



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

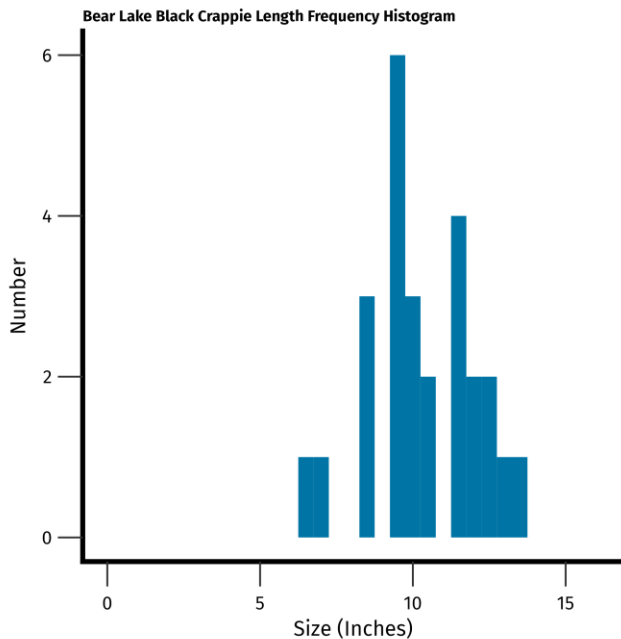
LAKE: Bear Lake

COUNTY: Oneida

YEAR: 2022

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted an electrofishing survey on Bear Lake in May, assessing the bass and panfish fisheries. Bear Lake is a spring lake with 295 surface acres, 4.5 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 20 feet. Gamefish were collected during the entire 4.1-mile circuit, with panfish and all other species collected in two half-mile transects.



BLACK CRAPPIE



A total of 30 black crappies were captured while surveying Bear Lake. Lengths varied between 6.4 to 13.5 inches, with a mean length of 10.3 inches. A quality size structure was found with 80% of the black crappies measuring 8 inches or greater.

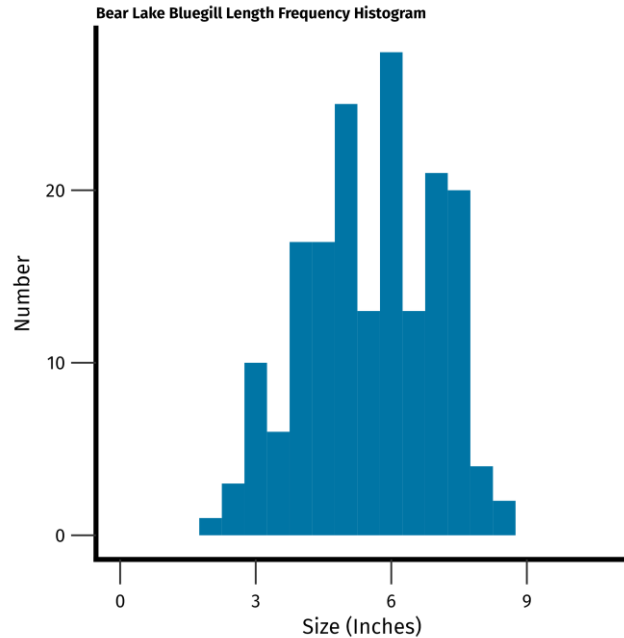
27.8 Captured Per Hour \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8 inches	23.6 per hour
Preferred Size \geq 10 inches	15.0 per hour

BLUEGILL



A total of 506 bluegills were captured while surveying Bear Lake. Lengths varied between 2.1 inches to 8.6 inches, with a mean length of 5.6 inches. A small size structure was found, with 8.2% being 7 inches or greater.

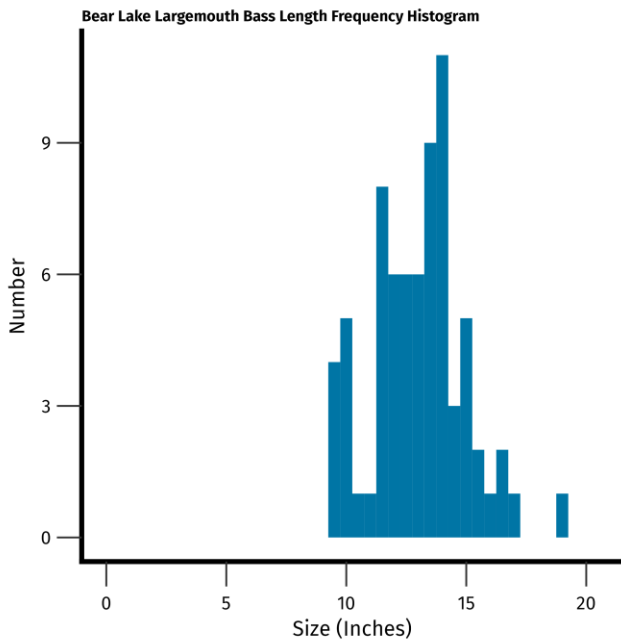
203.4 Captured Per Hour \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	164.9 per hour
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	4.3 per hour



LARGEMOUTH BASS



A total of 192 largemouth bass were captured while surveying Bear Lake. Lengths varied between 9.5 inches to 19.0 inches, with a mean length of 13.0 inches. A small size structure was found, with 17% of measured largemouth bass being 15 inches or greater.



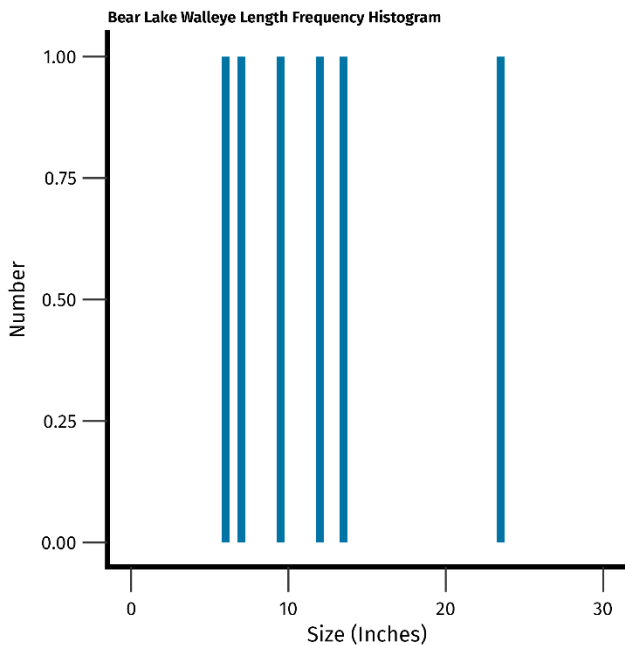
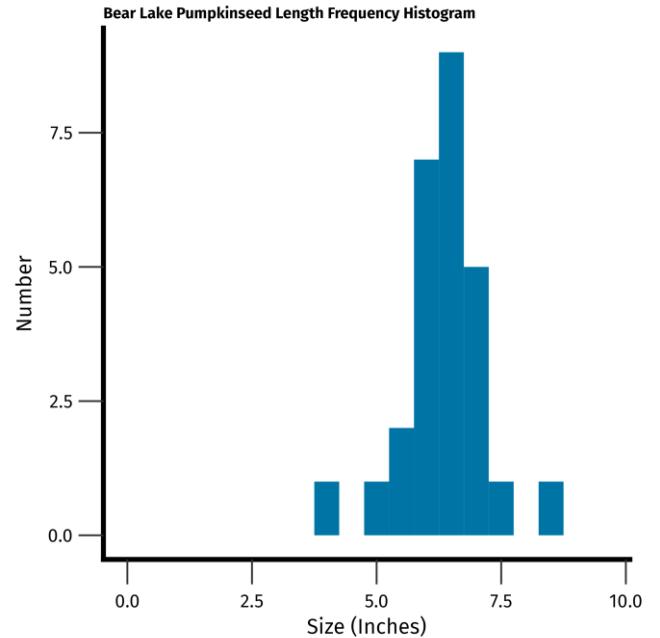
40.3 Captured Per Hour \geq 8 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12 inches	29.6 per hour
Preferred Size \geq 15 inches	6.7 per hour

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 45 pumpkinseeds were captured while surveying Bear Lake. Lengths varied between 4.1 inches to 8.3 inches, with a mean length of 6.3 inches. A small size structure was found, with only 4% of pumpkinseeds being 8 inches or greater.

58.8 Captured Per Hour \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	55.7 per hour
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	2.1 per hour



WALLEYE



A total of six walleye were captured while surveying Bear Lake. Lengths varied between 6.1 inches to 23.7 inches, with a mean length of 12.0 inches. A small size structure was found, with only 16% of measured walleye being 15 inches or greater.

1.1 Captured Per Hour \geq 10 inches	
Quality Size \geq 15 inches	1.1 per hour
Preferred Size \geq 20 inches	0.5 per hour

OTHER SPECIES

Other species encountered included golden shiner (12), northern pike (19), smallmouth bass (1), yellow perch (1) and yellow bullhead (131).

Summary

Bear Lake is a cool-dark water lake with a mixed fishery that can be accessed by a paved boat ramp on the north side of the lake off West Fork Road. The abundance of black crappies and largemouth bass appears to be increasing, while bluegill and walleye seem to be decreasing in Bear Lake. An ample number of yellow bullhead may be competing with medium-sized gamefish and predating on young of year gamefish or panfish. Walleye have been stocked annually since 1985, funded initially by the DNR and then transitioning to private funds in the early 2000s. Bear Lake is scheduled to be sampled again in 2030.

Table 1. General fishing regulations for Bear 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
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	3, only 1 over 24"	15" minimum, 20-24" protected slot

Acknowledgements

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

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