



**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** DEAD PIKE

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2005

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, from April 16 through May 23, 2005, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Dead Pike Lake is a deep, moderately fertile drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 297 acres, 3.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 80 feet.

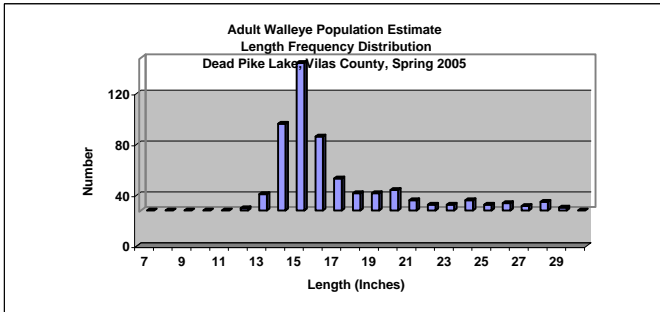


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 374 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex  $\geq$  15 inches long.

**Walleye**

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Dead Pike Lake's adult\* walleye population from April 16-20, 2005. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 218 adult walleye in four days of fyke netting. A crew sampled Dead Pike Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 20 and captured 68 adult walleye. Nearly 56% (38 of 68) of those walleye had been marked (fin clipped) during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Dead Pike Lake was populated by 374 adult walleye (1.3/acre). Approximately 96% (358 of 374) of adult walleye were 14 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 29.2-inch female.

**Smallmouth Bass**

Sampling through May 23rd was conducted prior to peak smallmouth bass spawning. As a result, we were unable to estimate the abundance of smallmouth bass in Dead Pike Lake. We did capture enough smallmouth bass to get a picture of the size structure of the population inhabiting Dead Pike Lake. We captured 17 smallmouth bass, 8-inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling. Three of those smallmouth were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth bass we captured was 17.7 inches long.

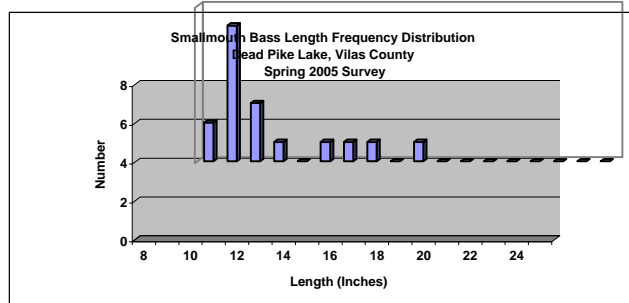


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 17 smallmouth bass  $\geq$  8" captured during a fisheries survey of Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2005.

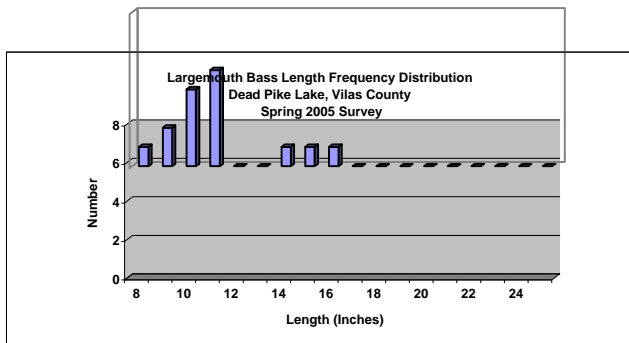


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 15 largemouth bass  $\geq$  8" captured during a fisheries survey of Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2005.

**Largemouth Bass**

Sampling of Dead Pike Lake was also done prior to peak largemouth bass spawning. Therefore, we could not estimate the number of largemouth bass dwelling in Dead Pike Lake. Our sample of largemouth bass was sufficient to give us a sketch of the size distribution of that population. Through May 23rd, we captured 15 largemouth bass, 8-inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling. Three of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 16.5 inches long.

**Northern Pike**

We captured 32 adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Dead Pike Lake from April 16 through May 6, 2005. Nearly 88% (28 of 32) of adult northern pike we captured were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike we captured was a 30.6-inch male.

\* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex  $\geq$  12 inches long.

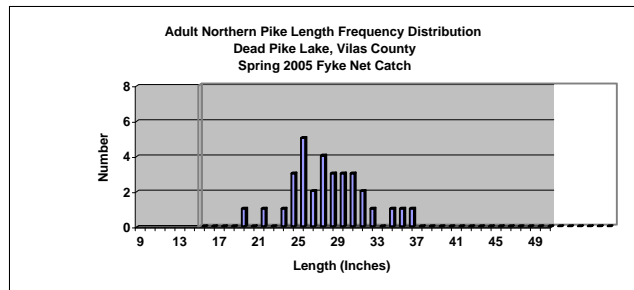


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 32 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2005.

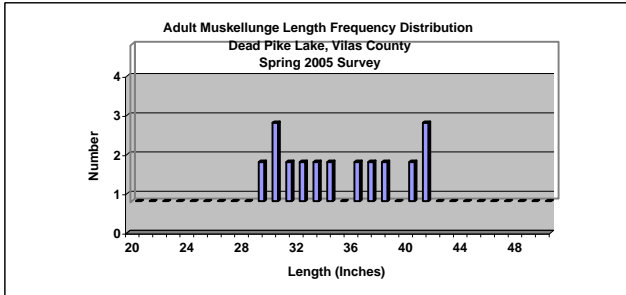


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 13 adult\* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, in spring 2005.

**Muskellunge**

We captured 13 adult\* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Dead Pike Lake. Approximately 54% of the adult muskellunge (7 of 13) we captured were 34 inches long or larger. Three muskellunge were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 41.5-inch female.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex  $\geq$  20 inches long.

**Other Species**

We captured 10 species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Dead Pike Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Bluegill were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught black crappie, bowfin (dogfish), common shiner, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, rock bass, white sucker, yellow bullhead and yellow perch. Young-of-year walleye will be sampled in fall 2005. Additional sampling with fyke nets is planned for spring 2006 to capture muskellunge and complete a population estimate.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Dead Pike Lake this year. Creel clerk Mitch Pierce will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2005 open-water fishing season.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Dead Pike Lake, Vilas County, 2005**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	5	No minimum, only one over 14"
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Dead Pike 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 our web site at:

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

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2006. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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