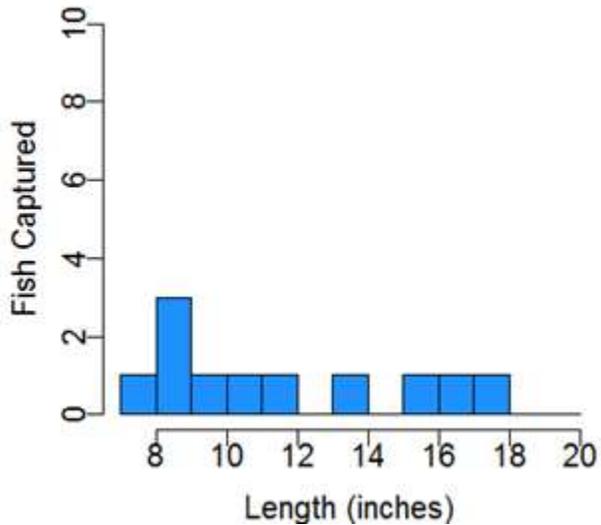
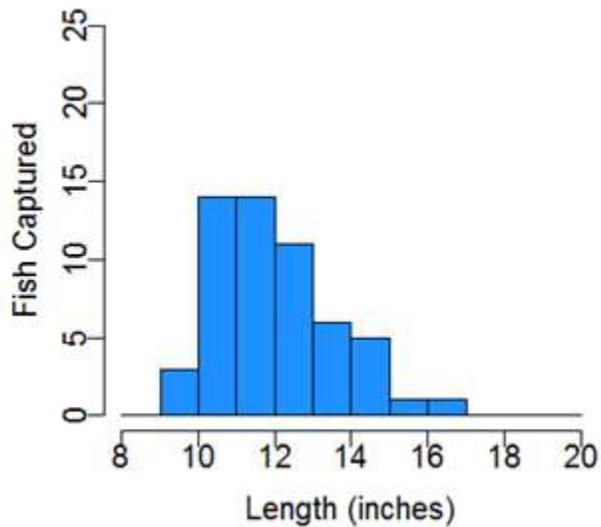




## Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Spider Lake, Sawyer County, 2016

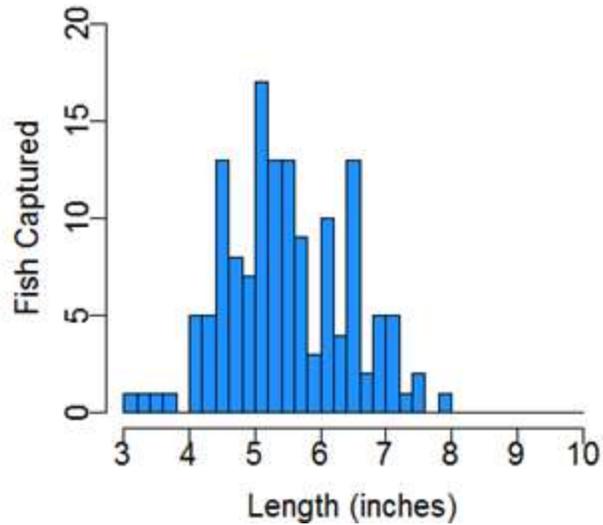
The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey on Spider Lake on May 9, 2016 to document the status of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and bluegill and also provide information on juvenile walleye. Four total miles of shoreline were shocked. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.



### Bluegill



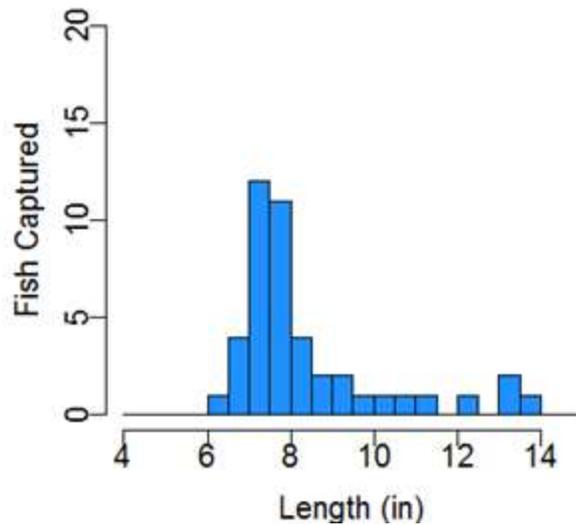
Captured 140 per mile $\geq 3$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 6$ "	31%
Preferred Size $\geq 8$ "	0%



### Walleye (Juvenile)



Captured 11 per mile  $\leq 10$  inches



## Summary of Results

The Spider Lake Chain is 1,194 acres in size and contains five interconnected lakes (Clear, Big Spider, Little Spider, Fawn and North). The maximum depth is 64 feet and the water is relatively clear. Most of the Spider Chain has dense aquatic plant growth in the shallows. There are several rocky bars, particularly in Big Spider.

Typically our spring surveys include both a netting and electrofishing component to target different species. Only an electrofishing survey could be completed on Spider Lake in 2016 due to time constraints and weather. Therefore, only information on bass, bluegill, and juvenile walleye are presented in this report. Though it was not a representative sample, it is worth noting that 13 muskellunge were captured during the electrofishing survey, including several small fish that provide evidence of continued natural reproduction of musky in Spider Lake.

Largemouth bass in Spider Lake are relatively abundant and show generally poor size, with only 4% of largemouth bass being over 15 inches. The length limit was recently removed for bass on Spider Lake to allow anglers to harvest some of these small, slow-growing largemouth bass. If enough small largemouth bass can be harvested it is possible that growth rates will increase and create a largemouth fishery with more quality sized fish.

The smallmouth bass population in Spider Lake functions very differently from the largemouth bass population. The abundance of smallmouth bass is considerably lower and the size is generally more balanced with both large and small fish present. There is no perceived need for additional harvest of smallmouth bass. Catch and release is encouraged for smallmouth bass to allow them to meet their full size potential, which is greater than largemouth bass in Spider Lake.

Bluegill in Spider Lake are fairly abundant and show poor size with only 31% of bluegill being over 6 inches. This appears to have always been the case and quality size bluegill have been a rarity in the lake and in this survey (0% were over 8 inches). Bluegill grow slowly in Spider Lake, and neither an abundant largemouth bass population or continued stocking of extended growth walleye have been able to provide adequate predation pressure to reduce overcrowding. There are limited options for reducing abundance and improving size in lakes like Spider with vast amounts of weedy habitat for small bluegill to hide in.

Juvenile walleye were also captured as a part of this survey. Overwinter survival of walleye stocked in the fall of 2015 appears to be very good and these fish will hopefully contribute to the fishery in the coming years.



A natural born, juvenile muskellunge from Spider Lake, captured during the 2016 electrofishing survey. Photo by Max Wolter.

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Reviewed and Approved by Scott Toshner – Acting Supervisor