



Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Green Lake (T40N, R8W, S14), Sawyer County, 2013

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey at Green Lake on June 6, 2013 to document the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. The entire shoreline (1.8 miles) was shocked. 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.

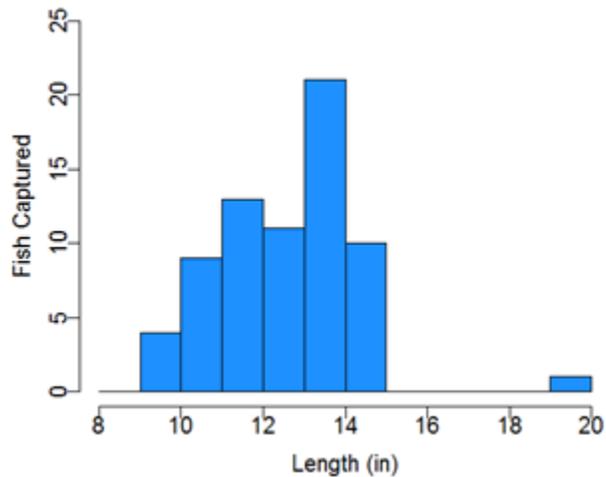
Habitat Characteristics

Green Lake is 50 acres in area and has a maximum depth of only 9 feet. Because it is so shallow, the lake is prone to periodic winterkill events. Stained water limits aquatic plant growth to depths less than 5 feet. The lake has a gravel boat ramp, and the shoreline is completely undeveloped.

Largemouth bass



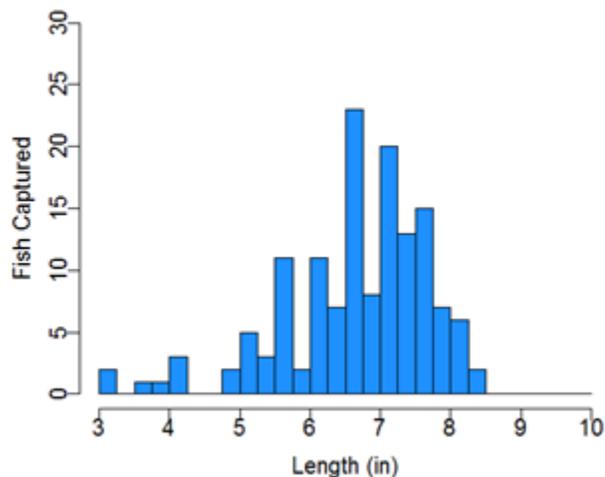
| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Captured 53 per mile \geq 8 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 12" | 62% |
| Preferred Size \geq 15" | 1.4% |



Bluegill



| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Captured 109 per mile \geq 3 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 6" | 79% |
| Preferred Size \geq 8" | 7% |



Summary of Results

The entire shoreline was sampled when water temperature was 62F and all sizes of target species seemed to be onshore in association with spring spawning activities. Our electrofishing gear was very efficient in providing an excellent sample of the fish community.

Largemouth bass are the only predator in the lake, and they were captured at a high rate. However, the proportion of legal-size bass ≥ 14 inches was very low, likely because high competition for food among sub-legal bass slows their growth dramatically. However the abundance of 10-14 inch bass may actually be a preferred state. Bass of this size appear to be a very effective control on bluegill numbers. The overall abundance of bluegill was lower than most other lakes in the area, allowing them to achieve above-average size. There were many bluegills in our sample that would be considered “keepers” by most anglers. Survey crew members noted that the bluegills were in excellent condition (very plump). Continuing to manage Green Lake for preferred-size bluegill by maintaining a dense population of small largemouth bass will likely be desired by harvest-oriented panfish anglers and seems to match the natural capability of the lake.

Data Collected and Analyzed By: Max Wolter, Russ Warwick, and Scott Braden

Special thanks to Paul Christel (Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department).

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