



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fisheries Information Sheet

**LAKE:** Wadley

**COUNTY:** Marathon

**YEAR:** 2022

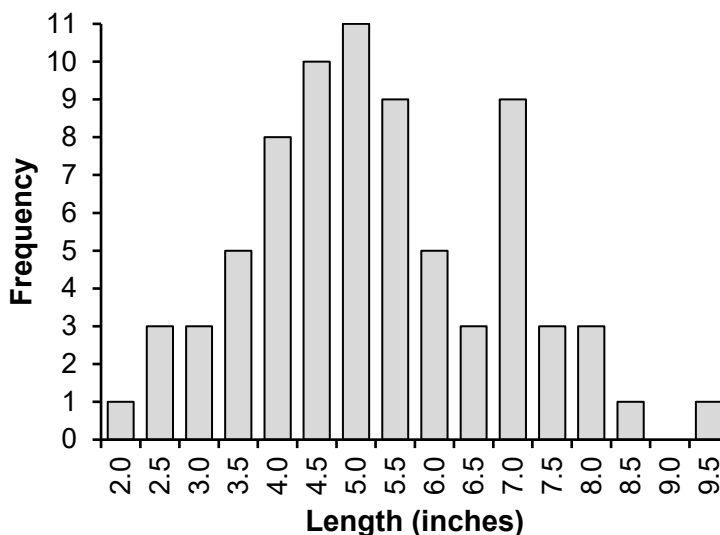
### Introduction

Wadley Lake is a 46-acre lake located in Marathon County with a maximum depth of 27 feet. The lake is considered a bass-panfish lake, with only Yellow Perch and Black Crappie (2016) being stocked since 1980. Fish cribs were installed in the past; however, the success of these structures is unknown, and the overall fish habitat in Wadley Lake is very limited. The lake association is currently working toward installing “Fish Sticks” to add woody debris along the shoreline and increase the overall fish habitat available for fish. The most recent electrofishing surveys conducted by DNR staff on Wadley Lake were in 2006 and 2009. Additionally, a fyke netting survey was conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2012. On June 14, 2022, the DNR conducted a standard nighttime electrofishing survey on Wadley Lake that was completed around the entire shoreline of the lake.

### BLUEGILL



59 Captured/Mile $\geq$ 3 Inches	
PSD Quality $\geq$ 6"	35%
PSD Preferred $\geq$ 8"	7%

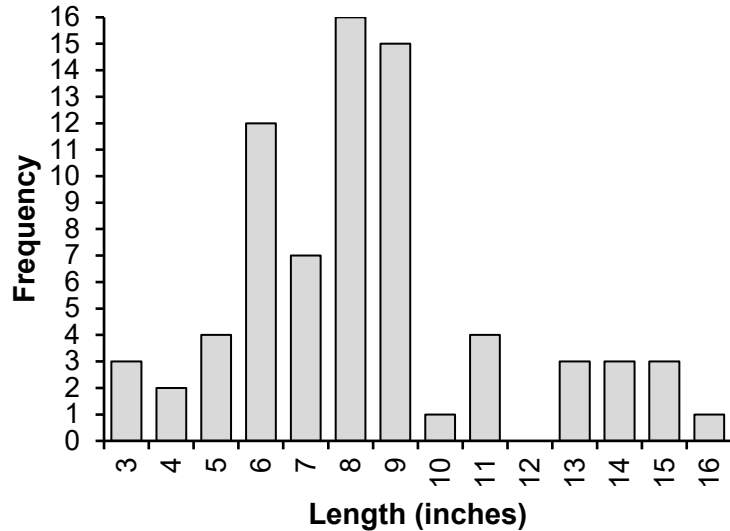


The Bluegill population in Wadley Lake provides a healthy abundance of fish in a large range of size classes, with the potential for fish to exceed 10 inches. The relative abundance of Bluegill has increased since the 2006 and 2012 surveys. Additionally, the size structure has increased substantially since the 2012 survey.

## LARGEMOUTH BASS



38 Captured/Mile $\geq$ 8 Inches	
Quality $\geq$ 12"	22%
Preferred $\geq$ 15"	9%



The Largemouth Bass population in Wadley Lake provides an overabundance of small fish, with very few fish exceeding 15 inches. The relative abundance of Largemouth Bass has substantially increased since the 2012 survey. Additionally, the size structure has decreased substantially since the 2012 survey.

## OTHER SPECIES

Two Green Sunfish (3.7-6.7 inches) and three Yellow Perch (3.3-6.4 inches) were also captured.

## Summary

Wadley Lake is considered a bass-panfish lake, with Largemouth Bass and Bluegill dominating the fish community. In a typical simple lake ecosystem with minimal harvest, fewer large predators usually equal more large prey. Wadley Lake has few large predators (Largemouth Bass) but a high relative abundance of small Largemouth Bass, while the relative abundance of large Bluegill is increasing but still relatively low. This typical predator-prey relationship and the number of large Bluegill is likely impacted by angler harvest on Wadley Lake, but the overall Bluegill population on the lake appears to be increasing in size structure.

## Acknowledgements

The data for this report was collected by Jake Thompson, Wausau Advanced Fisheries Technician, and Daniel Bellich, Wausau LTE Fisheries Technician.

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