



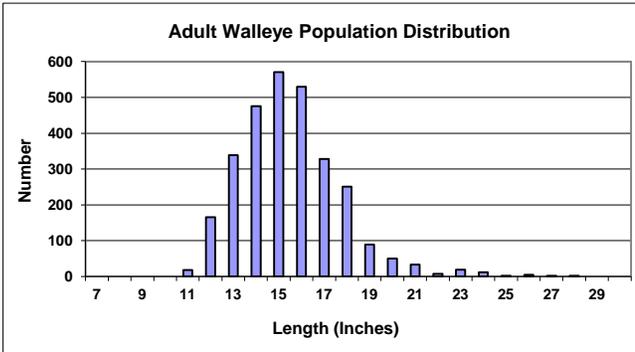
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: PLUM

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2015

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Plum Lake, Vilas County, from April 16th through June 2nd, in order to assess the status of the gamefish populations. Basic results of more targeted panfish surveys (completed on May 20th, and June 8th - 12th) are also mentioned here. Plum Lake is a drainage lake with sand, rock, and muck substrates. It has a surface area of 1,033 acres, 14.5 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 57 feet. Plum Lake's walleye population is sustained through natural reproduction, while the musky population is maintained by stocking.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex \geq 15 inches in length.

Walleye



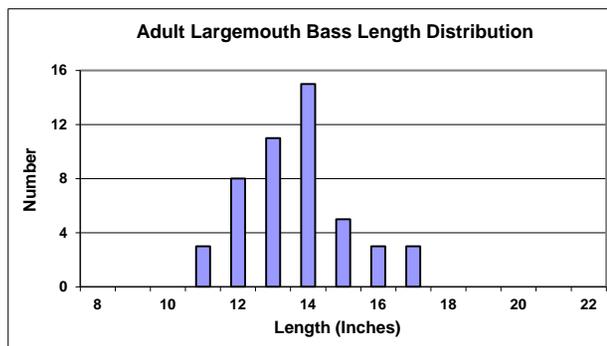
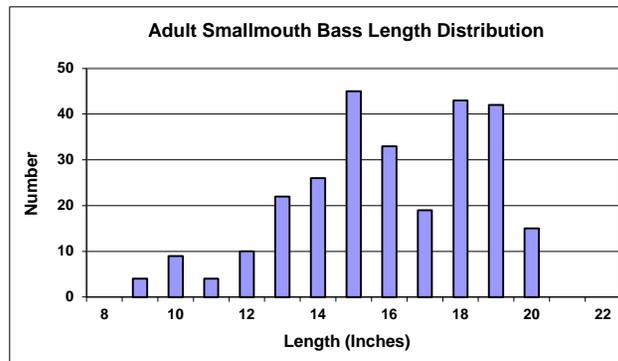
During six days of fyke netting, 977 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Several crews then sampled with electro-fishing boats and captured 323 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 33% (105 of 323) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 28.2-inch female.

Based on those results, Plum Lake was estimated to contain 2,899 adult walleye (2.8 /acre). An estimated 66% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey crews were able to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Plum Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through June 2nd, 272 smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 82% were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 20.6 inches long. The smallmouth bass population in Plum Lake (eight inches or larger) was estimated to be 713 fish (0.7 /acre).



Largemouth Bass



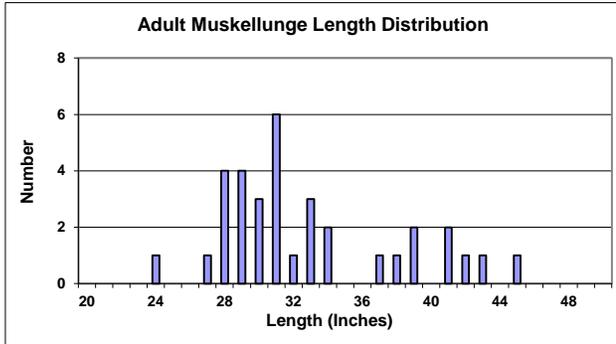
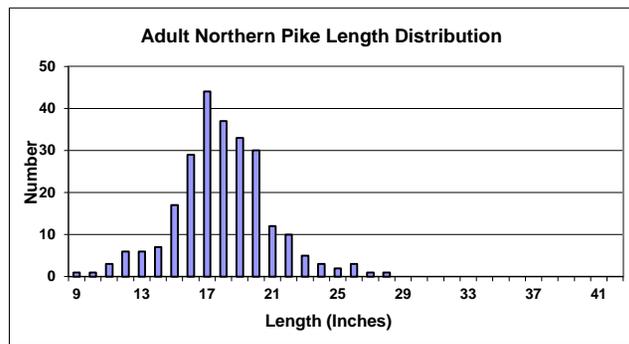
Survey crews were unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from Plum Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling, 48 largemouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 54% (26 of 48) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 17.7 inches long.

Northern Pike



From sampling between April 16th and May 20th, 251 adult northern pike were captured. Of the adult northern pike captured 98% (246 of 251) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was 28.2-inches long.

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



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Plum Lake, 34 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 15% (5 of 34) were 40 inches long or larger, with the largest being a 45.4-inch female. Additionally, eight 11.0-13.5 inch musky were also captured during our surveys. A crew will survey Plum Lake again next spring (only targeting muskellunge) to complete an estimate of the number of adult muskellunge present in the lake.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex \geq 30 inches long.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, fifteen species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Plum Lake. Yellow perch were abundant (especially in our early fyke net catches), and during the targeted panfish surveys their sizes ranged between 2.0 and 11.6 inches. Bluegill were common (sizes during panfish surveys ranged between 3.3 and 9.2 inches), while pumpkinseed (3.4 - 7.8"), black crappie (5.1 - 11.3"), and rock bass (3.8 - 11.9") were captured at lower rates. Other species sampled in low numbers included black and yellow bullheads, white sucker, burbot, common shiner, mimic shiner, bluntnose minnow, logperch, johnny darter, and creek chub.

A creel survey will be conducted on Plum Lake throughout the 2015-16 fishing season. Creel clerk, Matt Meulemans, will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler catch and harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Plum Lake, Vilas County, 2015

| FISH SPECIES | OPEN SEASON | DAILY LIMIT | MINIMUM LENGTH |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Walleye | May 2 - March 6 | 3 | No minimum length, 14-18" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 18" allowed |
| Largemouth Bass | May 2 - March 6 | 1 in total with SMB | 18 inches |
| Smallmouth Bass | May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 6 (Harvest) | 1 in total with LMB; harvest season only | 18 inches |
| Muskellunge | May 23 - Nov. 30 | 1 | 40 inches |
| Northern Pike | May 2 - March 6 | 5 | None |

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Plum Lake 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://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June 2016 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtyclsrsvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Plum Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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