



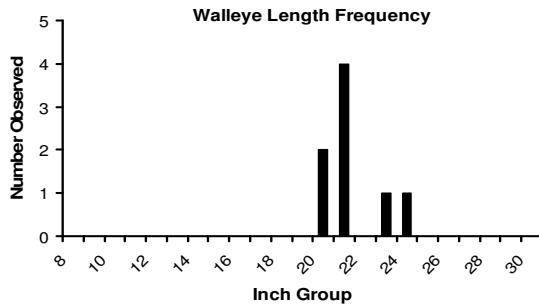
WISCONSIN D.N.R. FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: Ellwood Lake

COUNTY: FLORENCE

Year: 2012

The Department of Natural Resources is currently surveying Ellwood Lake in Florence County to determine the status of this fishery. Ellwood covers 132 acres and has a maximum depth of 25 feet.

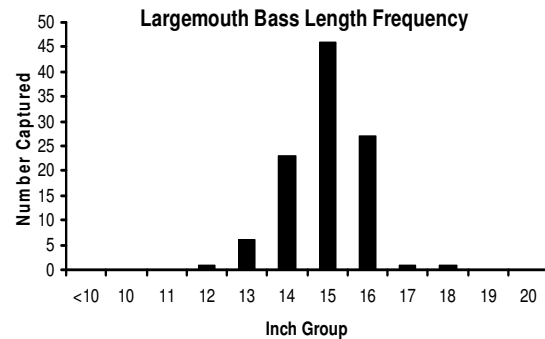


Walleye

Fyke nets were used from 3/23-3/29 this spring to mark northern pike. A few walleyes were captured during this survey. They ranged from 20.0-24.9 inches in length. We are not sure how these walleyes got to be in Ellwood Lake, but they are not naturally reproducing and provide little fishing potential.

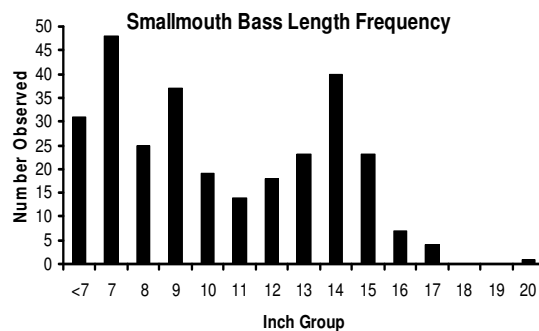
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass were captured during our spring fyke net survey and 6 bass electrofishing surveys to estimate the adult population. During these surveys we captured and measured 87 different largemouth. After analyzing the data I estimate their to be approximately 305 largemouth bass ≥ 8.0 inches in Ellwood Lake (2.31/acre). Almost all of these fish were between 14 and 16 inches. A narrow length frequency like this suggests that many year classes of largemouth bass are missing. This leads me to believe that there are recruitment problems for largemouth bass in Ellwood Lake.



Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass are nearly twice as abundant as largemouth bass in Ellwood Lake. In fact, they are the most abundant game fish in the lake. After 6 electrofishing surveys I estimate that the smallmouth bass population is around 583 fish ≥ 8.0 inches (4.41/acre). A total of 290 different smallmouth bass were measured during the 2012 survey. All but 1 of these fish were ≤ 18.0 inches. However, that 1 fish was over 20 inches long, showing some trophy potential in this lake. The large number of small fish captured shows that unlike largemouth bass, smallmouth bass are reproducing quite well.



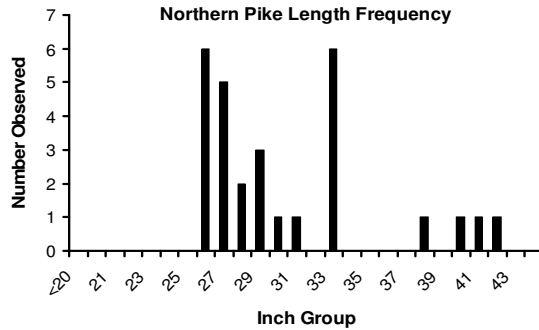


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Panfish

Panfish were sampled using fyke nets over a 4-day period in June. During this survey we only captured 185 panfish. That is extremely low panfish abundance!

We captured 148 bluegills (9.9/net-lift) during our survey making them the most abundant panfish species in Ellwood Lake. Bluegill size structure is very good with 67% being ≥ 6.0 inches and 35% being ≥ 8.0 inches in length. However, there appears to be a few poor year classes of bluegills, which suggest the lake has problems with bluegill recruitment. Bluegills are not known to have recruitment problems in Northern WI and further investigation is necessary to figure out the cause of recruitment failure.

Rock bass was the 2nd most encountered panfish species with 31 fish captured during our summer survey. Rock bass size structure was good in this small sample with 58% ≥ 7.0 inches and 13% ≥ 9.0 inches in length.

Black crappie were captured in very low numbers during the spring netting survey of Ellwood Lake. Crappies are also missing many year classes of fish, showing next to no natural reproduction.

Northern Pike

Northern Pike were the main species targeted during our spring fyke net survey of Ellwood Lake. After our sampling efforts I estimated the adult population to be only 40 fish. A total of 28 different northern pike were captured during our survey. Fish sampled ranged from 26.0 to 42.5 inches in length. Northern pike do not reproduce naturally in Ellwood Lake and this population will disappear without stocking. Plans have been put in place to stock northern pike starting in 2013.

