



## Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Lake Loretta (Upper Brunet Flowage) Sawyer County, 2014

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Lake Loretta on May 16 targeting muskellunge, northern pike, black crappie, and yellow perch. Six nets were set for one night totaling 6 net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey was conducted on June 10, 2014 to document the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. The entire shoreline (4 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.

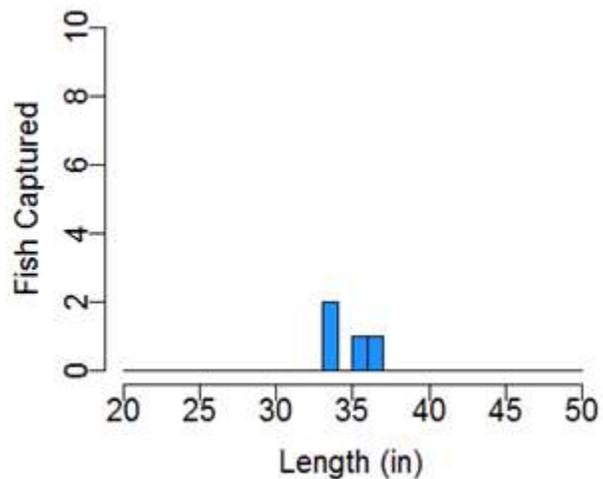
### Description of Habitat and Survey Conditions

Lake Loretta is relatively shallow and has dark stained water. The lake is formed by a dam impounding the Brunet River. Both surveys were well timed for the target species, however, very cold overnight temperatures may have reduced catch rates of the netting survey.

#### Muskellunge



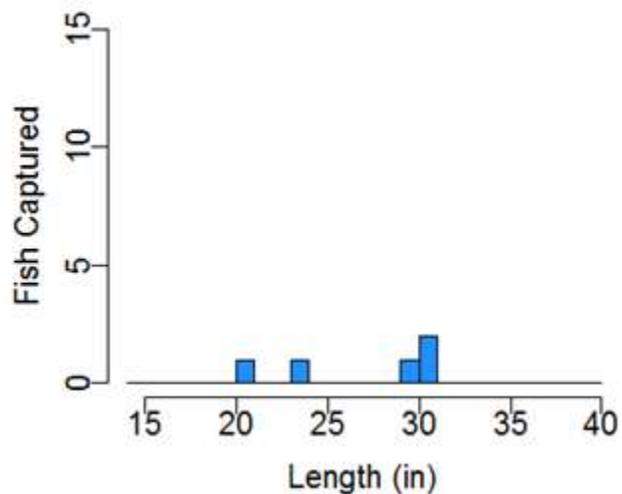
<b>Captured 0.7 per net-night <math>\geq</math> 20 inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 30"</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Memorable Size <math>\geq</math> 42"</b>	<b>0%</b>



#### Northern Pike



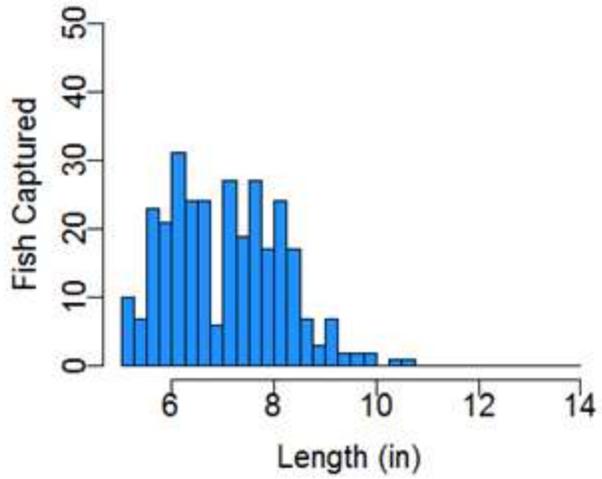
<b>Captured 0.8 per net-night <math>\geq</math> 14 inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq</math> 21"</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq</math> 28"</b>	<b>60%</b>



### Black Crappie



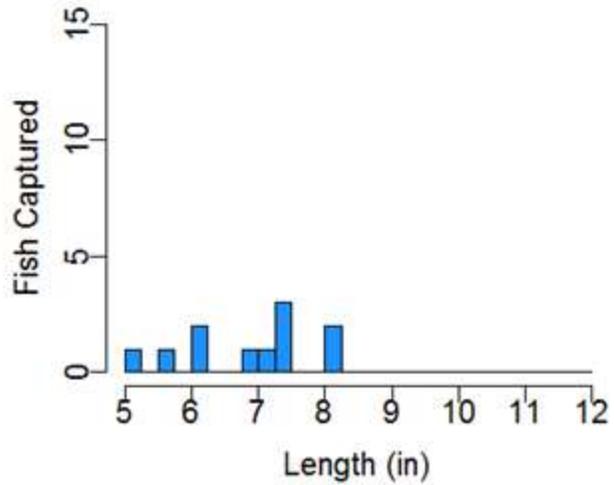
<b>Captured 50 per net-night <math>\geq 5</math> inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq 8</math>"</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq 10</math>"</b>	<b>1%</b>



### Yellow Perch



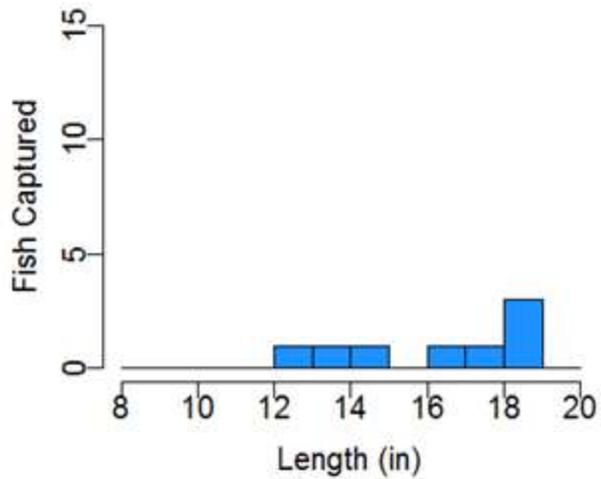
<b>Captured 2 per net-night <math>\geq 5</math> inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq 8</math>"</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq 10</math>"</b>	<b>0%</b>



### Largemouth bass



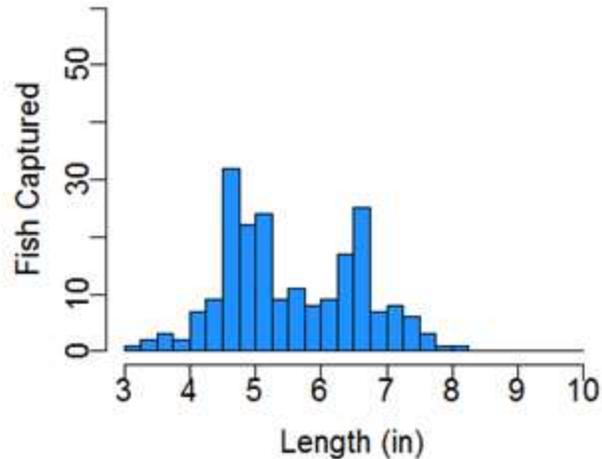
<b>Captured 2 per mile <math>\geq 8</math> inches</b>	
<b>Quality Size <math>\geq 12</math>"</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Preferred Size <math>\geq 15</math>"</b>	<b>63%</b>



## Bluegill



Captured 52 per mile $\geq$ 3 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 6"	37%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 8"	1%



## Summary of Results

The muskellunge population in Lake Loretta seems to be made up of individuals in the 30-40 inch range but 40 inch fish are occasionally reported. This population is sustained through periodic stocking.

Lake Loretta supports a low density northern pike population with good size. We captured several fish around 30 inches in this survey.

Black Crappie were abundant but size was unexceptional. Most fish were less than 8 inches and only a few were over 10 inches. There does not seem to be much predation on young/small crappie that would keep this population thinned out and allow for better size.

Yellow perch were captured at a low rate. While there were not many perch that anglers would be interested in, the small perch here likely serve as prey for pike, muskellunge, and largemouth bass.

The largemouth bass population in Lake Loretta is low density but has excellent size with several fish in this survey over 18 inches. In a dark stained lake like Loretta these bass are probably very old. Bass are not overabundant in this lake which allows them to reach these large sizes. This lake is a good example of where catch and release for bass can create and maintain an exceptional fishery.

Bluegill were not overly abundant but still showed relatively poor size with few fish being over 8 inches. Angler harvest is likely a contributing factor to the size structure observed in this survey.



**Volunteer Mike Cookas with a Loretta Lake musky.**

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Special thanks to volunteer Mike Cookas  
Reviewed and Approved by Steve Avelallemant