



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Deer

COUNTY: Lincoln

YEAR: 2023

Introduction

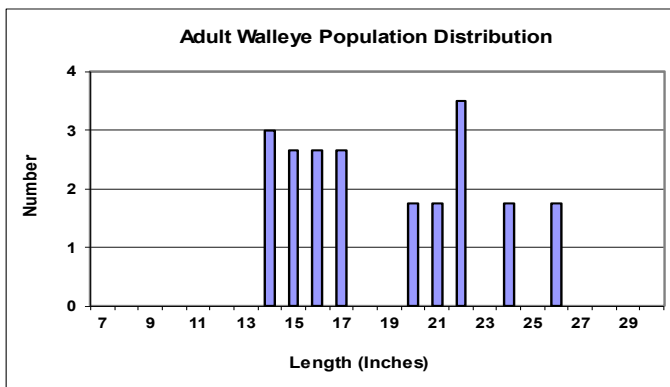
The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Deer Lake in Lincoln County from April 26 to May 2, May 5 to 11 and May 31 of 2023 to assess the status of the game fish populations. Deer Lake is a clear water spring lake with predominantly sand and gravel substrates. It covers a surface area of 156 acres, has 3 miles of shoreline and reaches a maximum depth of 62 feet. Deer Lake's outlet flows into Bridge Lake and the larger Rice River Flowage Chain.



WALLEYE

During six days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 11 adult walleyes (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches) were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 3 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 33% (1 of 3) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Deer Lake was estimated to contain 23 adult walleyes (0.1/acre).

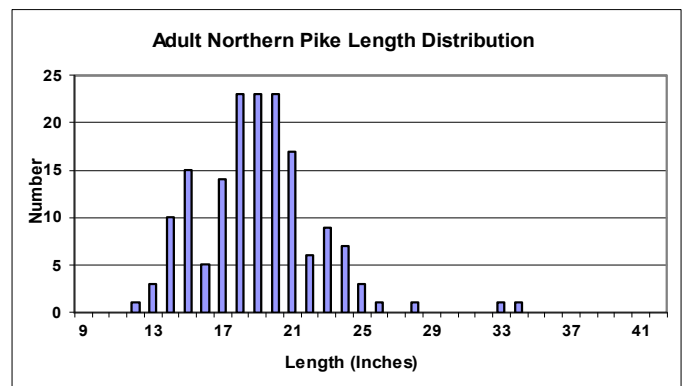
An estimated 83% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 26.7-inch female.

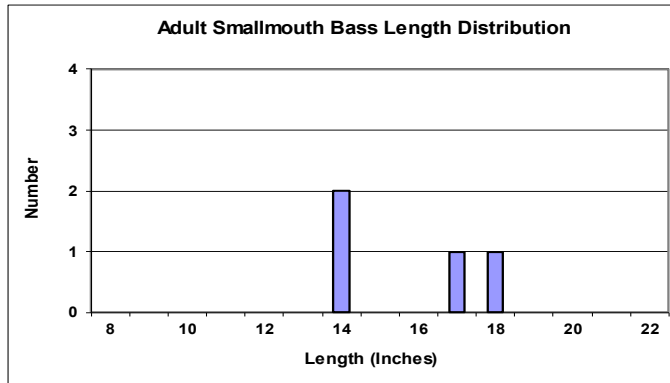


NORTHERN PIKE

Survey sampling conducted between April 26 and May 2 estimated the adult northern pike (sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches) population in Deer Lake at 598 fish (3.8/acre). A total of 161 adult northern pike were captured. Four (2%) of those pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 34.2 inches.

No muskellunge were caught during the sampling of Deer Lake.





SMALLMOUTH BASS



Survey sampling conducted through May 31 resulted in 4 smallmouth bass being caught. All were considered adults at eight inches or larger, and all were 14 inches or longer, the largest measuring 18.2 inches. During the May 31 electrofishing survey, adult smallmouth bass were caught at a low rate of 1.7 per mile of shoreline.

OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Deer Lake resulted in the catch of 11 species of fish; black crappie, bluegill, rock bass and yellow perch were common in survey catches. Other species caught included blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, bowfin, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

Table 1. Special fishing regulations for Deer Lake, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Regulations for species not listed below follow the "General Inland Waters" rules found within the state fishing regulations pamphlet.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
panfish	Open all year	25, but no more than 10 of each species	None
walleye	May 6 - March 3	3	15 inches min, 20-24 inches slot, can keep 1 over

Acknowledgements & Questions

This report was compiled by DNR fisheries technician Mark Love. For answers to questions about findings within this report, contact the treaty fisheries biologist. For questions regarding fisheries management activities on Deer Lake, contact the Lincoln County fisheries biologist.

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