



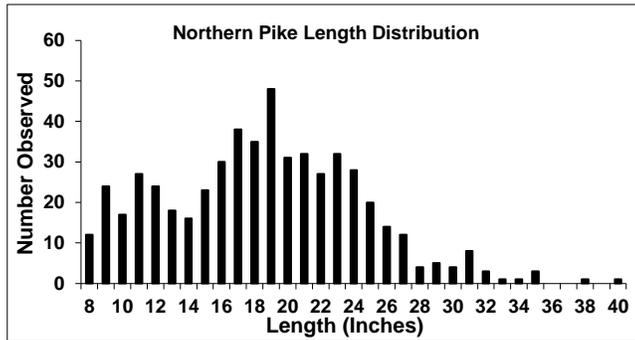
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: KINGSFORD FLOWAGE

COUNTY: FLORENCE

YEAR: 2014

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with the help of the Boundary Waters Musky Club, completed a spring survey of the Kingsford Flowage, Florence County. Fyke nets were set in early spring from 4/22-28 and again in late spring 5/20-22 along with a single night of electrofishing on 6/11 to assess game and panfish populations. The Kingsford Flowage is located immediately downstream of Twin Falls Flowage, and is fed by water coming from Twin Falls Flowage and the Pine River. The Kingsford Flowage is listed at 491 acres and achieves a maximum depth of 32 feet.



* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable pike and pike of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches long.

Northern Pike



A mark-recapture survey was conducted to estimate the adult northern pike population in the Kingsford Flowage. During this survey we captured and measured 539 different northern pike. The 2014 population estimate shows that northern pike are the most abundant game fish in Kingsford Flowage with a population of approximately 1,611 adult northern pike (3.3/acre).

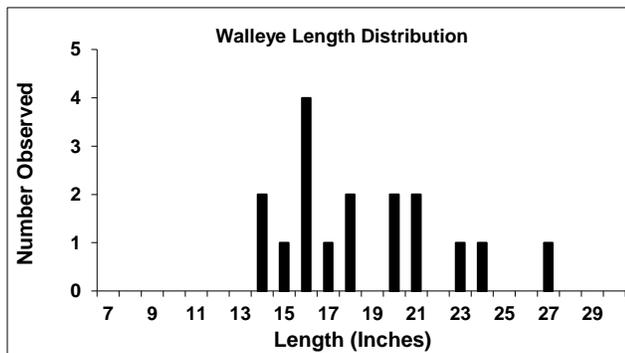
Size structure of northern pike is quite good in Kingsford Flowage with 47.0% and 5.3% of the pike sampled being ≥ 21.0 and 30.0 inches respectively. The largest pike captured during our survey was a 40.1-inch female which weighed 18.8 pounds.

Walleye



A mark-recapture survey of Kingsford Flowage's adult walleye population was not possible due to low catch rates during the spring survey (0.2 fish/ net-lift). This data suggests a low population of walleye, however, it is entirely possible that the majority of the walleye population may have already migrated up the Pine River or below Twin Falls Dam, which could not be sampled with our gear due to high flow rates.

The size structure of this small sample of walleye was good with approximately 88.2% of the walleye captured being ≥ 15.0 (the legal length limit). The largest walleye captured was 27.8 inches.

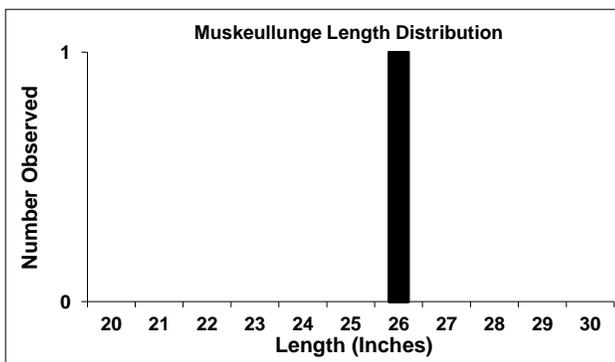


Muskellunge



Only a single muskellunge was captured during this survey. It was a 26.0-inch hybrid muskellunge. There appears to be a very low population of muskellunge in Kingsford Flowage, however at the population level suggested by this survey it would not be considered a "fishable" population.

It is unknown whether there is a very low amount of natural reproduction of muskellunge in this flowage, or if the individuals that exist are just "spill-over" from the two flowages above.

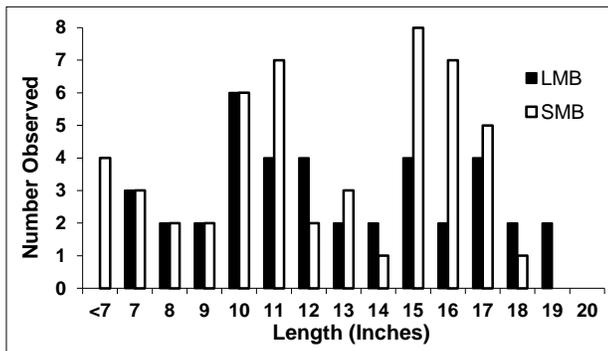


Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass

Smallmouth and largemouth bass populations were assessed via electrofishing on the night of June 11th. A total of 5.65 miles of shoreline was surveyed covering a variety of habitat types within Kingsford Flowage and Cowboy Lake.

Smallmouth bass were captured at a rate of 7.6 adults (≥ 8.0) per mile while largemouth bass were captured at 3.9 adults per mile. While both species are present in fishable populations there is not much overlap between the populations. Smallmouth bass were primarily found in the upstream portions of the flowage, while largemouth bass were found downstream and mostly in Cowboy Lake.

Smallmouth and largemouth bass size structure was pretty good with 46.8% and 44.4% of the fish captured being ≥ 14.0 inches.

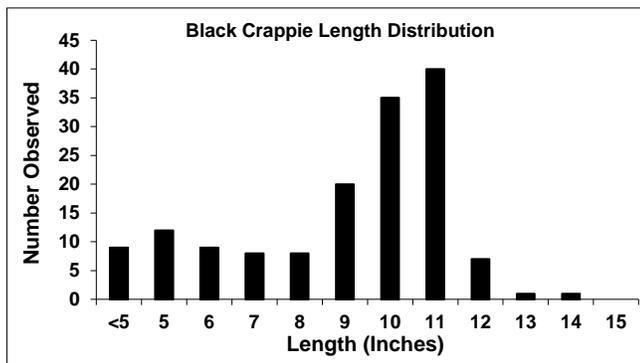
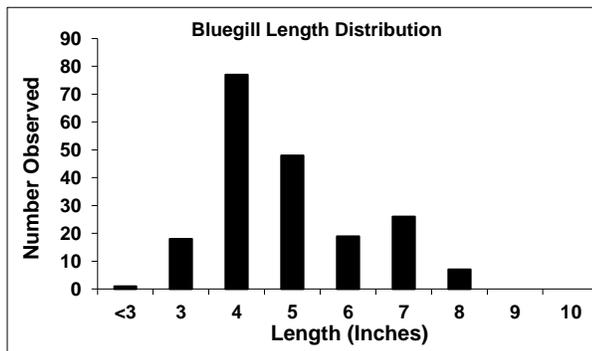


Bluegill



Bluegill was the most abundant panfish species captured during our late spring assessment of Kingsford Flowage, with a catch rate of 6.7 fish per net-night. This is a very low catch rate for bluegill in this region, which suggests a low abundance of this species

A total of 196 bluegill were measured during the spring survey to assess the size structure of the population. The size structure of bluegill is poor-to-moderate with approximately 26.7% and 3.6% of fish measured being ≥ 6.0 and 8.0 inches respectively.



Black Crappie



Black crappie were the 3rd most abundant panfish species during our early spring assessment (0.9 fish/net-lift) and the 2nd most abundant panfish species during the late spring assessment (5.6 fish/net-lift). This data suggests that black crappie are also not very abundant in Kingsford Flowage.

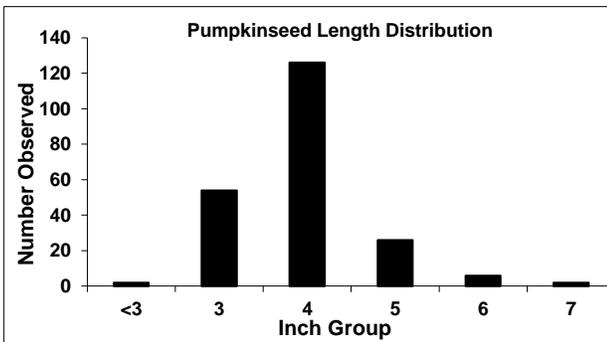
All black crappie captured, a total of 150 fish, were measured to assess size structure. The size structure of black crappie in the Kingsford Flowage is very good with 59.6% and 6.4% of the fish sampled being ≥ 10.0 and 12.0 inches respectively.

Pumpkinseed



Pumpkinseed was the most abundant panfish species captured during our early spring survey (4.0/net-lift), but quite rare during the late spring survey (0.5/net-lift). Pumpkinseed are likely similar in abundance to bluegill and black crappie.

Every pumpkinseed captured during our survey was measured to assess size structure. Size structure of pumpkinseed was quite poor with 3.8% of the fish being ≥ 6.0 inches.



Other Panfish

Yellow perch and rock bass were captured in very low numbers during both spring surveys (< 1 fish/net-night), suggesting very low abundance.

Size structure of these species was also poor with 17.6% of the yellow perch and 21.2% of the rock bass captured being ≥ 7.0 inches.

Comments

Flowages like Kingsford Flowage are tough to properly assess due to early ice out, water temperatures controlled by inflow and the ability of fish to migrate to areas that are inaccessible due to high flows and shallow water.

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final.
For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for the Kingsford Flowage contact:

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