



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

South Turtle Lake, Vilas County, 2026

Waterbody Information

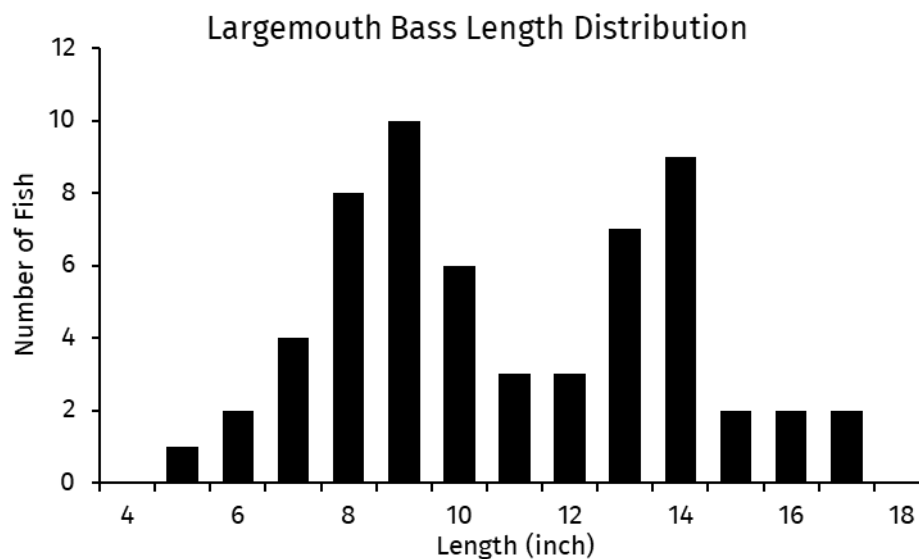
South Turtle Lake is a 454-acre drainage lake with seven miles of shoreline and maximum depth of 40 feet. The lake is classified as a complex-two story lake. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand, gravel, and rock.

Survey Information

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a survey of South 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 6.75 miles of shoreline, which included three, half-mile stations where all fish species were collected. Only gamefish (largemouth & smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge) were collected during the remaining 5.25 miles.

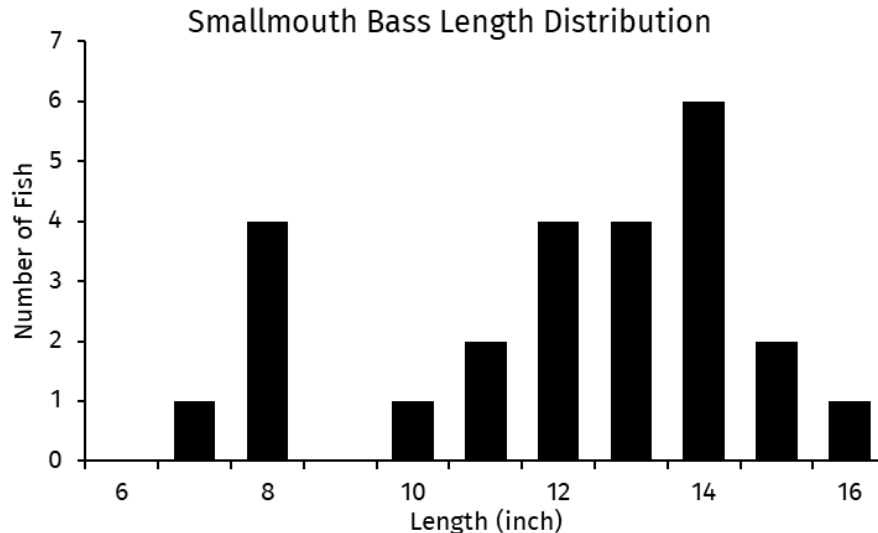
Largemouth Bass

A total of 59 largemouth bass were captured, 25% were ≥ 14 inches, average length was 11.3 and the largest was 17.4 inches. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 8.74 per mile, placing it between the 50th and 75th percentile for its lake class. The bar chart below shows the observed largemouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 5 to 17 inches with a peak at 9 inches.



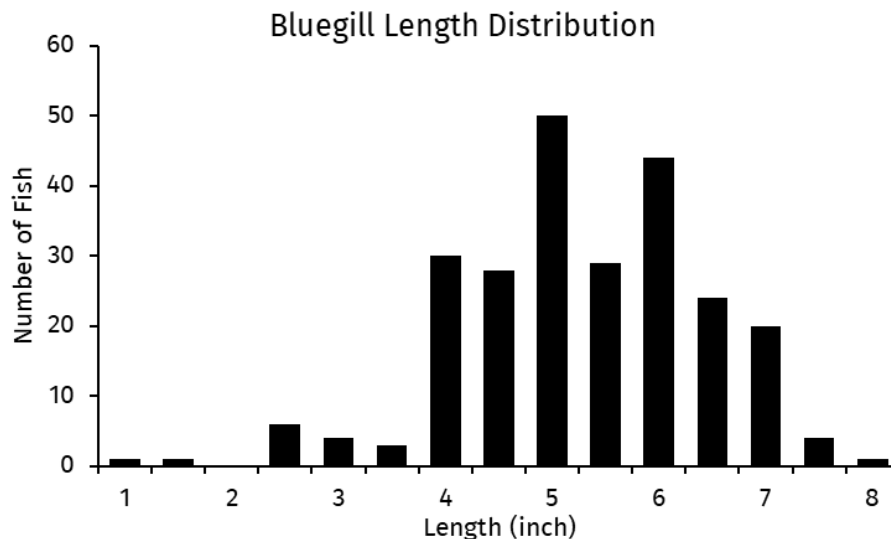
Smallmouth Bass

A total of 25 smallmouth bass were captured, 36% were ≥ 14 inches, average length was 12.4 and the largest was 16.4 inches. Smallmouth bass were captured at a rate of 4.23 per mile, placing it above the 50th percentile for its lake class. The bar chart below shows the observed smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 7 to 16 inches with a peak at 14 inches.



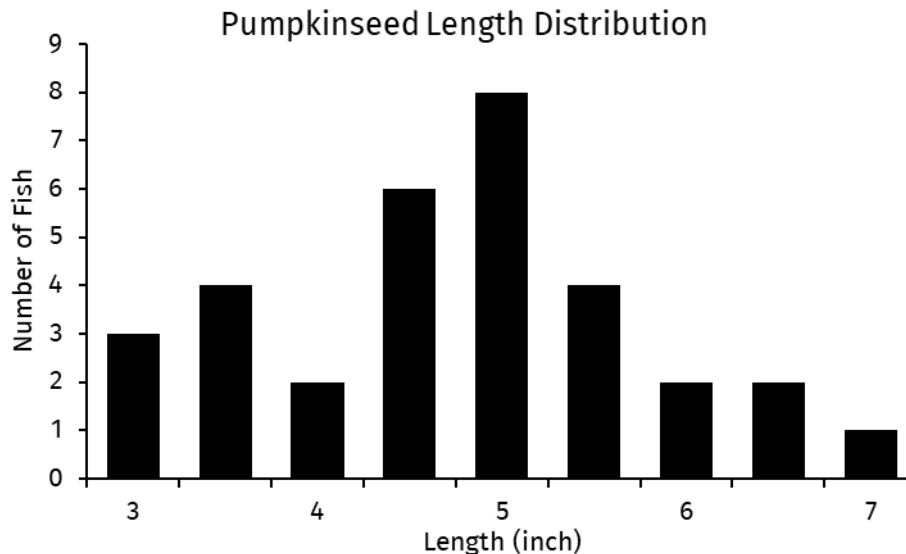
Bluegill

A total of 378 bluegill were captured during the survey. Bluegill were captured at a rate of 252.0 fish per mile, placing it above the 90th percentile for its lake class. Of the 237 bluegill (≥ 3 inches) measured, average length was 5.5 inches, 11% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 8.1 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 1 to 8 inches and a peak occurring at 5 inches.



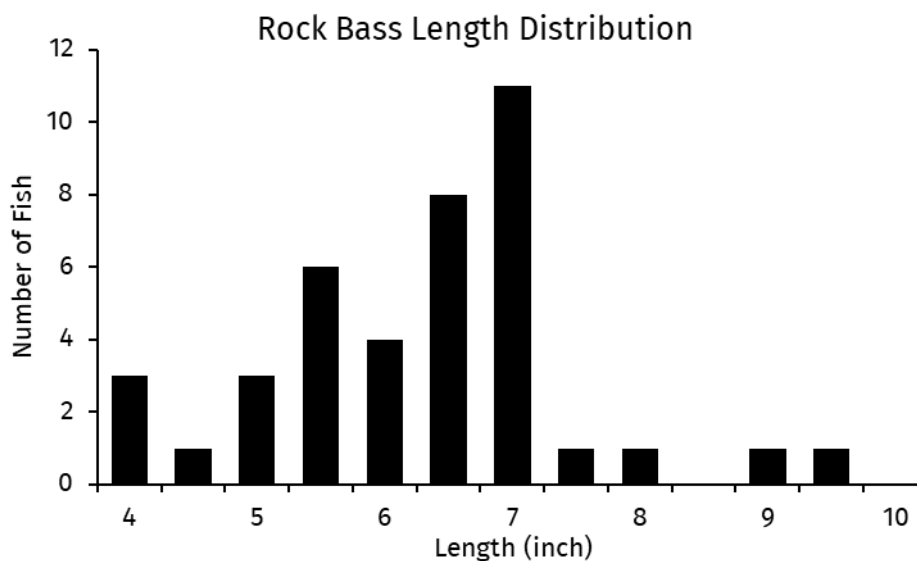
Pumpkinseed

A total of 32 pumpkinseed were captured during the survey. Pumpkinseed were captured at a rate of 21.3 fish per mile, placing it above the 90th percentile for its lake class. Average length of pumpkinseed was 4.9 inches and the largest was 7.0 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed pumpkinseed length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 7 inches and a peak occurring at 5 inches.



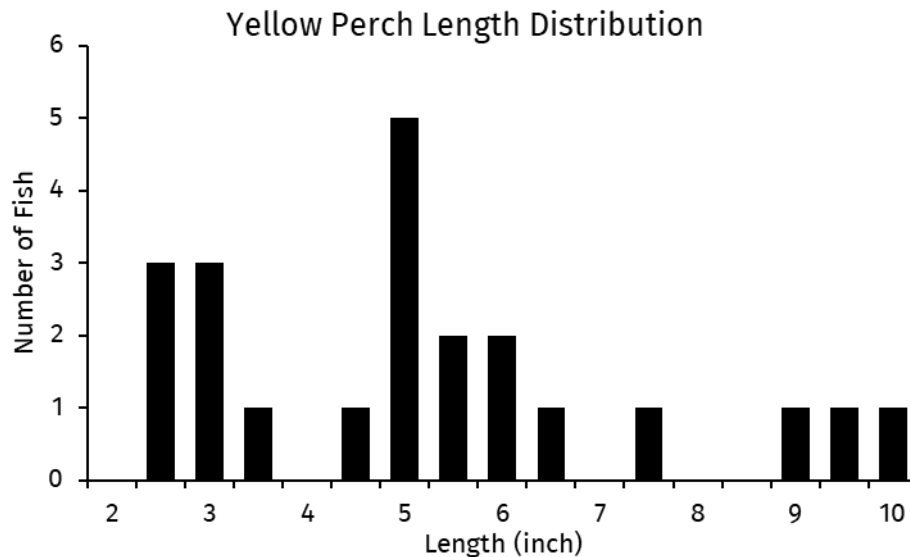
Rock Bass

A total of 40 rock bass were captured during the survey. Rock bass were captured at a rate of 26.7 fish per mile, placing it above the 75th percentile for its lake class. Average length of rock bass was 6.5 inches and the largest was 9.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed rock bass length distribution with fish ranging from 4 to 9.5 inches and a peak occurring at 7 inches.



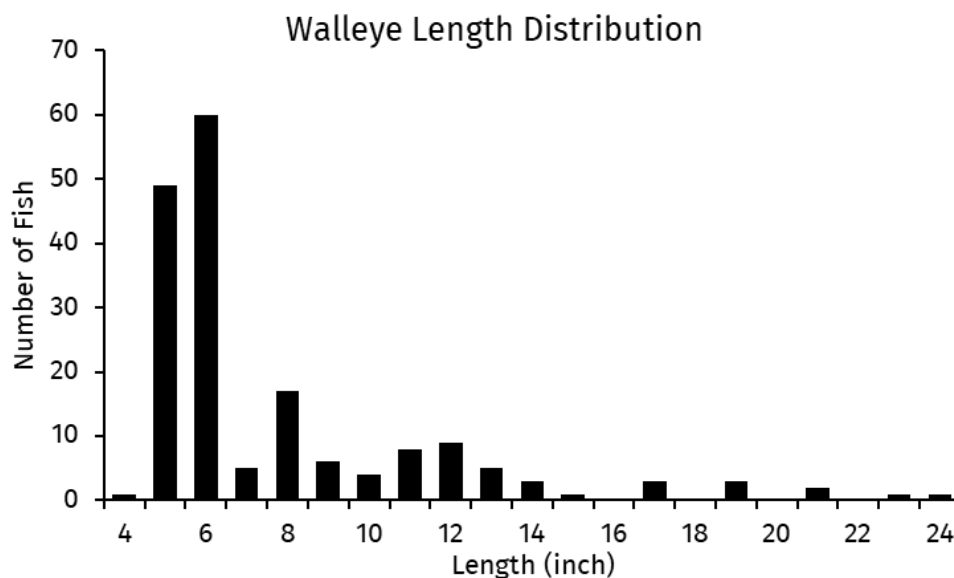
Yellow Perch

A total of 22 yellow perch were captured during the survey. Yellow perch ranged in length from 2.6 to 10.2 inches and averaged 5.4 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 2.5 to 10 inches and a peak occurring at 5 inches.



Walleye

A total of 178 walleye were captured during the survey. Walleye ranged in length from 4.7 to 24.0 inches and averaged 8.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 4 to 24 inches.



Other Species

Other species captured during the survey included four mottled sculpin, four white sucker, three black crappie, three bluntnose minnow, three mimic shiner, three shorthead redhorse, nine northern pike, one golden shiner, one greater redhorse, one johnny darter, one silver redhorse, three tiger muskellunge and one muskellunge.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for South 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 length limit, 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 South Turtle Lake, contact Vilas County Fisheries Biologist Eric Wegleitner.

Eric Wegleitner

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