



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: DEAD PIKE

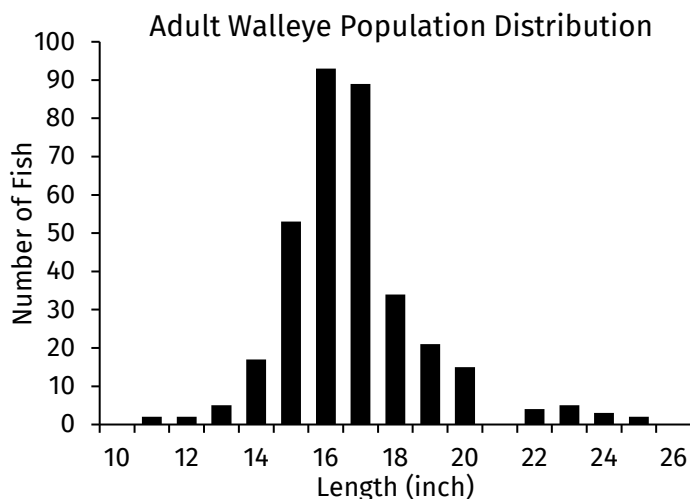
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2025

Introduction

Dead Pike is a mesotrophic drainage lake with mainly sand, gravel and rock substrates. It has a surface area of 297 acres, 3.84 miles of shoreline, maximum depth of 80 feet and is classified as a complex-two story lake. On April 23, 2025, four fykes nets were set in areas where walleye are likely to spawn. Two more walleye nets were added in the following days as ice retreated from other areas of the lake. Nets were lifted every day until April 27 when they were moved to areas targeting spawning muskellunge. Musky nets were run April 28-30 and May 4-5. A walleye recapture electrofishing run was completed on the evening of April 29. An additional bass/panfish electrofishing survey was conducted on the evening of May 14. The walleye fishery has very limited natural reproduction, so it is almost entirely supported by stocking. The muskellunge fishery is supported entirely by natural reproduction. Invasive rainbow smelt were first documented in 1996 and continue to persist in the lake.

WALLEYE

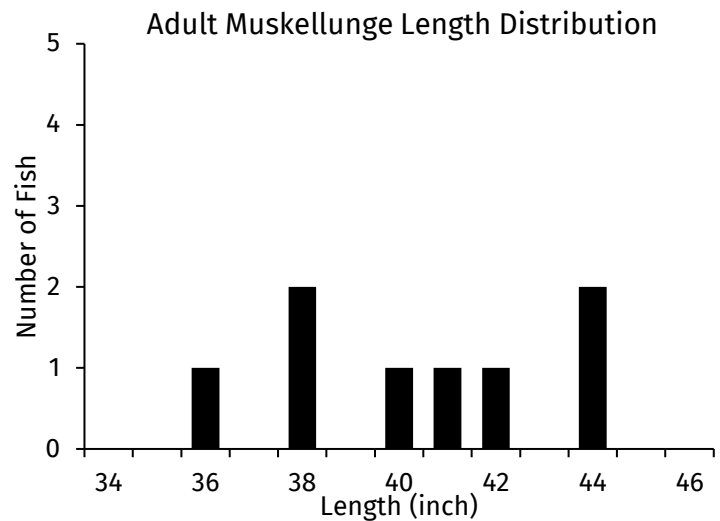


During fyke netting through April 29, a total of 235 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats on April 29 and caught 65 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 68% (44 of 65) of walleyes were found to have a fin clip. Based on those results, Dead Pike was estimated to contain 342 adult walleyes (1.2/acre). An estimated 92.5% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 25.5-inch female. Note: adult walleyes are defined as all sexable walleyes, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

MUSKELLUNGE



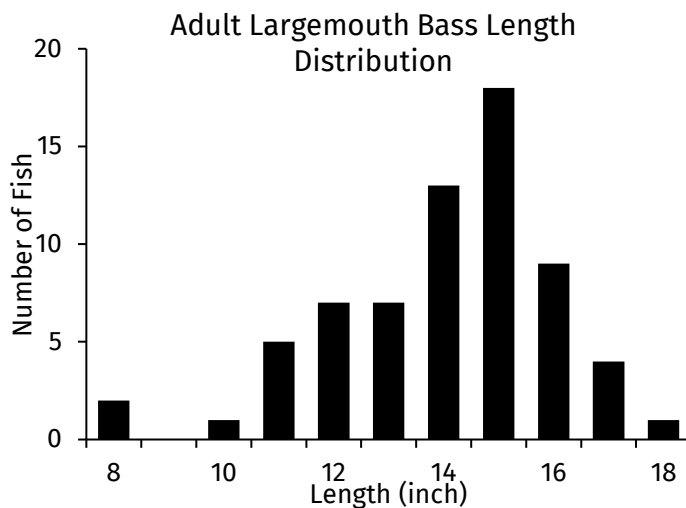
During fyke netting and electrofishing, eight adult muskellunge were caught. Adult muskellunge ranged in length from 36.1 to 44.9 inches, averaged 40.7 inches and 63% were 40 inches or larger. Adult muskellunge were captured at a rate of 0.13 per net lift during musky targeted netting, which ranks below the 25th percentile for similar classed lakes. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.



LARGEMOUTH BASS



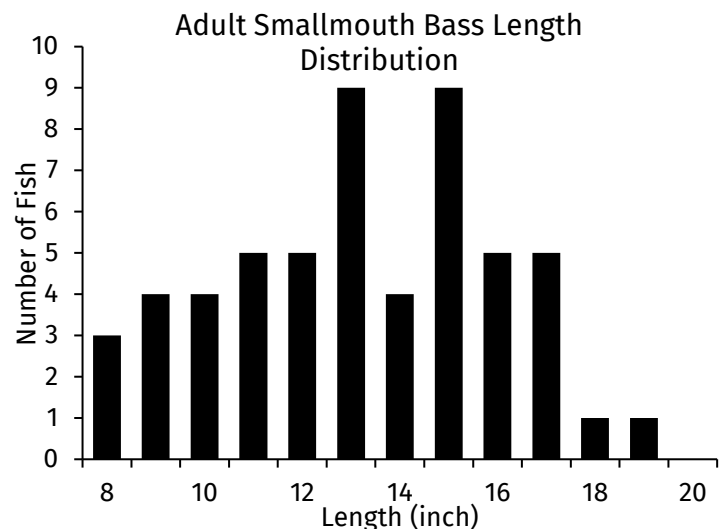
During fyke netting and electrofishing, 86 adult largemouth bass were caught. Adult largemouth bass ranged in length from 8.4 to 18.5 inches, averaged 14.5 inches and 69% were 14 inches or larger. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 6.4 per mile during the May 14 survey, which ranks just above the 50th percentile for similar classed lakes. Note: adult largemouth bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches in length.



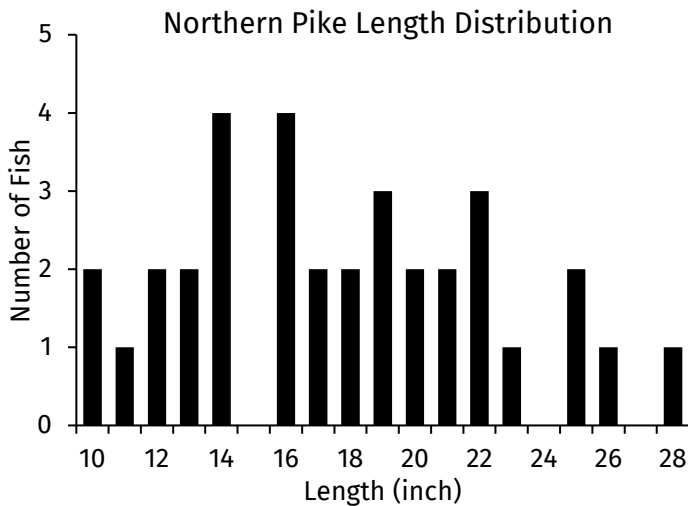
SMALLMOUTH BASS



During fyke netting and electrofishing, 60 adult smallmouth bass were caught as well as one juvenile. Adult smallmouth bass ranged in length from 8.0 to 19.0 inches, averaged 13.7 inches and 48% were 14 inches or larger. Smallmouth bass were captured at a rate of 11.3 per mile during the May 14 survey, which ranks just below the 90th percentile for similar classed lakes. Note: adult smallmouth bass are defined as all bass ≥ 8 inches in length.



NORTHERN PIKE

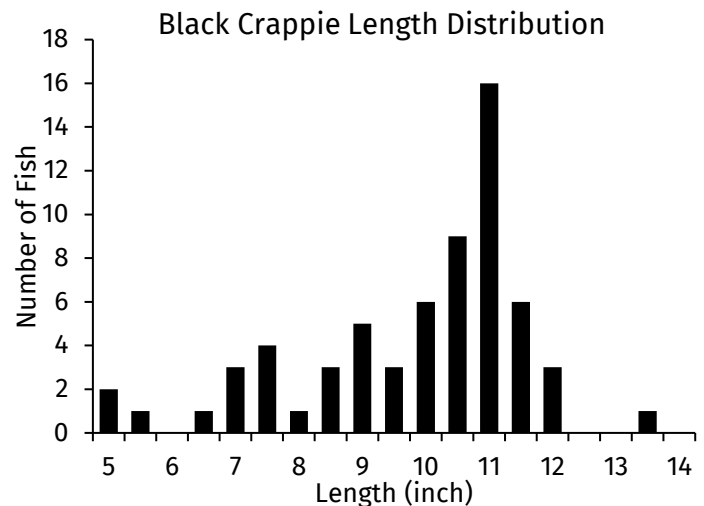


During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 38 northern pike were caught. Northern pike ranged in length from 10.3 to 28.5 inches, averaged 18.3 inches and 29% were 21 inches or larger. Northern pike were caught at a rate of 0.4 per net lift which falls below the 25th percentile for similar classed lakes.

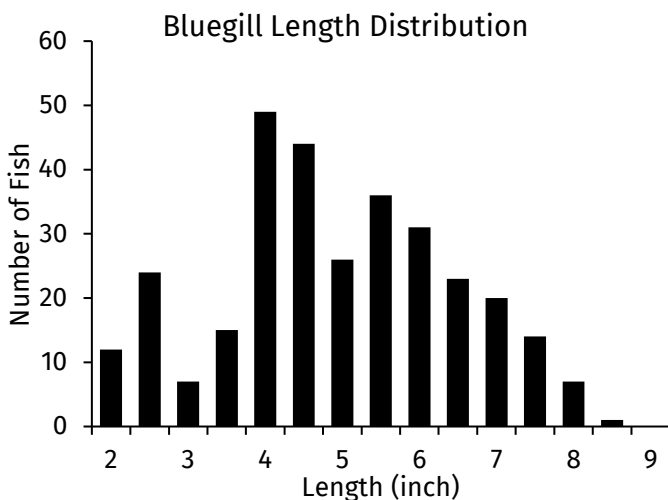
BLACK CRAPPIE



During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 154 black crappie were caught. Lengths were taken from a random subsample of crappies caught. Black crappies ranged in length from 5.0 to 13.6 inches, averaged 10.0 inches and 64% were 10 inches or greater. Black crappie were caught at a rate of 4.8 per net lift during musky netting, which ranks above the 75th percentile for similar classed lakes.



BLUEGILL

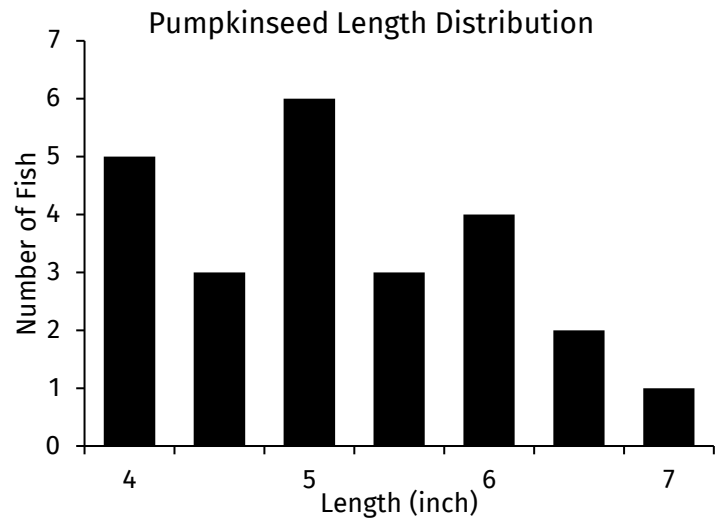


During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 1,243 bluegills were caught. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Bluegills ranged in length from 2.1 to 8.5 inches. Of those 3 inches or greater, the average length was 5.5 inches and 15% were 7 inches or greater. Bluegill were captured at a rate of 158 per mile during the May 14 survey, which ranks in the 70th percentile for similar classed lakes.

PUMPKINSEED



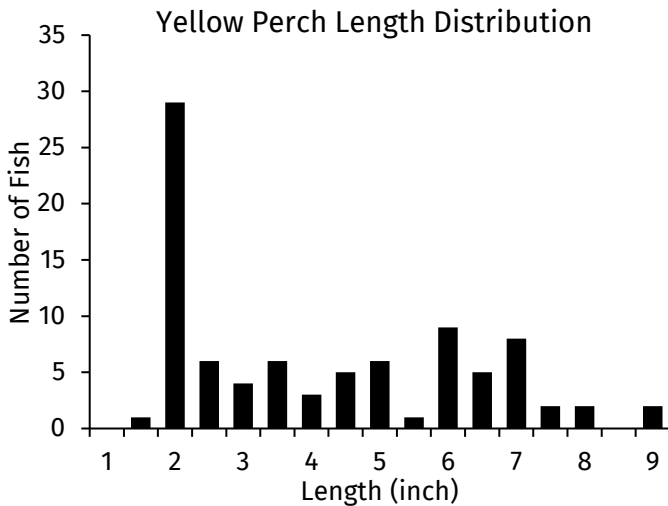
During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 50 pumpkinseeds were caught. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Pumpkinseeds ranged in length from 4.0 to 7.1 inches, averaged 5.3 inches and 4% were 7 inches or greater. Pumpkinseeds were captured at a rate of 5 per mile during the May 14 survey, which ranks just above the 50th percentile for similar classed lakes.



YELLOW PERCH



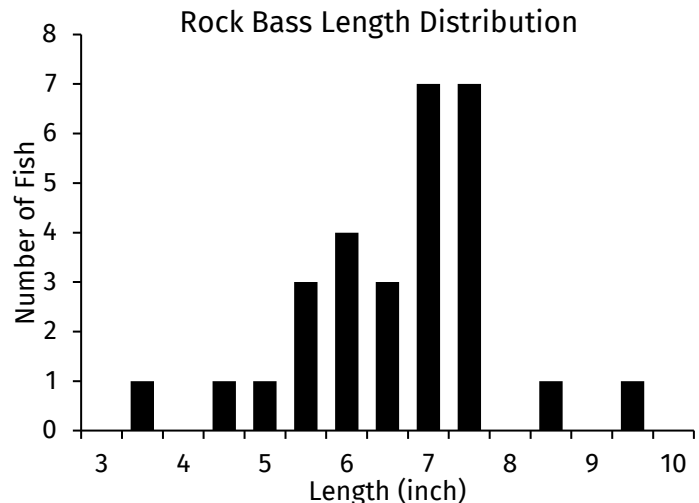
During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 134 yellow perch were caught. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Yellow perch ranged in length from 1.8 to 9.0 inches. Of those 5 inches or greater, the average length was 6.7 inches and 11% were 8 inches or greater. Yellow perch were captured at a rate of 1.6 per net lift in fyke nets, which ranks just above the 25th percentile for similar classed lakes.



ROCK BASS



During fyke netting and electrofishing a total of 54 rock bass were caught in fyke nets. Lengths were taken from a random subsample. Rock bass ranged in length from 3.6 to 9.7 inches and averaged 6.8 inches.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Dead Pike resulted in the catch of nine species of fish, including: white sucker (40), yellow bullhead (11), golden shiner (9), mottled sculpin (8), black bullhead (4), bluntnose minnow (3), logperch (3), grass pickerel (2) and Iowa darter (2).

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, 2025-26.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 3 – March 1	3	18" minimum
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 3 – March 1	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 21 – March 1	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 24 – December 31	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 – March 1	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Dead Pike are summarized above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license or download a copy from the [Department of Natural Resources Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Dead Pike, contact:

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