



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Information Sheet

### Scattering Rice Lake, Vilas County, 2025

#### Waterbody Information

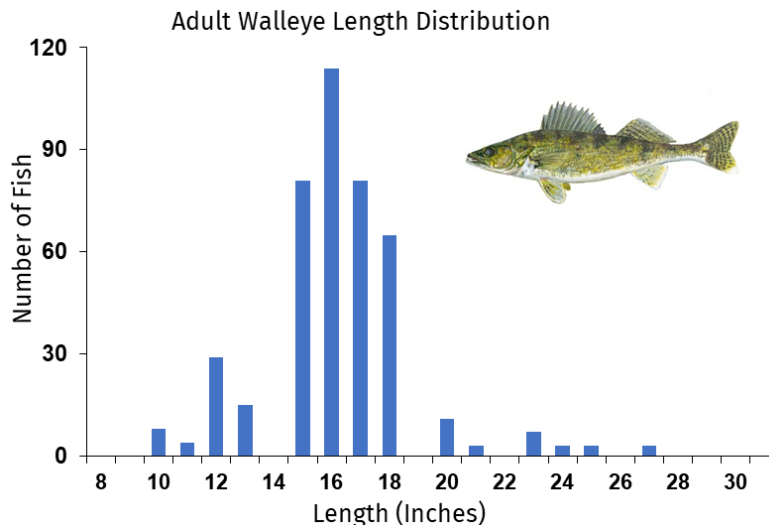
Scattering Rice Lake is a 267-acre hard-water drainage lake with 4.4 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 17 feet. Scattering Rice Lake is classified as a complex-cool-dark system. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand and muck with lesser amounts of rock. Scattering Rice is part of the 3,565-acre Eagle River Chain (Eagle Chain) of 10 lakes. The Eagle Chain's walleye population is sustained through natural reproduction, while the muskellunge population is produced from a combination of stocking and natural reproduction.

#### Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted spring netting and electrofishing surveys of Scattering Rice Lake targeting adult walleye (April 25 – 29), and a netting survey targeting adult muskellunge (April 29 – May 2). Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the surveys, but the catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution.

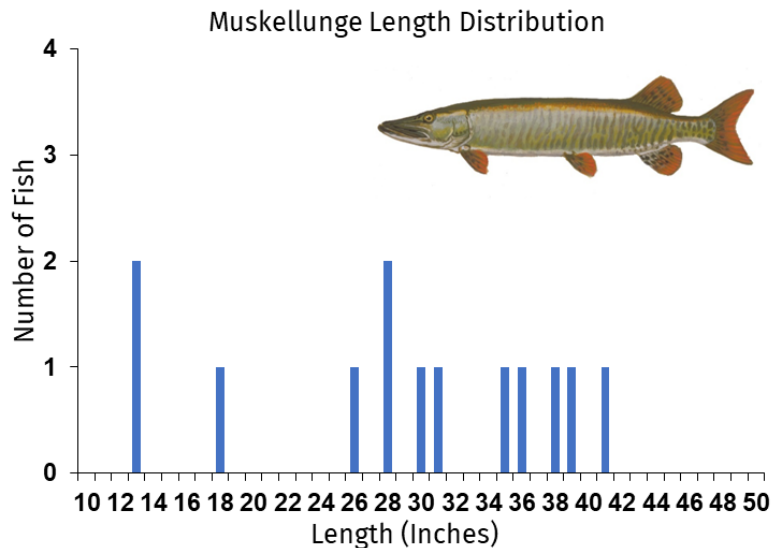
#### Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 81 adult walleye (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 427 (1.6/acre) adult walleye in Scattering Rice Lake. An estimated 87% of adult walleye were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 27-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 10 to 27 inches and a peak occurring at 16 inches.



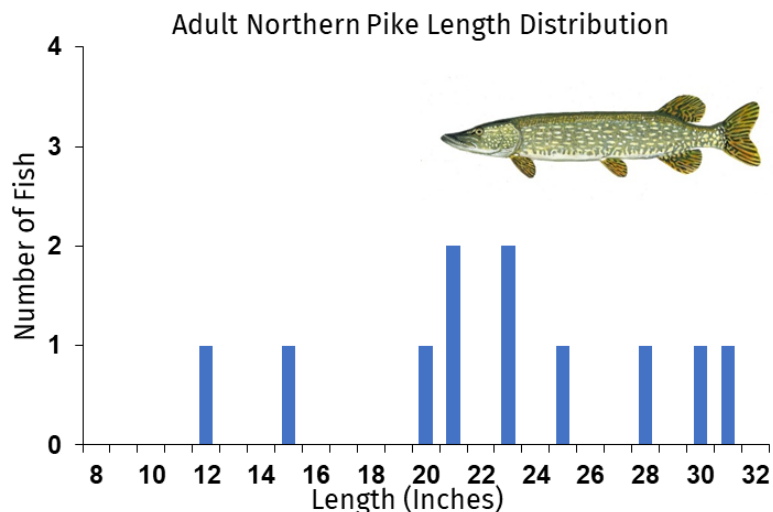
## Muskellunge

During the surveys, 10 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 30$  inches) and three juvenile muskellunge were captured. During muskellunge-targeted netting, adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.7 per net night, placing it between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 13 to 41 inches. Of the adults captured, 10% were  $\geq 40$  inches and the largest was a 41.1-inch female.



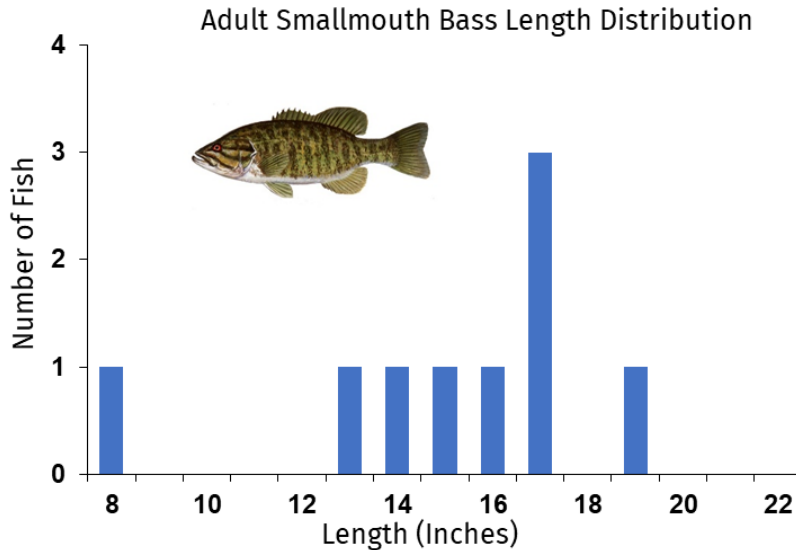
## Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 11 adult northern pike (sexually mature or  $\geq 12$  inches) at a rate of 0.5 per net night, placing it just below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Approximately 73% of adult northern pike were  $\geq 21$  inches, and the largest was a 31.8-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed northern pike length distribution with fish ranging from 12 to 31 inches and peaks occurring at 21 and 23 inches.



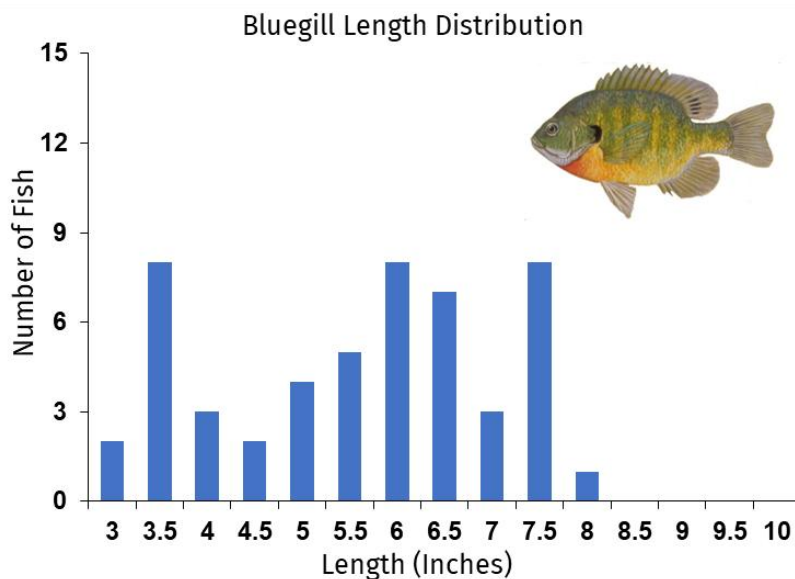
## Smallmouth & Largemouth Bass

A total of 9 adult smallmouth bass ( $\geq 8$  inches) were captured, 78% were  $\geq 14$  inches, and the largest was 19.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 8 to 19 inches and a peak occurring at 17 inches. Only two largemouth bass were caught during the surveys, the largest being 15.3 inches.



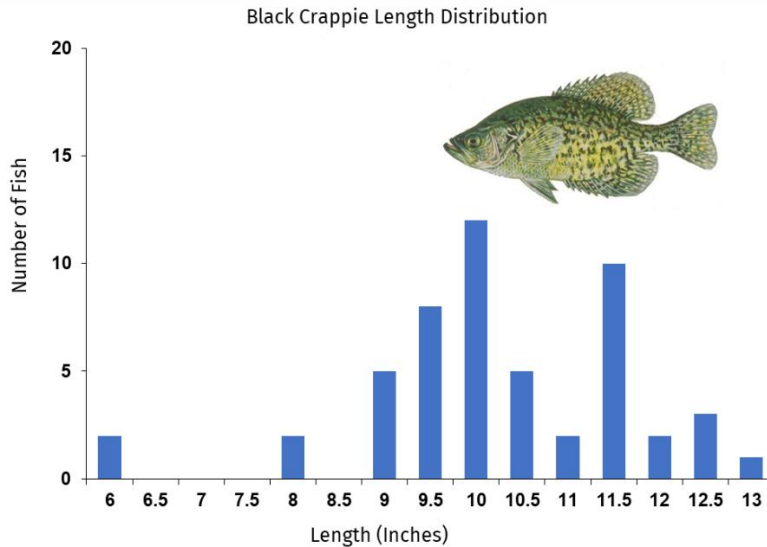
## Bluegill

A total of 144 bluegill (including bluegill-pumpkinseed hybrids) were captured. Of 51 bluegill measured, the average length was 5.8 inches, 24% were  $\geq 7$  inches and the largest was 8.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 8 inches and peaks occurring at 3.5, 6, and 7.5 inches.



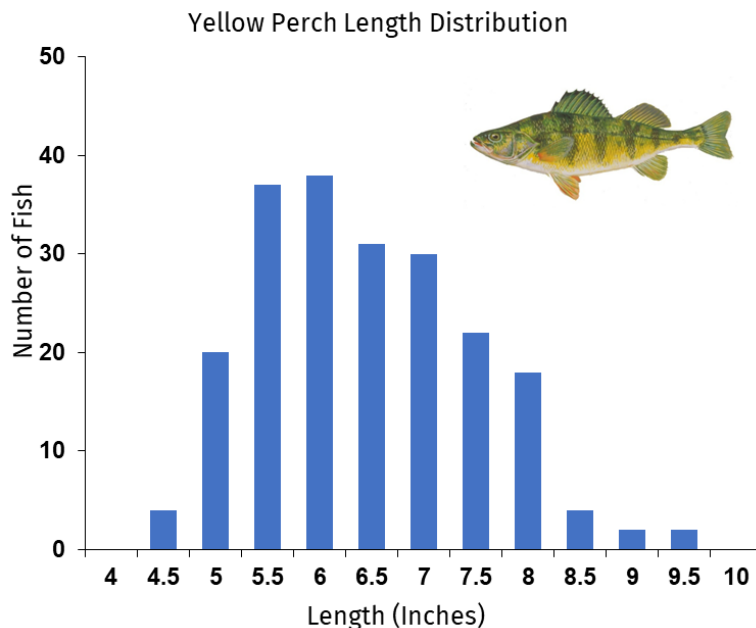
## Black Crappie

A total of 123 black crappie were captured at a rate of 6.8 fish per net night, placing it above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 53 black crappie measured, the average length was 10.3 inches, 66% were  $\geq 10$  inches and the largest was 13.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 6 to 13 inches and a peak occurring at 10 inches.



## Yellow Perch

A total of 1,629 yellow perch were captured at a rate of 90.5 fish per net night, placing it above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 208 yellow perch measured, the average length was 6.6 inches, 13% were  $\geq 8$  inches and the largest was 9.9 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 4.5 to 9.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6.0 inches.



## Other Species

Other species not directly targeted and/or captured in low abundance were burbot, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, rock bass, troutperch and white sucker.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for the Eagle Chain of Lakes, Vilas County, WI.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth bass (LMB)	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Northern pike	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	Sat of Memorial weekend – Dec 31 (open water only)	1	40 inches
Walleye	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	3 in total	No minimum; fish from 14 to 18 inches may not be kept; only one over 18 inches.
Panfish	Open all year	25 in total	None

## Contact Information

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

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