



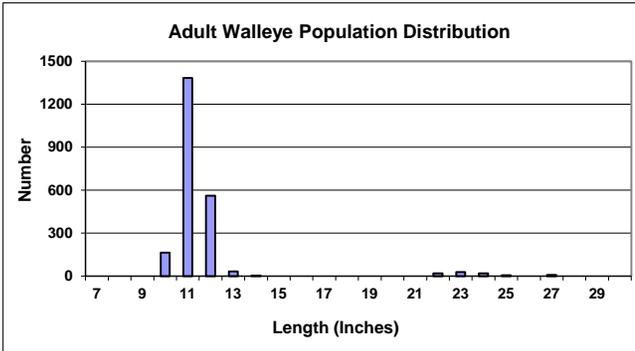
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: SNIPE

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2015

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Snipe Lake, Vilas County, from April 13th through April 20th, in order to assess the status of the walleye and muskellunge populations. Snipe Lake is a seepage lake with sand, rock, and muck substrates. It has a surface area of 239 acres, 4.0 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 15 feet. Snipe Lake's walleye and muskellunge populations are sustained solely through natural reproduction.



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

Walleye



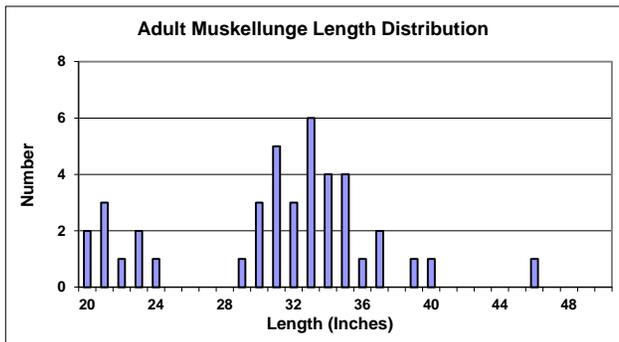
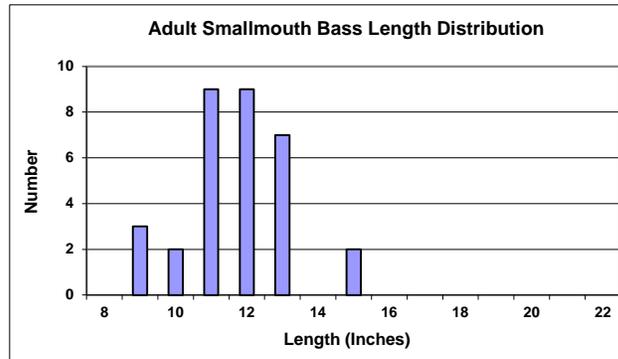
During three days of fyke netting, 1,419 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electro-fishing boat and captured 187 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 64% (119 of 187) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 27.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Snipe Lake was estimated to contain 2,232 adult walleye (9.3 /acre). An estimated 4% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Smallmouth bass were not a primary target of our surveys of Snipe Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth spawning. During our surveys 32 smallmouth bass 8 inches or larger were captured. Of those fish captured, 6% (2 of 32) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth sampled was 15.6 inches long. Just one largemouth bass (17.0 Inches) was sampled.



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake, 37 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 5% (2 of 37) were 40 inches long or larger, with the largest being a 46.4-inch female. A crew will survey Snipe 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, six species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Snipe Lake. Rock bass were fairly common in our fyke net catches, while yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie and white sucker were present.

A creel survey will be conducted on Snipe Lake throughout the 2015-16 fishing season. Creel clerk, John Logan, 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 Snipe Lake, Vilas County, 2015

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 2 - March 6	3	15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed
Largemouth Bass	May 2 - March 6	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 2 - June 19 (C&R) June 20 - March 6 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 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 Snipe 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/trtycrisrvys.html>. For questions, contact:

Lawrence Eslinger, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-5211 Ext. 209
Email: lawrence.eslinger@wisconsin.gov

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

Steve Gilbert, Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Hwy J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-5211 Ext. 229
Email: stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov