



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

White Sand Lake (Hwy K), Vilas County, 2026

Waterbody Information

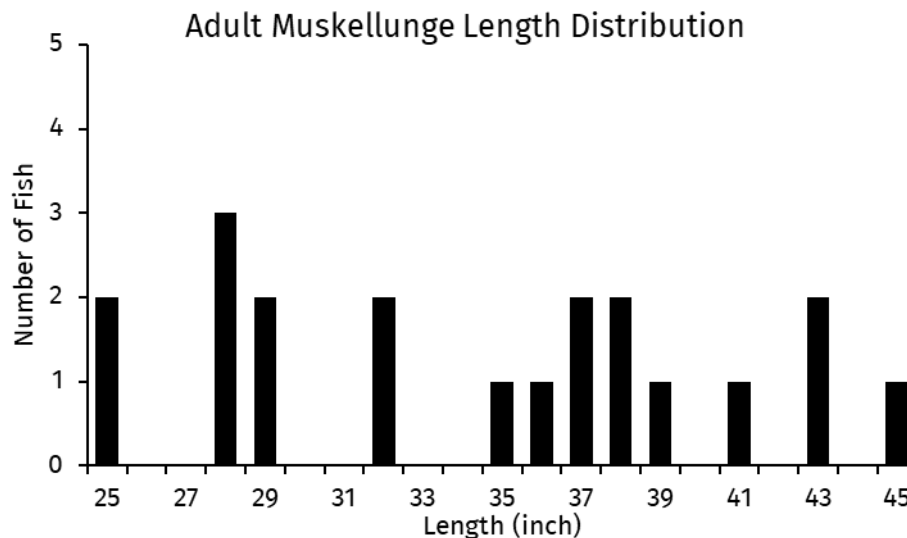
White Sand Lake is a 734-acre drainage lake with 5.5 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 71 feet. The lake is located just southeast of Boulder Junction along Hwy K and is classified as a complex-two story system. Bottom substrates consist predominantly of sand, gravel, and rock. White Sand Lake's muskellunge population is supported by limited NR and supplemental stocking.

Survey Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted spring netting and electrofishing surveys of White Sand Lake targeting adult muskellunge (April 28 – May 5, 2026) and adult bass (June 3, 2026). Other species reported here weren't specifically targeted during the surveys, but the catch provides some insight into their abundance and length distribution.

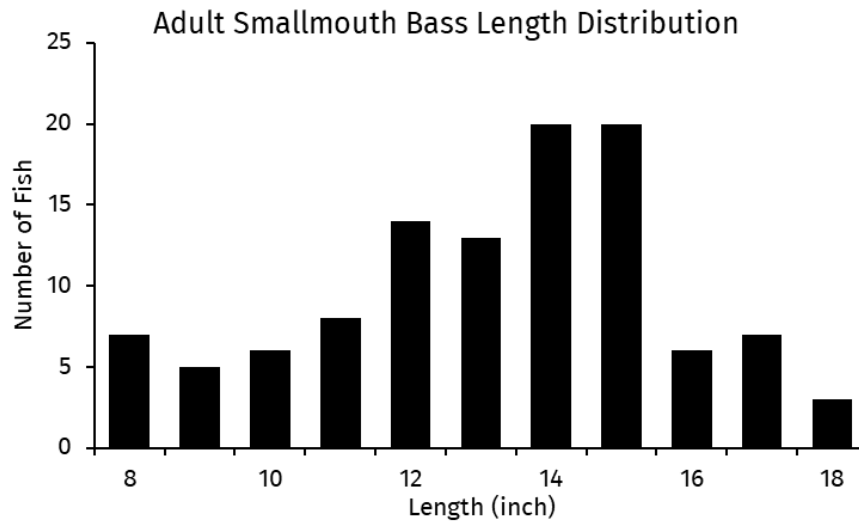
Muskellunge

During the surveys, 20 adult muskellunge (sexually mature or ≥ 30 inches) were captured. During muskellunge-targeted netting, adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.48 per net night, placing it in the 50th percentile for its lake class. Of the adults captured, 20% were ≥ 40 inches, and the largest captured was a 45.5-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 25 to 45 inches.



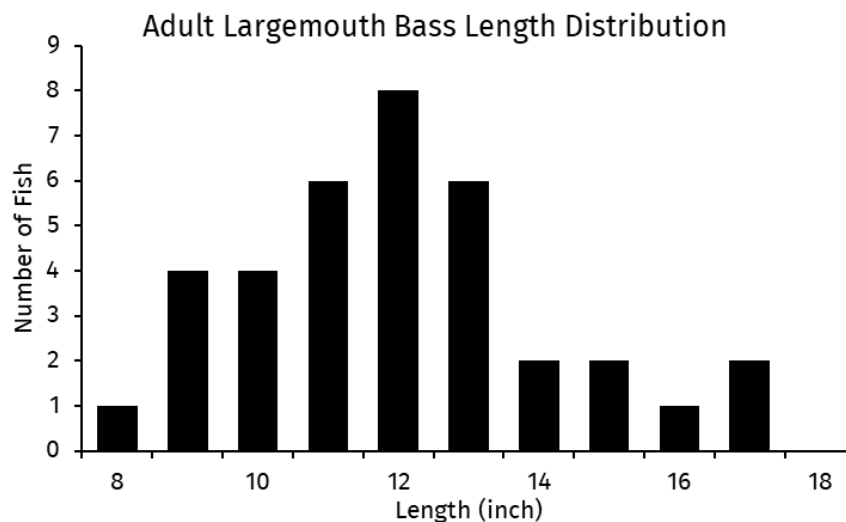
Smallmouth Bass

A total of 123 adult smallmouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were captured, 51% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 18.5 inches. A targeted electrofishing survey caught adult smallmouth bass at a rate of 25.0 per mile of shoreline, placing it above the 95th percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 8 to 18 inches with peaks at 14 and 15 inches.



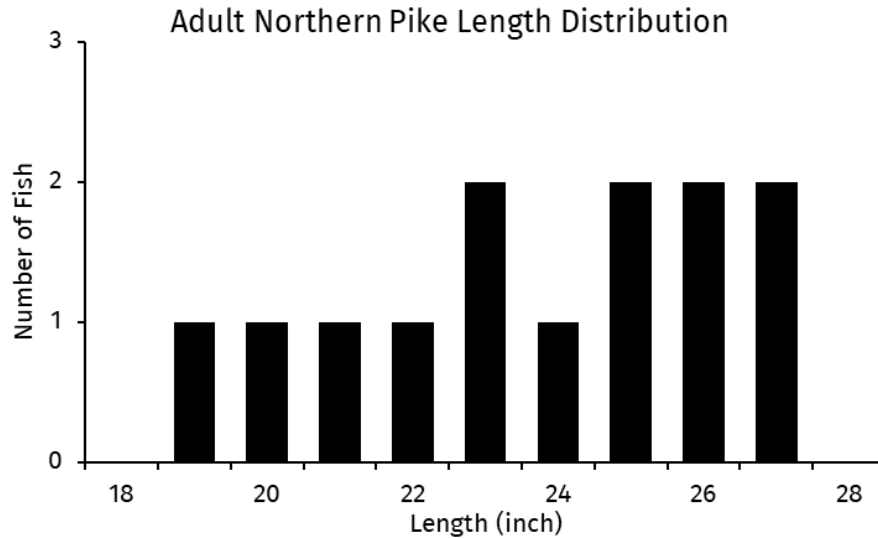
Largemouth Bass

A total of 36 adult largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were captured, 19% were ≥ 14 inches, and the largest was 17.6 inches. During a targeted electrofishing survey, adult largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 1.7 per mile of shoreline, placing it between the 25th and 50th percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult largemouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 8 to 17 inches with a peak at 12 inches.



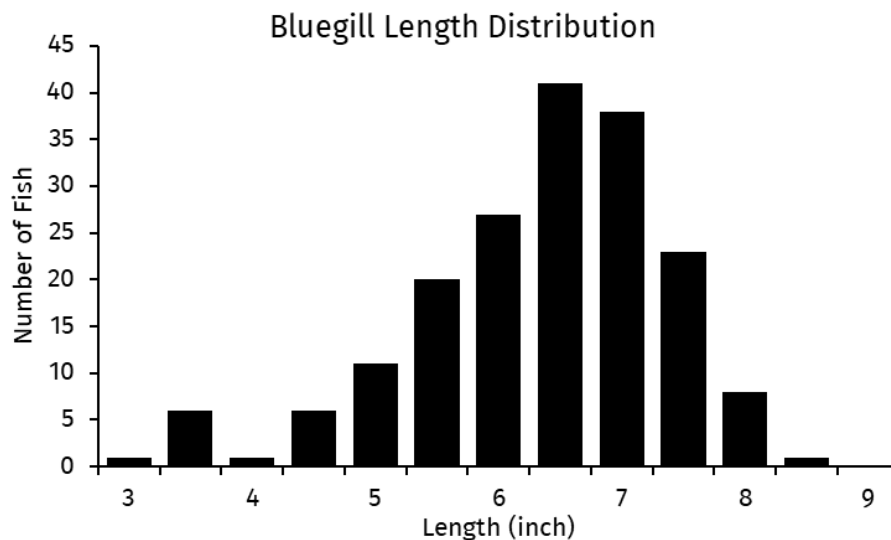
Northern Pike

During surveys, 13 adult northern pike (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) were captured along with 2 juveniles. Approximately 85% of adult northern pike were ≥ 21 inches, and the largest was 27.8 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult northern pike length distribution with fish ranging from 19 to 27 inches.



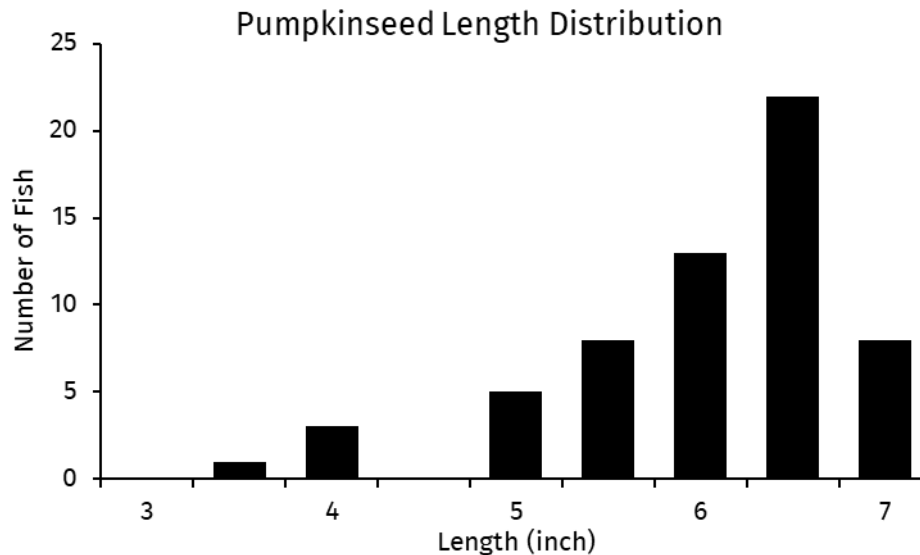
Bluegill

A total of 439 bluegill were captured during surveys. A targeted electrofishing survey captured bluegill at a rate of 26.0 fish per mile, placing it between the 25th and 50th percentile for its lake class. Of the 183 bluegill measured, average length was 6.5 inches, 38% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 8.5 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 8.5 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 inches.



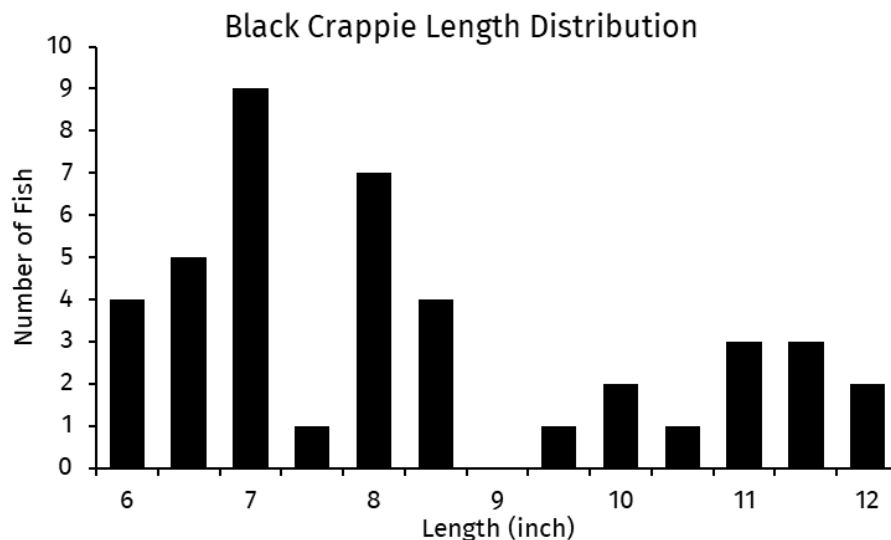
Pumpkinseed

A total of 70 pumpkinseed were captured during surveys. Of the 60 pumpkinseed measured, average length was 6.2 inches, 13% were ≥ 7 inches and the largest was 7.4 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed pumpkinseed length distribution with fish ranging from 3.5 to 7 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 inches.



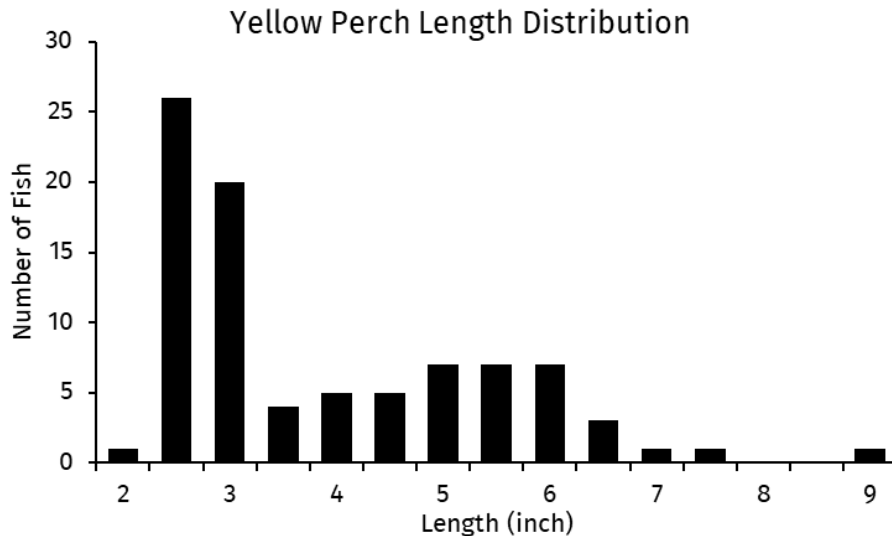
Black Crappie

A total of 50 black crappie were captured at a rate of 1.2 fish per net night, placing it above the 50th percentile for its lake class. Of the 42 black crappie measured, average length was 8.5 inches, 26% were ≥ 10 inches and the largest was 12.3 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 6 to 12 inches and a peak occurring at 7 inches.



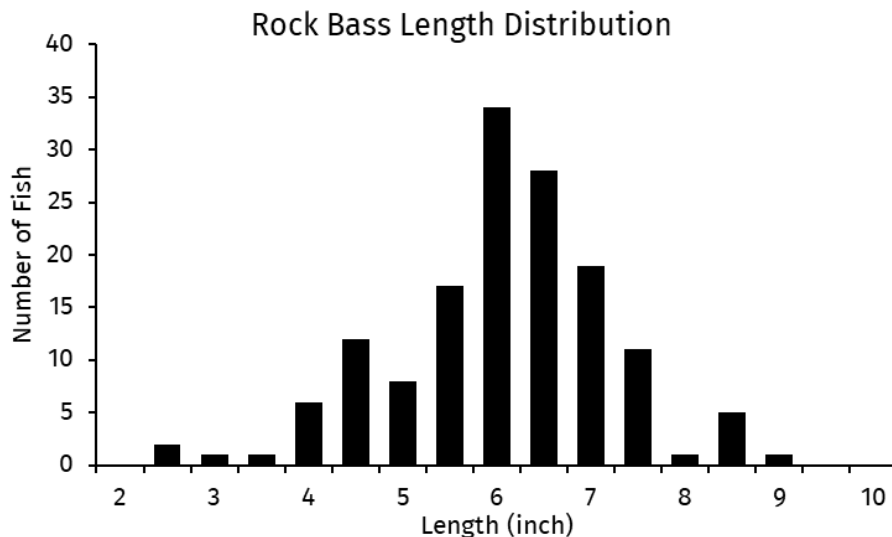
Yellow Perch

A total of 151 yellow perch were captured at a rate of 1.3 fish per net night, placing it above the 25th percentile for its lake class. Of 27 yellow perch (≥ 5 ") measured, the average length was 6.0 inches, 4% were ≥ 8 inches and the largest was 9.0 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 2 to 9 inches.



Rock Bass

A total of 223 rock bass were captured during surveys and lengths were taken from a subsample. Rock bass ranged in length from 2.6 to 9.2 inches and average 6.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed rock bass length distribution with fish ranging from 2.5 to 9 inches and a peak occurring at 6 inches.



Other Species

Other species captured during surveys were white sucker, mimic shiner, bluntnose minnow, common shiner, logperch, grass pickerel, johnny darter, black bullhead, golden shiner, fantail darter, mottled sculpin, fathead minnow, and Iowa darter.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for White Sand, 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	1 in total with SMB	18 inch minimum
Smallmouth bass (SMB)	3 rd Saturday in June – 1 st Sunday in March	1 in total with LMB	18 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	50 inch minimum
Walleye	1 st Saturday in May – 1 st Sunday in March	3 in total	18 inch minimum
Panfish	Open all year	25 in total	None

Contact Information

For questions regarding fisheries management activities on the White Sand, contact Vilas County Fisheries Biologist Eric Wegleitner.

Eric Wegleitner

Vilas County Fisheries Biologist

8770 County J

Woodruff, WI 54568-9635

(715) 356-5211 Ext: 246

Eric.Wegleitner@wisconsin.gov