



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Squash

COUNTY: Oneida

YEAR: 2023

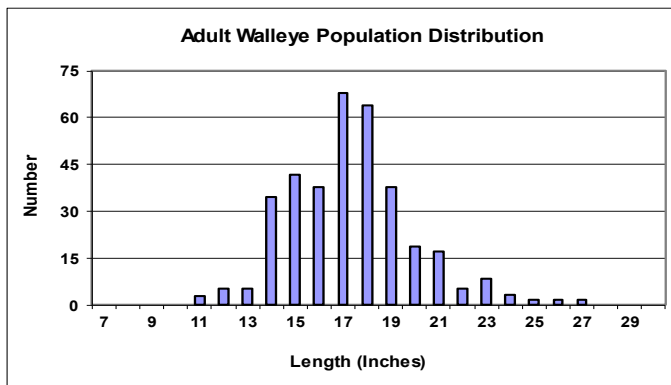
Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Squash Lake in Oneida County from May 3 through May 5 to assess the status of the walleye population. Additional electrofishing surveys were conducted on May 23 and 30 to assess the bass and panfish communities. Squash Lake is a clear water, seepage lake with predominantly sand and gravel substrates. It has 396 surface acres, 7.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 74 feet. Squash Lake's walleye population is sustained by stocking and low levels of natural reproduction.



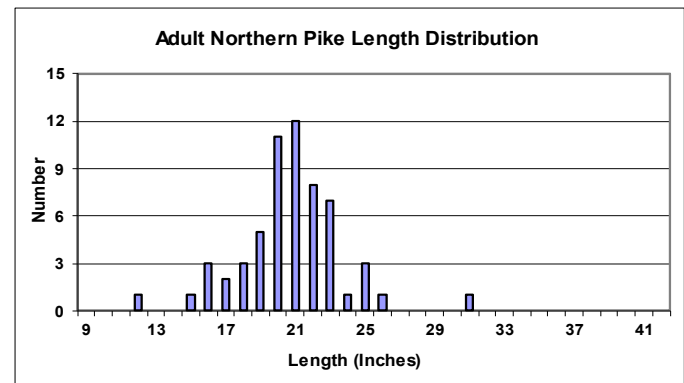
WALLEYE

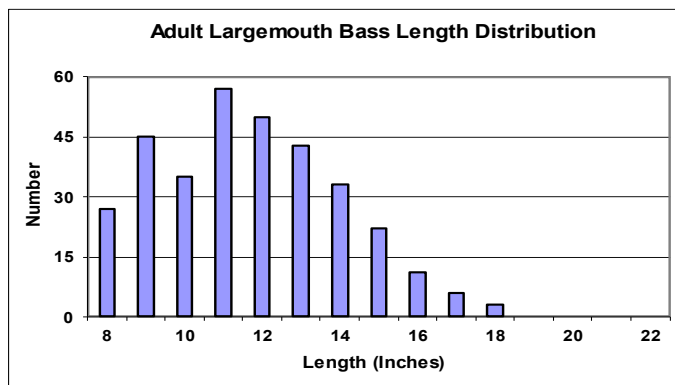
During three days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 262 adult walleyes (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches) were captured and marked with a fin clip. Crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 52 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 75% (39 of 52) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Squash Lake was estimated to contain 355 adult walleyes (0.9/acre). An estimated 87% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 27.7-inch female.



NORTHERN PIKE

Sampling Squash Lake between May 3 and May 23 resulted in the catch of 59 adult northern pike, sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches. Two (3%) of those pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 31.3 inches.





LARGEMOUTH BASS

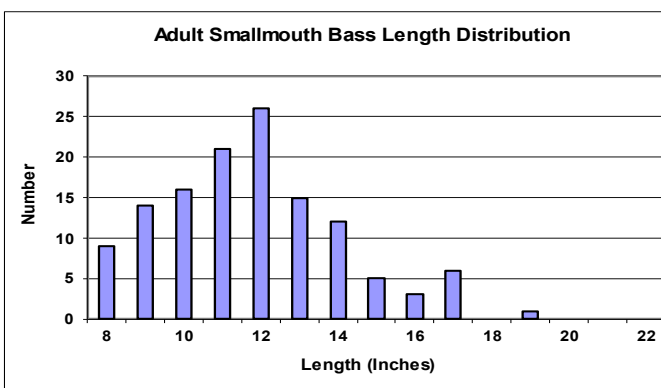


Survey sampling conducted through May 30 estimated the adult smallmouth bass population in Squash Lake at 2,156 fish (5.4/acre). A total of 352 smallmouth bass were captured, with 332 considered adults (≥ 8 inches). Approximately 23% of adults were also 14 inches or longer, and the largest measured 18.4 inches. During the May 23 and May 30 electrofishing surveys, adult largemouth bass were caught at high rates of 16.1 and 22.8 per mile of shoreline, respectively.

SMALLMOUTH BASS



Survey sampling conducted through May 30 estimated the adult smallmouth bass population in Squash Lake at 343 fish (0.9/acre). A total of 138 smallmouth bass were captured, with 128 considered adults (≥ 8 inches). Approximately 21% of adults were also 14 inches or longer, and the largest measured 19.9 inches. During the May 23 and May 30 electrofishing surveys, adult smallmouth bass were caught at moderate rates of 10.3 and 8.4 per mile of shoreline, respectively.



OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Squash Lake resulted in the catch of 12 species of fish; bluegills were common in survey catches. Other species caught included black crappie, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, green sunfish, johnny darter, mimic shiner, mottled sculpin, pumpkinseed, rock bass, white sucker and yellow perch.

Table 1. Special fishing regulations for Squash Lake, Oneida County, Wisconsin. Regulations for species not listed below follow the "General Inland Waters" rules found within the state fishing regulations pamphlet.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
walleye	May 6 - March 3	3	18 inches
largemouth bass (LMB)	May 6 - March 3	5 in total with SMB	No minimum
smallmouth bass (SMB)	June 17 - March 3	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	No minimum

Catch and release fishing is allowed year-round for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Acknowledgements & Questions

This report was compiled by DNR fisheries technician Mark Love. For answers to questions about findings within this report, contact the treaty fisheries biologist. For questions regarding fisheries management activities on Squash Lake, contact the Oneida County biologist.

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