

# WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

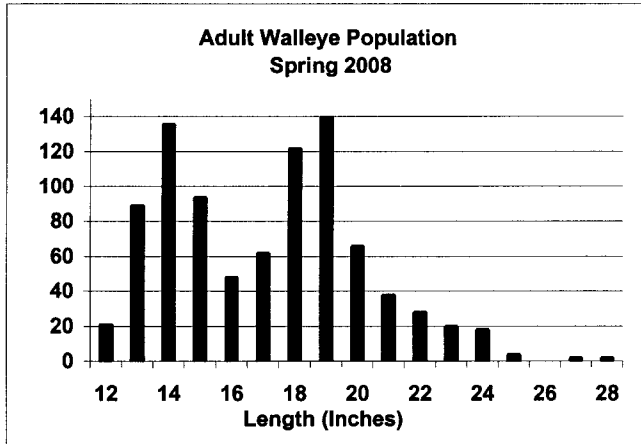
**LAKE:** Black Oak

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2008

The Department of Natural Resources conducted a survey of Black Oak Lake, Vilas County, from May 5 through June 16, 2008. The goal of this survey was to obtain a complete picture of the current fishery.

Black Oak Lake is a clear-water seepage lake with predominantly sand/gravel substrate and is located four miles west of the town of Land O' Lakes. It has a surface area of 584 acres, 7.4 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 85 feet.



\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye regardless of length and only those of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches

### Walleye

Shortly after ice-out we conducted a mark-recapture survey of Black Oak Lake's adult walleye population. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 458 adult walleye in four days of fyke netting. The lake was then sampled with an electro-fishing boat on the night of May 9th and 191 adult walleye were captured.

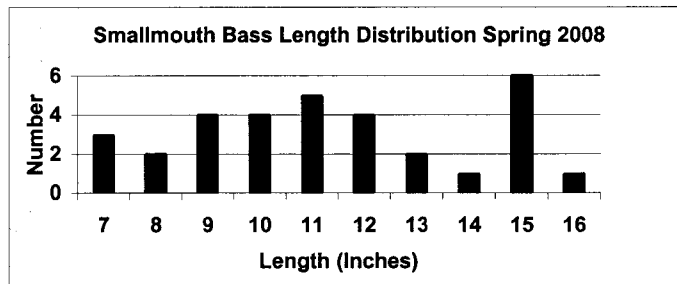
Based on those results, we estimated that this lake is home to about 890 adult walleye (1.5 /acre). This number is significantly lower than the last population estimate conducted in 1999 (3.4/acre). This is likely due to discontinuing of large fingerling stocking, low natural recruitment, natural mortality, and increased harvest. The 2008 population is very similar in number and length distribution to that found in the 1993 survey (1.2/acre).

The largest walleye we captured this spring was a 28.8 inch long female.

### Smallmouth Bass

We also attempted to make a mark-recapture survey of Black Oak Lake's smallmouth bass population. Because we captured only 35 bass we were not able to calculate a population estimate. Of those fish we did capture, 8 (23%) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 16.5 inches long.

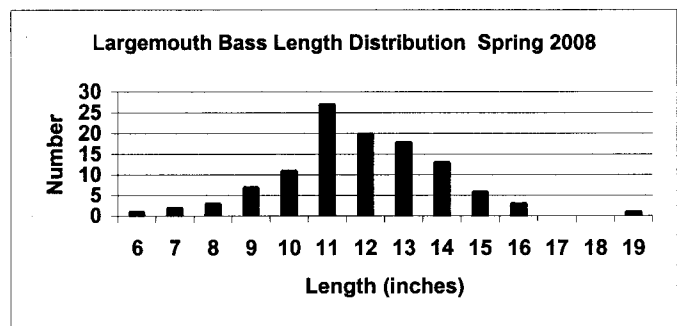
The smallmouth bass fishery appears to be a low density population with very few large fish present.



### Largemouth Bass

This lake has good smallmouth and largemouth bass habitat. We captured 122 largemouth bass during our sampling efforts. Of these, 23 (14%) were 14 inches long or larger and only 1 (0.8%) was over 18 inches in length. The largest largemouth bass we captured was 19.2 inches long.

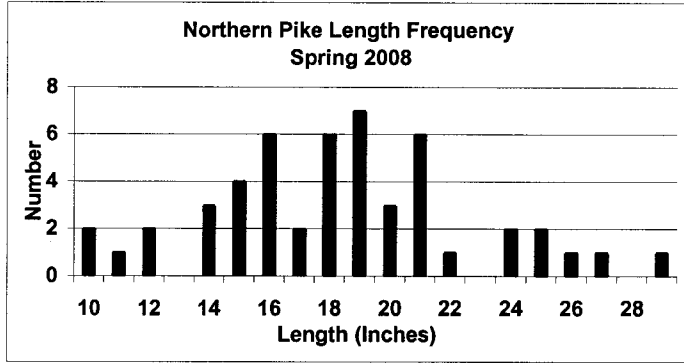
Like the smallmouth bass fishery, the largemouth bass population appears to be low density with very few large fish.



**Northern Pike**

No attempt was made to estimate the number of Northern pike in the lake. We did capture fifty northern pike during this survey. Only 1 (2%) of these were 28 inches or longer. This is a fairly low percentage of larger fish when compared to other lakes in Vilas County. The largest northern pike we captured was a 29.3 inch female that weighed 5 pounds.

Overall the pike fishery is low in number and has the potential to produce a few quality fish. This is not unusual for lakes in our area and there is currently no active management plan for this species on this lake.



**Other Species**

In this survey we captured 6 species of fish in addition to those already discussed. Modest numbers of the following species were present: bluegill, rock bass, black crappie, and burbot. White sucker and yellow perch are common.

We did not capture any lake trout or cisco (lake herring) during this survey but they are present in the lake. This is not unusual given the time of year and the sampling gear we used.

**2008 General Fishing Regulations for Black Oak Lake, Vilas County**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 3 - March 1	3**	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 3 - June 20 (C&R) June 21 - March 1	5	14 inches
Lake Trout	May 3 - September 30	1	30 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 - March 1	5	None

\*\* The bag limit is normally 5 but was adjusted due to tribal harvest of walleye that occurred in 2008

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Black Oak Lake is included above. 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 the current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>

Questions about this report, fisheries management activities, and future plans for this lake should be directed to:

Stephen Gilbert, Fisheries Biologist  
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
 8770 Highway J  
 Woodruff, WI 54568  
 (715) 358-9229  
 Email: [stephen.gilbert@wicsonsin.gov](mailto:stephen.gilbert@wicsonsin.gov)