



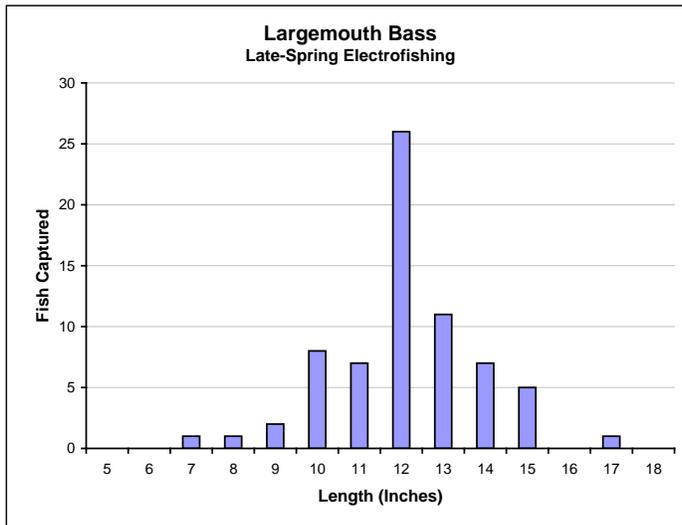
Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Lake Winter, Sawyer County, 2011

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey on Lake Winter during June 2-3, 2011 as part of our baseline monitoring program. A total of three miles of shoreline was sampled (one mile sub-sampled for panfish). Primary target species were largemouth bass and bluegill. We were also interested in evaluating the success of previous walleye stocking efforts. A fyke netting survey conducted by our team in early May documented the status of the northern pike, muskellunge, and adult walleye. Those results are presented in a separate survey summary. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Largemouth Bass



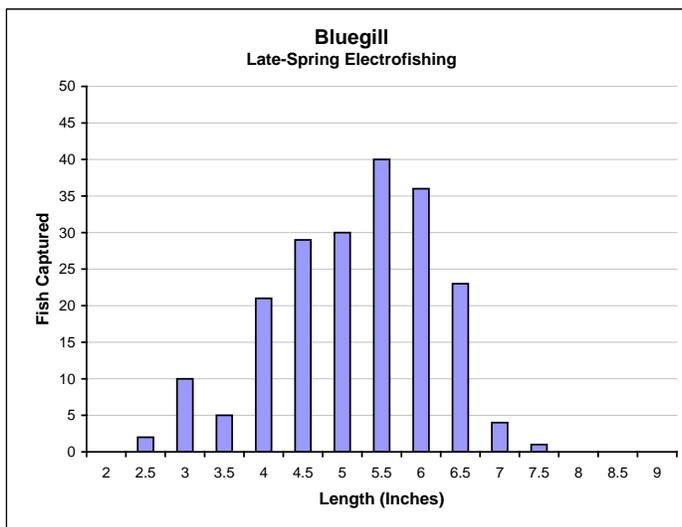
Captured 23 per mile $\geq 8''$	
Quality Size $\geq 12''$	74%
Preferred Size $\geq 15''$	19%



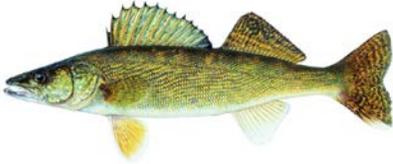
Bluegill



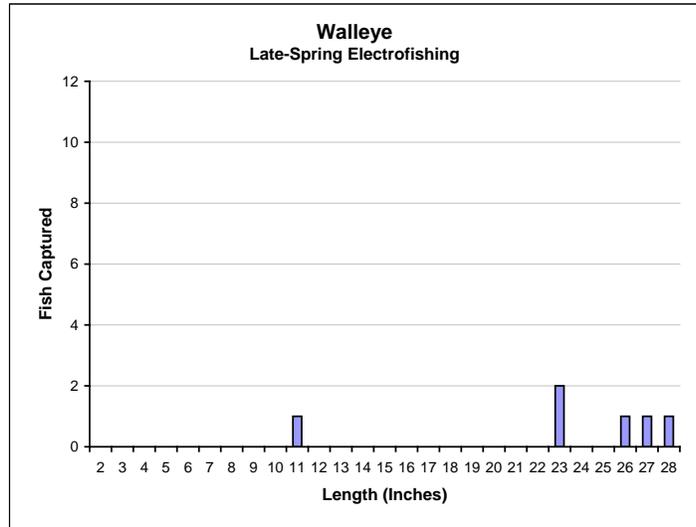
Captured 199 per mile $\geq 3''$	
"Keeper" Size $\geq 7''$	3%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	0%



Walleye



Captured 0 per mile <10 ”



Summary of Results

Water temperatures at the time of this survey were ideal for sampling largemouth bass and bluegill. Low water clarity may have reduced electrofishing sampling efficiency to some degree, but we believe this sample was representative of bass and bluegill populations.

Largemouth bass were captured with moderate frequency (23 per mile). Size structure was fairly good, with a relatively large proportion of preferred-size fish just over 15 inches long. Even moderate numbers of largemouth bass may be capable of limiting the success of walleye stocking in Winter Lake. In this survey and a netting survey done earlier this spring (reported separately), walleyes were captured in very low numbers. Very few small fish were captured, indicating that natural reproduction and recent walleye stockings have been largely unsuccessful. Spawning habitat limitations (not much gravel), escapement (downstream migration) through a bottom-withdrawal spillway, and predation by or competition with largemouth bass are all factors that make this lake relatively unmanageable for walleye. Stocking may provide a low-density “bonus fishery” but there should be no expectation of quality walleye fishing or a walleye-dominated fish community in Lake Winter.

Bluegills were captured with moderate frequency (199 per mile), but size structure was very poor, with few “keeper-size” fish 7 inches and longer. Insufficient control of juvenile bluegills by predators and high exploitation of quality-size bluegills by anglers may be limiting our ability to produce bluegills of preferred size (8 inches and longer) in Lake Winter.

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