



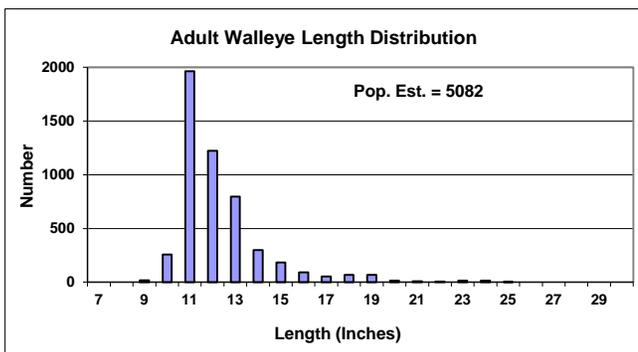
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: CATFISH LAKE (EAGLE CHAIN)

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2013

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Catfish Lake, Vilas County, from May 9 through May 17, 2013, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to assess the lake's walleye and musky fishery. Catfish Lake is a drainage lake with sand/gravel/rock substrate and a naturally reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 978 acres, 11.2 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 30 feet.



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

Walleye



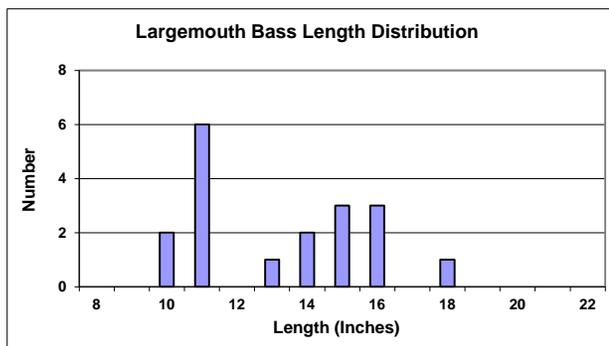
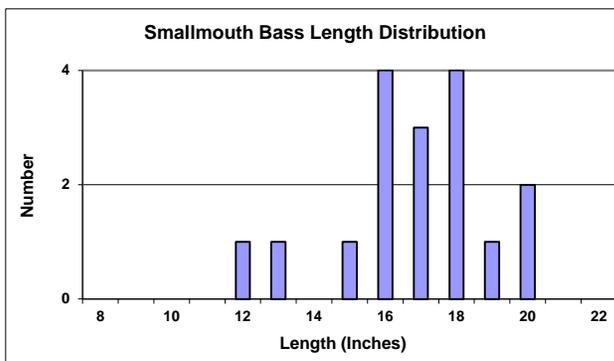
A mark-recapture survey of Catfish Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from May 9-14, 2013. During 6 days of fyke netting, 558 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews sampled Catfish Lake with electro-fishing boats on May 14 and captured 306 adult walleye. During electrofishing 10% (31 of 306) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 25.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Catfish Lake was estimated to contain 5082 adult walleye (5.2 /acre). An estimated 10% (525 of 5082) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



During sampling conducted through May 17, 17 smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 88% (15 of 17) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 20.4-inches long.



Largemouth Bass



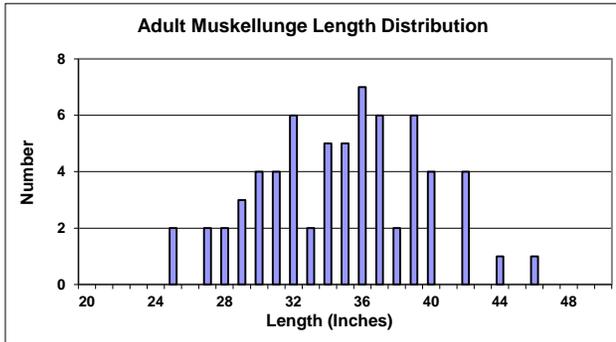
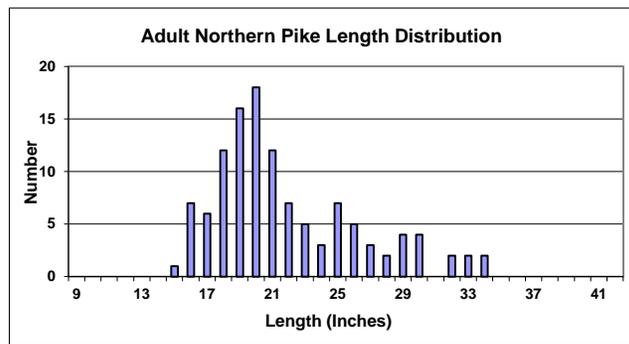
During sampling, 18 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 50% (9 of 18) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 18.3 inches long.

Northern Pike



From May 9 through May 14, 2013, 118 adult northern pike were captured fyke netting and electrofishing in Catfish Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 80% (94 of 118) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 34.8-inch female.

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



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Catfish Lake, 66 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 15% (10 of 66) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 46.7-inch female.

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

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 9 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Catfish Lake. Black crappie, yellow perch and bluegill were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of rockbass, pumpkinseeds, and white suckers. Other species sampled included yellow bullhead, golden shiner, and shorthead redhorse.

A creel survey will be conducted on Catfish Lake throughout the 2013-14 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk John Logan will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Catfish Lake, Vilas County, 2013-14

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 4 - March 2	2	No minimum length, no harvest 14-18" and only 1 over 18"
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 4 - June 14 (C&R) June 15 - March 2 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 25 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 4 - March 2	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Catfish Lake are 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://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations_index.html

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2014. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

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

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