



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

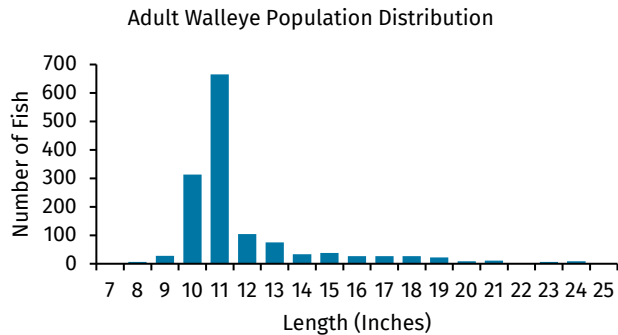
**LAKE:** SNIPE

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2024

### Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Snipe Lake, Vilas County to assess the status of the walleye and muskellunge populations. Snipe Lake is a clear water seepage lake with sand, gravel and muck substrates. It has a surface area of 239 acres, 4 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 15 feet. Snipe Lake's walleye and muskellunge populations are sustained through natural reproduction.



### WALLEYE

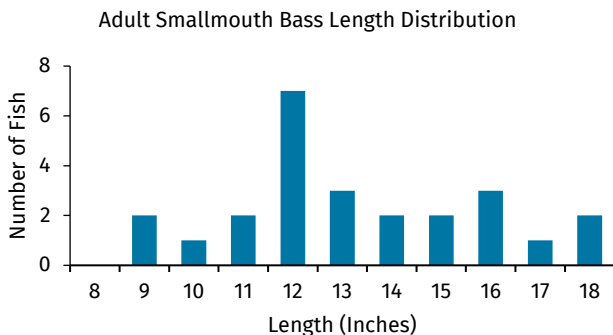
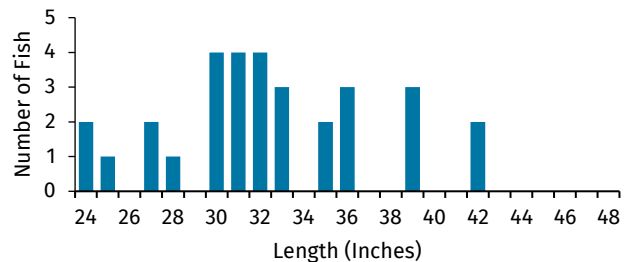
Fyke netting and electrofishing surveys through April 13 captured 549 adult walleye (sexually mature or  $\geq 15$  inches). Mark-recapture procedures estimated 1,398 (5.9/acre) adult walleye present in Snipe Lake. An estimated 12% of adult walleye were  $\geq 15$  inches, and the largest captured was a 24.5-inch female.

### MUSKELLUNGE



Survey efforts resulted in the capture of 33 adult muskellunge (sexually mature or  $\geq 30$  inches) and 12 juvenile muskellunge. Adult muskellunge were caught at a rate of 1.0 per net night of targeted effort. Of the adults, two (6%) were  $\geq 40$  inches, with the largest being a 42-inch female. No northern pike were captured during this survey.

Adult Muskellunge Length Distribution



### SMALLMOUTH BASS

Smallmouth bass were not a primary target of this survey. A total of 25 adult smallmouth bass ( $\geq 8$  inches) were captured, and 40% were  $\geq 14$  inches (largest 18.9 inches). No largemouth bass were captured during this survey.

## OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, seven species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing of Snipe Lake. Yellow perch and bluegill were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught moderate numbers of rock bass. Other species captured included black crappie, pumpkinseed, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

Table 1. 2024 fishing regulations for Snipe Lake, in Vilas County Wisconsin.

SPECIES	2024-25 SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Walleye	May 4 – March 2	3	15" to 20", 1 over 24"
Largemouth bass	May 4 – March 2	5 in total with SMB	14"
Smallmouth bass	June 15 – March 2	5 in total with LMB	14"
Muskellunge	May 25 – December 31	1	40"
Northern pike	May 4 – March 2	5	none
Panfish	Open all year	25	none

## Acknowledgements & Questions

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

### Eric Wegleitner

Vilas County Fisheries Biologist  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
8770 Hwy J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
715 356-5211 x246  
eric.wegleitner@wisconsin.gov