



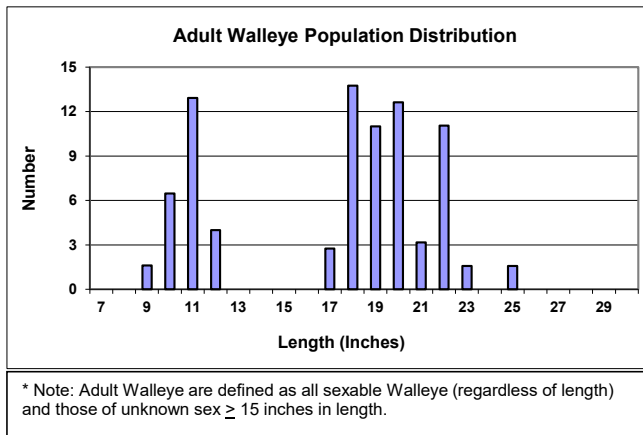
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** GUNLOCK

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2022

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed Gunlock Lake in Vilas County between May 4-8, 2022 to assess the status of the Walleye population. Gunlock Lake is a lightly-stained, spring lake with predominately sand substrates and some muck. The lake has a surface area of 250 acres, 4.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 26 feet. Gunlock Lake's Walleye population is sustained primarily through stocking, while the Muskellunge population is maintained through a combination of natural reproduction and stocking.



**Walleye**



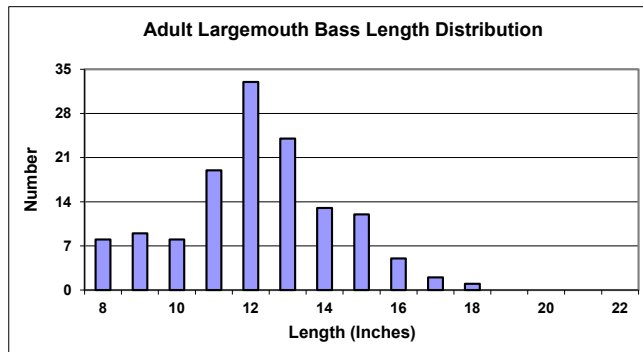
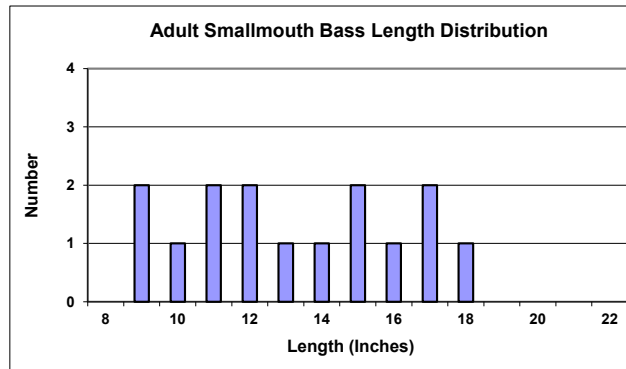
During five days of Walleye-targeted fyke netting, 43 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and caught nine adult Walleye. During electrofishing, 33% (3 of 9) of Walleye bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, Gunlock Lake was estimated to contain 83 adult Walleye (0.3/acre).

An estimated 70% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer. The largest Walleye caught was a 25.7-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**



Smallmouth Bass were not a primary target during the survey of Gunlock Lake, as sampling occurred prior to peak Smallmouth spawning. Fifteen adult Smallmouth Bass eight inches or larger were caught, and 47% were 14 inches or larger, the largest measuring 18.2 inches.



**Largemouth Bass**



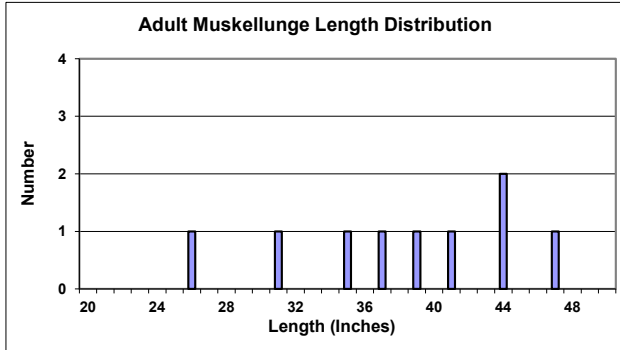
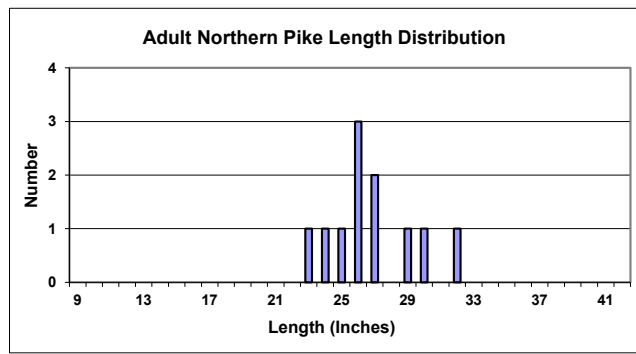
Largemouth Bass were also not a primary target during the survey. However, 152 were caught, 134 were considered adults at eight inches or larger and 25% were 14 inches or longer. The largest measured was 18.2 inches.

## Northern Pike



Sampling Gunlock Lake resulted in the catch of 11 adult Northern Pike. Eight (73%) of those pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 32.6 inches.

\* Note: Adult Northern Pike are defined as all sexable Northern Pike and those of unknown sex  $\geq$  12 inches in length.



## Muskellunge



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, nine adult Muskellunge were caught. Of the adult Muskellunge, 44% (4 of 9) were 40 inches or longer, with the largest being a 47.2-inch female.

\* Note: Adult Muskellunge are defined as all sexable Muskellunge and those of unknown sex  $\geq$  30 inches in length.

## Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in Gunlock Lake resulted in the catch of 12 pan- and non-gamefish species. Yellow Perch, Bluegill and Black Crappie were abundant in survey catches. Other species caught included Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Warmouth, Yellow Bullhead, White Sucker, Grass Pickerel, Common Shiner, Golden Shiner and Bowfin.

A creel survey will be conducted on Gunlock Lake throughout the 2022-23 fishing season, in which a creel clerk will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Gunlock Lake, Vilas County, 2022-23**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH (in.)
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	18
*Largemouth Bass (harvest season)	May 7 - March 5	5 in total with SMB	No min, 14-18 no harvest, 1 > 18
*Smallmouth Bass (harvest season)	June 18 - March 5	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	No min, 14-18 no harvest, 1 > 18
Muskellunge	May 28 - Dec. 31 (open water only)	1	40
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None
Panfish	Year-round	25 (only 5 Bluegill or Pumpkinseed $\geq$ 7")	None

\*Catch and release fishing is allowed year-round for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

A summary of selected fishing regulations for Gunlock Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from the [DNR's Fishing Regulations page](#).

This survey summary can be found on [DNR's Spring Fisheries Surveys in Northern Wisconsin page](#).

2021-22 creel survey results for Gunlock Lake will be posted on [DNR's Ceded Territory Creel Survey Reports page](#).

For questions about this survey, or the results within, contact:

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