



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Turtle

COUNTY: Walworth

YEAR: 2017/2021

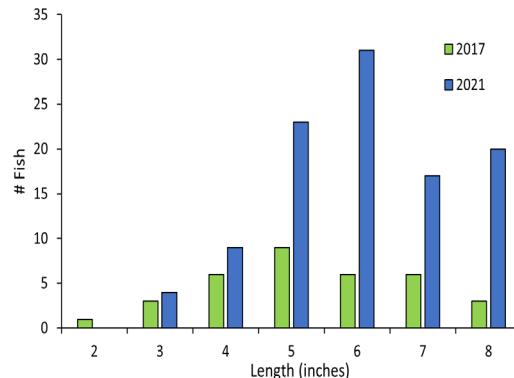
Introduction

Turtle Lake is a 141-acre spring fed lake located near the city of Whitewater in Walworth County. It has a reported maximum depth of 30 feet. One night electrofishing surveys were conducted on April 27, 2017 and May 26, 2021 to assess bluegill and largemouth bass populations.

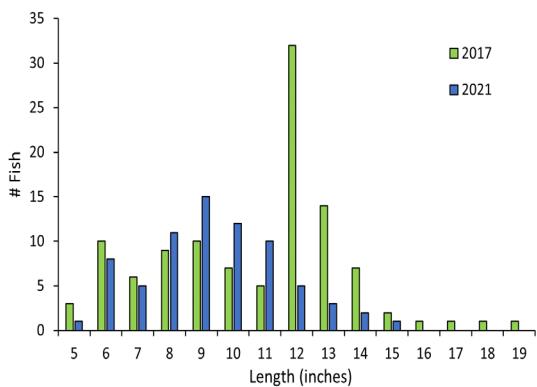
BLUEGILL



	2017	2021
Ave. Length (inches)	5.8	6.4
Max Length (inches)	8.4	8.6
% ≥ 6 inches	44%	65%
# bluegill/mile	68	104



LARGEMOUTH BASS



	2017	2021
Ave. Length (inches)	11.1	9.8
Max Length (inches)	19.3	15.9
% legal	12%	4%
# largemouth bass/mile	55	49

OTHER SPECIES

The following are other species captured in numbers that do not warrant analysis, total number in parentheses. 2017 included black crappie (7), brook silverside (1), brown bullhead (2), northern pike (3), pumpkinseed (14), warmouth (7), yellow bullhead (7) and yellow perch (12). 2021 included brown bullhead (3), pumpkinseed (5), warmouth (16), yellow bullhead (5) and yellow perch (4) and walleye (1).

Summary

Bluegill size structure and abundance improved slightly between the 2017 and 2021 surveys. The average length and percent of bluegill over six inches increased between 2017 and 2021 while the maximum length stayed about the same. The difference in size structure may be attributed to the markedly different sampling dates. The water temperature during the survey in 2017 was recorded as 62°F, in 2021 it was 73°F. *Fishes of Wisconsin* states that bluegill spawning occurs between 67°F - 80°F so the 2016 survey was outside the optimal range to sample the adult population. This may also account for the increase in catch rate from 2017 to 2021. The 2017 catch rate of 68 bluegill/mile is below average when compared to similar lakes while the 2021 catch rate of 104 bluegill/mile is about average. Overall, the bluegill population of Turtle Lake continues to be sustained by natural reproduction and offers a quality angling opportunity with average abundance and fish up to 8 inches.

Largemouth bass size structure declined between the 2017 and 2021 surveys. Average length, maximum length and the percent of fish over the legal-size limit all declined. During both surveys few fish were sampled above the 14-inch minimum length limit. Available data suggests largemouth bass growth is below average indicating a stunted population. Catch rates from both years are above average when compared to similar lakes. A proposed 2025 Wisconsin Conservation Congress regulation change seeks to improve largemouth bass size and reduce abundance by removing the 14-inch minimum length limit and instituting no minimum length limit. Overall, the largemouth bass population offers an action angling opportunity with above average abundance sustained by natural reproduction but subpar size.

Contact Information

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Turtle Lake contact:

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