



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

**LAKE:** PELICAN

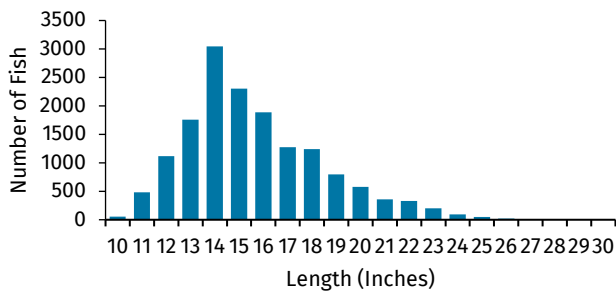
**COUNTY:** ONEIDA

**YEAR:** 2024

### Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Pelican Lake in Oneida County to assess the status of its walleye and muskellunge populations. Pelican Lake is a 3,545-acre drainage lake with sand, rock and muck substrates, 16.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 39 feet. The walleye population in Pelican Lake is sustained by natural reproduction, while the muskellunge population is maintained through a combination of stocking and natural reproduction.

Adult Walleye Population Distribution



### WALLEYE

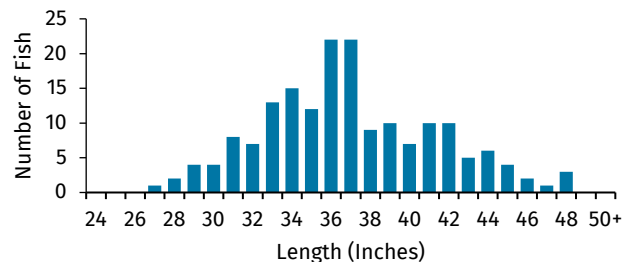
Fyke netting and electrofishing surveys through April 14 captured 3,364 adult walleye (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 15,581 (4.3/acre) adult walleye present in Pelican Lake. An estimated 59% of adult walleye were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 28.3-inch female.



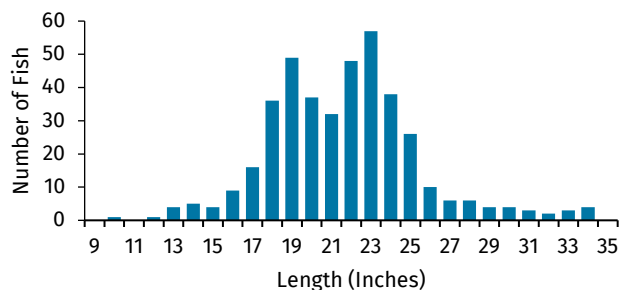
### MUSKELLUNGE

Survey efforts in 2023 and 2024 (two seasons are necessary for a population estimate) resulted in the capture of 177 adult muskellunge (sexually mature or  $\geq 30$  inches) at rates of 1.5 (2023) and 4.3 (2024) per net lift of targeted effort. The largest caught was a 48.3-inch female. Mark-recapture procedures estimated 424 (0.12/acre) adult muskellunge in Pelican Lake.

Adult Muskellunge Length Distribution



Adult Northern Pike Length Distribution



### NORTHERN PIKE

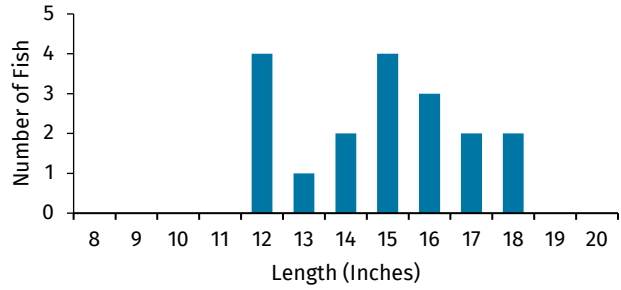
Surveys efforts captured 405 adult pike (sexually mature or  $\geq 12$  inches). Sixty percent of adults were  $\geq 21$  inches, with the largest being a 34.8-inch female. Mark-recapture procedures estimated 1,247 (0.3/acre) adult northern pike in Pelican Lake.



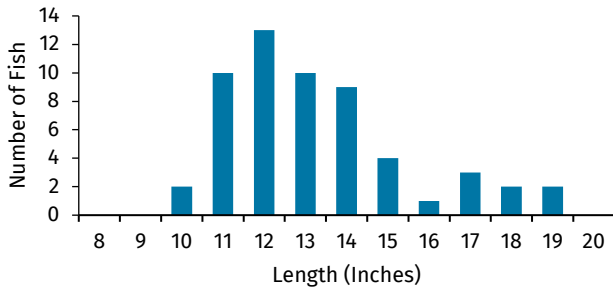
### SMALLMOUTH BASS

Smallmouth bass were not a primary target of this survey. A total of 18 adult ( $\geq 8$  inches) smallmouth bass were captured, and 72% were  $\geq 14$  inches (largest 18.6 inches).

Adult Smallmouth Bass Length Distribution



Adult Largemouth Bass Length Distribution



### LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass were not a primary target of this survey. A total of 56 adult largemouth bass ( $\geq 8$  inches) were caught, and 38% were  $\geq 14$  inches (largest 19.9 inches).

### OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned, 11 other fish species were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing in Pelican Lake. Yellow perch (8,686 caught, mean length 6.9 inches) and bluegill (4,082 caught, mean length 6.6 inches) were common while black crappie (1,774 caught, mean length 8.4 inches) were caught in moderate numbers. Other species captured included black and yellow bullhead, burbot, common and golden shiners, pumpkinseed, rock bass and white sucker.

Table 1. Select fishing regulations for Pelican Lake, in Oneida County Wisconsin. Regulations for species not listed below follow the “General Inland Waters” rules found within the state fishing regulations pamphlet.

SPECIES	2024-25 SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Walleye	May 4 – March 2	3	15”, 20”-24” protected slot 1 over 24”
Largemouth bass	May 4 – March 2	5 in combination with smallmouth bass	18”
Smallmouth bass	June 15 – March 2	5 in combination with largemouth bass	18”
Muskellunge	May 25 – December 31	1	50”

### Acknowledgements & Questions

This report was compiled by DNR Fisheries Technician Mark Love. Contact the treaty fisheries biologist for questions about this report. Contact the Oneida County biologist for questions regarding fisheries management activities on Pelican Lake.

#### Lawrence Eslinger

Treaty Fisheries Biologist  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
8770 Hwy J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
715 356-5211 x209  
lawrence.eslinger@wisconsin.gov

#### Nathan Lederman

Oneida County Fisheries Biologist  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
107 Sutliff Avenue  
Rhinelander WI 54501  
715 525-2898  
nathan.lederman@wisconsin.gov