



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** TENDERFOOT

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2009

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, from April 25 through April 30, 2009, to determine the health of its fishery. Estimating walleye abundance was the primary object of the survey of Tenderfoot Lake. Tenderfoot Lake is a fertile drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and a high-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 437 acres, 6.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 33 feet.

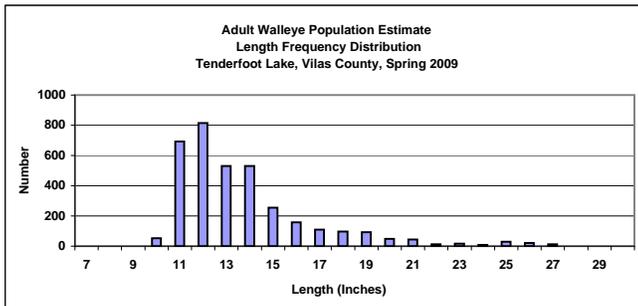


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 3528 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex  $\geq$  15 inches long.

**Walleye**

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Tenderfoot Lake's adult\* walleye population from April 25-30, 2009. Fyke nets were used to capture and mark (fin clip) 682 adult walleye during the six days of the survey. A crew sampled Tenderfoot Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 30th and captured 166 adult walleye. Approximately 18% (30 of 166) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that 3,528 adult walleye (8.1/acre) inhabited Tenderfoot Lake. Nearly 26% (906 of 3,528) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 27.2-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**

Smallmouth bass were an incidental catch in our survey of Tenderfoot Lake. Our sampling was not done during the peak of the smallmouth bass spawning season. We captured five smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling. The largest smallmouth we captured was 13.8 inches long.

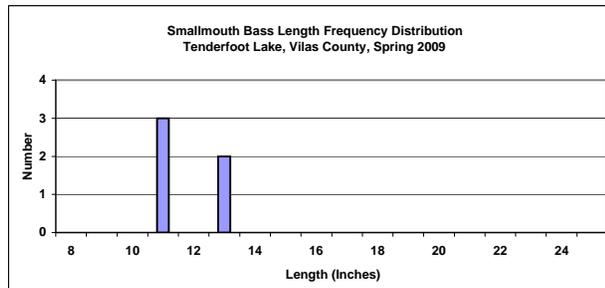


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of five smallmouth bass  $\geq$  8" captured during a fisheries survey of Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2009.

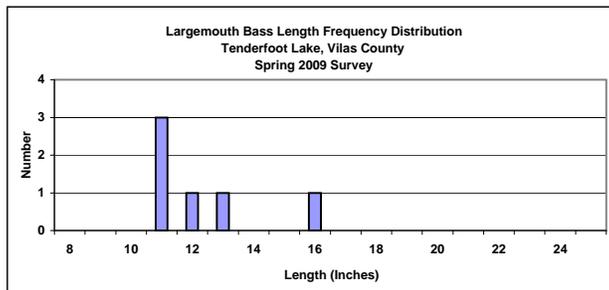


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of six largemouth bass  $\geq$  8" captured during a fisheries survey of Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2009.

**Largemouth Bass**

Our sampling of Tenderfoot Lake was also done outside the spawning period for largemouth bass. We captured six largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Tenderfoot Lake. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 16.2 inches long.

**Northern Pike**

We captured 29 adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Tenderfoot Lake from April 25-30, 2009. Nearly 90% (26 of 29) of adult northern pike we captured were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike we captured was a 31.5-inch female.

\* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex  $\geq$  12 inches long.

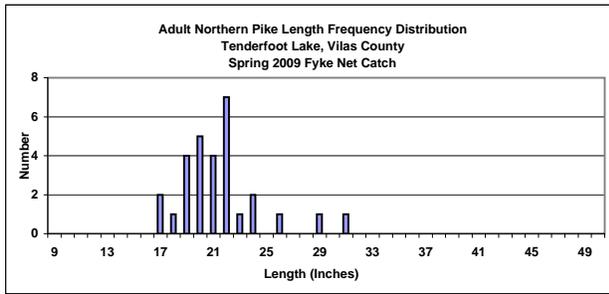


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 29 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2009.

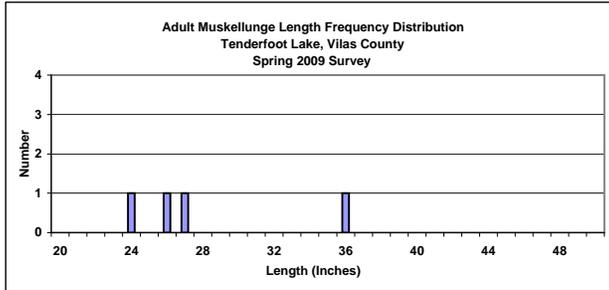


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of four adult\* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2009.

**Muskellunge**

We captured four adult\* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Tenderfoot Lake. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 36.8-inch female.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex  $\geq$  20 inches long.

**Other Species**

We captured seven species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Tenderfoot Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Yellow perch were the most abundant species in our fyke net catches. We caught moderate numbers of black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed and rock bass. We also captured white sucker and yellow bullhead. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2009.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Tenderfoot Lake this year. Creel clerk Marty Kiepke will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2009-2010 fishing season.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, 2009**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 1	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - November 30	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 15 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 2 - March 1	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Tenderfoot Lake is included 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 our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/fish/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2010. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Tenderfoot Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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