



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

**LAKE:** LITTLE SPIDER

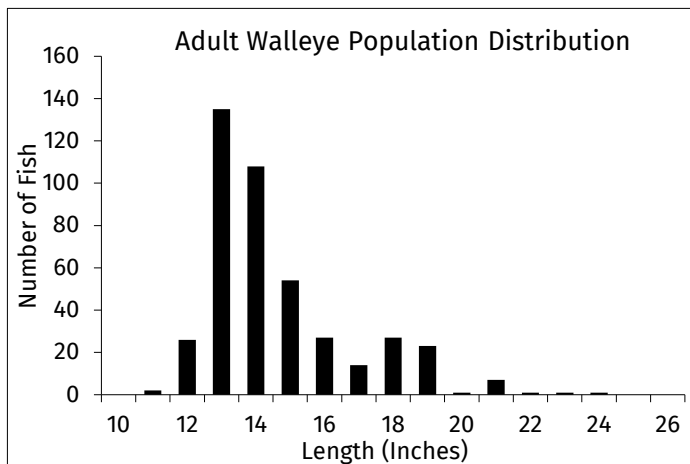
**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2023

### Introduction

Little Spider Lake is a seepage lake with predominately sand and gravel substrates. The lake has a surface area of 235 acres, 4.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 23 feet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Little Spider Lake, Vilas County, May 7-15, 2023 to assess the status of walleye and muskellunge. Additionally, on May 22, 2023 a bass and panfish survey was conducted using one electrofishing boat that shocked a total of 4.5 miles of shoreline, which included two half-mile stations where all fish species were collected. Only gamefish (i.e. largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge) were collected for the remaining 3.5 miles. The walleye and muskellunge populations are supported by stocking.

### WALLEYE

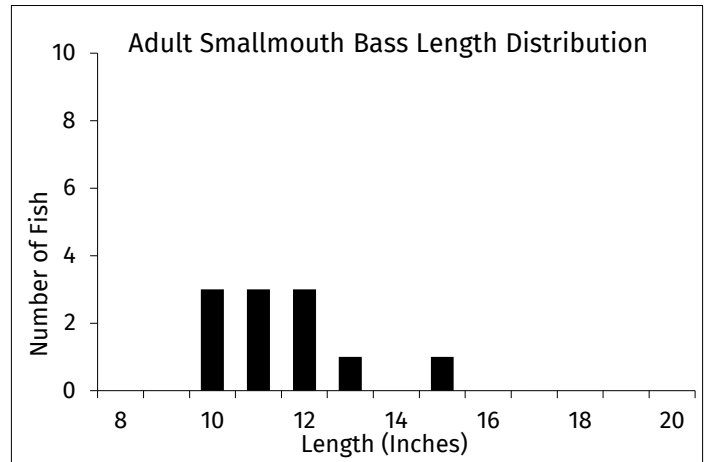


During two days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 155 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and caught 65 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 36% (23 of 65) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Little Spider Lake was estimated to contain 428 adult walleyes (1.8/acre). An estimated 36% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 24.5-inch female. Note: Adult walleyes are defined as all sexable walleyes, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches in length.

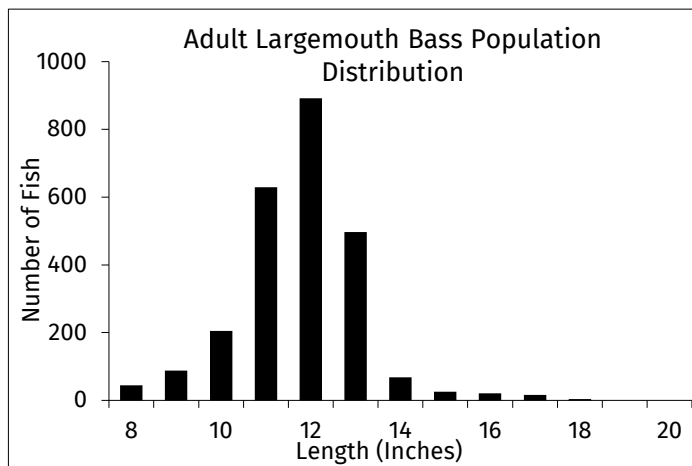
## SMALLMOUTH BASS



Survey sampling conducted through May 22 resulted in 11 smallmouth bass being caught. Of the 11 caught, only one was 14 inches or longer and measured 15.5 inches. During the May 22 electrofishing survey, adult smallmouth bass ( $\geq 8$  inches) were caught at a low rate of 0.44 per mile of shoreline.



## LARGEMOUTH BASS

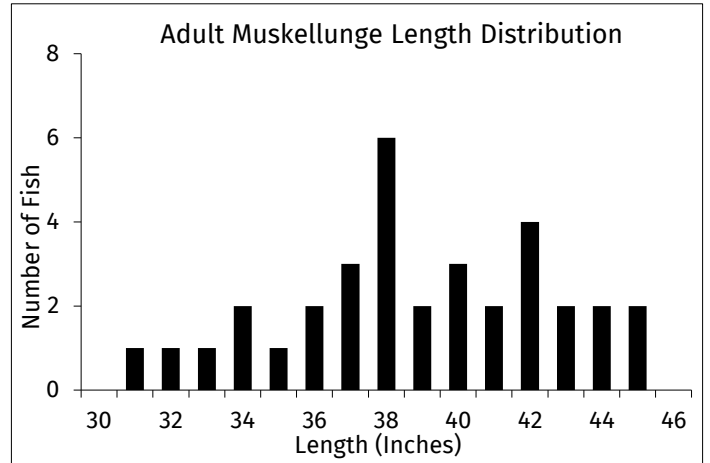


Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in 383 largemouth bass caught. Of the 383 caught, 368 were considered adults at 8 inches or larger. The adult largemouth bass population in Little Spider Lake was estimated to be 2,499 or 10.6 per acre. An estimated 5% of largemouth bass were 14 inches or longer, and the largest being 18.9 inches. During the May 22 electrofishing survey, adult largemouth bass were caught at a high rate of 44.0 per mile of shoreline.

## MUSKELLUNGE



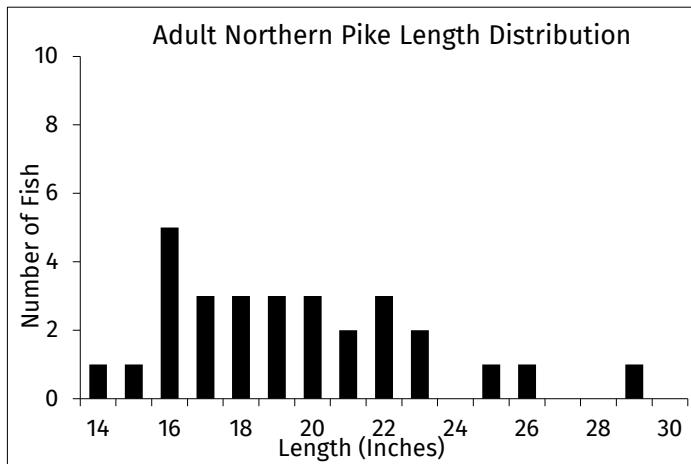
During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, 34 adult muskellunge were caught. Of the adult muskellunge, 44% (15 of 34) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 45.6-inch female. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex  $\geq 30$  inches in length.



## NORTHERN PIKE



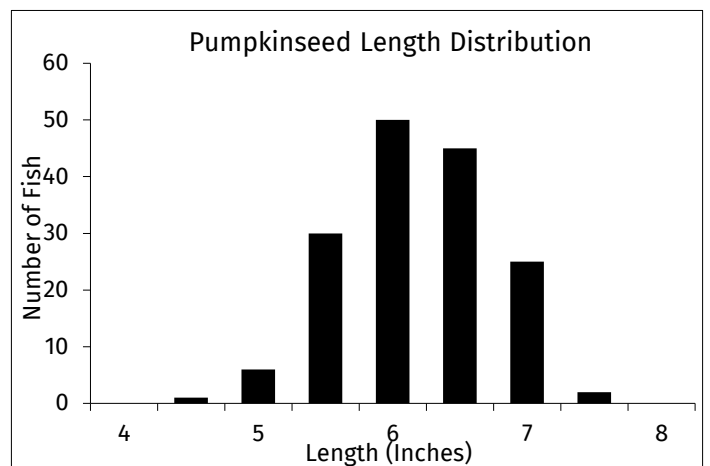
Sampling Little Spider Lake through May 22 resulted in the catch of 29 adult northern pike. The largest northern pike measured was 29.3 inches. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex  $\geq 12$  inches in length.

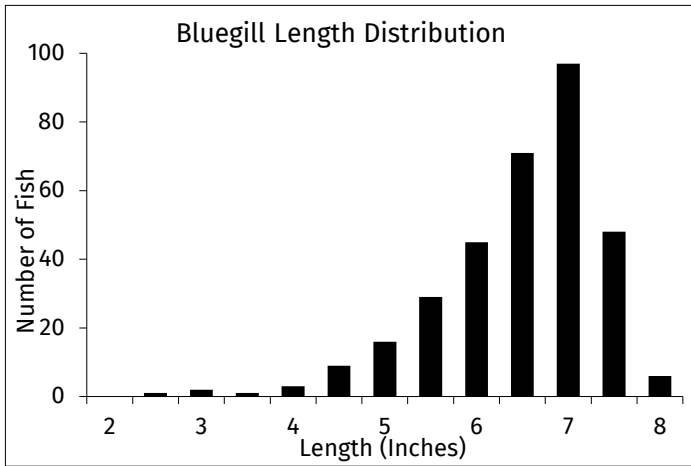


## PUMPKINSEED



A total of 798 pumpkinseeds were caught during the course of surveying. Pumpkinseed were captured at a moderate rate (44/mile) during the May 22 survey. The average length of pumpkinseeds measured was 6.4 inches, with the largest being 7.7 inches and 17% were 7 inches or larger.





## BLUEGILL

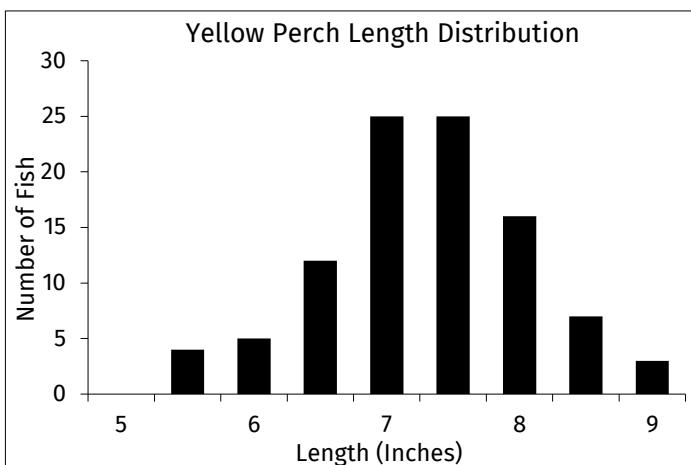
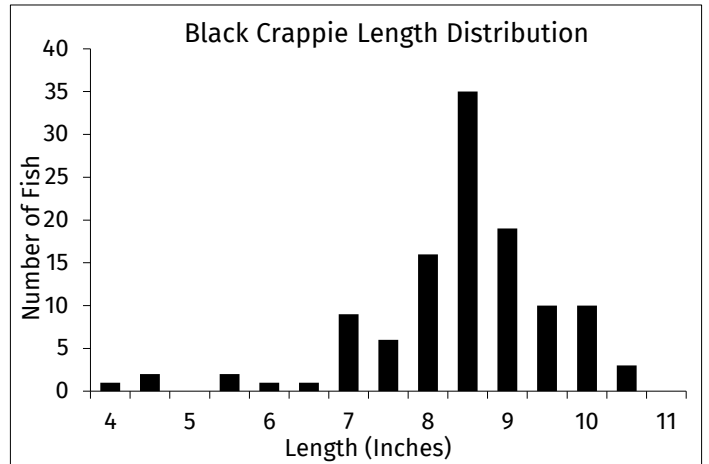


A total of 3,971 bluegills were caught during the course of surveying. Bluegills were captured at a high rate (315/mile) during the May 22 electrofishing survey. The average length of bluegills that were measured was 6.7 inches, with the largest being 8.4 inches and 46% were 7 inches or larger.

## BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 413 black crappies were caught during the course of surveying. Black crappies were captured at a moderate rate (10.0 per net lift) during muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of black crappies measured was 8.6 inches, with the largest being 10.8 inches and 11% were 10 inches or larger.



## YELLOW PERCH



A total of 2,759 yellow perch were caught during the course of surveying. Yellow perch were captured at a moderate rate (58.7 per net lift) during the walleye and muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of yellow perch measured was 7.4 inches, with the largest being 9.0 inches.

## OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Little Spider Lake resulted in the catch of 10 species of fish. Yellow bullhead, rock bass and white sucker were common in survey catches. Other species caught included black bullhead, grass pickerel, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, fathead minnow, Iowa darter and one common carp.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Little Spider Lake, in Vilas County Wisconsin, 2023-24.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	All Year	25	None
Walleye	May 6 – March 3	3	15" min length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed
Largemouth bass (harvest season)	May 6 – March 3	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth bass (harvest season)	June 17 – March 3	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 27 – December 31	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 6 – March 3	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Little Spider Lake 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 [DNR Fishing Regulations page](#).

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Little Spider Lake, contact:

**Eric Wegleitner**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

8770 County Hwy J

Woodruff, WI 54568

715-356-5211 ext. 246

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