



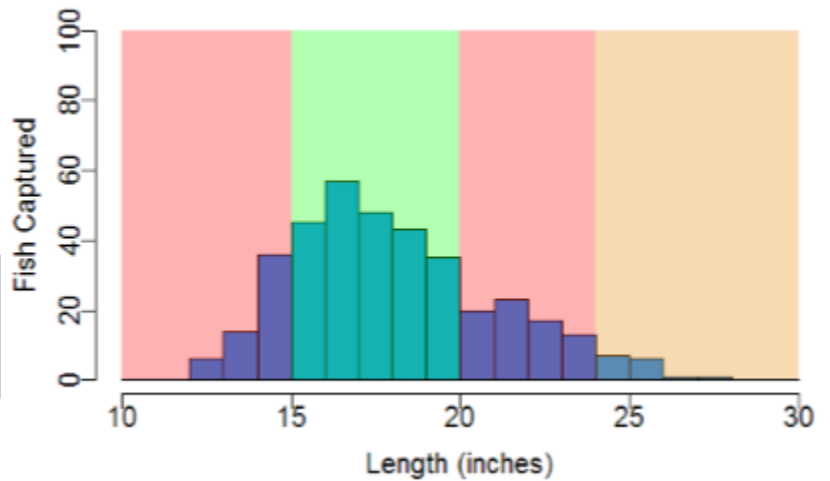
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Round Lake, Sawyer County, 2019

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted two separate fyke netting surveys on Round Lake in 2019. The first ran from April 30 to May 2, 2019 and targeted adult walleye and northern pike with 27 total net-nights of effort. The second ran from May 15-17, 2019 and targeted black crappie, muskellunge, and yellow perch with 33 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey conducted on June 5 and June 6, 2019 documented the status of bluegill, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and non-game species but also provided information on juvenile walleye. Eight miles of shoreline were shocked. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Walleye (Adult)



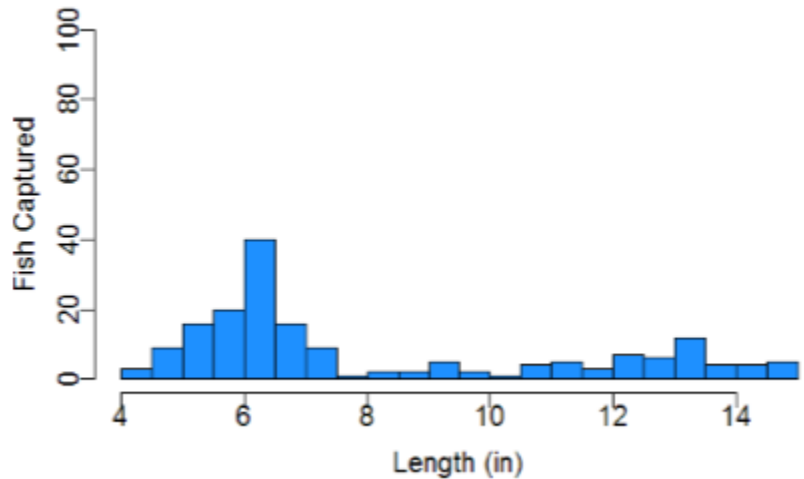
| | |
|--|-----|
| Captured 14 per net-night ≥ 10 inches | |
| Quality Size ≥ 15 " | 85% |
| Preferred Size ≥ 20 " | 24% |



Walleye (Juvenile)



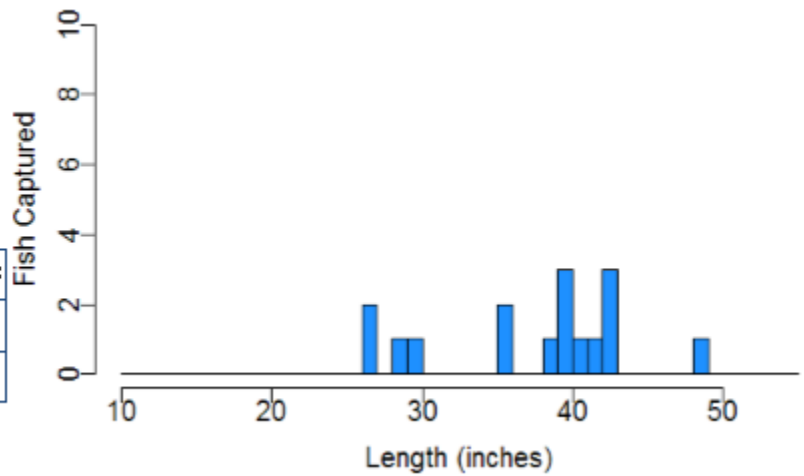
Captured 22 per mile ≤ 15 inches



Muskellunge



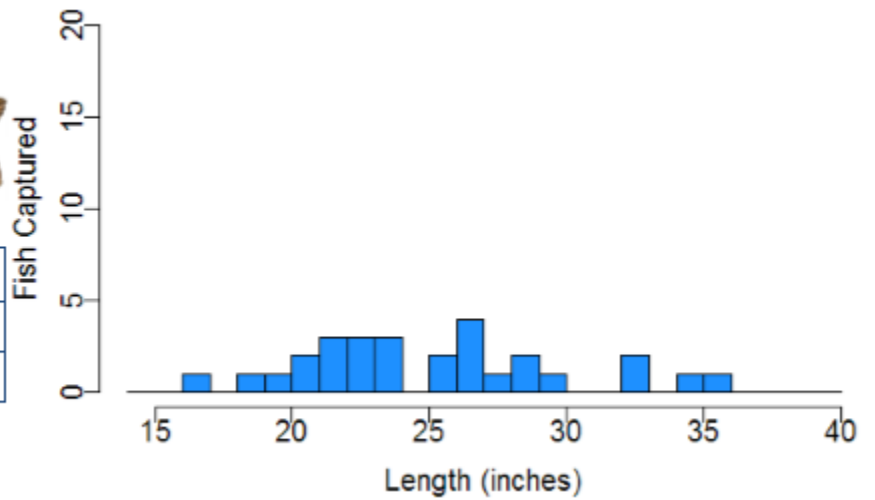
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| Captured 0.5 per net-night ≥ 20 inches | |
| Quality Size ≥ 30" | 75% |
| Memorable Size ≥ 42" | 25% |



Northern Pike



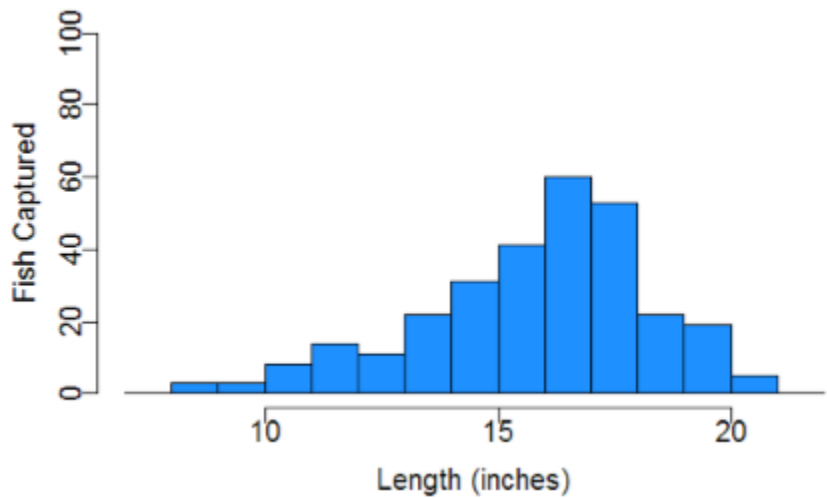
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| Captured 1 per net-night ≥ 14 inches | |
| Quality Size ≥ 21" | 82% |
| Preferred Size ≥ 28" | 25% |



Smallmouth bass



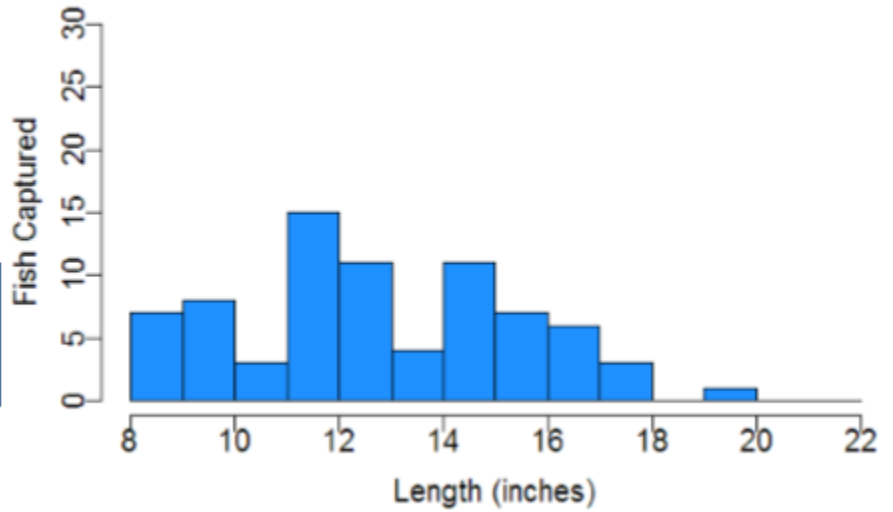
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| Captured 37 per mile ≥ 7 inches | |
| Quality Size ≥ 11" | 95% |
| Preferred Size ≥ 14" | 79% |
| Memorable Size ≥ 17" | 34% |



Largemouth bass



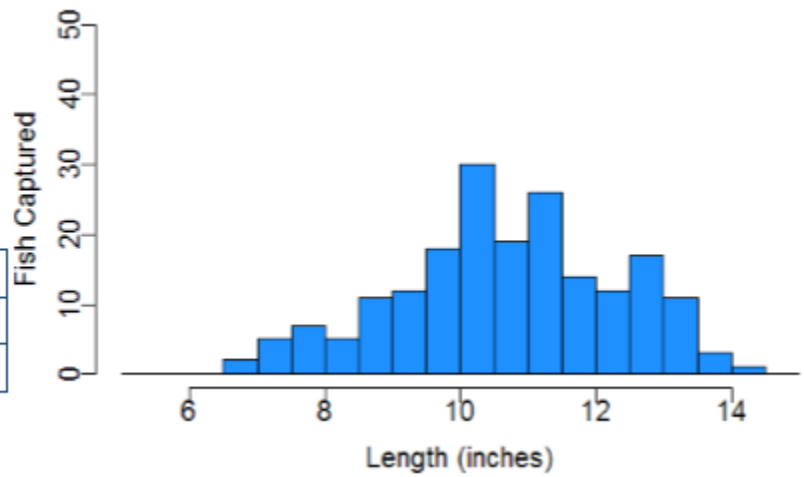
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| Captured 10 per mile \geq 8 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 12" | 57% |
| Preferred Size \geq 15" | 22% |



Black Crappie



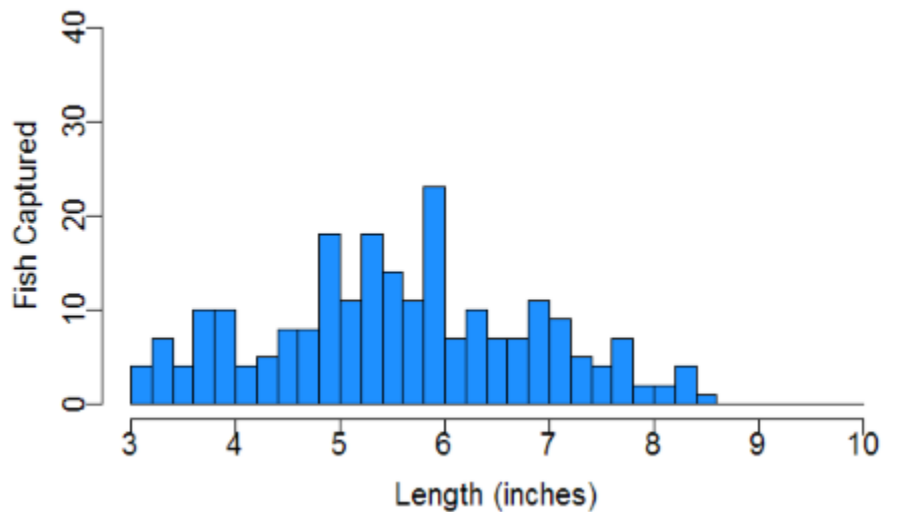
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| Captured 6 per net-night \geq 5 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 8" | 93% |
| Preferred Size \geq 10" | 69% |



Bluegill



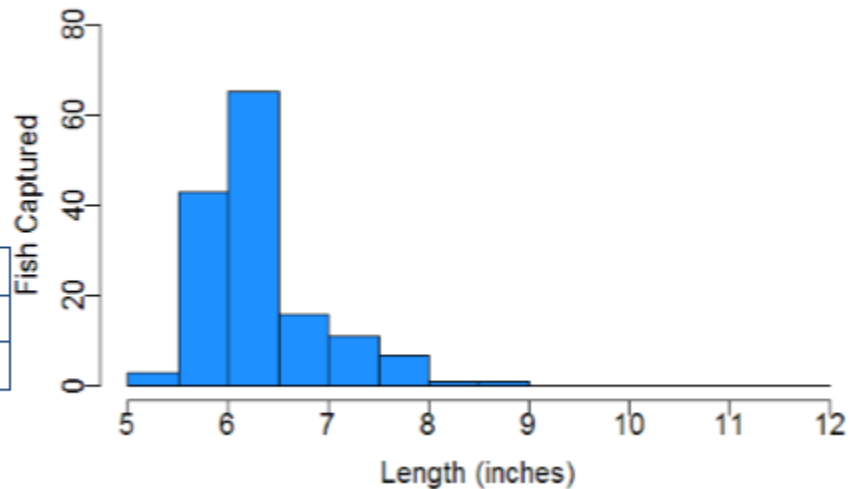
| | |
|---|------------|
| Captured 115 per mile \geq 3 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 6" | 33% |
| Preferred Size \geq 8" | 3% |



Yellow Perch



| | |
|--|-----------|
| Captured 4 per net-night \geq 5 inches | |
| Quality Size \geq 8" | 1% |
| Preferred Size \geq 10" | 0% |



Summary of Results

Round Lake is a large, deep lake with complex habitat that can be challenging to survey. Two separate netting efforts were made to target different habitats and water temperature ranges to get the best possible sample of all target species in the lake. The electrofishing survey was carefully timed to capture smallmouth bass when they were shallow, as well as largemouth bass and bluegill. We feel the results of this survey are very representative for all populations except possibly muskellunge, which were difficult to capture, despite many fish being observed in the shallows.

Adult walleye catch rate in 2019 was considerably higher than previous surveys of Round Lake (2 per net night in 2013, and 4 per net night in 2016). Round Lake continues to support strong natural reproduction of walleye that results in a nice abundance of adult fish. Size was similar to past surveys, but offers much for anglers to be excited about. In the 2019 sample, 85% of walleye were over the minimum length limit of 15 inches, with 24% over 20 inches (color coding in above figure lines up with fishing regulations where green = harvest slot, red = no harvest). Juvenile walleye were captured at a moderate rate during the electrofishing portion of this survey, including many 4-7 inch walleye that make up the 2018 year class. These results point towards more years of good walleye fishing to come.

Muskellunge were challenging to capture despite a considerable amount of well-timed effort. Although capture rates were not as high as expected, Round Lake still offered several glimpses of its potential to produce trophy muskellunge (see photo below). Hatchery crews that also worked on Round Lake in 2019 reported capturing three 50+” muskellunge. All muskellunge captured in Round Lake were given Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags to track growth, movement, and survival.

Round Lake offers a low-density pike population that supports excellent size. Most pike surveyed were over 21 inches, with healthy percentage also over 28 inches. Suitable northern pike habitat is limited to several of the large weedy bays in the lake. Pike recruitment appears to be self-regulating to the point that they do not become overly abundant and can achieve good size. This lake offers an excellent opportunity for anglers looking to catch 30+” pike.

Smallmouth bass are a very popular species in Round Lake, and for good reason. The smallmouth population is abundant and also offers excellent size (one out of three smallmouth in

our sample was over 17 inches). Abundance of smallmouth in 2019 was higher than in previous surveys (20 per mile in 2013, 15 per mile in 2016) while size metrics were largely similar to past years.

Black crappie in Round Lake also achieve excellent size. An impressive 69% of crappie sampled were over 10 inches. This is a considerable increase from past surveys (39% over 10 inches in 2013, too few sampled in 2016 to make comparison). More restrictive experimental panfish regulations that were enacted in 2016 may benefit crappie in this very clear lake. Anglers target them heavily when they are shallow in pre-spawn and spawning mode.

Bluegill showed only slight improvements in size in comparison to past surveys, while bluegill abundance was somewhat lower. Bluegill are primarily concentrated in the shallow, weedy bays in Round Lake and in Little Round Lake.

Yellow perch were captured at a low rate and few large individuals were sampled. These results from 2019 mirror those from past years and create questions about whether current survey methods are adequate for surveying perch in this deep, clear lake. Further exploration of the perch population in Round Lake may be needed.



Fisheries Technician Evan Sniadajewski with a beautiful Round Lake musky captured in a fyke net. Photo by Max Wolter.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County
Survey conducted by Max Wolter, Scott Braden (Fisheries Technician), and Evan Sniadajewski (Fisheries Technician)
Special thanks to volunteers: Stu Neville, Ben Turner, Jake McCusker, and Dan Richards
Reviewed and Approved by Michael Vogelsang – District Supervisor

