



**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: KAWAGUESAGA

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2009

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Lake Kawaguesaga, Oneida County, from April 22 through May 4, 2009, to determine the health of its fishery. The primary objective of the survey was to estimate the abundance of the lake's walleye population. Lake Kawaguesaga is a soft-water drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 670 acres, 11.1 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 44 feet.

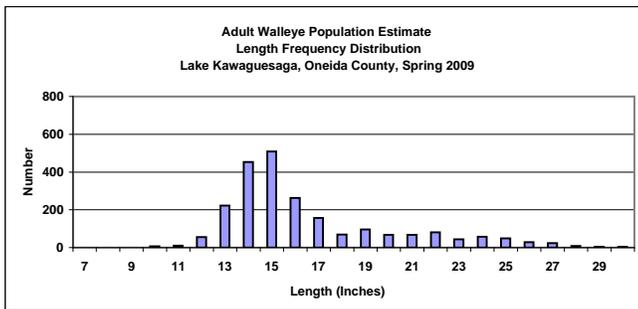


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 2274 adult* walleye estimated to be in Lake Kawaguesaga, Oneida County, based on a spring 2009 survey.

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

Walleye

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Lake Kawaguesaga's adult* walleye population from April 22-27, 2009. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 835 adult walleye in six days of fyke netting. Two crews sampled Lake Kawaguesaga with electro-fishing boats on April 27th and captured 300 adult walleye. Nearly 37% (110 of 300) of those walleye had been marked during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that 2,274 adult walleye (3.4/acre) inhabited Lake Kawaguesaga. Approximately 67% (1,525 of 2,274) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 31.5-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass

Our sampling of Lake Kawaguesaga occurred prior to the peak spawning season for smallmouth bass and was not focused on estimating their abundance. We captured seven smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 17.9 inches long.

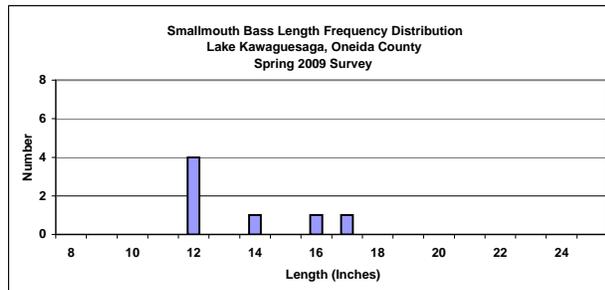


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of seven smallmouth bass \geq 8" captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Kawaguesaga, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

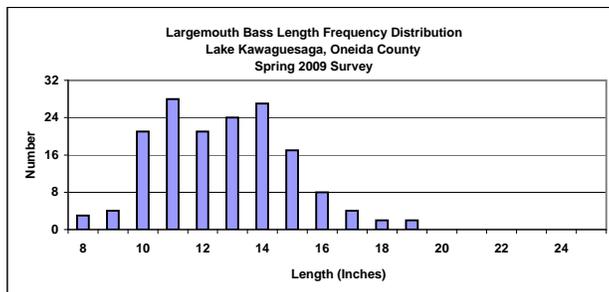


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 161 largemouth bass \geq 8" captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Kawaguesaga, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass were also an incidental catch in our survey of Lake Kawaguesaga. We captured 161 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling. Approximately 37% (60 of 161) of those largemouth were over 14 inches long. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 19.8 inches long.

Northern Pike

We captured 27 adult* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Lake Kawagesaga from April 22-27, 2009. Nearly 41% (11 of 27) of adult northern pike we captured were 26 inches long or larger. The largest northern pike we captured was a 37.7-inch female.

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

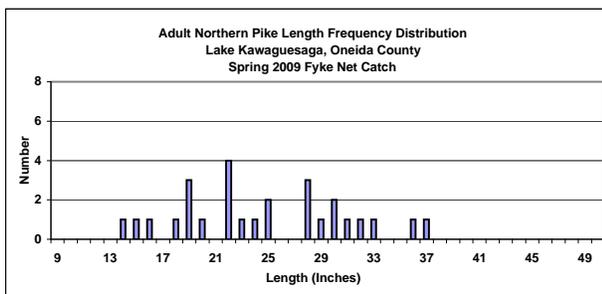


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 27 adult* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Lake Kawagesaga, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

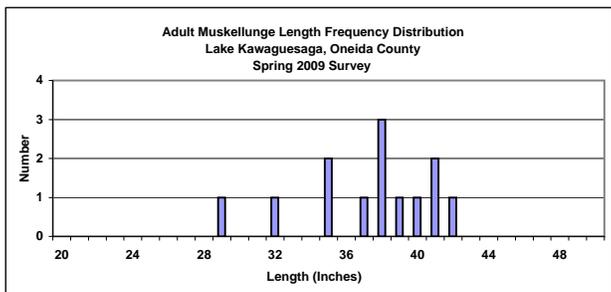


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 13 adult* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Kawagesaga, Oneida County, in spring 2009.

Muskellunge

We captured 13 adult* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Kawagesaga. Eleven of those muskellunge were 34 inches long or larger. Four muskellunge were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 42.7-inch female.

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

Other Species

We captured nine species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Kawagesaga in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Yellow perch were the most abundant species in our samples. Black crappie and bluegill were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught bowfin (dogfish), golden shiner, pumpkinseed, rock bass, white sucker and yellow bullhead. In-water sampling will conclude with a survey of young-of-year walleye in fall 2009.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Lake Kawagesaga this year. Creel clerk Dave Stahmer will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2009 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Lake Kawagesaga, Oneida County, 2009

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 7	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 7 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 23 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 2 - March 7	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Lake Kawagesaga 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://www.dnr.wi.gov/fish/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2010. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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