

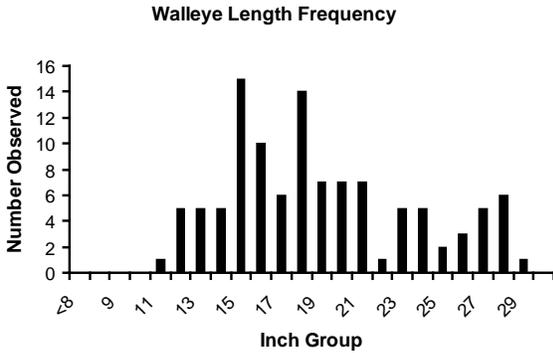
WISCONSIN D.N.R. FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: Patten Lake

COUNTY: FLORENCE

Year: 2011

The Department of Natural Resources has just completed a survey of Patten Lake in Florence County. Patten Lake is 255 acres and has a maximum depth of 52 feet. Below is the current status of the fishery.

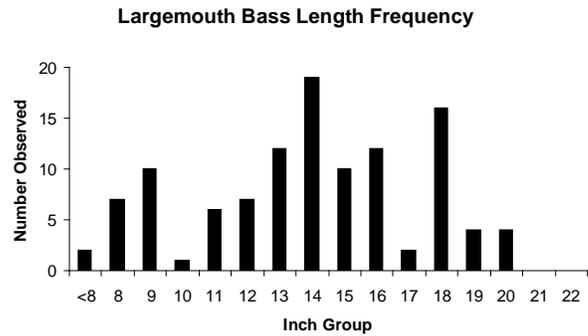


Walleye

Patten Lake has a low density walleye population. We captured 141 different walleye during our fyke netting and electro-fishing surveys. Based on our survey data we estimated the adult walleye population in Patten Lake at 246 fish (0.97/acre). Walleye abundance was quite evenly distributed between 13 and 28 inches in length. The largest walleye captured was 29.9 inches.

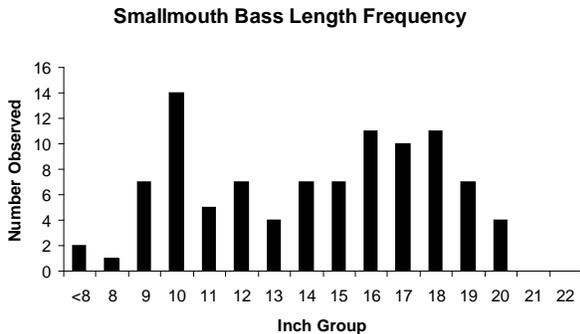
Largemouth Bass

We captured 112 different largemouth bass during our netting and electro-fishing surveys. Based on our survey data we estimated the population of largemouth bass ≥ 8.0 inches to be 288 fish (1.13/acre). The majority of the largemouth bass were between 11 and 18 inches in length. The largest largemouth bass captured during our survey was 20.8 inches.



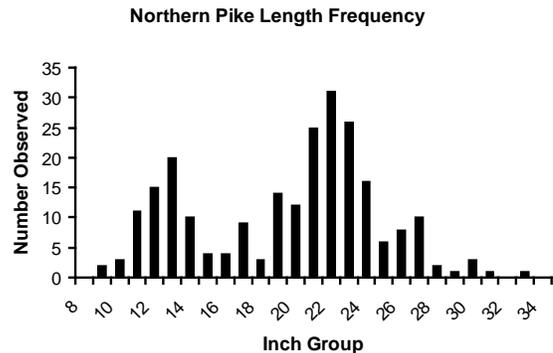
Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass were slightly less abundant than largemouth bass in Patten Lake. We captured a total of 97 smallmouth bass during our surveys and estimated the population ≥ 8.0 inches to be 230 fish (0.9/acre). Like the walleye population, smallmouth bass were quite evenly distributed between 9 and 20 inches in length. The largest smallmouth bass sampled was 20.9 inches.



Northern Pike

Northern Pike are the most abundant game fish in Patten Lake with an estimated population of 1,665 fish (6.53/acre) ≥ 12.0 inches. During 2011 we sampled 237 different northern pike in Patten Lake ranging from 9.0 to 33.7 inches in length. Northern Pike in Patten Lake show a good size structure with the majority of the fish between 20 and 28 inches.



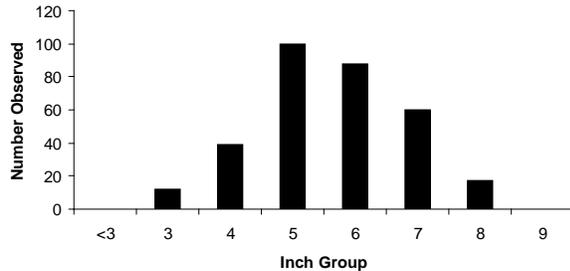
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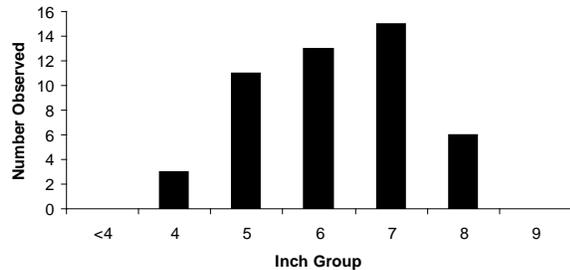
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Bluegill Length Frequency



Rock Bass Length Frequency



Bullhead Removal

This year we began a bullhead removal project in an effort to increase the walleye population in Patten Lake. It is thought that adult bullheads are having significant affects on the walleye population by direct predation on young-of-the-year walleye. We removed 5,999 adult black bullheads from Patten Lake via fyke nets during spring and summer removal periods. Members of the Lake Association were permitted through the WDNR to remove young-of-the-year bullheads with nets when the young fish gather near shore after hatching. Plans are being made to remove more bullheads in 2012. By removing bullheads we should be able to reallocate the biomass taken up by black bullheads to other, more desirable, game and pan fish species in Patten Lake.

Pan fish

Pan fish were sampled using fyke nets over a six day period in mid June. We captured 4,384 bluegills (50.98/net-lift) during our survey making them the most abundant pan fish species in Patten Lake. Size structure of bluegills was good with approximately 52% of bluegills being over 6 inches in length.

Rock bass and pumpkinseed are the 2nd and 3rd most abundant pan fish species. During our pan fish survey we captured 216 rock bass and 181 pumpkinseeds. Rock bass size structure was pretty good with approximately 44% over 7 inches. Pumpkinseed size structure was quite poor with only 15% of fish sampled being over 6 inches in length.

Other pan fish species captured were yellow perch, black crappie and bluegill x pumpkinseed hybrid. Of these three species yellow perch are the most abundant. However, with only about 6% being over 8 inches yellow perch exhibit poor size structure. Black Crappie are fairly rare in Patten Lake, however this small population does show a good size structure with approximately 95% being over 8 inches and 36% over 12 inches.

Black Bullhead Length Frequency

