



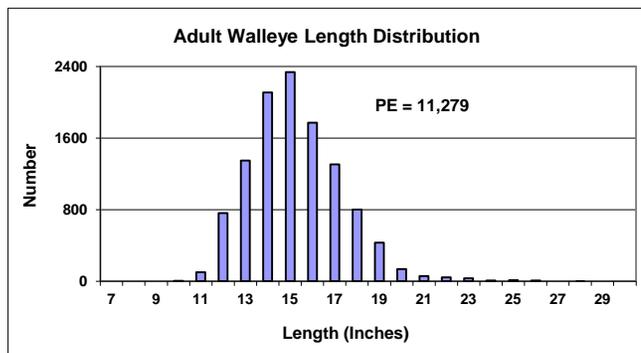
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** RICE RIVER FLOWAGE CHAIN

**COUNTY:** LINCOLN/ONEIDA

**YEAR:** 2012

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed the Rice River Flowage Chain (Rice, Nokomis, and Bridge Lakes), Lincoln and Oneida Counties, from March 22 through April 7, 2012, to determine the health of its fishery. The primary objective of the survey was to estimate adult walleye and muskellunge abundance. The Rice River Flowage Chain is a shallow lowland drainage system with predominately sand substrate and substantial areas of gravel and rubble and a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 3,764 acres, 72.1 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 33 feet.



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



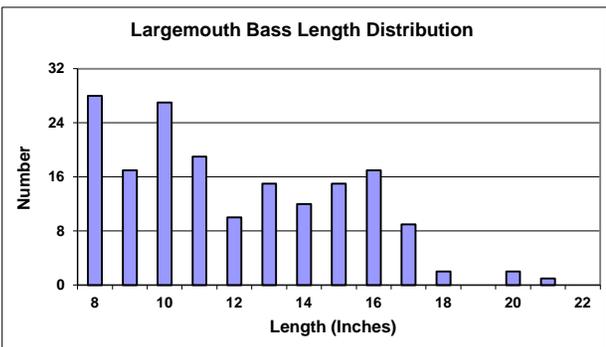
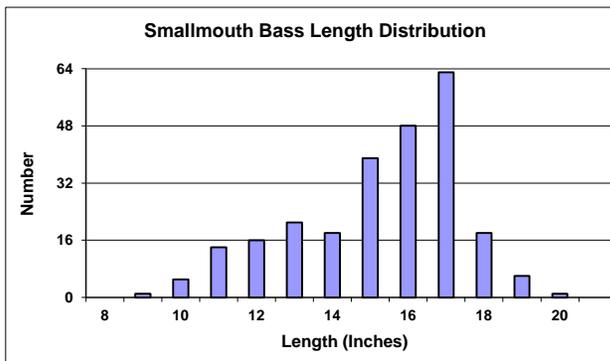
**Walleye**

A mark-recapture survey of the Rice River Flowage Chain's adult walleye population was conducted from March 22 through April 7, 2012. During 16 days of fyke netting 2,598 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Three crews sampled the Rice River Flowage Chain with electro-fishing boats on April 6th and 7th and captured 560 adult walleye. Of those walleye, 22% (125 of 560) bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, the Rice River Flowage Chain was estimated to contain 11,279 adult walleye (3.0/acre). The population was estimated to have 62% (6,944 of 11,270) of adult walleye 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye captured was a 28.2-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**



Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass during the walleye population sampling period to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 7th, 250 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth, 77 percent (193 of 250) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 20.2 inches long.



**Largemouth Bass**



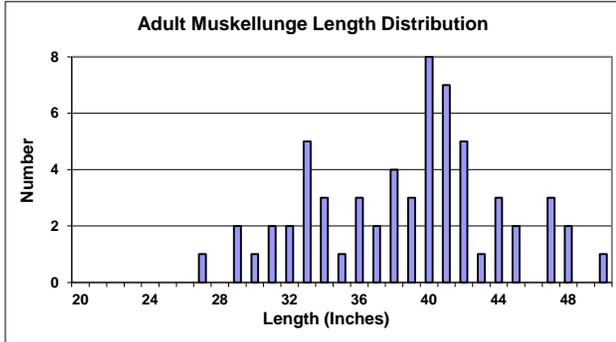
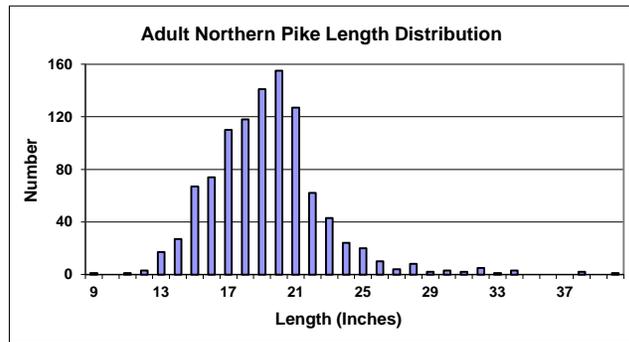
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass during the walleye population sampling period to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through April 7th, 174 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth, 33% (58 of 174) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 21.2 inches long.

## Northern Pike



From March 22 through April 6, 2012, 1,031 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in the Rice River Flowage Chain. Of the adult northern pike captured, 4% (41 of 1,031) were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike captured was a 40.7-inch female.

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



## Muskellunge



A population estimate of muskellunge in the Rice River Flowage Chain is being completed. During the May 2011 marking period, 61 adult muskellunge were captured during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of the Rice River Flowage Chain. Of those muskellunge, 53% (32 of 61) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 50.6-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, 15 species of fish were captured during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of the Rice River Flowage Chain. Black bullhead were the most abundant species in our fyke net catches. Black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass, yellow bullhead and yellow perch were common. Also caught were bowfin, burbot, golden redhorse, golden shiner, northern hog sucker, shorthead redhorse, silver redhorse and white sucker.

A creel survey will be conducted on the Rice River Flowage Chain throughout the 2012-2013 fishing season. Creel clerks Jason Halverson and David Stahmer will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. This information will be used to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for the Rice River Flowage Chain, Lincoln/Oneida Counties, 2012.**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	2	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 5 - June 15 (C&R) June 16 - March 3 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 26 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 5 - March 3	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for the Rice River Flowage Chain 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://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations\\_index.html](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 2013. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/nor/northern.html> or contact:

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