



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: UPPER GRESHAM

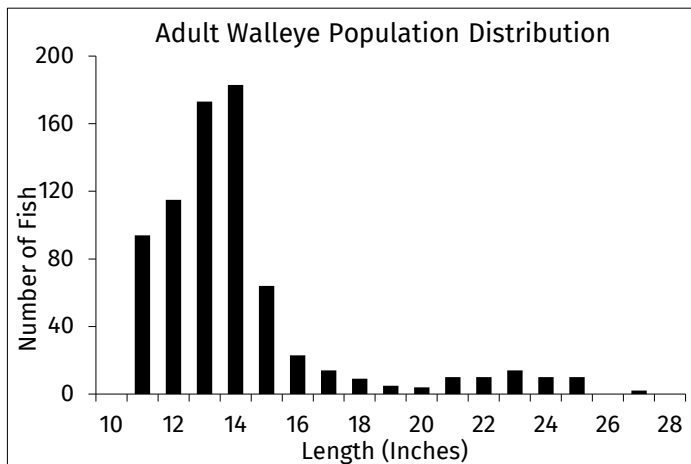
COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2023

Introduction

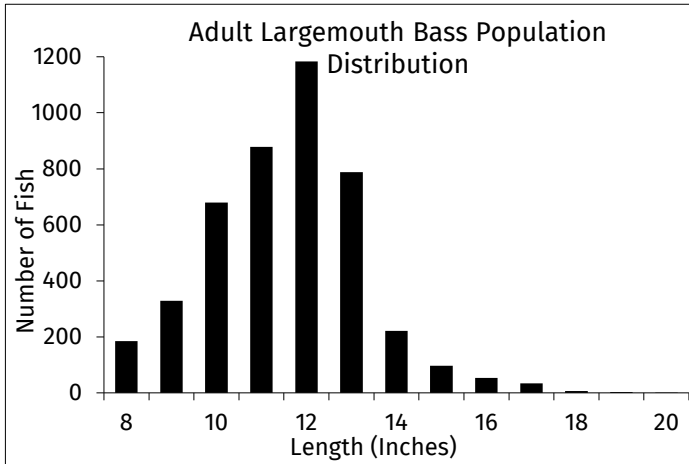
Upper Gresham Lake is a drainage lake with predominately sand and gravel substrates. The lake has a surface area of 366 acres, 5.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 32 feet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Upper Gresham Lake, Vilas County, from May 3-16, 2023, to assess the status of walleye and muskellunge. Additionally, on May 22, 2023, a bass and panfish survey was conducted using two electrofishing boats that shocked a total of 5.92 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 4.92 miles. The walleye population is supported by stocking and muskellunge population has limited natural reproduction that is enhanced by stocking.

WALLEYE



During four days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 416 adult walleyes were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and caught 128 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 56% (71 of 128) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Upper Gresham Lake was estimated to contain 741 adult walleyes (2.0/acre). An estimated 24% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 27-inch female. Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye, regardless of length, and those of unknown sex \geq 15 inches in length.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

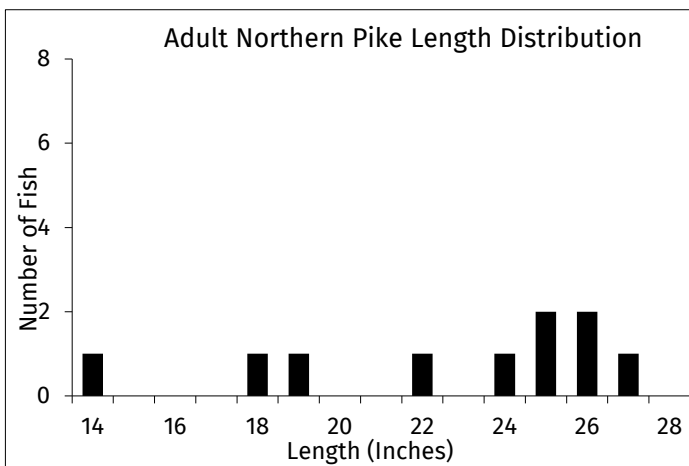
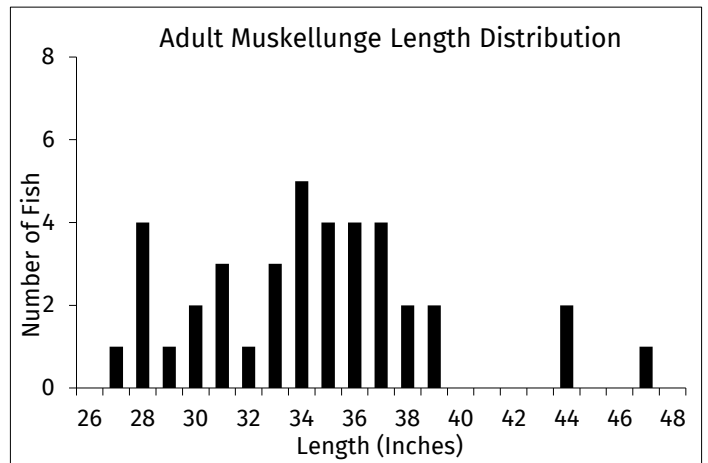


Netting and electrofishing surveys resulted in 1,283 largemouth bass caught. Of the 1,283 caught, 1,246 were considered adults at 8 inches or larger. The adult largemouth bass population in Upper Gresham Lake was estimated to be 4,459 or 12.2 per acre. An estimated 9% of largemouth bass were 14 inches or longer, with the largest being 20.4 inches. During the May 17 electrofishing survey, adult largemouth bass were caught at a high rate of 60.0 per mile of shoreline. No smallmouth bass were captured during any survey.

MUSKELLUNGE



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, 39 adult muskellunge were caught, as well as 12 juveniles. Of the adult muskellunge, 8% (3 of 39) were 40 inches or larger, with the largest being a 47.5-inch female. Note: adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.



NORTHERN PIKE

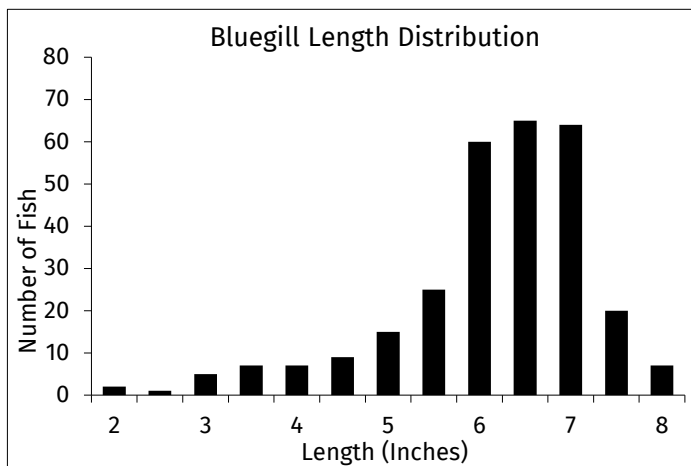
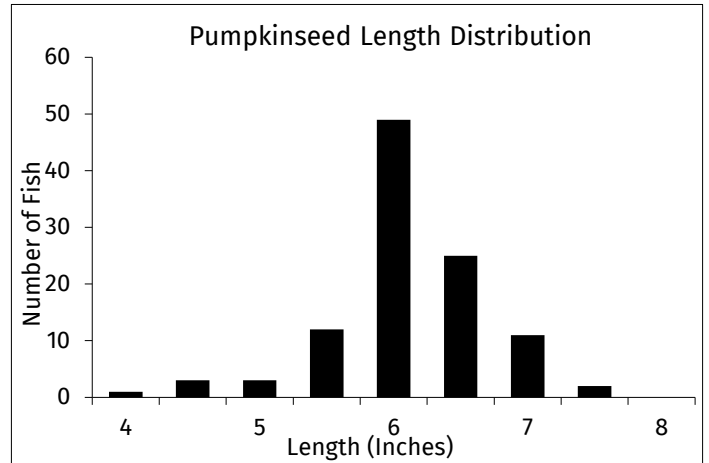


Sampling Upper Gresham Lake through May 17 resulted in the catch of 10 adult northern pike. The largest northern pike measured 26.4 inches. Note: adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 2,154 pumpkinseeds were caught during the course of surveying. Pumpkinseed were captured at a low rate (24/mile) during the May 17 electrofishing survey. The average length of pumpkinseeds measured was 6.3 inches, with the largest being 7.5 inches and 12% were 7 inches or larger.



BLUEGILL

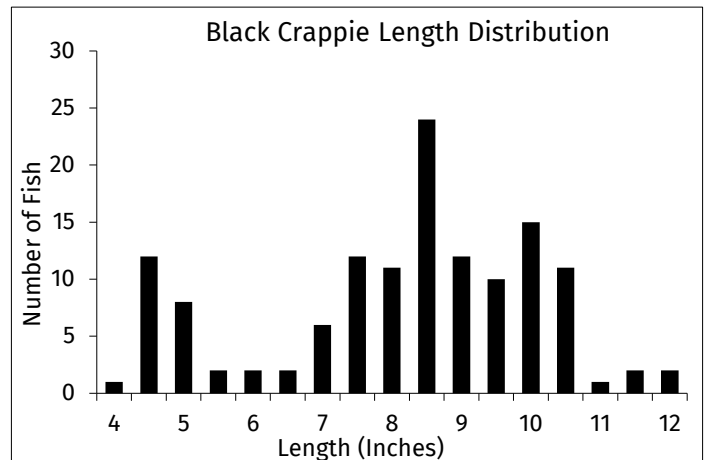


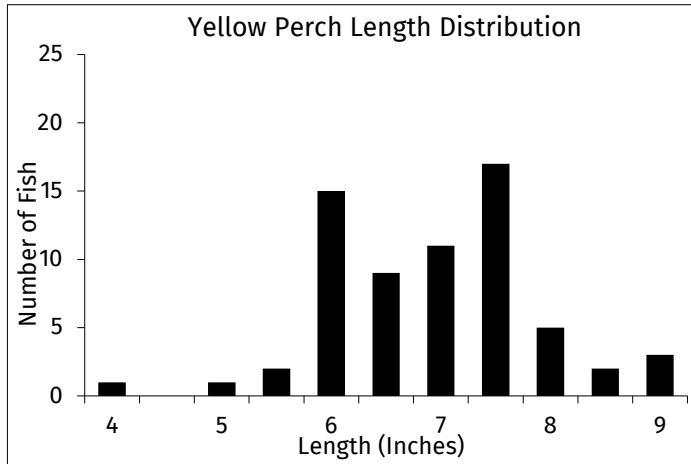
A total of 5,350 bluegills were caught during the course of surveying. Bluegills were captured at a moderate rate (177/mile) during the May 17 electrofishing survey. The average length of bluegills that were measured was 6.3 inches, with the largest being 8.1 inches and 32% were 7 inches or larger.

BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 985 black crappies were caught during the course of surveying. Black crappies were captured at a moderate rate (14.0 per net lift) during muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of black crappies measured was 8.3 inches, with the largest being 12.4 inches and 23% were 10 inches or larger.





YELLOW PERCH



A total of 1,574 yellow perch were caught during the course of surveying. Yellow perch were captured at a low rate (20.2 per net lift) during the walleye and muskellunge targeted fyke netting. The average length of yellow perch measured was 7.1 inches, with the largest being 9.3 inches.

OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Upper Gresham Lake resulted in the catch of seven species of fish including: yellow bullhead, rock bass, white sucker, grass pickerel, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner and Johnny darter.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Upper Gresham 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	28 inches
Northern Pike	May 6 – March 3	5	None

Selected fishing regulations for Upper Gresham 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 Upper Gresham Lake, contact:

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