

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
CREEL SURVEY REPORT**

**LONG LAKE  
(Three Lakes Chain)**

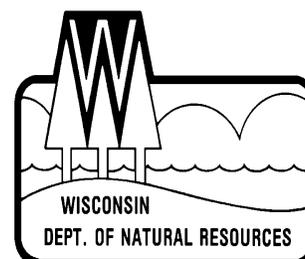
**ONEIDA COUNTY**

**2014-15**



**Treaty Fisheries Publication**

**Compiled by Jason Halverson &  
Jeff Blonski  
Treaty Fisheries Technicians**



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
GENERAL LAKE INFORMATION.....	2
Location .....	2
Physical Characteristics .....	2
Seasons Surveyed.....	2
Weather .....	2
Fishing Regulations .....	2
SPECIES CATCH AND HARVEST INFORMATION.....	2
CREEL SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	3
Survey Logistics.....	3
General Angler Information.....	3
SPECIES INFORMATION .....	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	4

## SUMMARY TABLES

Table 1. Sportfishing effort summary.....	5
Table 2. Creel survey synopsis.....	6
SPECIES CATCH AND HARVEST INFORMATION	
Gamefish	
Figure 1. Walleye.....	7
Figure 2. Northern Pike.....	8
Figure 3. Muskellunge .....	9
Figure 4. Smallmouth Bass .....	10
Figure 5. Largemouth Bass .....	11
Panfish	
Figure 6. Yellow Perch .....	12
Figure 7. Bluegill .....	13
Figure 8. Pumpkinseed.....	14
Figure 9. Rock Bass .....	15
Figure 10. Black Crappie .....	16

**Cover Art:** Steve Hilt, Minocqua, WI

**Fish Graphics:** Virgil Beck, Stevens Point, WI

## INTRODUCTION

Fish populations can fluctuate due to natural forces (weather, predation, competition), management actions (stocking, regulations, habitat improvement), inappropriate development (habitat degradation), and harvest impacts. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries crews regularly conduct fishery surveys on area lakes and reservoirs to gather the information needed to monitor changes, identify concerns, evaluate past management actions, and to prescribe fishery management strategies. Netting and electrofishing surveys are used to gather data on the status of fish populations and communities (species composition, population size, reproductive success, size/age distribution, and growth rates). The other key component of the fishery that we often need to measure is the harvest.

On many lakes in the Ceded Territory of northern Wisconsin, harvest of fish is divided between sport anglers and the six Chippewa tribes who harvest fish under rights granted by federal treaties. The tribes harvest fish mostly using a highly efficient method, spearing, during a relatively short time period in the spring. Every fish in the spear harvest is counted – a complete “census” of the harvest.

We measure the sport harvest to assess its impact on the fishery. However, it would be highly impractical and very costly to conduct a complete census of every angler who fishes on a lake. Therefore, we conduct creel surveys.

A creel survey is an assessment tool used to sample the fishing activities of anglers on a body of water and make projections of harvest and other fishery parameters. Creel survey clerks work on randomly-selected days and shifts, forty hours per week during the open season for gamefish from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in

March. Creel surveys are not conducted in November when fishing effort is low and ice conditions are often unsafe. The survey is run during daylight hours, and shift times change from month to month as day length changes.

Creel survey clerks travel their lakes using a boat or snowmobile to count the number of anglers at predetermined times, and to interview anglers who have completed their fishing trip. Data is collected on what species they fished for, catch, harvest, lengths of fish harvested, marks (fin clips or tags), and hours of fishing effort. Collecting completed-trip data provides the most accurate assessment of angling activities, and it avoids the need to disturb anglers while they are fishing.

A computer program is used to make projections of total catch and harvest of each species, catch and harvest rates, and total fishing effort by month, and for the year in total. Keep in mind that these are only projections based on the best information available, and not a complete accounting of effort, catch, and harvest. Accurate projections require that we sample a sufficient and representative portion of the angling activity on a lake. The accuracy of creel survey results, therefore, depends on good cooperation and truthful responses by anglers when a creel clerk interviews them.

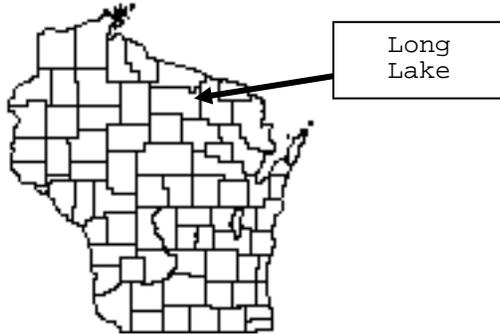
You may have encountered a DNR creel survey clerk on a recent fishing trip. We appreciate your cooperation during an interview. The survey only takes a moment of your time and it gives the Department valuable information needed for management of the fishery.

This report provides projections of:

1. Overall fishing effort (pressure)
2. Fishing effort directed at each species
3. Catch and harvest rates
4. Numbers of fish caught and harvested

Also included are a physical description of Long Lake; discussion of results of the survey; and detailed summaries, by species, of fishing effort, catch and harvest.

## GENERAL LAKE INFORMATION



### Location

Long Lake is part of the Three Lakes Chain, located in Oneida County near the Town of Three Lakes.

### Physical Characteristics

Long Lake is the farthest lake north on the chain with an acreage of 604 (10% of the chain's acreage) and a maximum depth of 31 feet. Littoral substrates consist primarily of sand, with lesser amounts of muck and gravel. Long Lake is a soft water lake with slightly acidic, stained water.

### Seasons Surveyed

The period referred to in this report as the 2014-15 fishing season, ran from May 3, 2014 through March 1, 2015. The open water creel survey ran from May 3 through October 31, 2014, and the ice fishing creel survey ran from December 1, 2014 through March 1, 2015.

### Weather

Ice-out on Long Lake was around May 5, 2014. Fishable ice formed on Long Lake in Late November.

## Fishing Regulations

The following seasons, daily bag limits, and length limits were in place on Long Lake during the 2014-15 fishing season:

Species	Season	Bag Limit	Min. Size
Largemouth Bass	5/3-3/1	5	14"
Smallmouth Bass	5/3-6/20	Catch & Release	
	6/21-3/1	5	14"
Musky	5/24-11/30	1	40"
Northern Pike	5/3-3/1	5	none
Walleye	5/3-3/1	3*	
No Minimum, 1 > 14"			
Panfish	year round	25	none
Rock Bass	year round	none	none

\* Due to tribal declarations and harvest, walleye bag limits were initially set at 2 on Long Lake and then revised to 3 on May 23rd.

## SPECIES CATCH AND HARVEST INFORMATION

Angling effort, catch, and harvest information is summarized for each species in Table 2 and Figures 1-10. Table 2 also includes a comparison of these statistics with the previous creel survey. Information presented about species whose fishing season extended beyond March 1 should be considered as minimum estimates. Each species page has up to five graphs depicting the following:

- PROJECTED FISHING EFFORT**  
Total calculated number of hours during each month that anglers spent fishing for a species.
- PROJECTED SPECIFIC CATCH AND HARVEST RATES**  
Calculated number of hours it takes an angler to catch or harvest a fish of the indicated species. Only information from anglers who were specifically targeting that species is reported.
- PROJECTED CATCH AND HARVEST**  
Calculated number of fish of the indicated species caught or harvested by all anglers, regardless of targeted

- species.
4. **LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH**  
All fish of a species that were measured by the clerk during the entire creel survey season.
  5. **LARGEST AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH**  
Monthly largest, and average length of, harvested fish of a species. Only those fish measured by the creel survey clerk are reported.

## **CREEL SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Survey Logistics**

The creel survey went well. We encountered no unusual problems conducting the survey or calculating the projections contained in the report. This was the second time the department has conducted a creel survey on Long Lake. The last creel survey took place during the 1994-95 fishing season.

### **General Angler Information**

Anglers spent 11,178 hours, or 18.5 hours per acre, fishing Long Lake during the 2014-15 season (Table 1). That was less than the Oneida County average of 33.7 hours per acre as well as the 1994-95 creel survey which estimated 27.8 hours per acre of fishing effort on Long Lake. August was the most heavily fished month (4.7 hours per acre). Fishing effort was lightest in February (0.5 hours per acre) for those months when the entire month was creeled. The creel clerks were able to conduct 253 interviews throughout the survey.

## **RESULTS BY SPECIES**

### **Walleye** (Table 2, Figure 1)

Walleyes received the second most fishing effort during the 2014-15 season. Anglers spent 4,062 hours targeting walleyes. The greatest fishing effort for walleyes was in May (973 hours). January had the least amount of walleye fishing effort (17 hours) for those months when the entire month was creeled.

Total catch of walleyes was 3,192 fish with a harvest of 711 fish. Highest catch (1,082 fish) and harvest (186 fish) occurred in May. Anglers fished 1.3 hours to catch and 6.0 hours to harvest a walleye during the 2014-15 season. The mean length of harvested walleyes was 12.6 inches and the largest walleye measured was a 20.6-inch fish.

### **Northern Pike** (Table 2, Figure 2)

Fishing effort directed at northern pike was 719 hours during the 2014-15 season. Northern pike fishing effort was greatest in June (370 hours). Total catch of northern pike was 684 fish with a harvest of 66 fish. The mean length of harvested northern pike was 22.2 inches and the largest northern pike measured was a 24.0-inch fish.

### **Muskellunge** (Table 2, Figure 3)

Anglers spent 3,649 hours targeting muskellunge during the 2014-15 season. Muskellunge fishing effort was greatest in August (1,253 hours). Total catch of muskellunge was 144 fish, and the highest catch (58 fish) occurred in July. Anglers fished 29.1 hours to catch a muskellunge, and there was no documented harvest during the 2014-15 season.

### **Smallmouth Bass** (Table 2, Figure 4)

Fishing effort targeted at smallmouth bass was 837 hours during the 2014-15 season. Smallmouth bass fishing effort was greatest in August (584 hours). Total catch

of smallmouth bass was 267 fish with 14 fish harvested. Highest catch (150 fish) occurred in August. Anglers fished 6.6 hours to catch a smallmouth bass during the 2014-15 season.

#### **Largemouth Bass** (Table 2, Figure 5)

Fishing effort directed at largemouth bass was 931 hours during the 2014-15 season. Largemouth bass fishing effort was greatest in August (532 hours). Total catch of largemouth bass was 24 fish with no documented harvest.

#### **Panfish** (Table 2, Figures 6-10)

**Black crappies** were the most sought after fish species during the survey. Fishing effort directed at black crappies was 4,292 hours. Anglers caught 4,117 black crappies and harvested 2,415 fish. The mean length of black crappies harvested was 9.5 inches.

**Yellow perch** were the second most sought after panfish species during the survey. Fishing effort directed at yellow perch was 2,694 hours. Total catch of yellow perch was 1,783 fish with 369 harvested. The mean length of yellow perch harvested was 8.6 inches.

**Bluegills** were the third most sought after panfish species during the survey. Fishing effort directed at bluegills was 2,024 hours. Total catch of bluegills was 3,344 fish with 706 harvested. The mean length of bluegills harvested was 7.5 inches.

**Pumpkinseeds** were also caught (227 fish) and harvested (8 fish) during the 2014-15 season.

**Rock bass** were also caught (1,221 fish) and harvested (73 fish) during the 2014-15 season.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Completion of this survey was possible because of the efforts of the following Fisheries Management and Treaty Fisheries staff: Lawrence Eslinger, Jeff Blonski, Joelle Underwood, Jason Halverson, John Kubisiak, Steve Timler, Jonathan Pyatskowitz, and Dennis Scholl. John Logan, Andrew Disch, Shae Flood, Rich Cechal, John Davis, Bob Consolo, Ben Hines, David Gunderson, and Marty Kiepke were the creel clerks on the Three Lakes Chain during the survey period.

We also thank all the anglers who took the time to offer information about their fishing trip to the survey clerks. Without their cooperation the survey would not have been possible.

The Department thanks our cooperators, the (Ruth Ann) Davis Family, John Schmidt, Watercraft Sales, the Levendoski Family, Paul, Peggy, Bill, and Karen of Anchor Marina and Sunset Grill, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cottingham, Justin and Ginger Millis of Pine Isle Sports Bar and Grill, Russell and Cindy Habeck, and Lee and Gail Sucharda, all of whom generously allowed the Department to keep a boat and/or snowmobile on their property during this survey.

This creel report was reviewed by Lawrence Eslinger and John Kubisiak of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Additional copies of this report, and those covering other local lakes, can be obtained from the Woodruff DNR or online at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtycrslrvys.html>

**Table 1. Sportfishing effort summary, Three Lakes Chain (Long Lake), 2014-15 season.**

Month	Number of Angler Party Interviews	Total Angler Hours	Total Angler Hours/Acre	1994-95 Total Angler Hours/Acre	Oneida County Average Hours/Acre	Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre
May	37	1334	2.2	5.6	4.8	5.0
June	24	1487	2.5	3.7	6.4	6.4
July	29	1975	3.3	6.7	7.3	6.8
August	59	2838	4.7	4.9	5.7	5.5
September	17	1047	1.7	4.3	3.4	3.3
October	26	1199	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.5
December	28	472	0.8	0.2	1.2	1.1
January	23	513	0.8	0.2	1.5	1.6
February	10	302	0.5	0.1	1.5	1.6
March	0	12	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
*Summer Total	192	9880	16.4	27.3	29.2	28.5
*Winter Total	61	1298	2.1	0.5	4.5	4.5
Grand Total	253	11178	18.5	27.8	33.7	33.0

\*"Summer" is May-October; "Winter" is December-March

**Number of Angler Party Interviews** is the number of groups of anglers interviewed by the creel clerk. A party is considered the members of a group who fish together in the same boat, ice shanty, or from shore. The clerk fills out one interview form for each group of anglers. The number of individual anglers actually contacted by the clerk is usually much greater than the number of groups listed in this table since most groups consist of more than one angler.

**Total Angler Hours** is the estimated total number of hours that anglers spent fishing on Long Lake during each month surveyed.

**Total Angler Hours/Acre** is the total angler hours divided by the area of the lake in acres. This is useful in order to compare effort on Long Lake to other lakes.

**1994-95 Total Angler Hours/Acre** is the total angler hours divided by the area of the lake in acres. This is from the previous creel survey that took place on Long Lake.

**County Average Hours/Acre** is the average angler effort in hours per acre for county lakes that have been surveyed since 1990. This value is useful for fishing pressure comparisons with other waters.

**Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre** is the average angler effort in hours per acre for inland lakes in the ceded territory that have been surveyed since 1990. This value can be used to compare Long Lake to other lakes in northern Wisconsin.

**Table 2. Comparison of creel survey synopses, Long Lake, 2014-15 and 1994-95 fishing seasons.**

CREEL YEAR: 2014-15

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DIRECTED EFFORT (Hours)</b>	<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>	<b>SPECIFIC CATCH RATE (Hrs/Fish) *</b>	<b>TOTAL HARVEST</b>	<b>SPECIFIC HARVEST RATE (Hrs/Fish) **</b>	<b>MEAN LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH</b>
Walleye	4062	20.69%	3192	1.3	711	6.0	12.6
Northern Pike	719	3.66%	684	3.9	66	25.1	22.2
Muskellunge	3649	18.59%	144	29.1	0		
Smallmouth Bass	837	4.26%	267	6.6	14	60.6	14.8
Largemouth Bass	931	4.74%	24	94.3	0		
Yellow Perch	2694	13.72%	1783	2.3	369	8.9	8.6
Bluegill	2024	10.31%	3344	0.6	706	2.9	7.5
Pumpkinseed	244	1.24%	227	2.1	8	31.2	
Rock Bass	181	0.92%	1221	0.8	73	3.3	7.9
Black Crappie	4292	21.86%	4117	1.1	2415	1.8	9.5

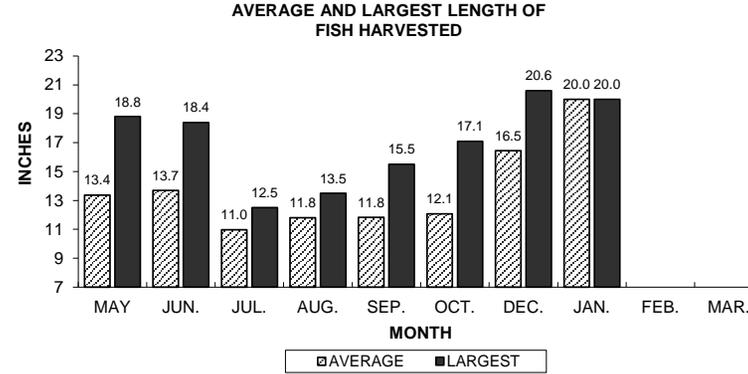
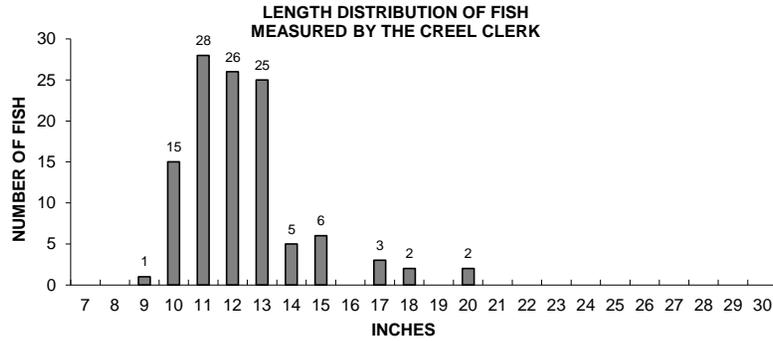
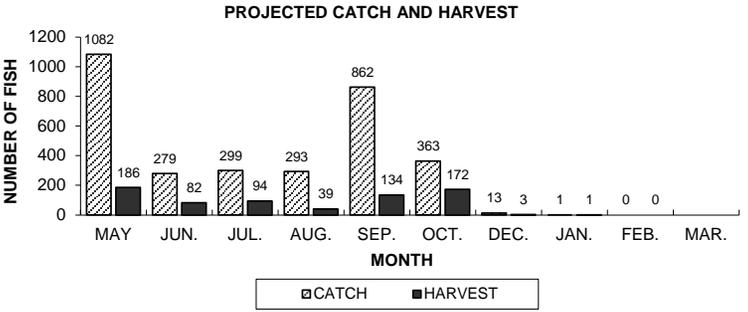
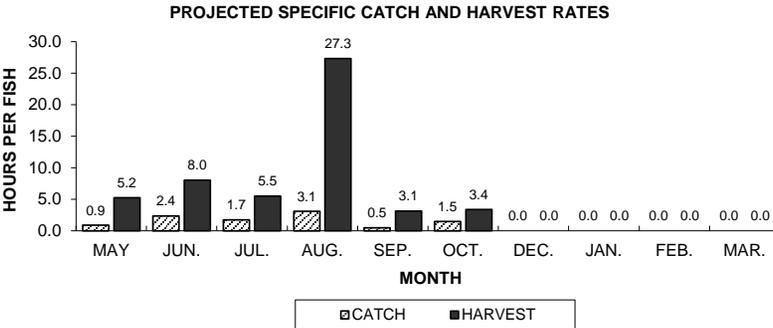
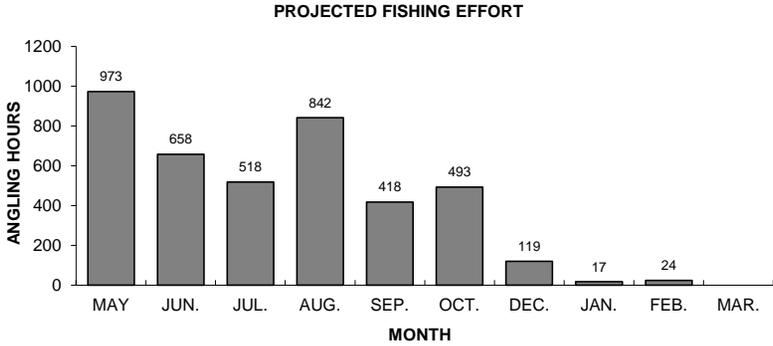
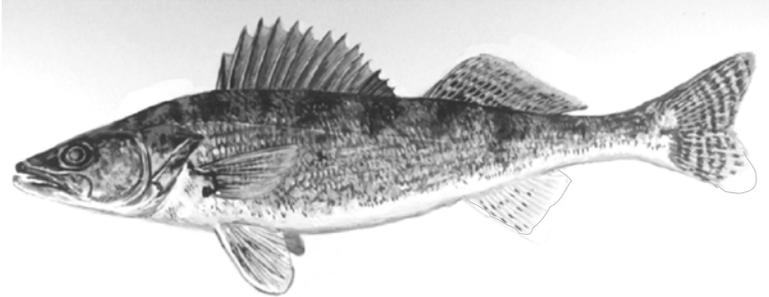
9 \* A blank cell in this column indicates that no fish of a given species were caught by anglers who specifically targeted that species.

\*\* A blank cell in this column indicates that no fish of a given species were harvested by anglers who specifically targeted that species.

CREEL YEAR: 1994-95

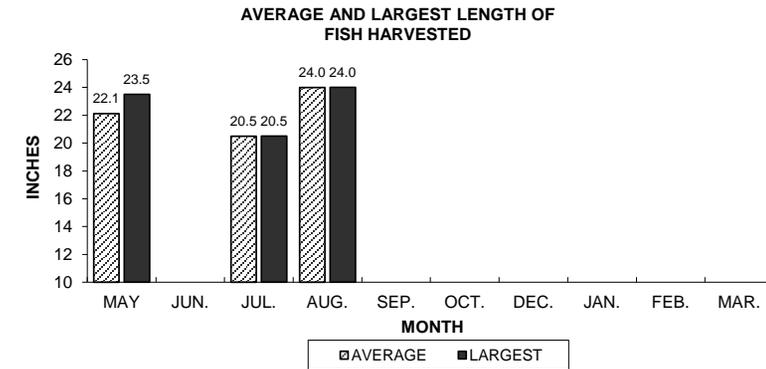
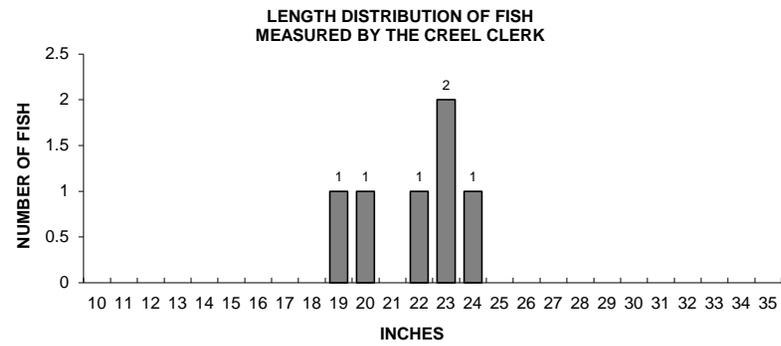
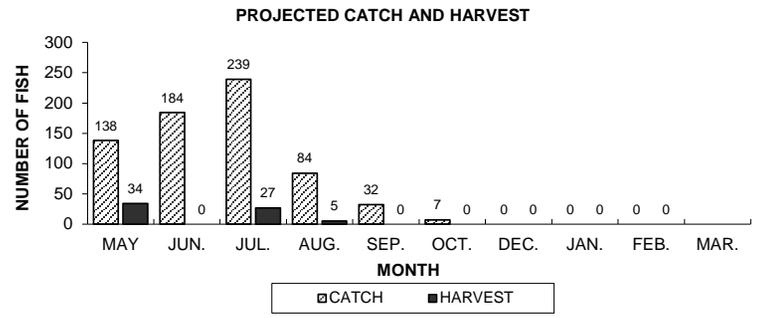
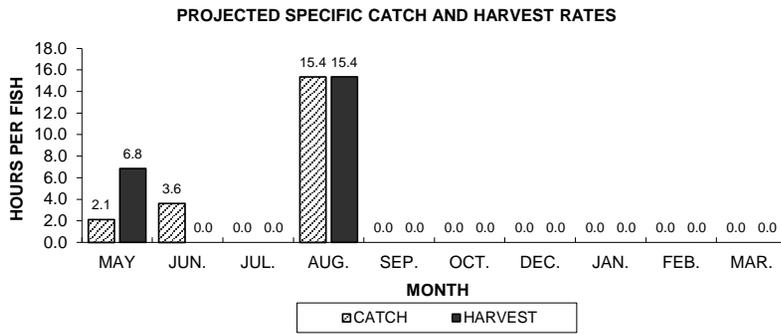
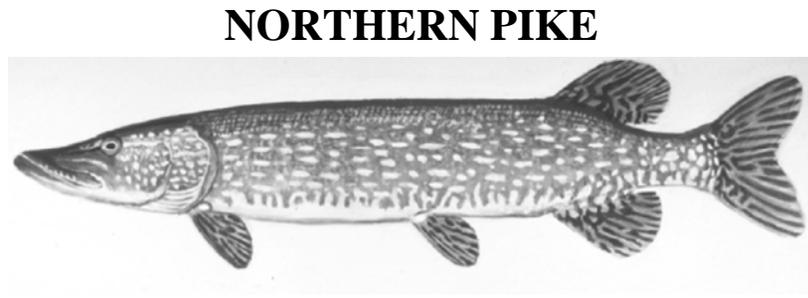
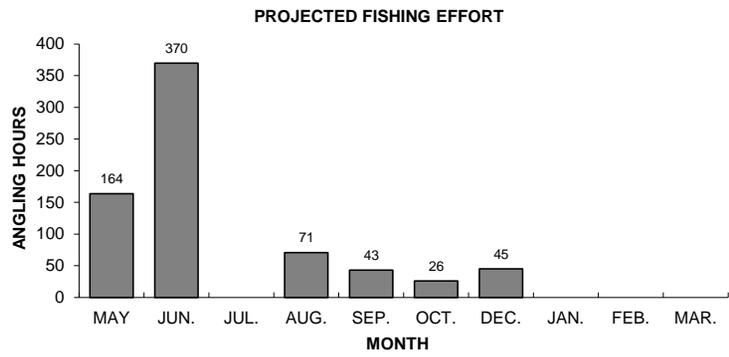
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DIRECTED EFFORT (Hours)</b>	<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>	<b>SPECIFIC CATCH RATE (Hrs/Fish)</b>	<b>TOTAL HARVEST</b>	<b>SPECIFIC HARVEST RATE (Hrs/Fish)</b>	<b>MEAN LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH</b>
Walleye	5247	21.83%	1217	4.5	468	11.8	12.1
Northern Pike	1184	4.92%	555	11.7	70	51.5	22.2
Muskellunge	7702	32.04%	558	15.2	12	625.0	33.6
Smallmouth Bass	569	2.37%	114	10.2	13	0.0	15.7
Largemouth Bass	133	0.55%	40	5.1	0		
Yellow Perch	3391	14.11%	5639	1.0	776	7.1	7.5
Bluegill	2688	11.18%	1058	3.0	321	10.0	6.7
Pumpkinseed	328	1.36%	266	1.3	12	28.5	6.4
Rock Bass	414	1.72%	1278	1.8	199	10.5	7.2
Black Crappie	2385	9.92%	606	4.1	516	4.8	10.1

# WALLEYE



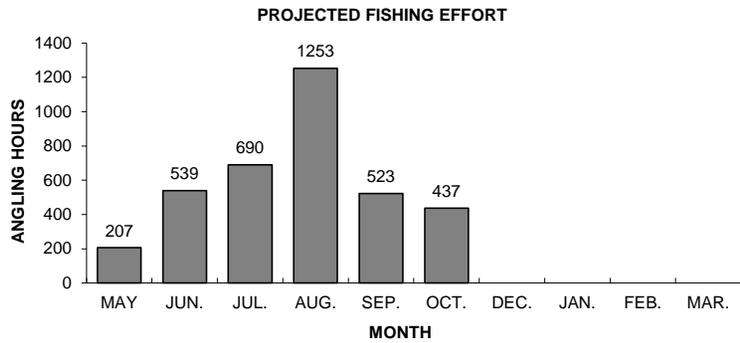
7

Figure 1. Walleye sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

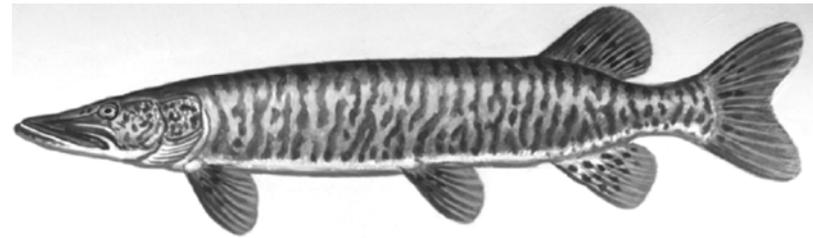


8

Figure 2. Northern pike sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.



# MUSKELLUNGE



6

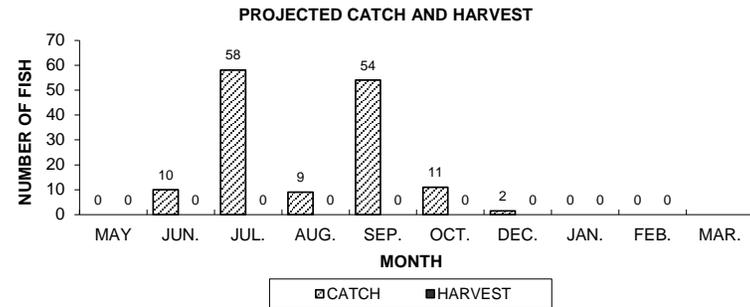
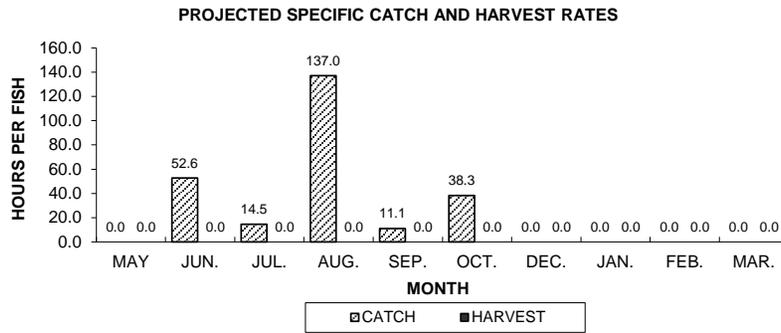


Figure 3. Muskellunge sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# SMALLMOUTH BASS

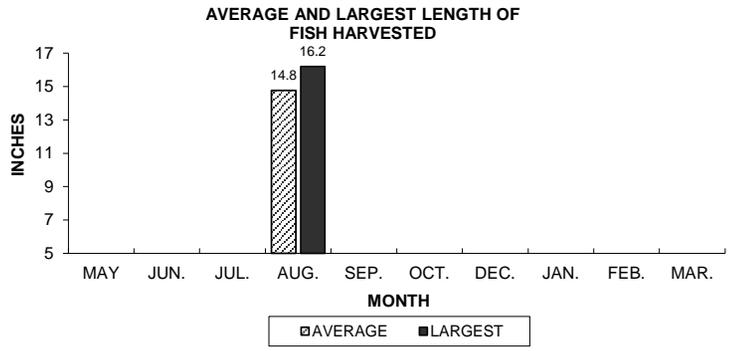
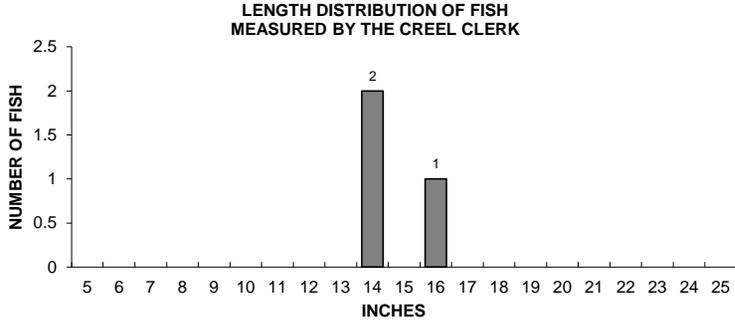
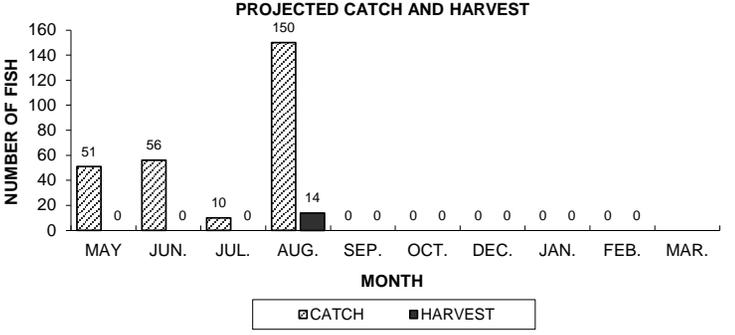
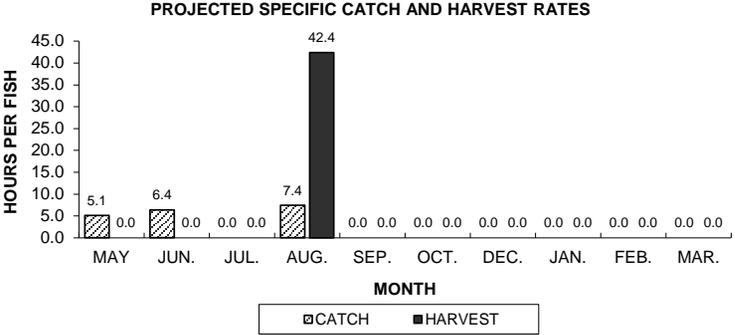
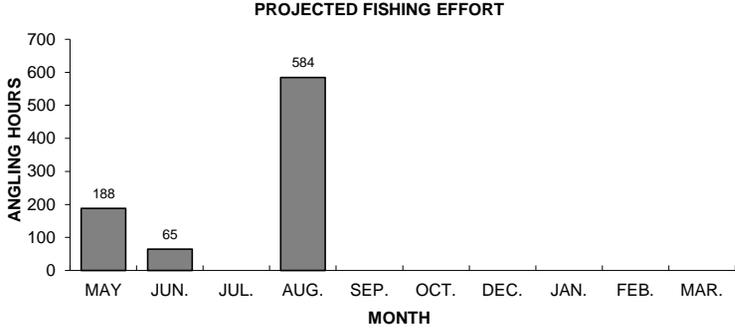
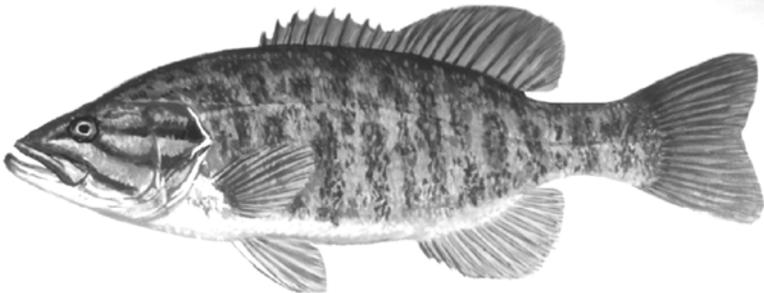
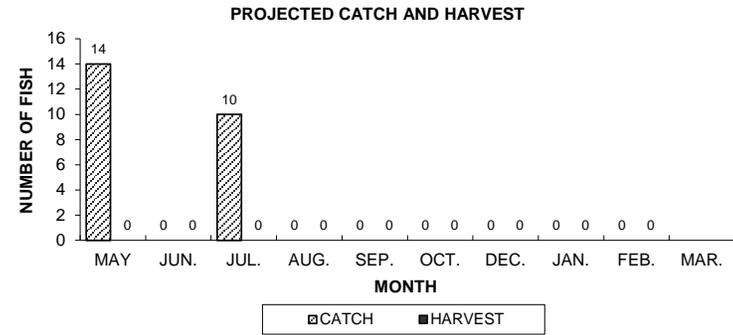
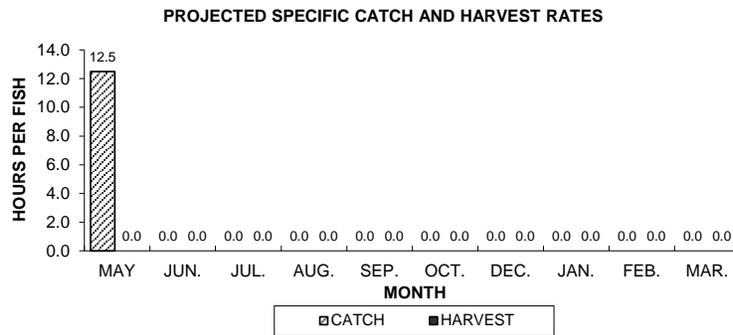
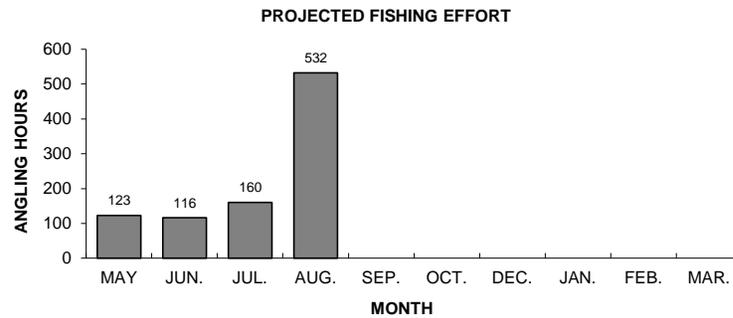
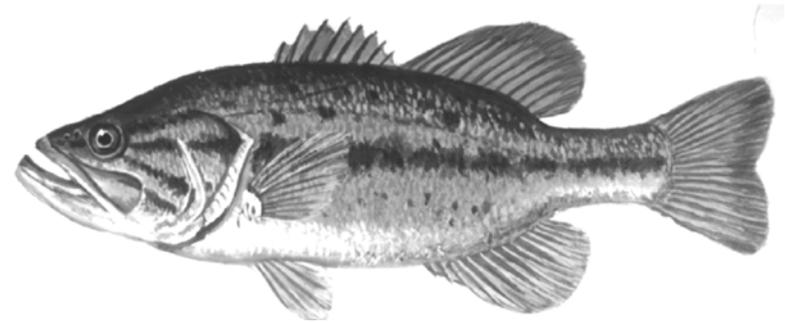


Figure 4. Smallmouth bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# LARGEMOUTH BASS



11

Figure 5. Largemouth bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# YELLOW PERCH

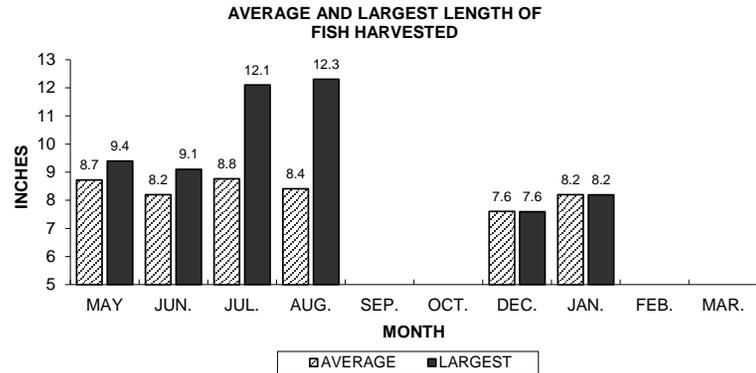
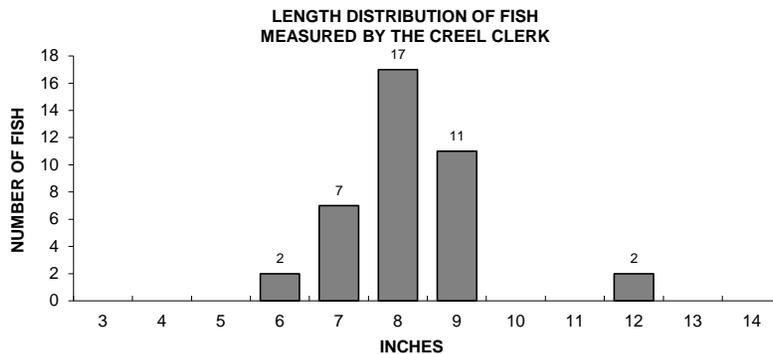
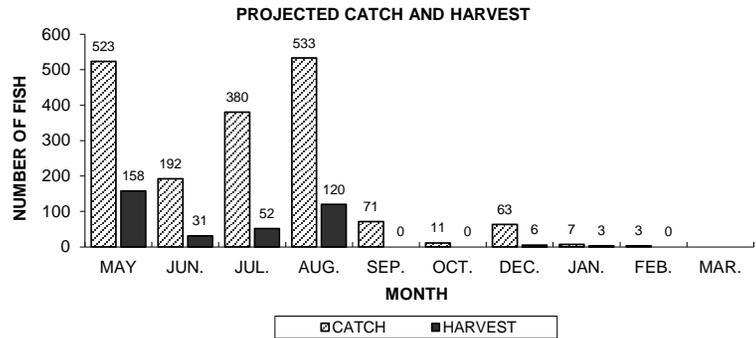
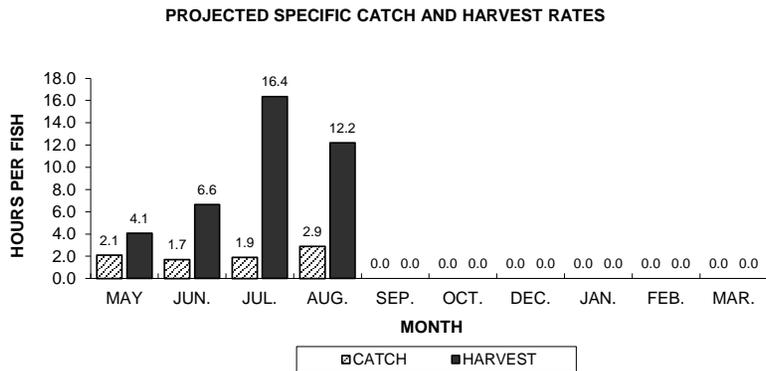
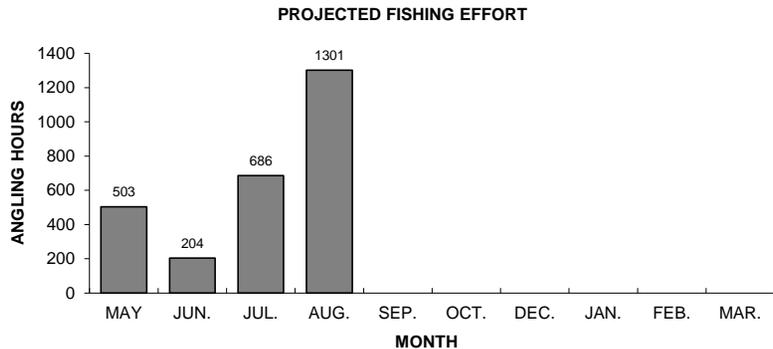


Figure 6. Yellow perch sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# BLUEGILL

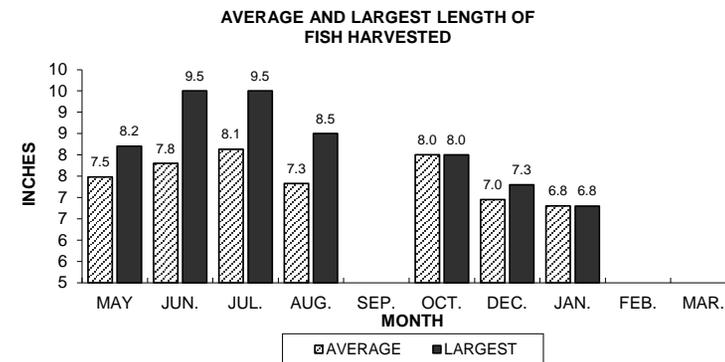
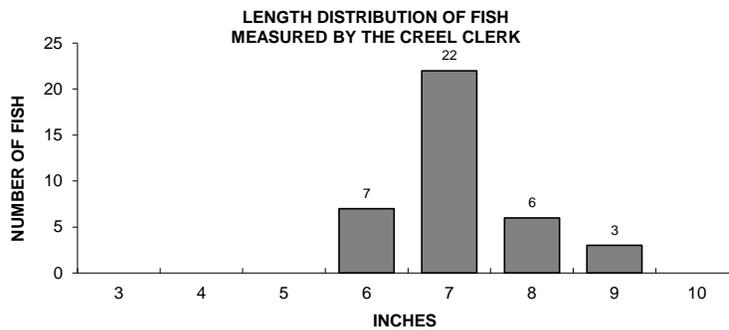
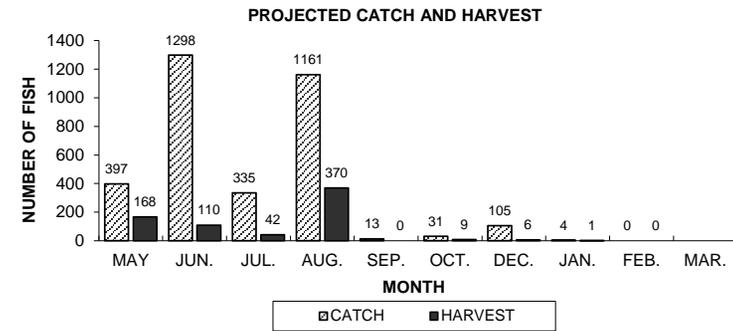
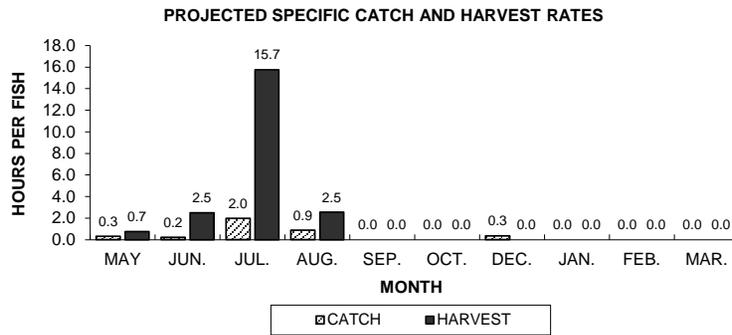
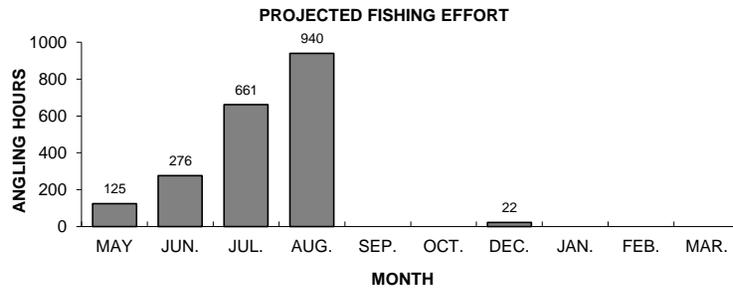
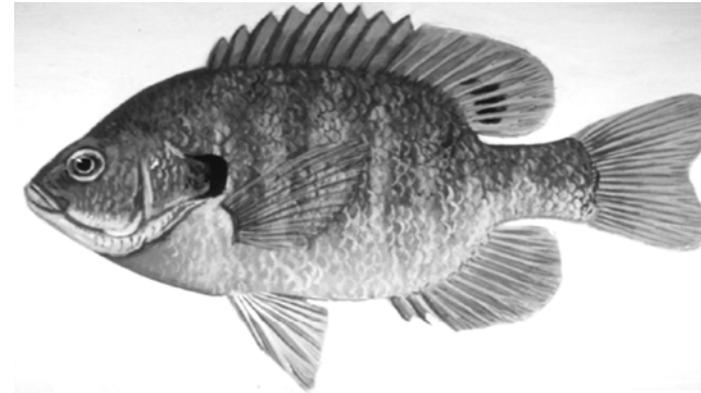


Figure 7. Bluegill sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# PUMPKINSEED

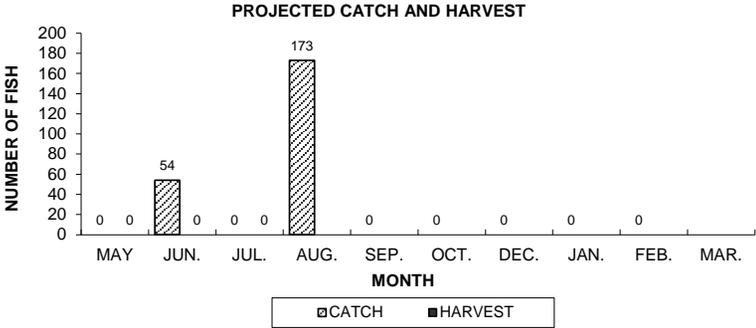
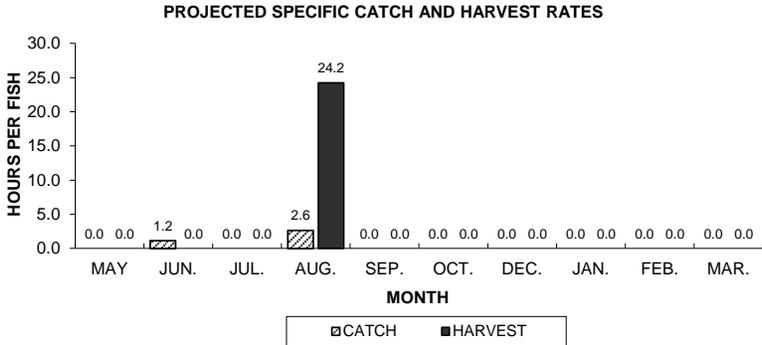
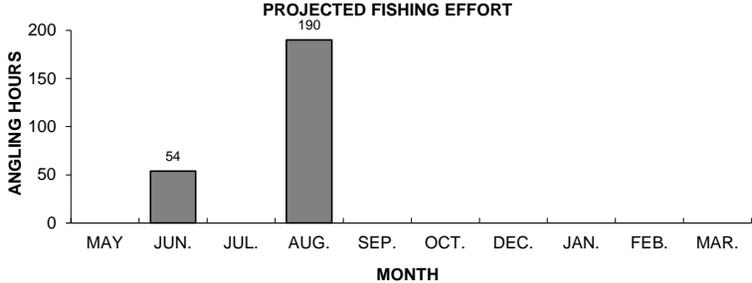
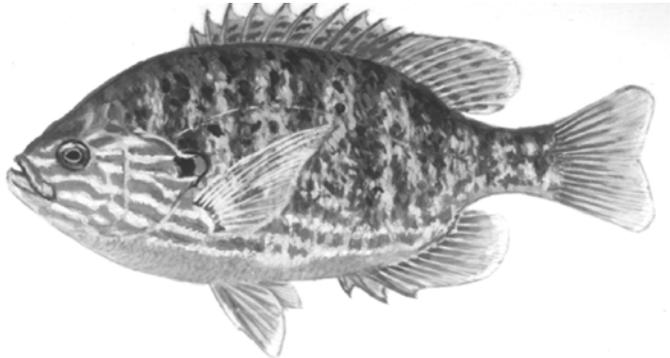


Figure 8. Pumpkinseed sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# ROCK BASS

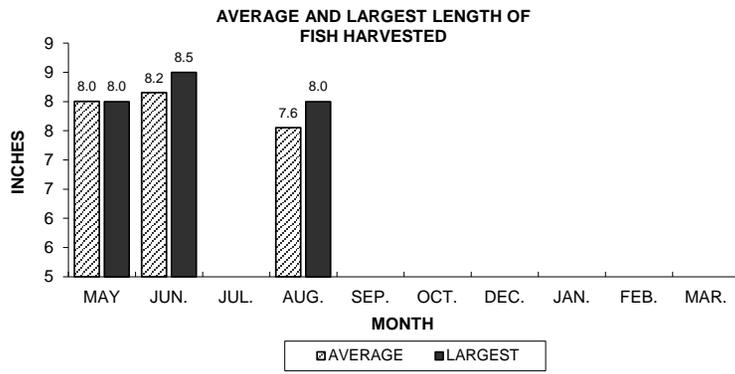
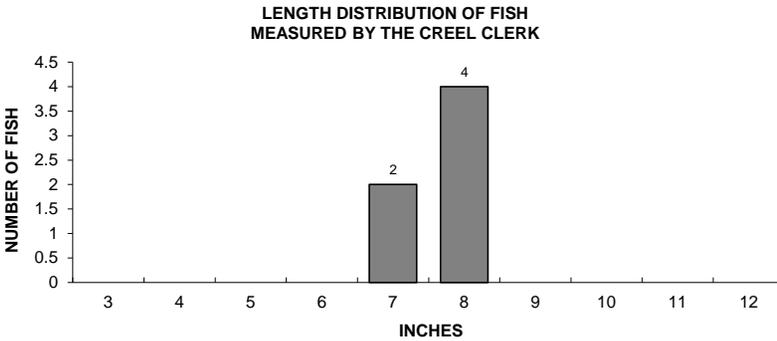
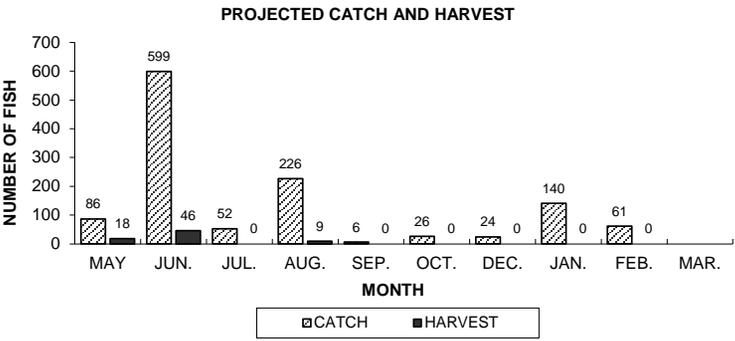
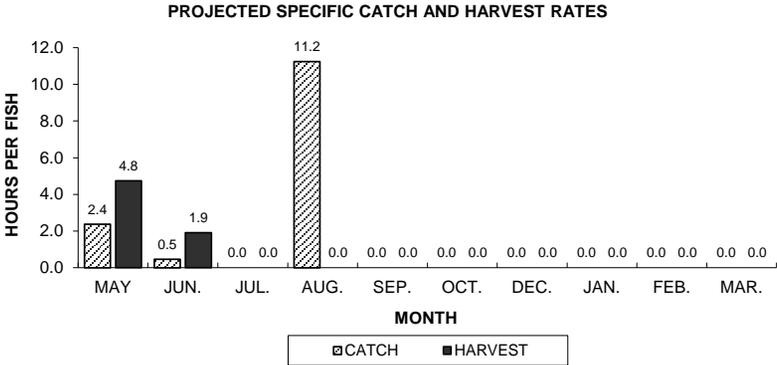
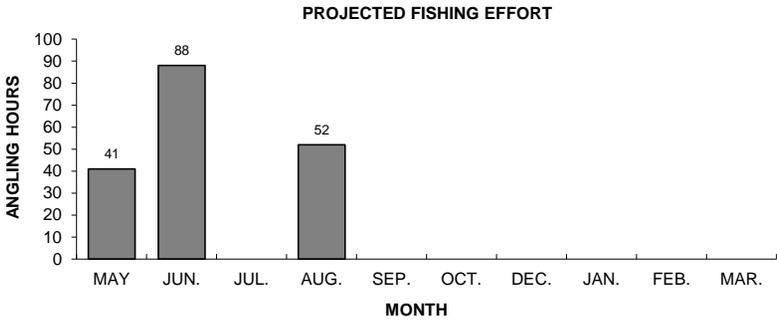
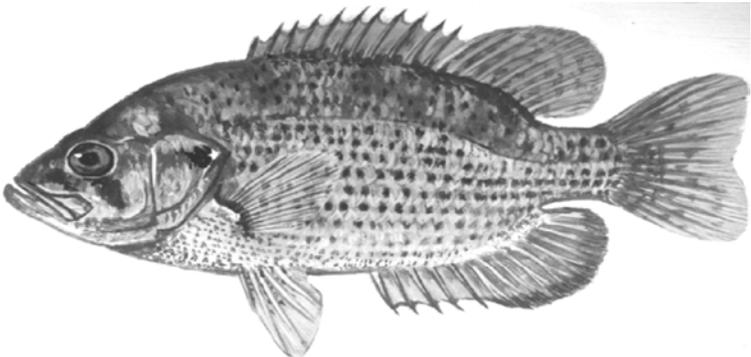


Figure 9. Rock bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.

# BLACK CRAPPIE

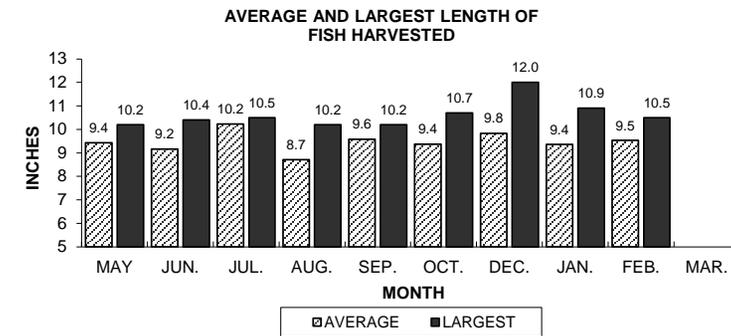
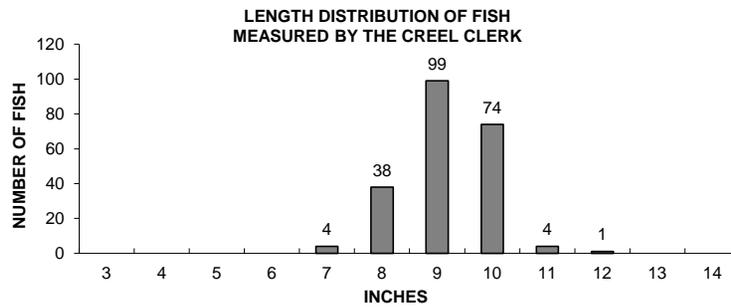
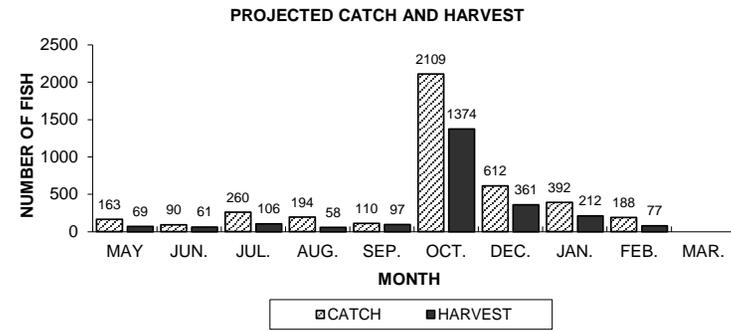
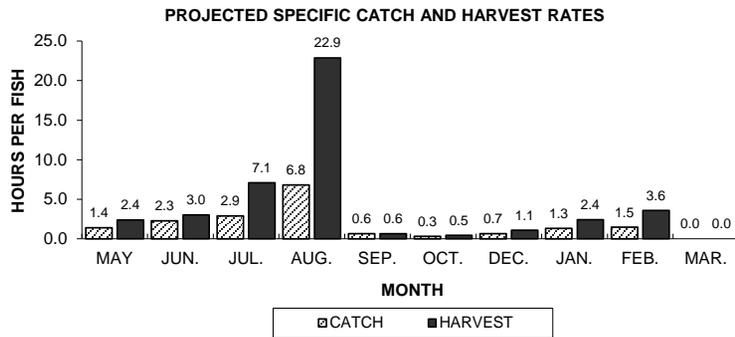
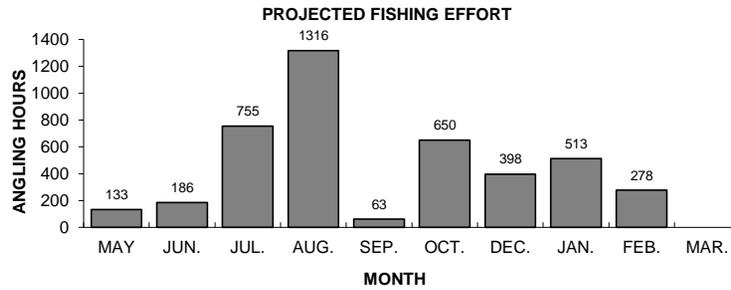
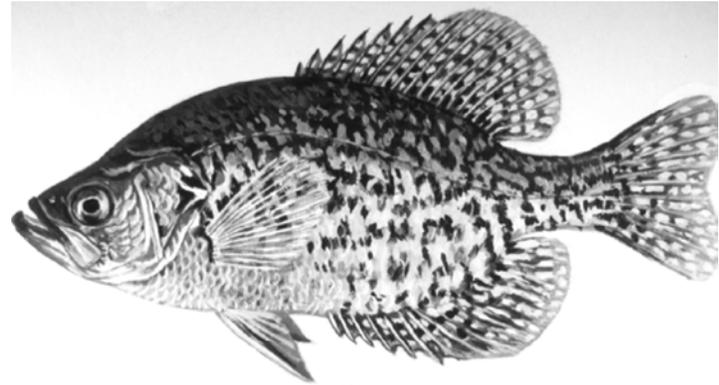


Figure 10. Black crappie sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Long Lake, during 2014-15.