



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: TOMAHAWK

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2009

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, from April 26 through June 8, 2009, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Lake Tomahawk is a soft-water drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and substantial areas of rubble and gravel. Lake Tomahawk has a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 3,392 acres, 30.2 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 84 feet.

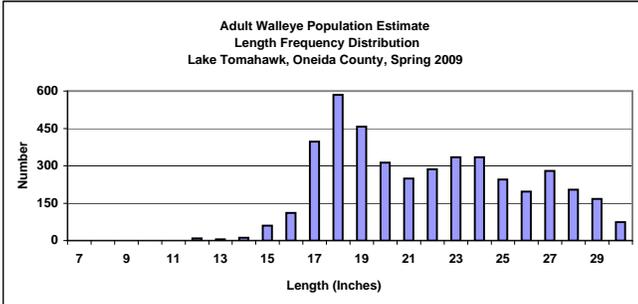


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 4,321 adult walleye estimated to be in Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

* 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 Lake Tomahawk's adult walleye population from April 26 through May 3, 2009. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 1,136 adult walleye in six days of fyke netting. Five crews sampled Lake Tomahawk with electro-fishing boats on May 3rd and captured 306 adult walleye. Approximately 25% (77 of 306) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Lake Tomahawk is home to 4,321 adult walleye (1.3/acre). Approximately 99% (4,295 of 4,321) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 31.2-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass

We carried out a mark-recapture survey of Lake Tomahawk's smallmouth bass population from April 26 through June 8, 2009. We captured and marked 773 smallmouth bass through June 5th. Four electro-fishing crews captured 220 smallmouth bass on June 8th. Only 5% (11 of 220) of those smallmouth had been marked (fin clipped) in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that 13,082 smallmouth bass, 8-inches or larger, inhabited Lake Tomahawk. Approximately 11% (1,490 of 13,082) of those smallmouth were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth we captured was 19.7 inches long.

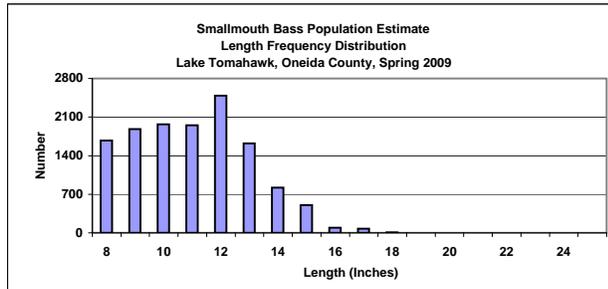


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 13,082 smallmouth bass \geq 8" estimated to be in Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

* Note: All values given above are for smallmouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

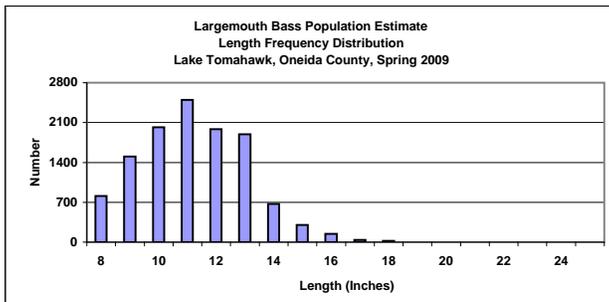


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 11,891 largemouth bass \geq 8" estimated to be in Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

* Note: All values given above are for largemouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

Largemouth Bass

We also completed a mark-recapture survey of Lake Tomahawk's largemouth bass population from April 26 through June 8, 2009. We captured and marked 1,062 largemouth bass through June 5th. Four electro-fishing crews captured 430 largemouth bass on June 8th. Nearly 9% (37 of 430) of those largemouth had been marked (fin clipped) in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that 11,891 largemouth bass, 8-inches or larger, dwelled in Lake Tomahawk. Nearly 10% (1,181 of 11,891) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth we captured was 18.7 inches long.

Northern Pike

We captured 37 adult northern pike in fyke nets fished in Lake Tomahawk from April 26 through May 1, 2009. Approximately 35% (13 of 37) of adult northern pike we captured were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike we captured was a 33.7-inch female.

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

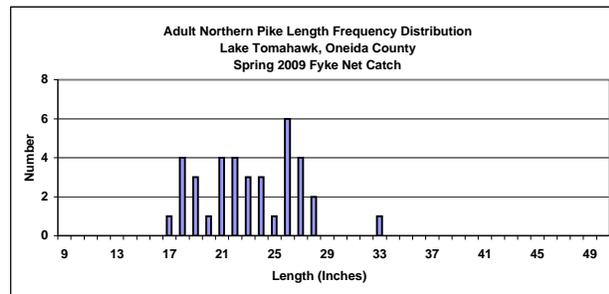


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 37 adult northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

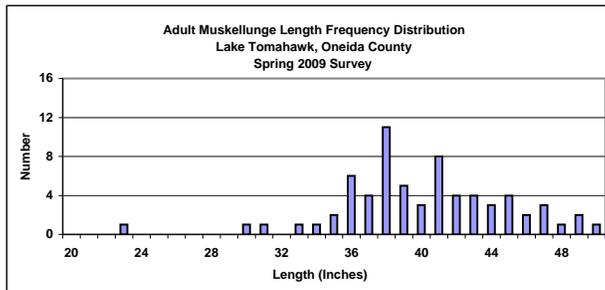


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 68 adult muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

Muskellunge

We captured 68 adult muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Tomahawk. Approximately 94% of the adult muskellunge (64 of 68) we captured were 34 inches long or larger. Roughly 51% of muskellunge (35 of 68) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 50.5-inch female.

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

Other Species

We captured twelve species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Tomahawk in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Bluegill were the most abundant species in our samples. Black crappie, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow perch were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught moderate numbers of bowfin (dogfish), creek chub, golden shiner, grass pickerel, lake herring (cisco), 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 Lake Tomahawk this year. Creel clerk Scott Yonker will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2009 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, 2009

| FISH SPECIES | OPEN SEASON | DAILY LIMIT | MINIMUM LENGTH |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Walleye | May 2 - March 7 | 3 | 15 inches |
| Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass | May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 7 (Harvest) | None 5 in total | 14 inches |
| Muskellunge | May 23 - Nov. 30 | 1 | 34 inches |
| Northern Pike | May 2 - March 7 | 5 | None |

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Lake Tomahawk 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:

Mike Coshun, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 358-9209
Email: Michael.Coshun@Wisconsin.gov

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

John Kubisiak, Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 365-8919
Email: JohnF1.Kubisiak@Wisconsin.gov