



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Clear Lake

COUNTY: Oneida

YEAR: 2022

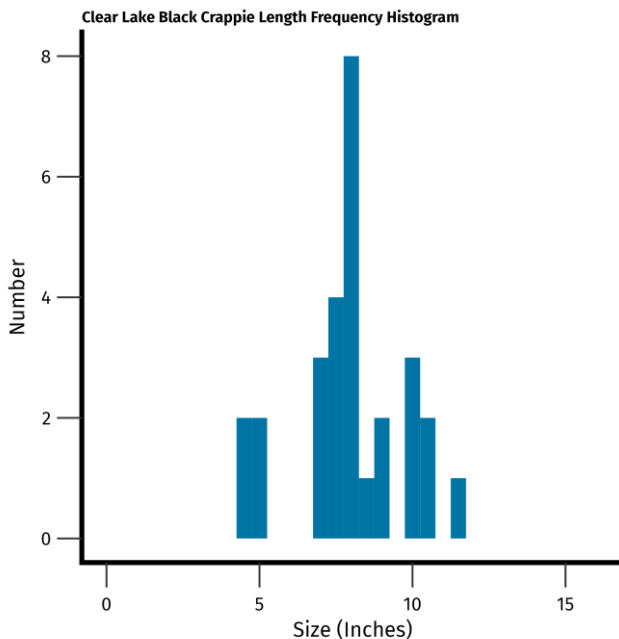
Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assessed the bass, panfish and walleye fisheries of Clear Lake during the spring of 2022. Electrofishing and fyke nets were used to evaluate Clear Lake. Clear Lake is a drainage lake with 873 surface acres, 14.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 95 feet. Gamefish were collected over an 8.5-mile electrofishing circuit, while panfish and all other species were collected in four half-mile transects. Bass were assessed over 23.3 miles of electrofishing circuits. Walleye were collected with eight fyke nets checked daily for five nights.

BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 30 black crappies were captured while surveying Clear Lake. Lengths of measured individuals ranged from 4.4 inches to 11.7 inches, with a mean length of 8.0 inches. A smaller size structure was found, with 10% of measured black crappies being 10 inches or greater.



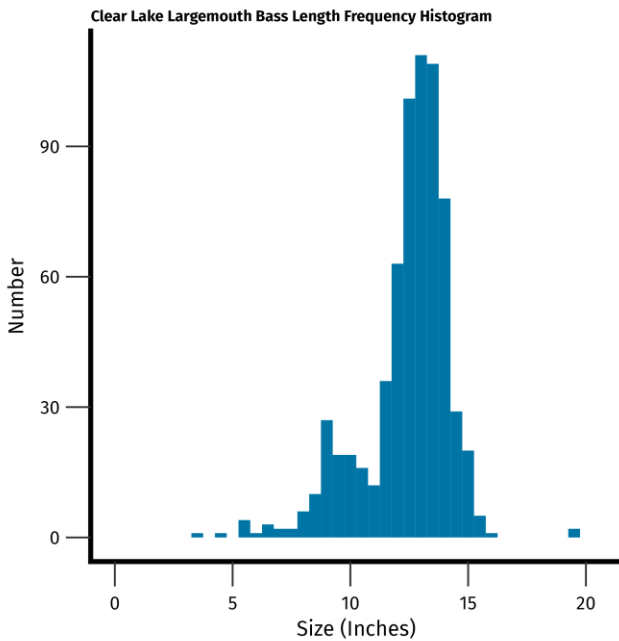
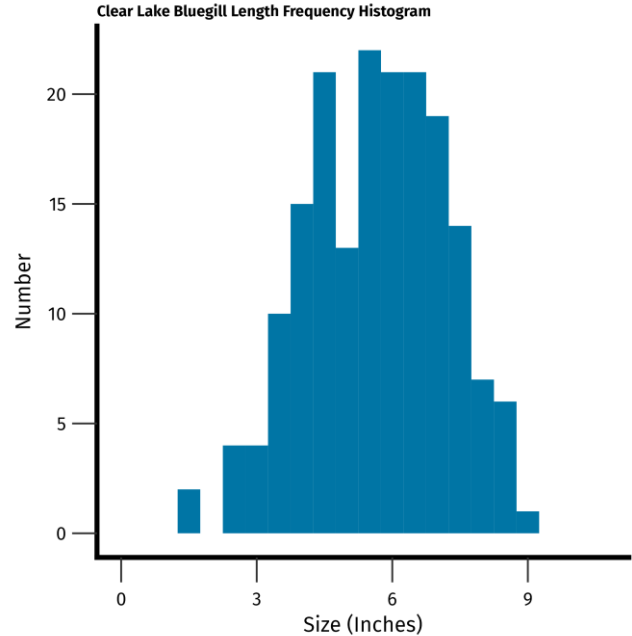
0.6 Captured Per Net Night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8 inches	0.3 Per Net Night
Preferred Size \geq 10 inches	0.1 Per Net Night

BLUEGILL



A total of 193 bluegills were captured while surveying Clear Lake. Lengths of measured bluegills varied between 1.4 inches to 9.1 inches, with a mean length of 5.7 inches. A great size structure was found, with 43% of measured individuals being 6 inches or greater.

2.5 Captured Per Net Night \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	1.5 Per Net Night
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	0.2 Per Net Night



LARGEMOUTH BASS



A total of 678 largemouth bass were captured while surveying Clear Lake. Lengths varied between 3.4 inches to 19.5 inches, with a mean length of 12.4 inches. A smaller size structure of largemouth bass was found, with 3% of measured individuals being 15 inches or greater. The largemouth bass population was estimated to be 2008 fish (3.3/acre) in Clear Lake.

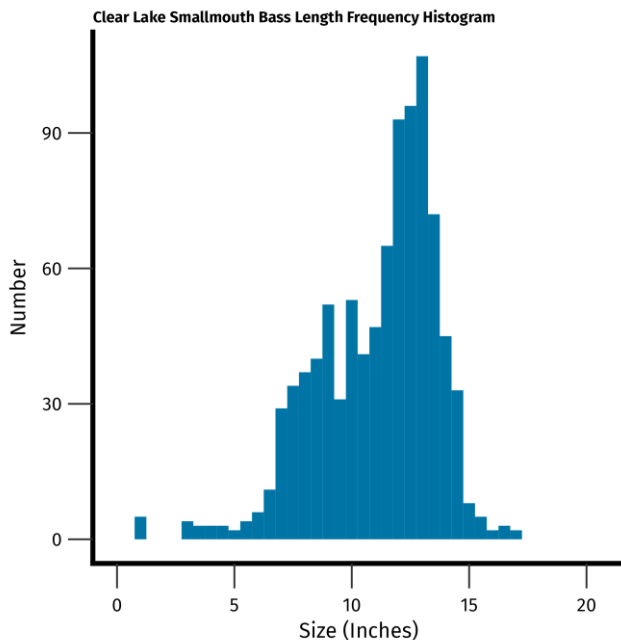
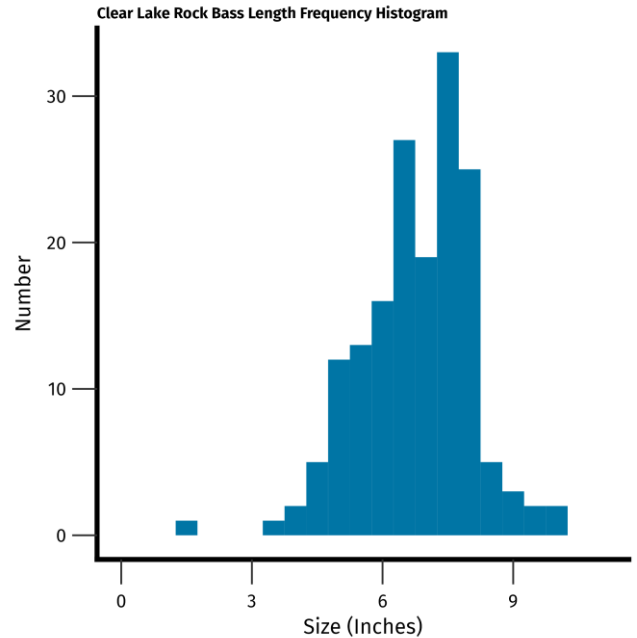
22.4 Capture Per Mile \geq 8 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12 inches	17.1 Per Mile
Preferred Size \geq 15 inches	0.9 Per Mile

ROCK BASS



A total of 290 rock bass were captured while surveying Clear Lake. Lengths of measured individuals varied between 1.6 inches to 10.1 inches, with a mean length of 6.8 inches. A good size structure of rock bass was found, with 51% of individuals measured 7 inches or greater.

3.8 Captured Per Net Night \geq 4 inches	
Quality Size \geq 7 inches	1.9 Per Net Night
Preferred Size \geq 9 inches	0.1 Per Net Night



SMALLMOUTH BASS



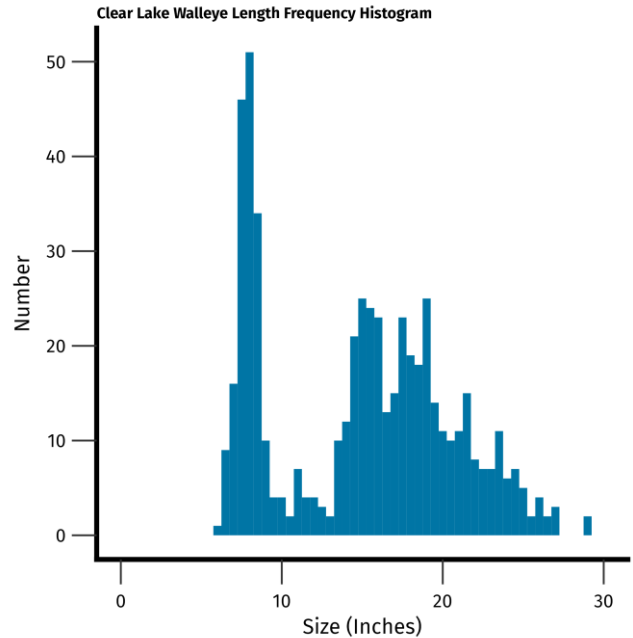
A total of 936 smallmouth bass were captured while surveying Pelican Lake despite not typically being captured well in fyke nets. Lengths varied between 1.0 inches to 17.0 inches, with a mean length of 14.5 inches. A smaller size structure of smallmouth bass was found, with 10% of measured individuals being 14 inches or greater. The smallmouth bass population was estimated to be 3418 fish (5.6/acre) in Clear Lake.

32.0 Captured Per Mile \geq 7 inches	
Quality Size \geq 11 inches	19.0 Per Mile
Preferred Size \geq 14 inches	3.1 Per Mile

WALLEYE



A total of 550 (352 fyke netting, 198 electrofishing) walleye were captured while surveying Clear Lake. Lengths of measured walleye varied between 6.0 inches to 29.0 inches, with a mean length of 14.9 inches. A great size structure was found, with 56% of measured walleye being 15 inches or greater. The walleye population was estimated to be 790 fish (0.9/acre) in Clear Lake.



7.8 Captured Per Net Night \geq 10 inches	
Quality Size \geq 15 inches	6.9 Per Net Night
Preferred Size \geq 20 inches	2.7 Per Net Night

OTHER SPECIES

Other species encountered included bluntnose minnow (41), mimic shiner (22), mottled sculpin (3), muskellunge (2) of 22.1 and 32.0 inches, northern pike (2) of 18.0 and 31.8 inches, pumpkinseed (2) of 6.0 and 6.7 inches, white sucker (130) varying between 8.7 and 21.5 inches, yellow bullhead (11) varying between 8.4 and 11.4 inches, and yellow perch (10) varying between 2.4 and 9.6 inches.

Summary

Clear Lake has a mixed fishery that can be accessed by launches at the end of Clear Lake Road or off North Camp Road. Fifteen unique species were captured during the survey of Clear Lake. Bluegills had a great size structure, likely being controlled by the abundant largemouth bass. Walleye were also present in low abundance but with a great size structure. Walleye, brown trout and lake trout have been stocked into Clear Lake, most recently in 2021, 2004 and 1999, respectively. Clear Lake is scheduled to be sampled again in 2029.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Clear Lake, in Oneida Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth bass	May to mid-June	5	14" minimum length
Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass	Mid-June to March	5	14" minimum length
Northern pike	May to March	5	No minimum length
Muskellunge	End-May to End-Dec	1	50" minimum length
Panfish	Open All Year	25	No minimum length
Smallmouth bass	May to mid-June	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Walleye	May to March	1	18" minimum, 22-28" protected slot

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Clear Lake, contact:

Nathan J. Lederman

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

107 Sutliff Ave

Rhineland, WI 54501

715-525-2898

nathaniel.lederman@wisconsin.gov