



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** TROUT

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2010

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Trout Lake, Vilas County, from April 6 through June 8, 2010, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was primarily focused on estimating the abundance of the lake's walleye and muskellunge populations. Trout Lake is a deep, clear-water drainage lake with predominantly gravel substrate and a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 3,816 acres, 17.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 117 feet.

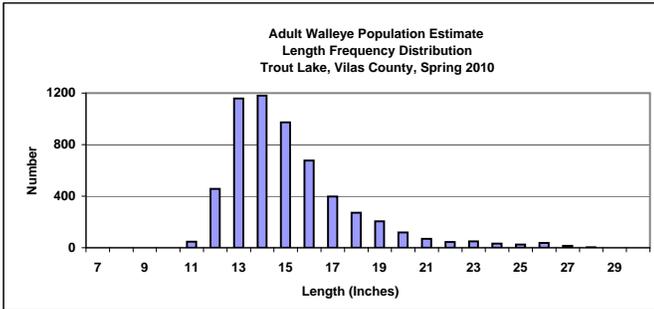


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 5,759 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Trout Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2010 survey.

\* 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 Trout Lake's adult\* walleye population from April 6-22, 2010. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 1,420 adult walleye in 17 days of fyke netting. Three crews sampled Trout Lake with electro-fishing boats on April 22 and captured 282 adult walleye. Approximately 23% (66 of 282) of those walleye had been fin clipped during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Trout Lake is inhabited by 5,759 adult walleye (1.5/acre). Nearly 51% (2,918 of 5,759) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 28.2-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**

Smallmouth bass were not a primary target of our survey of Trout Lake. The majority of our sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth bass spawning.

We captured 31 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Trout Lake. Twenty-six of those smallmouth (84%) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 18.8 inches long.

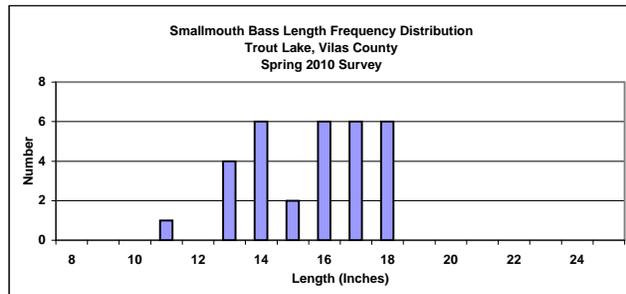


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 31 smallmouth bass  $\geq 8$ " captured during a fisheries survey of Trout Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

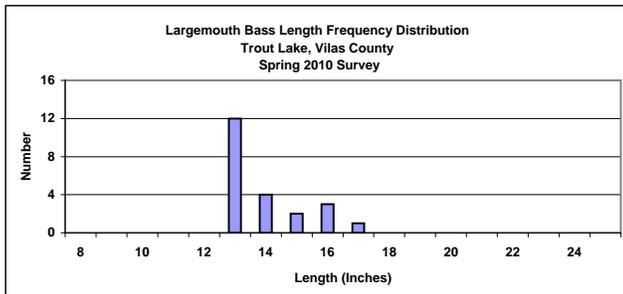


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 22 largemouth bass  $\geq 8$ " captured during a fisheries survey of Trout Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

**Largemouth Bass**

We captured 22 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, incidental to our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Trout Lake. Most of our sampling was prior to the largemouth bass spawning period.

Ten of 22 largemouth bass (46%) captured were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 17 inches long.

**Northern Pike**

We captured 90 adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Trout Lake from April 6-22, 2010. All of the adult northern pike we captured were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 25.6-inch male.

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

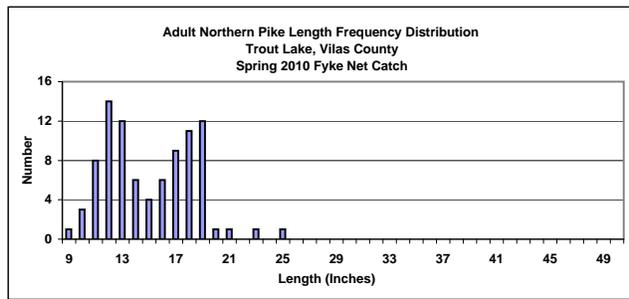


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 90 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Trout Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

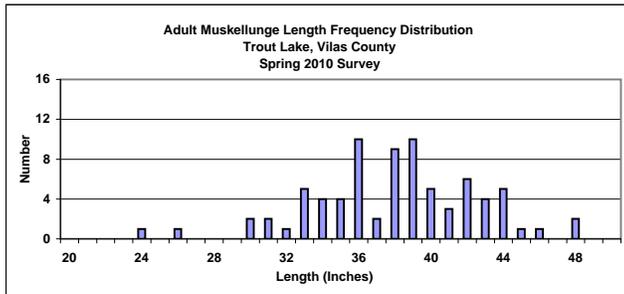


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 78 adult\* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Trout Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2010.

**Muskellunge**

We captured 78 adult\* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Trout Lake. Nearly 85% of the adult muskellunge (66 of 78) we captured were 34 inches long or larger. Approximately 35% of muskellunge (27 of 78) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 48.5-inch female.

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

**Other Species**

We captured 14 species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Trout Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Burbot, golden redhorse, lake whitefish, rock bass, white sucker and yellow perch occurred regularly in our fyke net catches. We also caught bluegill, brook trout, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, lake herring, lake trout and yellow bullhead. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2010.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Trout Lake this year. Creel clerk Dean Johnson will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2010 open-water fishing season.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Trout Lake, Vilas County, 2010**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 1 - March 6	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 1 - June 18 (C&R) June 19 - March 6 (Harvest)	None 1 in total	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 29 - Nov. 30	1	45 inches
Northern Pike	May 1 - March 6	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Trout 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 2011. Spring survey and creel survey summaries will be posted at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html>  
 or contact:

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