



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Big Blake & Little
Blake lakes

COUNTY: Polk

YEAR: 2022

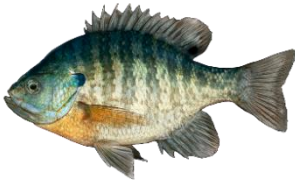
Introduction

Big Blake Lake and Little Blake Lake are two connected drainage lakes located in Polk County, Wisconsin. Combined, the lakes are 286-acres and have a maximum depth of 14 feet and a mean depth of 9 feet and have relatively gradual sloping shorelines. The Blake lakes are on the Straight River system and are located downstream of Big Round Lake. These lakes are moderately productive, classified as a complex-warm-dark lakes, and likely receive low-moderate angling pressure and recreational boating use. Currently, recognized invasive species include Chinese and banded mystery snails and curly-leaf pondweed. There are two boat accesses on Big Blake Lake located off South Barker Road and Bystrom Lane and one boat access on Little Blake Lake off Little Blake Lake Lane.

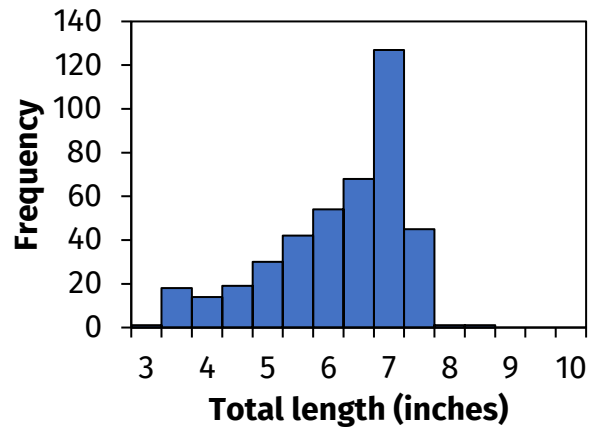
The Blake lakes have a history of fish stocking, including walleye (1991 - 1997) and northern pike (1976 - 2013), but stocking was ceased after 2013.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Big Blake Lake and Little Blake Lake to assess the status of their fisheries during 2022. For this report, data from both lakes were combined. A late spring (SE2) electrofishing survey was conducted on May 31st, 2022 to assess largemouth bass and panfish populations. The SE2 survey consisted of 0.5-mile index stations where all gamefish and panfish were captured and 1.5-mile gamefish stations where all gamefish were collected. There were four index stations and four gamefish stations completed, although some transect distances were reduced due to limited shoreline availability. All fish were measured, but aging structures were collected from five fish per 0.5-inch length group for age and growth analysis. The PSD value for a species is the number of fish of a specified length and longer divided by the number of fish of stock length or longer, the result multiplied by 100. Catch per unit effort (CPUE; index of relative abundance) was estimated as catch per mile.

BLUEGILL



A total of 422 bluegills were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 211 fish/mile, which resembled the lake class 75th percentile and was well above the mean bluegill CPUE for Barron and Polk counties. Bluegill lengths ranged from < 3 inches – 8.5 inches with an average length of 5.8 inches, which was near the lake class 95th percentile. The PSD-6 was 70. Mean length at age was similar to the lake class median length at age standards and the mean Barron and Polk counties estimates.

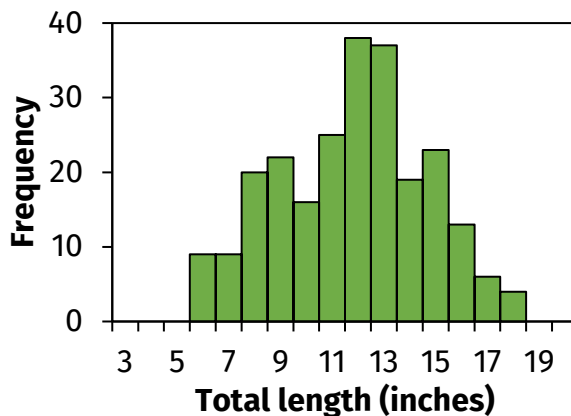


211 fish per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	149 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	1 per mile

LARGEMOUTH BASS



A total of 241 largemouth bass were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 43 fish/mile, which resembled the lake class 75th percentile. Lengths ranged from 6.2 inches – 18.7 inches with an average length of 11.7 inches, which was near the lake class 75th percentile. The PSD-12 was 63 and PSD-15 was 21. Growth was above average and near the lake class 99th percentile.



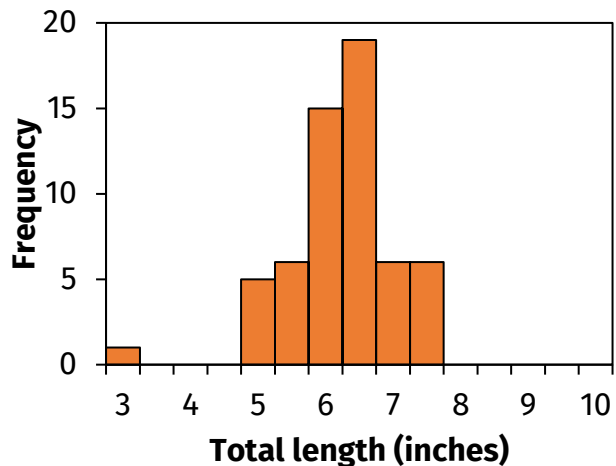
41 fish per mile \geq 7 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12 inches	25 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 15 inches	8 per mile

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 58 pumpkinseeds were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 29 fish/mile and CPUE-6 was 23 fish/mile. Lengths ranged from 3.0 inches – 7.8 inches with an average length of 6.2 inches. The PSD-6 was 40.

29 fish per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	23 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	0 per mile



OTHER SPECIES

A total of five northern pike were collected with lengths ranging from 17.4 inches – 27.4 inches. A total of eight black crappie were collected with lengths ranging from 3.0 inches – 9.6 inches. Other species encountered at low abundances included muskellunge, yellow perch and green sunfish. Walleye were observed but not collected during this survey.

Summary

Big Blake and Little Blake lakes support a typical bass-panfish fishery. A moderate to high-density bluegill population was present with average size structure and growth rates but few large individuals (greater than 8 inches) were present. Similarly, a moderate-density largemouth bass population with modest size structure was present, although growth potential was good with presumably good to fast growth rates. These desirable sportfish populations likely support localized recreational fisheries. The current daily bag limits for panfish and largemouth bass should continue to promote quality recreational fisheries.

Several adult muskellunge were observed during the survey but only one individual was captured, measuring 43.8 inches. Resident muskellunge in the Blakes lakes are

likely migrants from Bone Lake. Additionally, a few walleye were also observed during the survey, but none captured, which were likely migrants from Big Round Lake.

General fishing regulations for Big and Little Blake lakes, in Polk County, Wisconsin.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Panfish	Open all year	25	No minimum length
Largemouth bass	May – March	5	14” minimum length
Northern pike	May – March	5	No minimum length
Muskellunge	May – December	1	40” minimum length
Walleye	May - March	3	15” minimum length, 20-24” protected slot

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Big and Little Blake lakes, contact:

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