



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Herby Lake

COUNTY: Polk

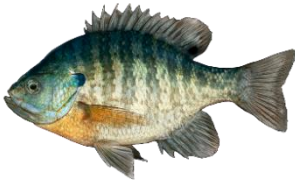
YEAR: 2022

Introduction

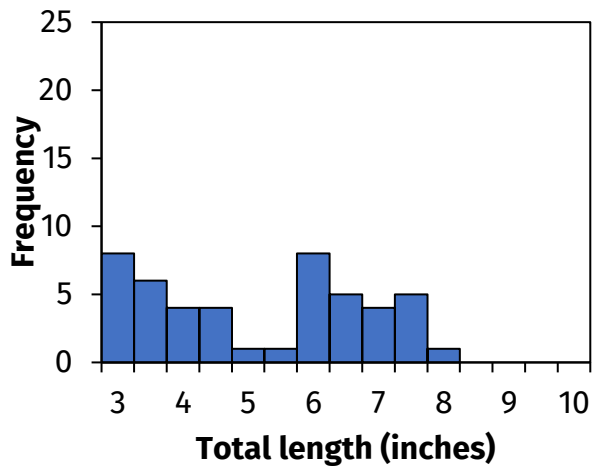
Herby Lake is a 63-acre seepage lake located in Polk County, Wisconsin. The lake has a mean depth of 16 feet and a maximum depth of 36 feet. Herby Lake is a productive lake. It is classified as a simple-warm-dark lake, and likely receives low-moderate angling pressure and recreational boating use. Curly-leaf pondweed is currently the only invasive species documented in Herby Lake. There is one boat access located off 265th avenue.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Herby Lake to assess the status of the fishery during 2022. A late spring (SE2) electrofishing survey was conducted on May 25th, 2022 to assess the 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 two index stations and one gamefish station 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. Size structure was assessed by proportional size distribution (PSD). 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.

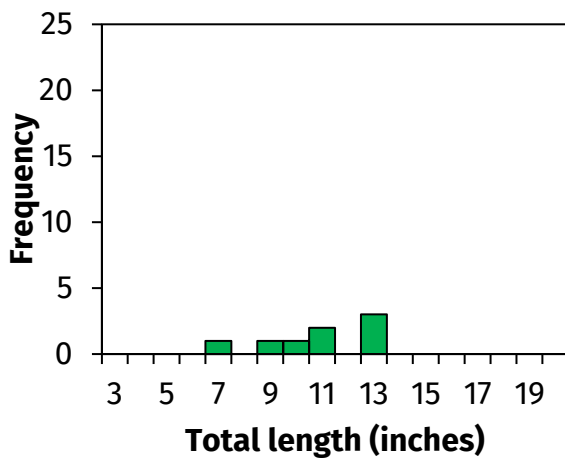
BLUEGILL



A total of 48 bluegills were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 48 fish/mile, which resembled the lake class 25th percentile and was well below the mean bluegill CPUE for Barron and Polk counties. Bluegill lengths ranged from 3.0 – 8.1 inches with an average length of 5.3 inches, which was within the lake class 90th percentile. The PSD-6 was 48. The mean length at age was similar to the lake class median length at age and the mean for Barron and Polk counties.



48 fish per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6 inches	23 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 8 inches	1 per mile



LARGEMOUTH BASS



A total of 8 largemouth bass were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 3 fish/mile, which resembled the lake class 5th percentile. Lengths ranged from 7.5 – 13.5 inches with an average length of 11.1 inches, which was near the lake class 75th percentile. The mean length at age was similar to the lake class median length at age.

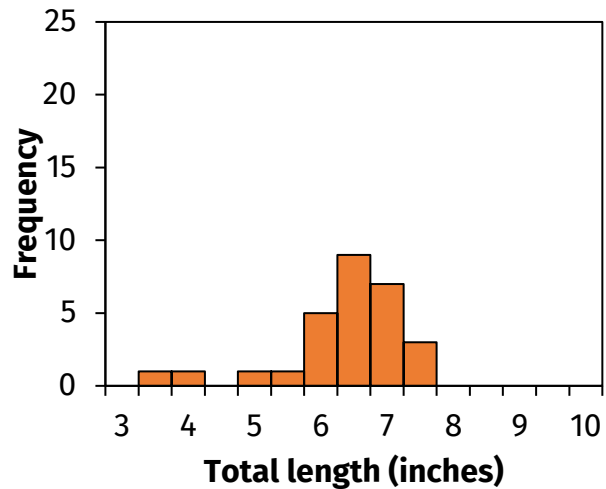
3 fish per mile \geq 7 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12 inches	1 per mile
Preferred Size \geq 15 inches	0 per mile

PUMPKINSEED



A total of 27 pumpkinseeds were collected during the SE2 survey. The CPUE was 27 fish/mile and CPUE-6 was 23 fish/mile. Lengths ranged from 3.9–7.6 inches with an average length of 6.5 inches.

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



OTHER SPECIES

Two northern pike were collected and lengths ranged from 17.0 – 17.1 inches. One black crappie was collected with a length of 7.8 inches. No yellow perch were observed during 2022, despite previous surveys showing low abundance.

Summary

Herby Lake is a small, productive lake that is susceptible to periodic winterkill events. Several winterkill reports were received following the 2021 – 2022 winter, thus the 2022 SE2 survey also served as a winterkill assessment. The panfish and largemouth bass populations during 2022 were low density with poor size structure, which was indicative of a partial winterkill event. However, all species were present, and stocking is not necessary, as the lake will naturally repopulate. Growth remained average and similar to the lake class standards which suggests that healthy populations could develop in the absence of future winterkill events.

Similarly, a winterkill investigation following the winter of 2013 – 2014 concluded a partial kill occurred. Relative abundances of largemouth bass and panfish species were low but stocking was not necessary. It is likely other winterkill events have occurred over the years in Herby Lake that went unreported.

Herby Lake supports a typical bass-panfish fishery but future winterkill events during severe winters will continue to limit the potential of the fishery.

General fishing regulations for Herby Lake, 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

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Herby Lake, contact:

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