



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources Fisheries Information Sheet

Trout Lake, Vilas County, 2025

## Waterbody Information

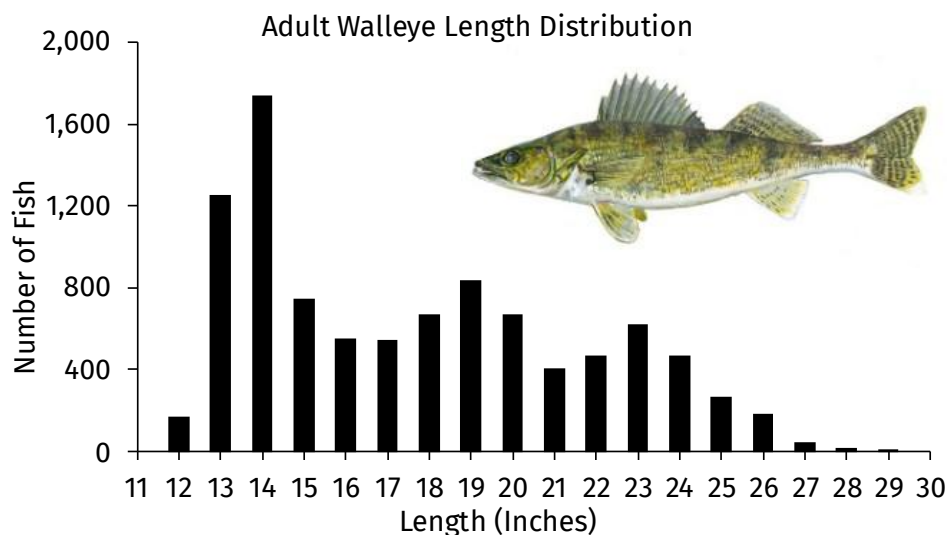
Trout Lake is a 3,816-acre clear, slightly alkaline drainage lake with 17.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 117 feet. Trout Lake is classified as a complex-two story system. Bottom substrates consist mainly of gravel and sand with rock and some muck. Trout Lake's walleye population is sustained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction, while the muskellunge population is maintained through stocking.

## Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted netting and electrofishing surveys of Trout Lake targeting adult walleye (April 28 – May 05) and adult muskellunge (May 05 – 10). A 2026 recapture survey is planned to estimate the adult muskellunge population in Trout Lake.

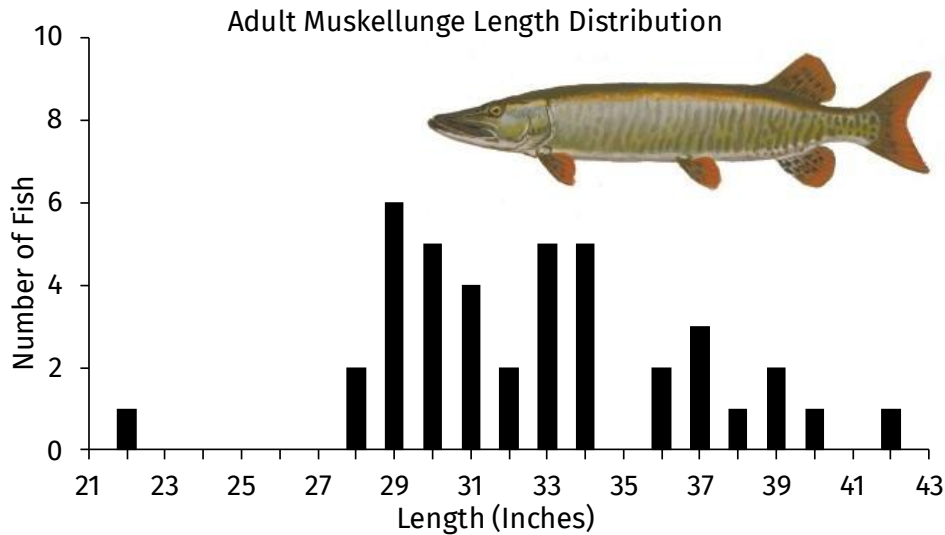
## Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 2,214 adult walleyes (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 9,677 (2.5/acre) adult walleyes in Trout Lake. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging in length from 12 to 29 inches and a peak occurring at 14 inches. An estimated 67% of adult walleyes were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 29.3-inch female.



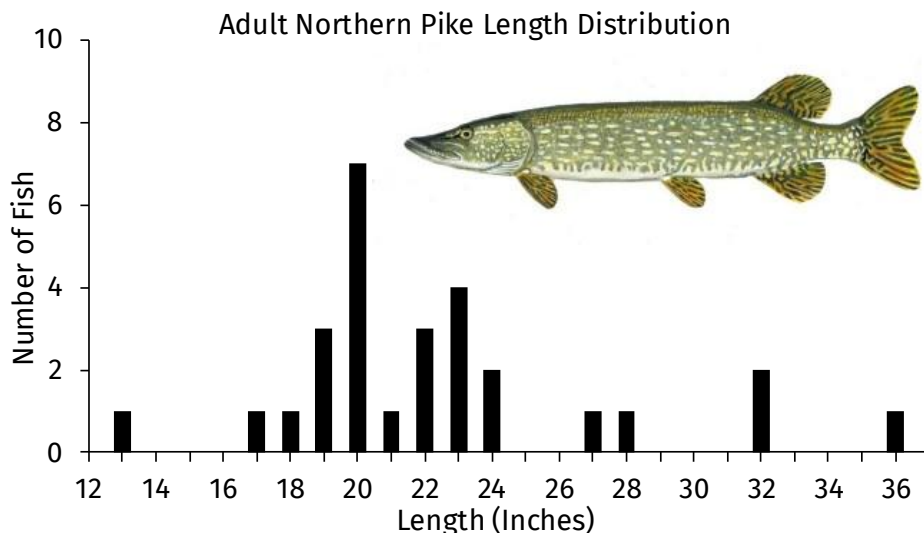
## Muskellunge

During the surveys, 40 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 30$  inches) and 3 juvenile muskellunge were captured. Adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.6 fish per net night of targeted effort, placing it between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the adult muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging in length from 22 to 42 inches and a peak occurring at 29 inches. Of the adults captured, 5% were  $\geq 40$  inches and the largest was a 42.0-inch female.



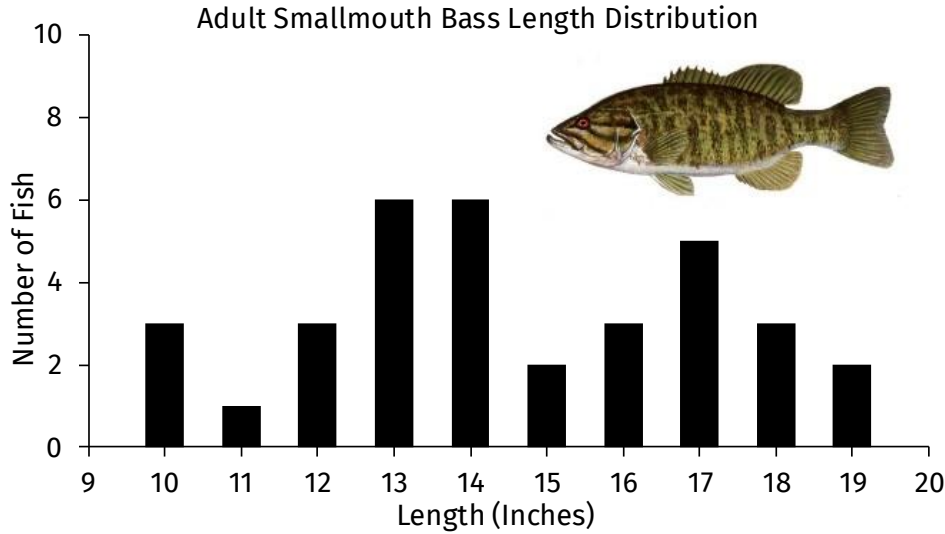
## Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 28 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 12$  inches) northern pike at a rate of 0.2 fish per net night, placing it between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the adult northern pike length distribution with fish ranging in length from 13 to 36 inches and a peak occurring at 20 inches. Of the adults captured, 54% were  $\geq 21$  inches and the largest was a 36.0-inch female.



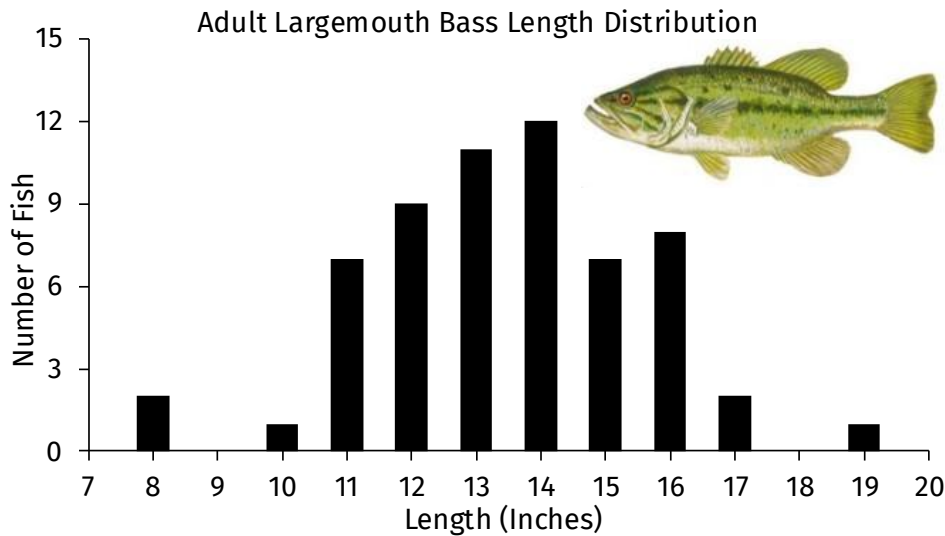
## Smallmouth Bass

A total of 34 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) smallmouth bass were captured. The accompanying bar chart shows the adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 10 to 19 inches and a peak occurring at 13 to 14 inches. Of the adults captured, 62% were  $\geq 14$  inches and the largest was 19.4 inches.



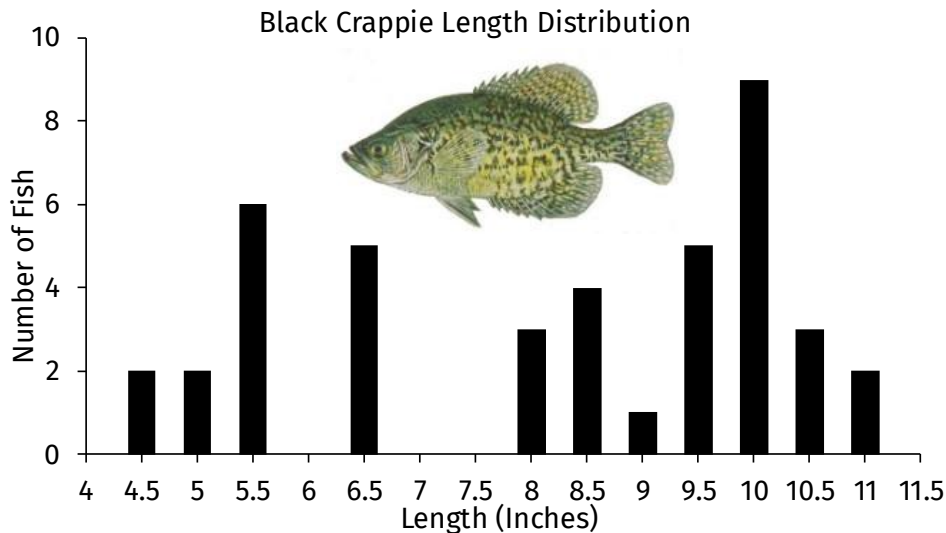
## Largemouth Bass

A total of 60 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) largemouth bass were captured. The accompanying bar chart shows the adult largemouth bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 8 to 19 inches and a peak occurring at 14 inches. Of the adults captured, 50% were  $\geq 14$  inches and the largest was 19.4 inches.



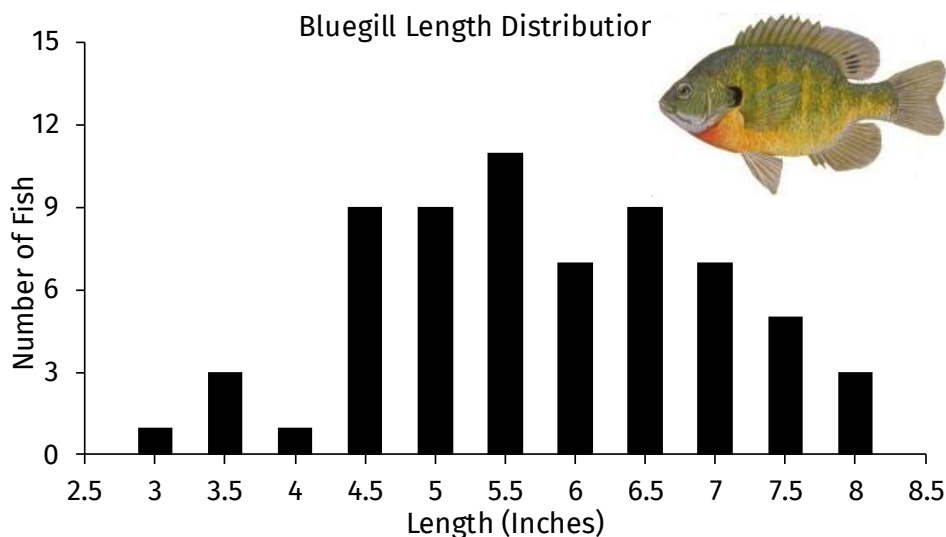
## Black Crappie

Surveys captured a total of 79 black crappies at a rate of 0.6 fish per net night, placing it between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 42 black crappies measured, the average length was 8.3 inches, 33% were  $\geq 10$  inches and the largest was 11.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the black crappie length distribution with fish ranging in length from 4.5 to 11 inches and a peak occurring at 10 inches.



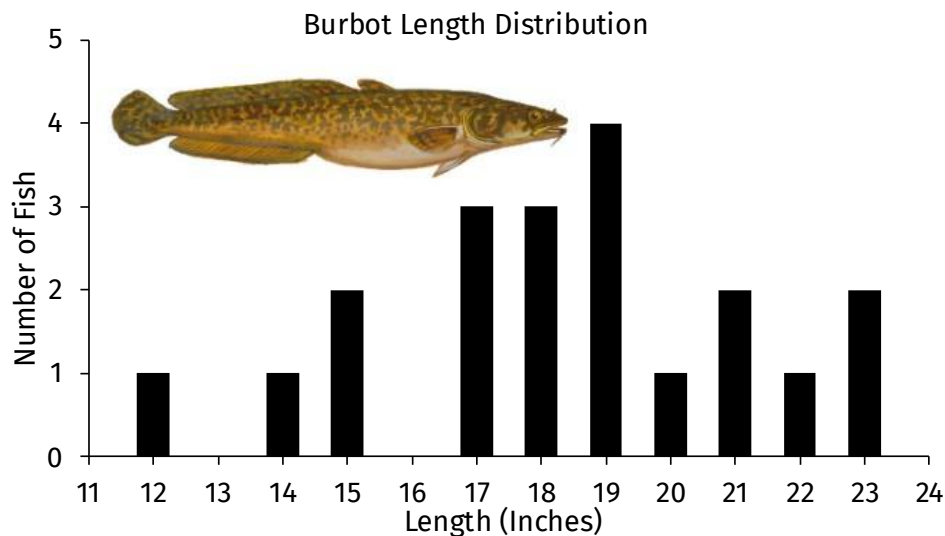
## Bluegill

A total of 227 bluegills were captured. Of 65 bluegills measured, the average length was 5.9 inches, 23% were  $\geq 7$  inches and the largest was 8.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the bluegill length distribution with fish ranging in length from 3 to 8 inches and a peak occurring at 5.5 inches.



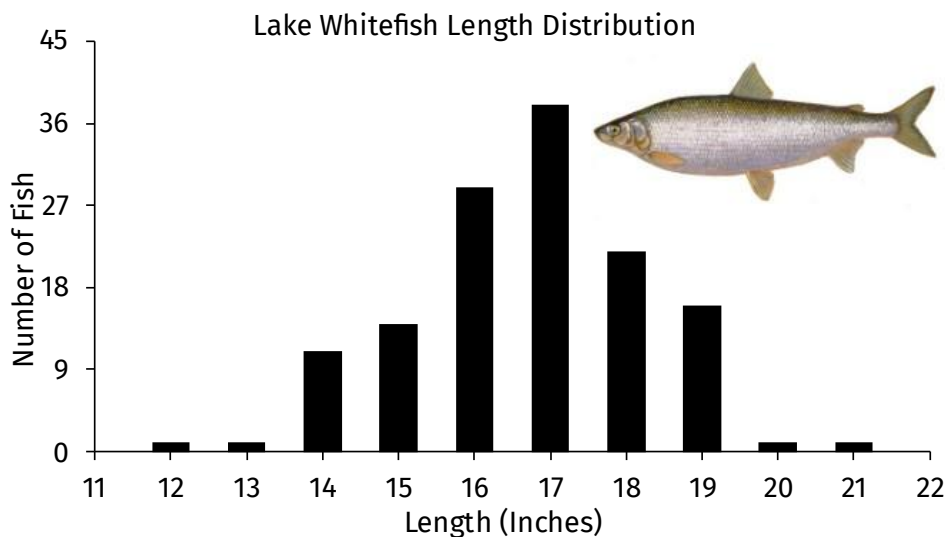
## Burbot

A total of 22 burbot were captured. Of 20 burbot measured, the average length was 18.8 inches and the largest was 23.5 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the burbot length distribution with fish ranging in length from 12 to 23 inches and a peak occurring at 19 inches.



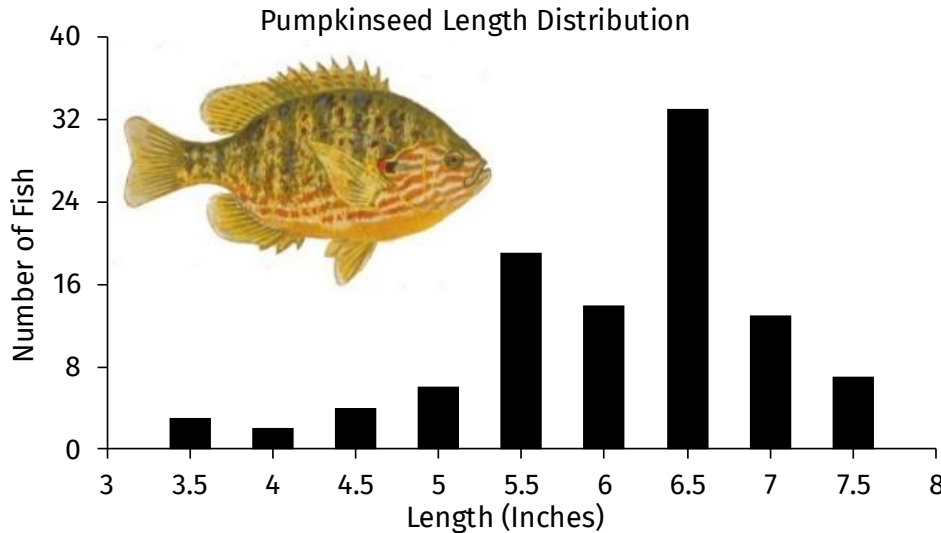
## Lake Whitefish

Surveys captured a total of 164 lake whitefish. Of 134 lake whitefish measured, the average length was 17.1 inches and the largest was 21 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the lake whitefish length distribution with fish ranging in length from 12 to 21 inches and a peak occurring at 17 inches.



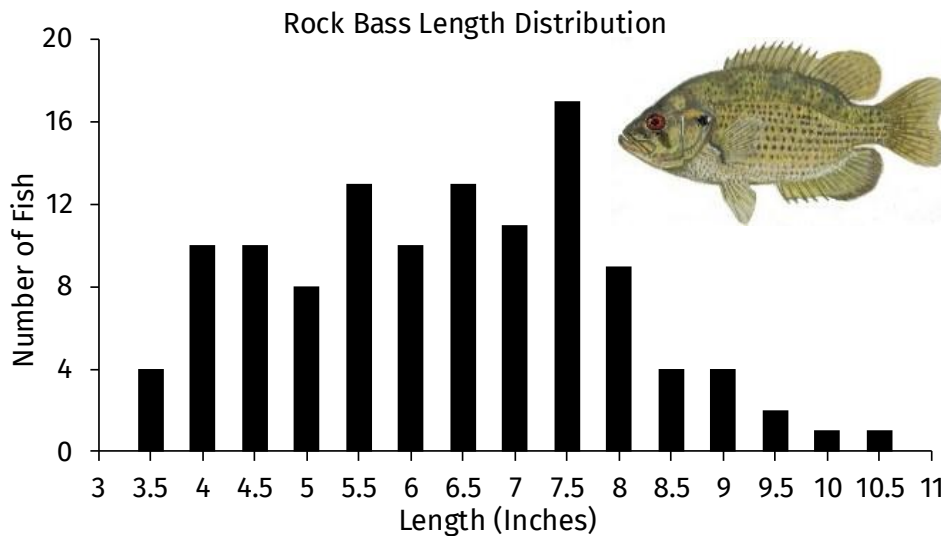
## Pumpkinseed

Surveys captured a total of 198 pumpkinseeds. Of 101 pumpkinseeds measured, the average length was 6.3 inches, 20% were  $\geq 7$  inches and the largest was 7.9 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the pumpkinseed length distribution with fish ranging in length from 3.5 to 7.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 inches.



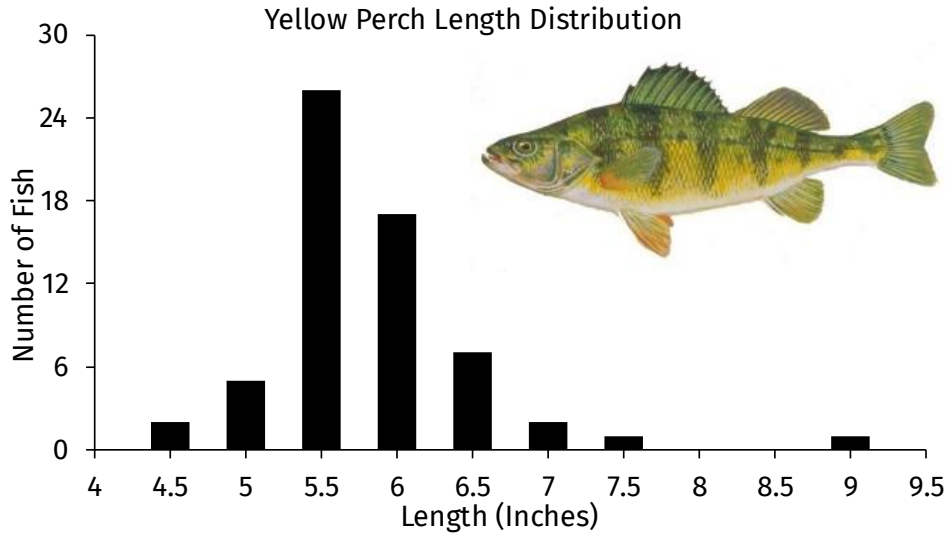
## Rock Bass

A total of 337 rock bass were captured. Of 117 rock bass measured, the average length was 6.5 inches, 42% were  $\geq 7$  inches and the largest was 10.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the rock bass length distribution with fish ranging in length from 3.5 to 10.5 inches and a peak occurring at 7.5 inches.



## Yellow Perch

Surveys captured a total of 74 yellow perch at a rate of 0.6 fish per net night, placing it between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 61 yellow perch measured, the average length was 6.0 inches, 2% were  $\geq 8$  inches and the largest was 9.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging in length from 4.5 to 9 inches and a peak occurring at 5.5 inches.



## Other Species

Other species captured in low abundance were brook trout, cisco, common shiner, grass pickerel, hornyhead chub, lake trout and yellow bullhead.

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

Species	Captured	Measured	Minimum (inches)	Maximum (inches)	Average (inches)
Black bullhead	13	11	7.1	8.0	7.6
Greater redhorse	26	19	21.5	28.8	25.9
White sucker	106	75	6.1	22.2	17.2

## Fishing Regulations

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

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	1 in total with SMB	18 inches

Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	1 in total with LMB	18 inches
Northern pike	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in March	5	None
Muskellunge	Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – December 31 (open water only)	1	50 inches
Walleye	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – 1 <sup>st</sup> 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
Lake trout	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May – September 30 <sup>th</sup>	1	30 inches
Lake whitefish & cisco	Open all year	10 in total	None

## Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on Trout 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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