



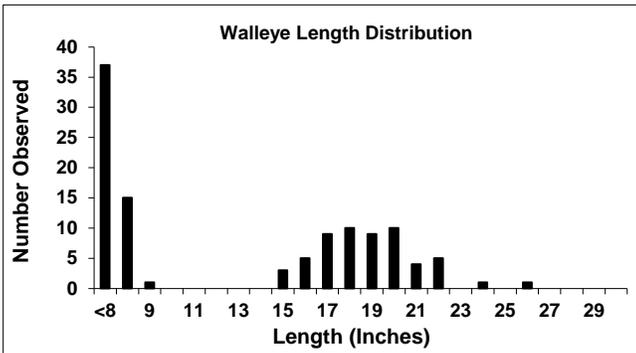
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: Van Zile

COUNTY: Forest

YEAR: 2013

The Department of Natural Resources is currently surveying Van Zile Lake, Forest County, to determine the health of its fishery. This survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fish community. Van Zile Lake is a drained lake with a predominantly sand/gravel substrate. Van Zile Lake is 78 acres and achieves a maximum depth of 17 feet.



Walleye



A mark-recapture survey of Van Zile Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from May 3-7, 2013. During 5 days of fyke netting, 45 different adult walleye were captured and marked with an identifiable fin clip. On the evening of 5/7 our crew sampled Van Zile Lake with an electro fishing boat and captured 17 adult walleye. During electro fishing approximately 29% (5 of 17) of the captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. Based on those results, Van Zile Lake is estimated to contain 127 adult walleye (1.6/acre). All walleye captured during our spring survey were measured to assess size structure.

Size Structure of walleye in Van Zile Lake was good with approximately 36.8% and 1.8% of stock size walleye being >= 20.0 and 25.0 inches respectively. The largest walleye captured was a 26.5-inch fish weighing just over six pounds.

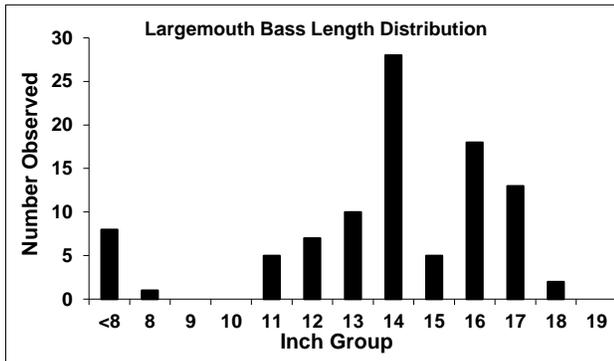
* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex >= 15 inches long.

Largemouth Bass



Largemouth bass were captured during our spring fyke net survey, walleye electrofishing survey and 4 nights of bass electro fishing to estimate the adult population. During these surveys we captured and measured 97 different largemouth bass. After analyzing the data I estimate there to be approximately 252 largemouth bass >= 8.0 inches (3.2/acre) in Van Zile Lake, making them the most abundant game fish.

The size structure of largemouth bass in Van Zile Lake is above average. Of the adult bass captured a total of 66 fish (74.2%) were >= 14 inches in length. However, only 2 fish (2.2%) were larger than 18 inches. The largest bass captured during the 2013 survey was 18.1 inches and 3.56 pounds.

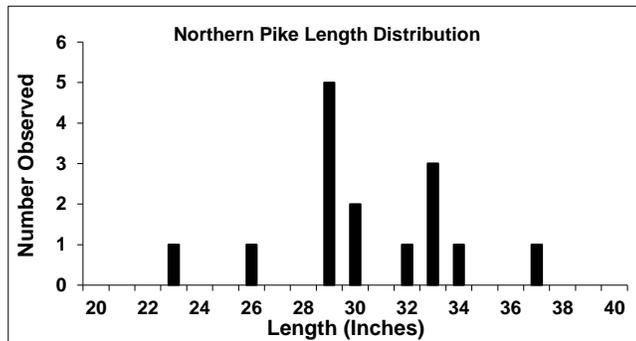


Northern Pike



Northern Pike are the least abundant game fish in Van Zile Lake. During the 2013 spring survey we captured and measured a total of 15 different northern pike. This was not enough fish to estimate the adult population. At a catch rate of just over 1 fish per net-lift northern pike appear to be present in a very low adult density.

Size structure of northern pike is very good in Van Zile Lake with 86.7% and 13.3% of the pike sampled being >= 28.0 and 34.0 inches respectively. The largest pike captured during our survey was a 37.2-inch female weighing 13.5 pounds.

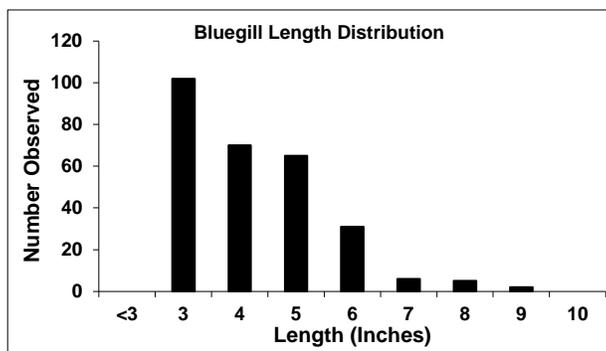
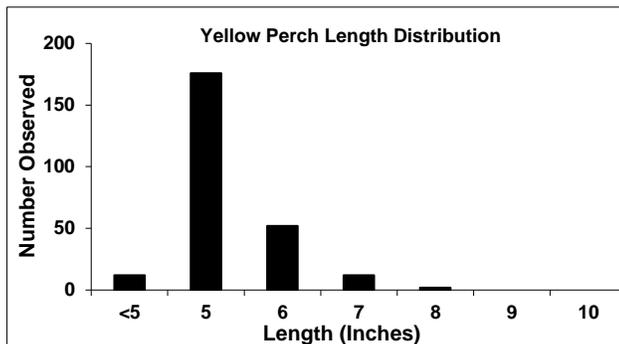


Yellow Perch



During our spring netting survey we captured a total of 1,010 yellow perch. That is a catch rate of approximately 59.4 fish per net-lift, making yellow perch the most abundant pan fish species in Van Zile Lake. A random sample of 254 yellow perch was measured during spring netting to assess size structure.

The yellow perch population in Van Zile Lake has very poor size structure with approximately 5.8% and 0.8% of the yellow perch being ≥ 7.0 and 8.0 inches respectively. There were no large yellow perch sampled during the 2013 spring survey.



Bluegill



A total of 281 bluegill were captured during a 4-day panfish survey conducted 6/25-28/2013. Relative abundance of bluegill was approximately 14.1 fish per net-lift, this catch rate is well below the average for our area. Every bluegill captured was measured to assess size structure.

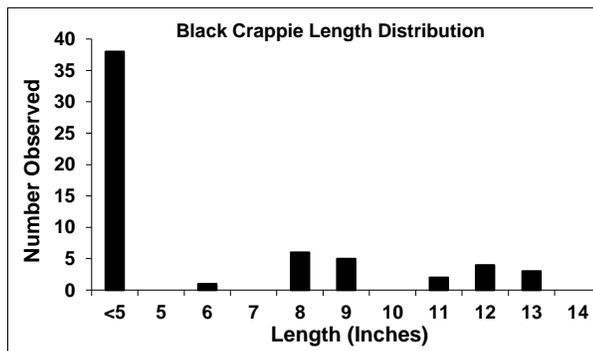
Size structure of bluegill in Van Zile Lake is below average with only 15.7% and 2.5% of bluegill being ≥ 6.0 and 8.0 inches respectively. However, a few large bluegills were seen during other portions of the 2013 survey.

Black Crappie



Black crappie are not very abundant in Van Zile Lake. Over the 5-day spring netting survey we only captured 29 black crappie, this equates to 1.7 fish per net-lift. Black crappie were captured at a similar rate (1.6 fish per net-lift) during our summer panfish survey. These catch rates put black crappie behind yellow perch and bluegill for panfish abundance.

Every black crappie captured during our fyke net surveys in 2013 was measured to assess size structure, a total of 59 fish. The majority of these fish (64.4%) were less than 5 inches. The 21 adult black crappie captured were fairly evenly distributed between 8 and 13 inches in length.



Other Species



There were very few other fish species captured during this years survey. A total of 7 yellow bullhead and 4 white suckers were the only other fish captured during our spring and summer fyke net surveys.

With only 8 different fish species captured, Van Zile Lake is one of the least diverse fisheries in Forest County....which is not always a bad thing.

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final.
For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Van Zile Lake contact:

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