



# Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Information Sheet

Yellow Birch Lake, Vilas County, 2025

### Waterbody Information

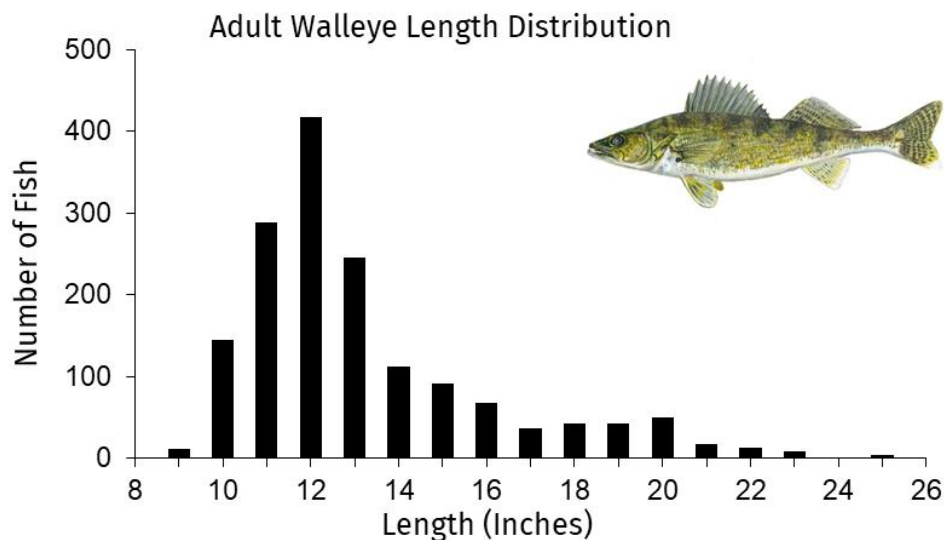
Yellow Birch Lake is a 202-acre drainage lake with 4.2 miles of shoreline, a maximum depth of 23 feet and predominately sand, gravel and rock substrates with some areas of muck. Yellow Birch Lake is classified as a complex-riverine system. Yellow Birch Lake is part of the 3,565-acre Eagle River Chain (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 netting and electrofishing surveys of Yellow Birch Lake targeting adult walleye (April 22 – 25) and adult muskellunge (April 26 – 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.

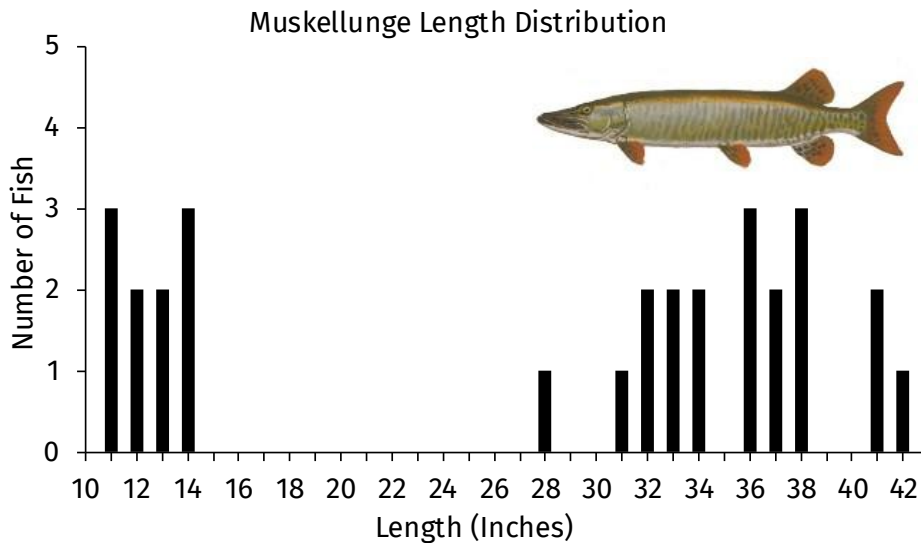
### Walleye

Targeted survey efforts captured 653 adult walleye (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 1,596 (7.9/acre) adult walleye in Yellow Birch Lake. An estimated 23% of adult walleye were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 25.5-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the estimated adult walleye length distribution with fish ranging from 9 to 25 inches and a peak occurring at 12 inches.



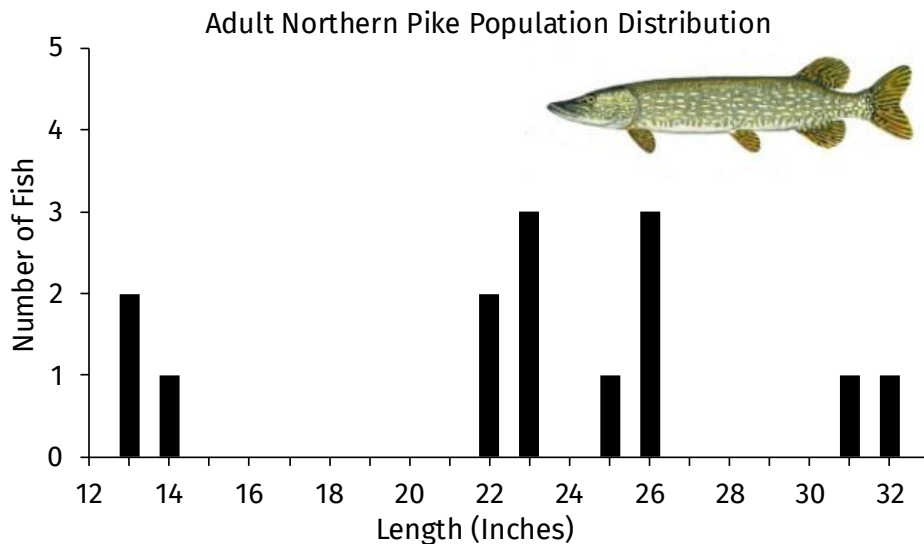
## Muskellunge

During the surveys, 18 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 30$  inches) and 10 juvenile muskellunge were captured at a rate of 1.3 adults per net night of targeted effort, placing it above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of the adults captured, 17% were  $\geq 40$  inches, and the largest was a 42.8-inch female. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed muskellunge length distribution with fish ranging from 11 to 42 inches.



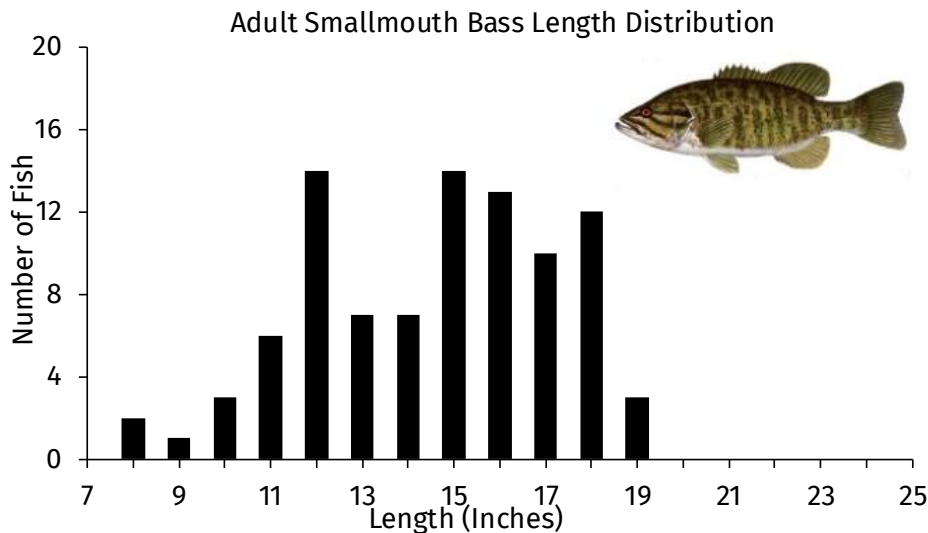
## Northern Pike

Survey efforts captured 14 adult (sexually mature or  $\geq 12$  inches) northern pike at a rate of 0.2 fish per net night, placing it below the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of the adults captured, 79% were  $\geq 21$  inches, and the largest was 32.8 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed northern pike length distribution with fish ranging from 13 to 32 inches and peaks occurring at 23 and 26 inches.



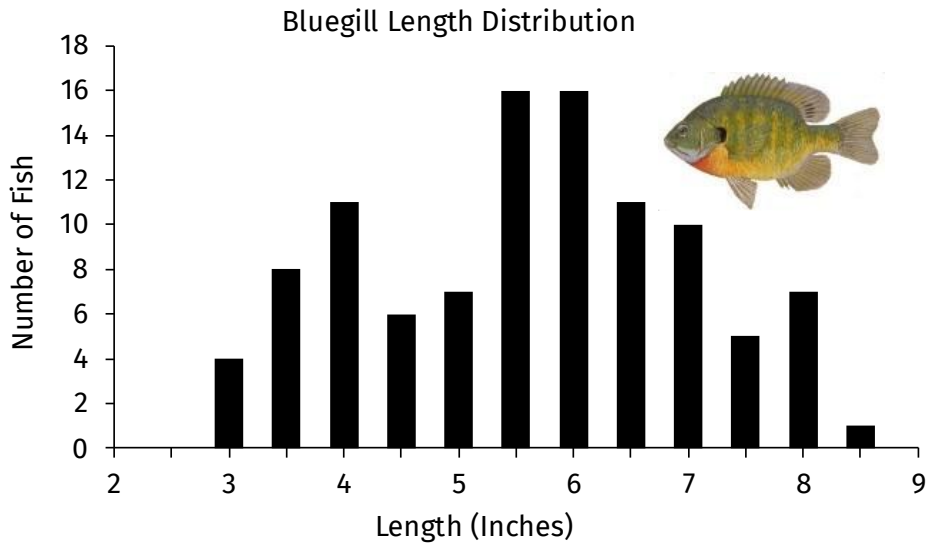
## Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass

A total of 92 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) smallmouth bass were captured, 64% were  $\geq 14$  inches, and the largest was 19.9 inches. A targeted electrofishing survey captured adult smallmouth bass at a rate of 19.9 fish per mile, placing it above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed adult smallmouth bass length distribution with fish ranging from 8 to 19 inches and peaks occurring at 12 and 15 inches. A total of 6 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) largemouth bass were captured, and the largest was 11.0 inches. No adult largemouth bass were caught during the targeted electrofishing survey, indicating low abundance.



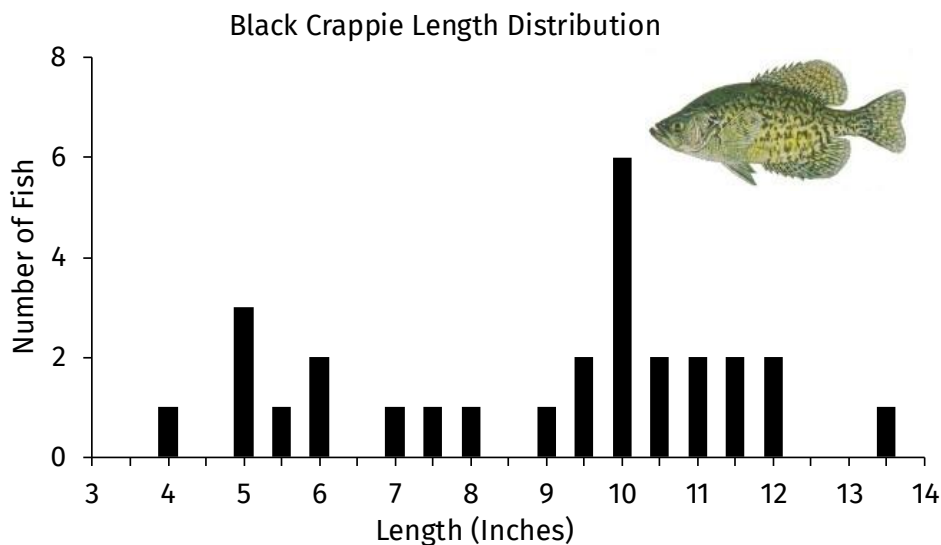
## Bluegill

A total of 126 bluegill (including bluegill-pumpkinseed hybrids) were captured. A targeted electrofishing survey captured bluegill at a rate of 20.0 fish per mile, placing it above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for its lake class. Of 103 bluegill measured, the average length was 5.8 inches, 22% were  $\geq 7$  inches, and the largest was 8.6 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed bluegill length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 8.5 inches and peaks occurring at 5.5 and 6 inches.



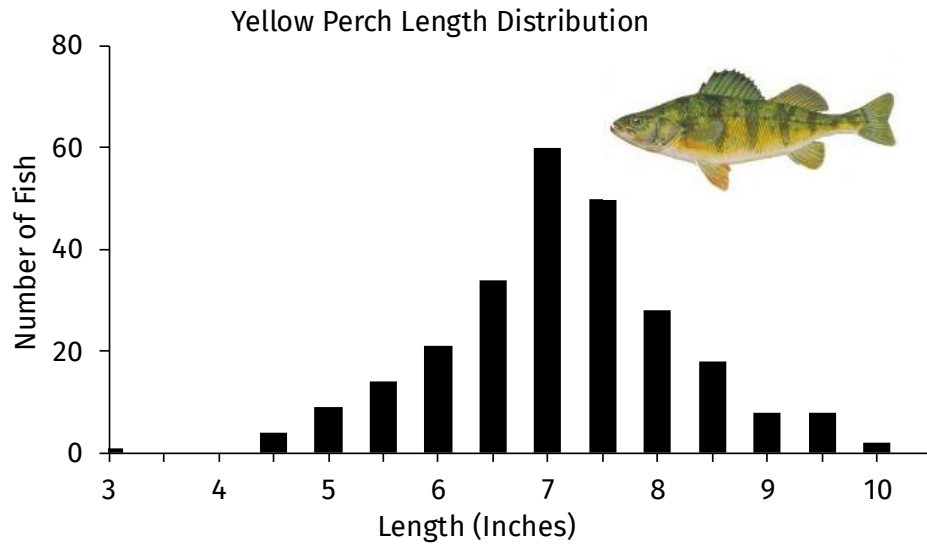
## Black Crappie

Surveys captured a total of 39 black crappie at a rate of 1.0 fish per net night, placing it above the 10th percentile for its lake class. Of 28 black crappie measured, the average length was 9.2 inches, 54% were  $\geq 10$  inches, and the largest was 13.7 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed black crappie length distribution with fish ranging from 4 to 13.5 inches and a peak occurring at 10 inches.



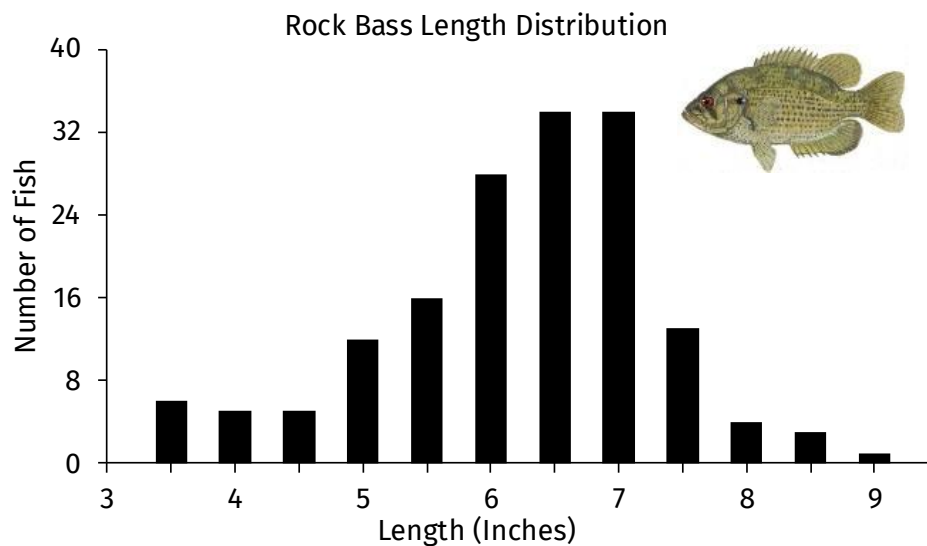
## Yellow perch

Surveys crews captured a total of 12,304 yellow perch at a rate of 383.8 fish per net night, placing it above the 99th percentile for its lake class. Of 257 yellow perch measured, the average length was 7.3 inches, 25% were  $\geq 8$  inches, and the largest was 10.2 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed yellow perch length distribution with fish ranging from 3 to 10 inches and a peak occurring at 7 inches.



## Rock bass

A total of 447 rock bass were captured during the surveys. Of 161 rock bass measured, the average length was 6.4 inches, 5% were  $\geq 8$  inches, and the largest was 9.1 inches. The accompanying bar chart shows the observed rock bass length distribution with fish ranging from 3.5 to 9 inches and a peak occurring at 6.5 to 7 inches.



## Other Species

Other species not directly targeted or captured in low abundance were bluntnose minnow, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, mimic shiner, pumpkinseed, shorthead redhorse, silver redhorse, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

## Fishing Regulations

Table 1. General fishing regulations for the Eagle River Chain of lakes, in Vilas County, Wisconsin.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Size Limit</b>
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	Saturday of Memorial Day 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 may be over 18 inches
Panfish: Bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie and yellow perch	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 Fisheries Biologist Jason Halverson.  
Fish illustrations by Virgil Beck.

### **Lawrence Eslinger**

Treaty Fisheries Biologist

8770 County J

Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 356-5211 Ext: 209

[Lawrence.Eslinger@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Eslinger@wisconsin.gov)

### **Eric Wegleitner**

Vilas County Fisheries Biologist

8770 County J

Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 356-5211 Ext: 246

[Eric.Wegleitner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Eric.Wegleitner@wisconsin.gov)