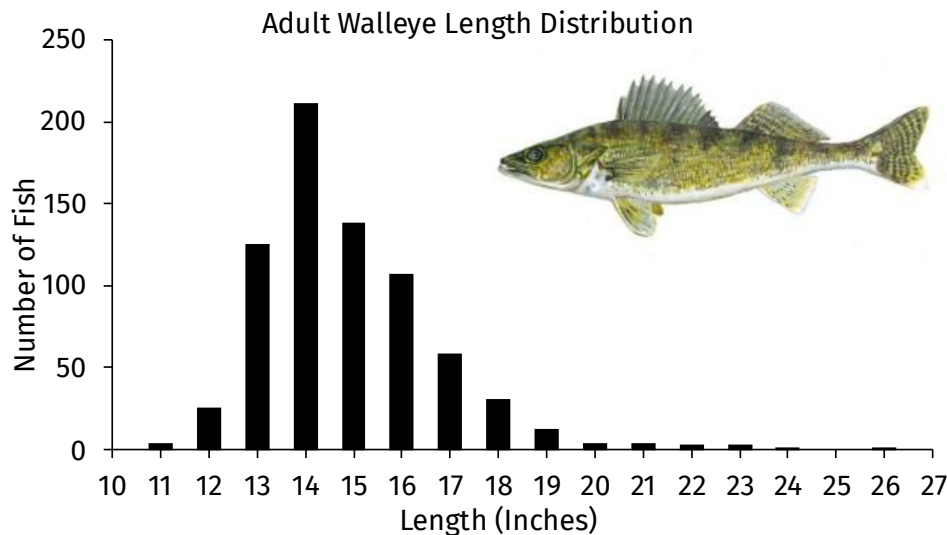
Razorback Lake is a 362-acre slightly alkaline seepage lake with 7.3 miles of shoreline, a maximum depth of 35 feet. Razorback Lake is classified as complex-cool-clear system. Bottom substrates are predominately sand, gravel, rock and muck. Razorback Lake's walleye and muskellunge populations are sustained through natural reproduction.

Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted netting and electrofishing surveys of Razorback Lake targeting adult walleye (April 22 – 27), adult bass (May 13 – June 2) and other centrarchid species (e.g., bluegill, pumpkinseed; June 2).

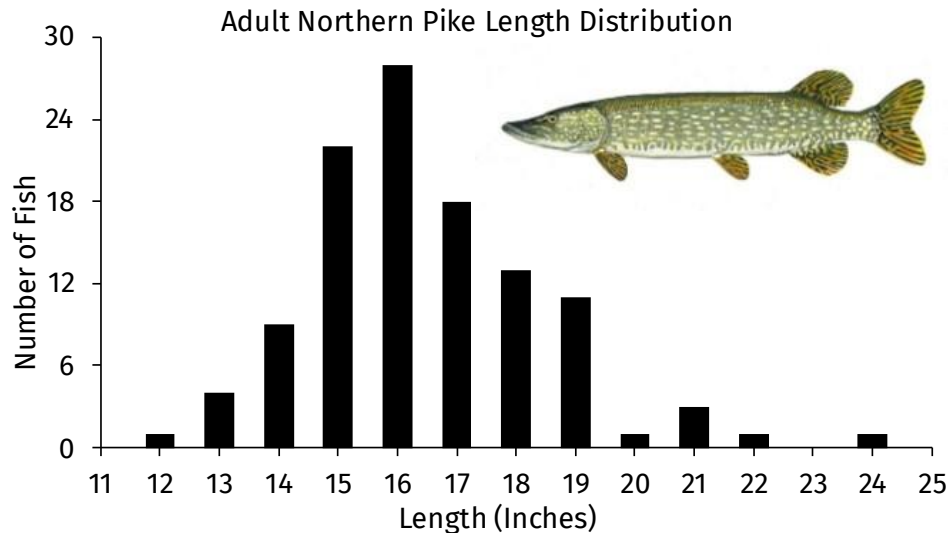
Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 558 adult walleye (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 731 (2.0/acre) adult walleye in Razorback Lake. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging in length from 11 to 26 inches and a peak occurring at 14 inches. An estimated 50% of adult walleye were ≥ 15 inches and the largest captured was a 26.9-inch female.



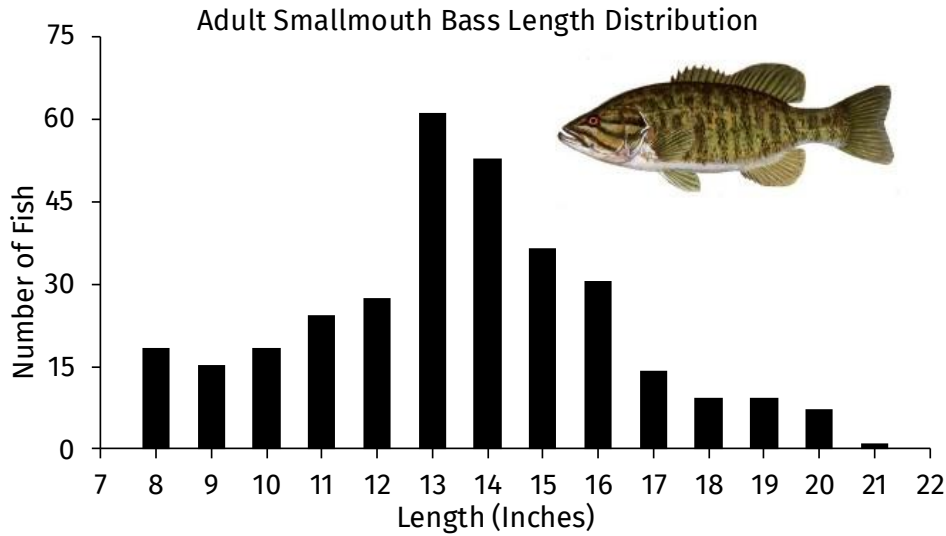
Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 113 adult (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) northern pike at a rate of 3.0 fish per net night, placing it between the 75th and 90th percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the adult northern pike length distribution with fish ranging in length from 12 to 24 inches and a peak occurring at 16 inches. Of the adults captured, 4% were ≥ 21 inches and the largest was 24.2 inches.



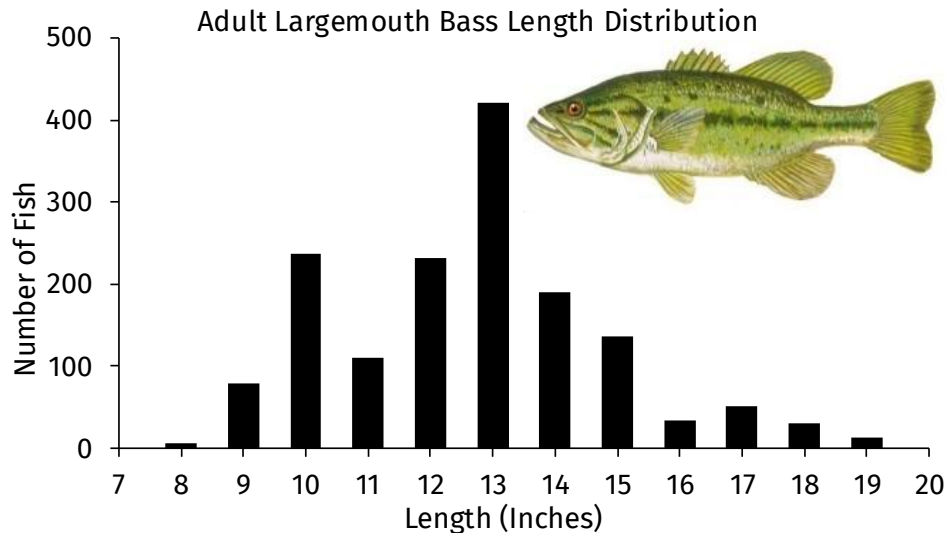
Smallmouth Bass

A total of 160 adult (≥ 8 inches) smallmouth bass were captured. Two targeted electrofishing surveys caught adult smallmouth bass at rates of 9.0 and 3.2 per mile of shoreline, placing it between the 25th and 75th percentiles for its lake class. Mark-recapture procedures estimated 326 (0.9/acre) adult smallmouth bass in Razorback Lake. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 8 to 21 inches and a peak occurring at 13 inches. Of the adults captured, 60% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 21.4 inches.



Largemouth Bass

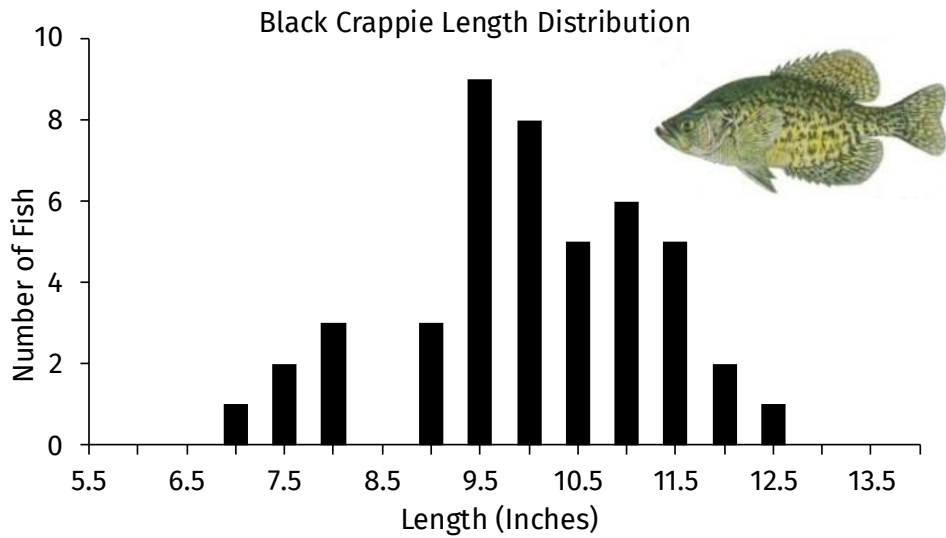
A total of 478 adult (≥ 8 inches) largemouth bass were captured. Two targeted electrofishing surveys caught adult largemouth bass at rates of 31.2 and 27.8 per mile of shoreline, placing it between the 75th and 90th percentile for its lake class. Mark-recapture procedures estimated 1,540 (4.3/acre) adult largemouth bass in Razorback Lake. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult largemouth bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 8 to 19 inches and a peak occurring at 13 inches. Of the adults captured, 44% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 19.7 inches.



Black Crappie

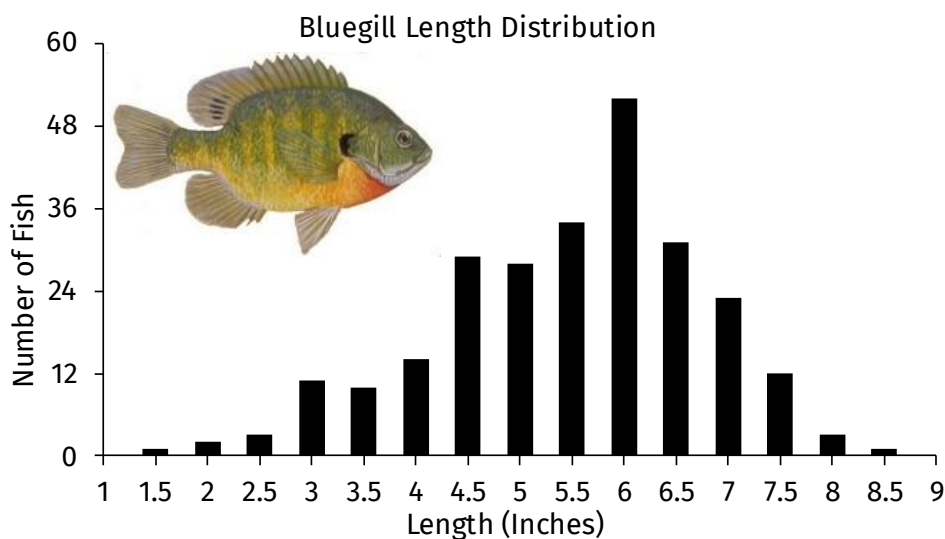
Surveys captured a total of 47 black crappies. Black crappie were captured at a rate of 1.4 fish per net night, placing it between the 25th and 50th percentile for its lake

class. Of 45 black crappie measured, the average length was 10.2 inches, 60% were ≥ 10 inches and the largest was 12.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the black crappie length distribution with fish ranging in length from 7 to 12.5 inches and a peak occurring at 9.5 inches.



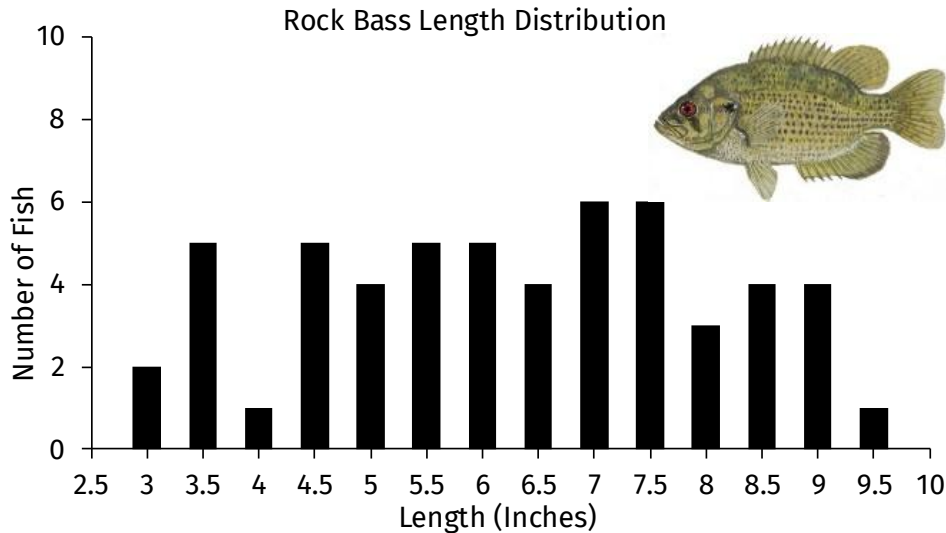
Bluegill

A total of 254 bluegill were captured. A targeted electrofishing survey captured bluegill at a rate of 166 fish per mile, placing it between the 50th and 75th percentile for its lake class. Of 254 bluegill measured, the average length was 5.7 inches, 15% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 8.5 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the bluegill length distribution with fish ranging in length from 1.5 to 8.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



Rock Bass

A total of 59 rock bass were captured. Of 55 rock bass measured, the average length was 6.4 inches, 22% were ≥ 8 inches and the largest was 9.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the rock bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 3 to 9.5 inches and a peak occurring at 7 to 7.5 inches.



Other Species

Other species not directly targeted and captured in low abundance include bluntnose minnow, johnny darter, logperch, mottled sculpin, yellow bullhead and yellow perch. No muskellunge were captured during the survey.

Table 1. Other species captured in surveys of Razorback Lake.

Species	Captured	Measured	Minimum (inches)	Maximum (inches)	Average (inches)
Burbot	10	10	13.1	21.4	17.0
White sucker	108	106	11.1	22.5	18.6

Fishing Regulations

Table 2. General fishing regulations for Razorback Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth bass (LMB)	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	1 in total with SMB	18 inches

Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 rd Saturday in June – 1 st Sunday in March	1 in total with LMB	18 inches
Northern pike	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – December 31 (open water only)	1	40 inches
Walleye	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	3 in total	15 inches, but fish from 20 to 24 inches may not be kept; only one may be over 24 inches
Panfish: Bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie and yellow perch	Open all year	25 in total	None
Rock bass	Open all year	None	None

Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on Razorback Lake, contact Vilas County Fisheries Biologist Eric Wegleitner. For questions about this report, contact Treaty Fisheries Biologist Lawrence Eslinger. This report was created by Fisheries Biologist Eric Brown. Fish illustrations by Virgil Beck.

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