



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: POTTER LAKE

COUNTY: WALWORTH

YEAR: 2016 AND 2022

Introduction

Potter Lake is a 155 acre lake located near the village of East Troy in Walworth County. It has a reported average depth of 8 feet and maximum depth of 26 feet. Electrofishing surveys were conducted on the nights of April 26, 2016 and June 1, 2022 to assess the bluegill and largemouth bass populations.

BLUEGILL

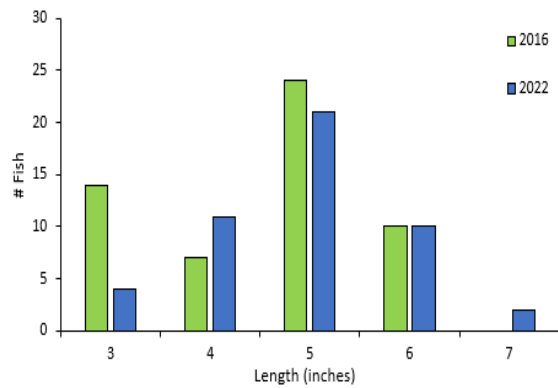


2016

Average length = 4.9 inches
Maximum length = 6.7 inches
Percent of bluegill \geq 6 inches = 18%

2022

Average length = 5.3 inches
Maximum length = 7.3 inches
Percent of bluegill \geq 6 inches = 25%



LARGEMOUTH BASS

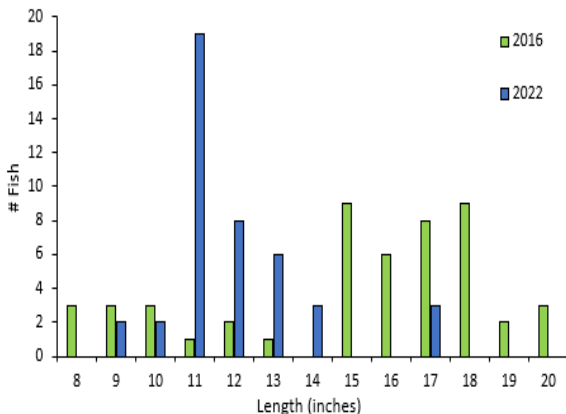


2016

Average length = 15.4 inches
Maximum length = 20.3 inches
Percent legal (\geq 14 inches) = 74%

2022

Average length = 12.4 inches
Maximum length = 17.5 inches
Percent legal (\geq 14 inches) = 14%



OTHER SPECIES

Species observed that do not warrant further analysis due to low abundance in both survey years included: black bullhead, black crappie, brown bullhead, common carp, golden shiner, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, warmouth, white sucker, yellow bullhead and yellow perch.

Summary

Bluegill size structure was very similar between the two survey years. Future surveys should include the collection of aging structures to conduct growth analysis in order to understand the pronounced drop off in the number of bluegill greater than 5 inches. Catch rate (# fish/mile of electrofishing) allows a standardized comparison of abundance between surveys that use the same survey gear type. The 2022 catch rate was 96 bluegill/mile which was relatively similar to the 2016 catch rate of 110 bluegill/mile. Catch rates from both years are about average when compared to similar waters across the state.

Largemouth bass size structure was significantly different between the 2016 and 2022 surveys. Average length, maximum length and percent of legal fish were all higher in 2016. The different survey time periods (April and June) may account for the difference in observed size structure as no regulation change or major habitat modifications occurred between the two survey years. The 2022 catch rate was 18 largemouth bass/mile which was similar to the 2016 catch rate of 20 largemouth bass/mile. Catch rates from both years are below average when compared to similar waters across the state.

The next survey should include the collection of aging structures to evaluate the age and growth of both species to determine the potential need for regulation changes to maximize the potential of the fishery. A thorough evaluation of the aquatic plant community and nearshore habitat would also be informative as they are key factors to the success of both bluegill and largemouth bass.

Contact Information

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

Travis Motl – Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Richard Bong Recreation Area
26313 Burlington Road
Kansasville, WI 53139
920-838-0450
Travis.Motl@wisconsin.gov