



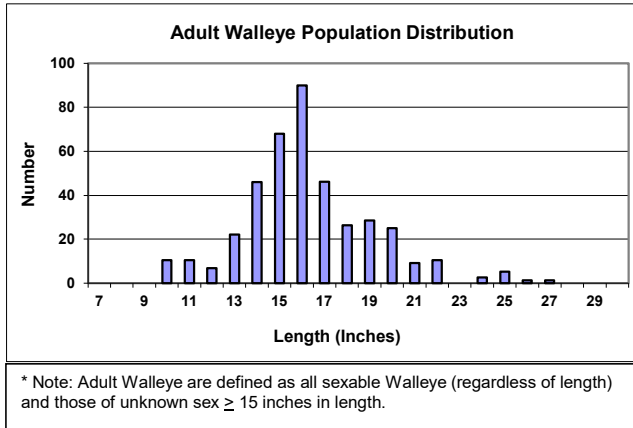
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: SOMO

COUNTY: LINCOLN

YEAR: 2021

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Somo Lake in Lincoln County between April 1-16 to assess the status of the Walleye and Muskellunge populations. DNR staff also electrofished Somo Lake on June 2 and 14 to assess the bass and panfish communities. Somo Lake is a stained water drainage lake with predominately sand substrates, muck and some boulders and gravel. The lake has a surface area of 472 acres, 14.2 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 25 feet. Somo Lake's Walleye and Muskellunge populations are sustained through a combination of stocking and low-level natural reproduction.



Walleye



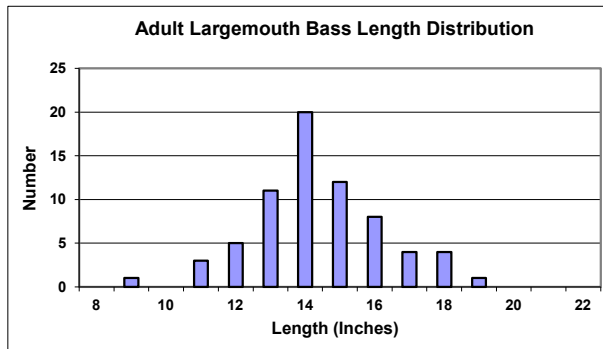
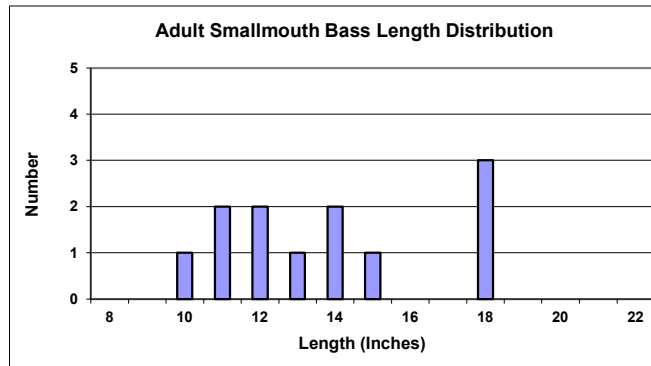
During eight days of Walleye-targeted fyke netting, 207 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 66 adult Walleye. During electrofishing, 42% (28 of 66) of Walleye bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Somo Lake was estimated to contain 412 adult Walleye (0.9/acre).

An estimated 77% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer. The largest Walleye caught was a 27.2-inch female.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey sampling conducted through June 14, resulted in 15 Smallmouth Bass being caught. Of the 15 caught, 12 were considered adults at 8 inches or larger and 50% were 14 inches or longer. The largest measured 18.7 inches. During the combined June electrofishing surveys, adult Smallmouth Bass were caught at a low rate of 0.8 per mile of shoreline (1.0/mi. for all Smallmouth Bass).



Largemouth Bass



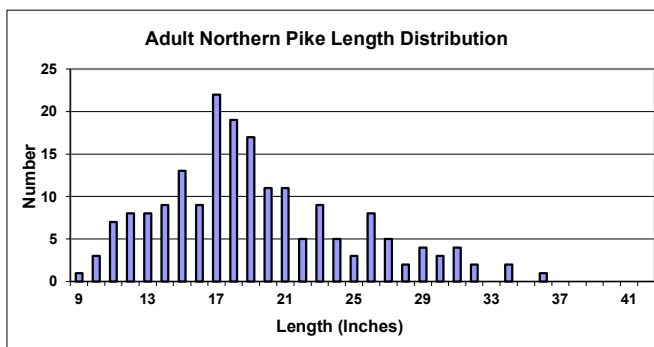
Survey sampling resulted in 72 Largemouth Bass caught. Of the 72 caught, 69 were considered adults at 8 inches or larger and 71% were 14 inches or longer. The largest measured 19.4 inches. During the combined June electrofishing surveys, adult Largemouth Bass were caught at a low rate of 2.0 per mile of shoreline (2.1/mi. for all Largemouth Bass).

Northern Pike



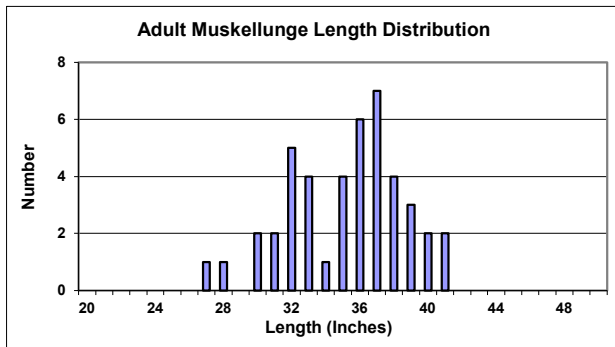
Sampling of Somo Lake resulted in the catch of 191 adult Northern Pike. Thirty-one (16%) of those Pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 36.5 inches.

* Note: Adult Northern Pike are defined as all sexable Northern Pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.



Muskellunge

During fyke netting and electrofishing, 44 adult Muskellunge were caught. Of the adult Muskellunge, 9% (4 of 44) were 40 inches or longer, with the largest being a 41.3-inch female. Additionally, three juvenile Muskellunge (18.5" - 25.8") were also caught.



* Note: Adult Muskellunge are defined as all sexable Muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.

Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Somo Lake resulted in the catch of 14 species of fish. Black Crappie, Bluegill and Yellow Perch were common in survey catches. Other species caught included Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, White Crappie, Black and Yellow Bullhead, Bowfin, White Sucker, Shorthead Redhorse, Golden Shiner, Creek Chub and Johnny Darter.

A creel survey was also conducted on Somo Lake throughout the 2021 open-water fishing season in which a creel clerk counted and interviewed anglers and examined their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest. Creel survey results will be summarized in an upcoming report found on the website below.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Somo Lake, Lincoln County, 2021-22

| FISH SPECIES | OPEN SEASON | DAILY LIMIT | MINIMUM LENGTH |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Walleye | May 1 - March 6 | 3 | 15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed |
| *Largemouth Bass (harvest season) | May 1 - March 6 | 5 in total with SMB | 14 inches |
| *Smallmouth Bass (harvest season) | June 19 - March 6 | 5 in total with LMB; harvest season only | 14 inches |
| Muskellunge | May 29 - Dec. 31 (on open water) | 1 | 40 inches |
| Northern Pike | May 1 - March 6 | 5 | None |

*Catch and Release Only fishing is allowed year-round for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

A summary of selected fishing regulations for Somo 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 the [DNR's Fishing Regulations page](#).

This, and other spring survey summaries, can be found on the [DNR's Spring Fisheries Surveys in Northern Wisconsin page](#).

2021 creel survey results for Somo Lake will be posted on the [DNR's Ceded Territory Creel Survey Reports page](#).

For questions about this survey, or the results within, contact:

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

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