



Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Teal Lake and Lost Land Lake, Sawyer County, 2014

The Spooner DNR Research team conducted a fyke netting survey on Teal and Lost Land Lake from May 8-14, 2014 targeting muskellunge. Some walleye, northern pike, and crappie were also captured and are included in this report. An electrofishing survey was conducted by the Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team on June 4, 2014 to document the status of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bluegill. Useful information on juvenile walleye was also collected. Four miles were shocked in each lake. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Description of Habitat and Survey Conditions

Teal and Lost Land are relatively large interconnected lakes on the edge of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The lakes differ somewhat in character with Lost Land being more shallow, clear, and weedy, while Teal has darker water and more rock habitat. The netting survey conducted in 2014 targeted muskellunge and was effective at capturing that species. However, other species that were not targeted may not have been representatively sampled and results for those species should be interpreted with caution. The electrofishing survey was well-timed with water temperature but catch rates for all target species were much lower than expected which may indicate other issues with survey timing (weather front).

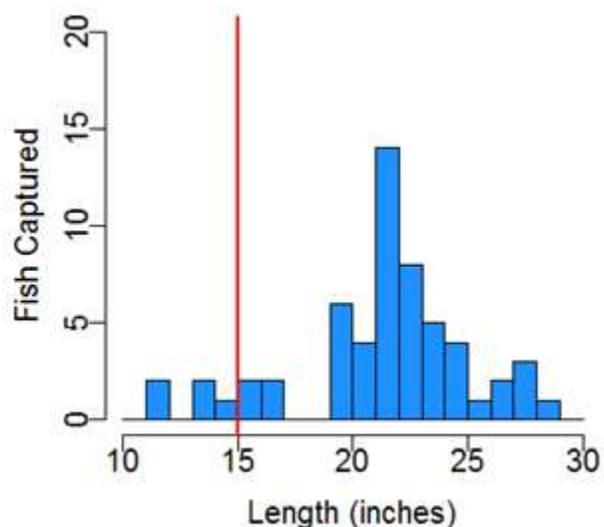
Summary of Results (Teal)

Note: red lines indicate a minimum length limit

Walleye (Adult)



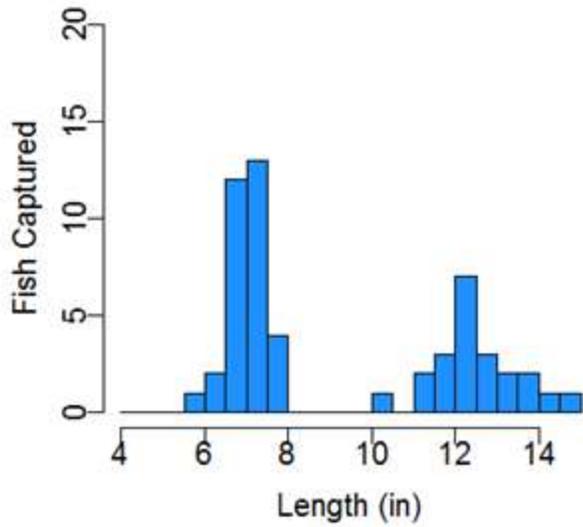
Quality Size \geq 15"	91%
Preferred Size \geq 20"	74%



Walleye (Juvenile)



Captured 13.5 per mile ≤ 15 inches

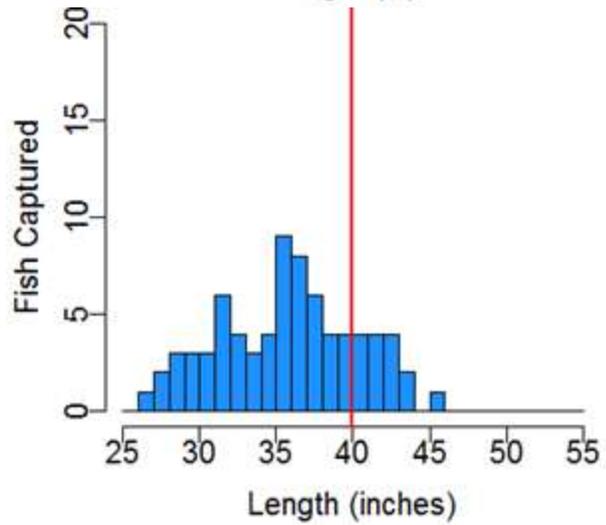


Muskellunge



Captured 1.4 per net-night ≥ 20 inches

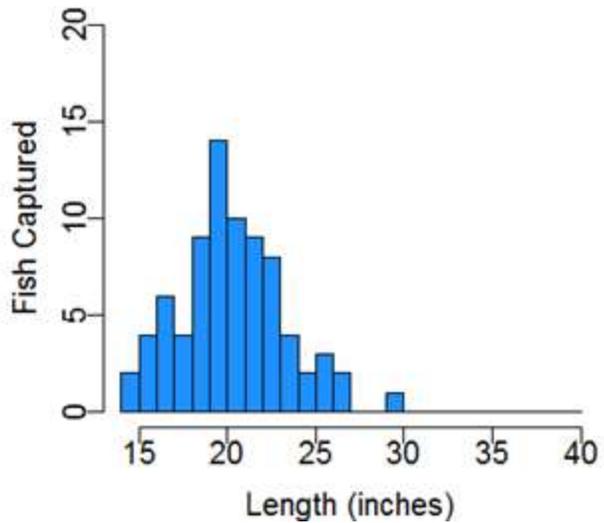
Quality Size ≥ 30 "	88%
Memorable Size ≥ 42 "	9%



Northern Pike



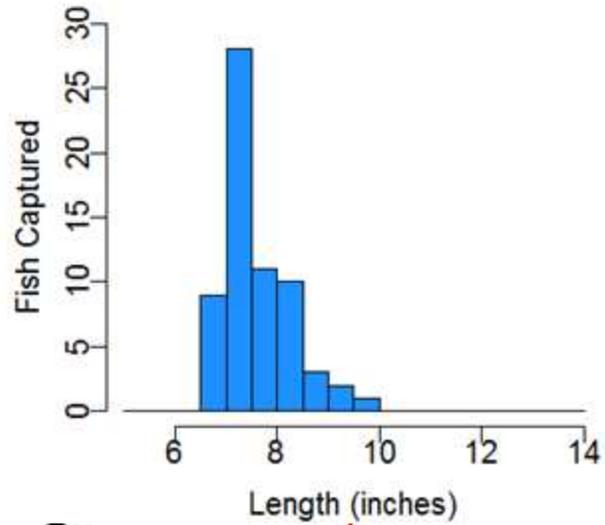
Quality Size ≥ 21 "	37%
Preferred Size ≥ 28 "	1%



Black Crappie



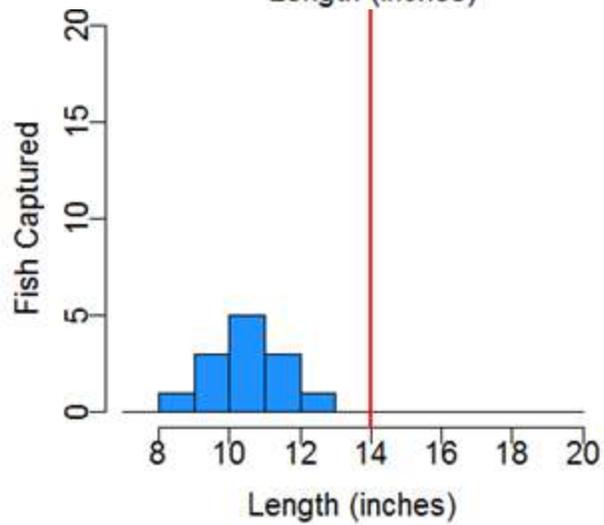
Quality Size $\geq 8"$	25%
Preferred Size $\geq 10"$	0%



Smallmouth bass



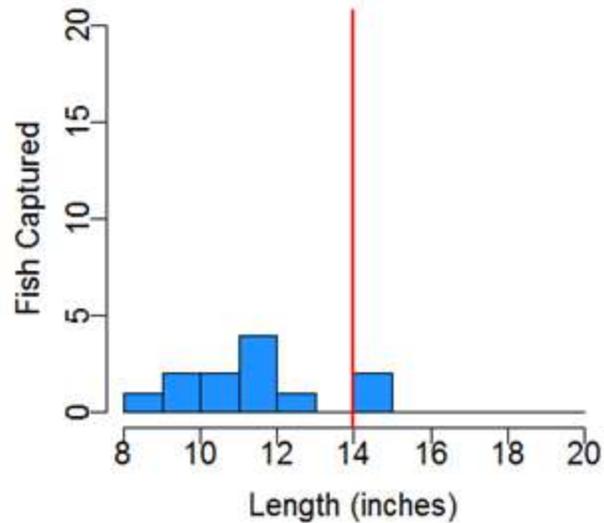
Captured 3 per mile ≥ 7 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 11"$	31%
Preferred Size $\geq 14"$	0%
Memorable Size $\geq 17"$	0%



Largemouth bass



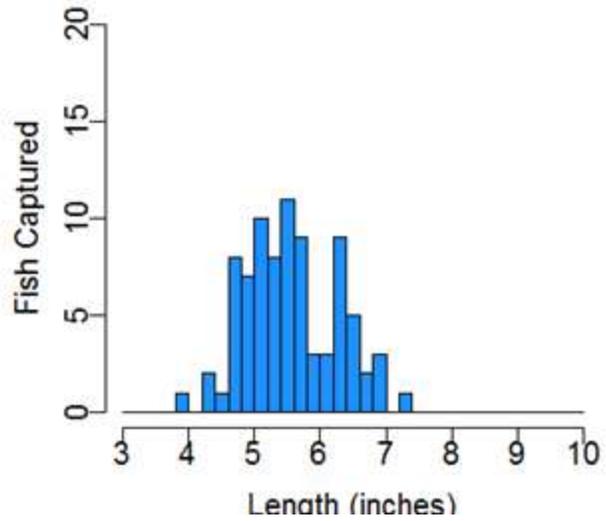
Captured 3 per mile ≥ 8 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 12"$	25%
Preferred Size $\geq 15"$	0%



Bluegill



Captured 83 per mile ≥ 3 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 6 "	28%
Preferred Size ≥ 8 "	0%

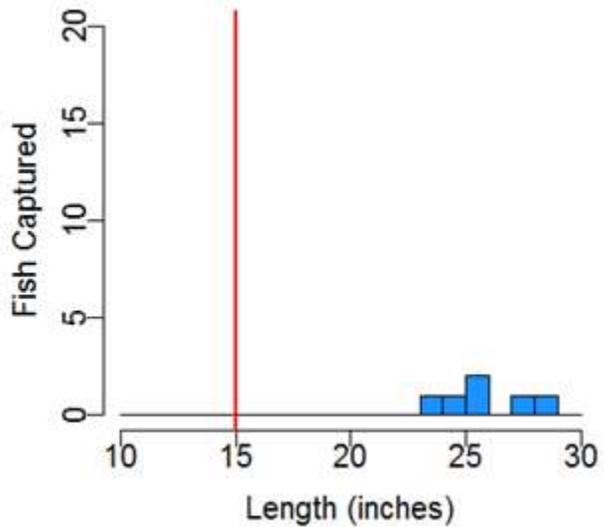


Summary of Results (Lost Land)

Walleye (Adult)



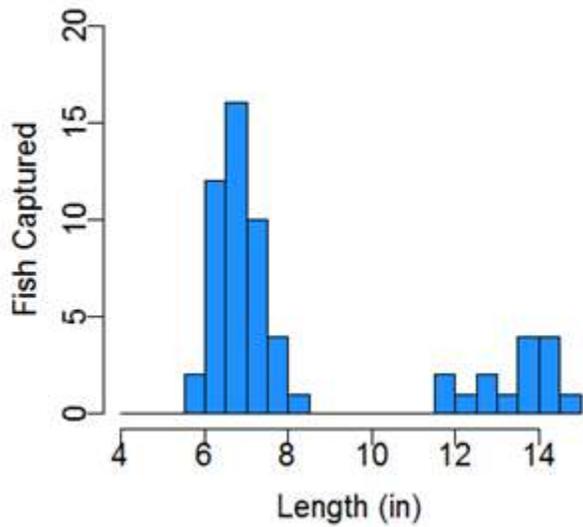
Quality Size ≥ 15 "	100%
Preferred Size ≥ 20 "	100%



Walleye (Juvenile)



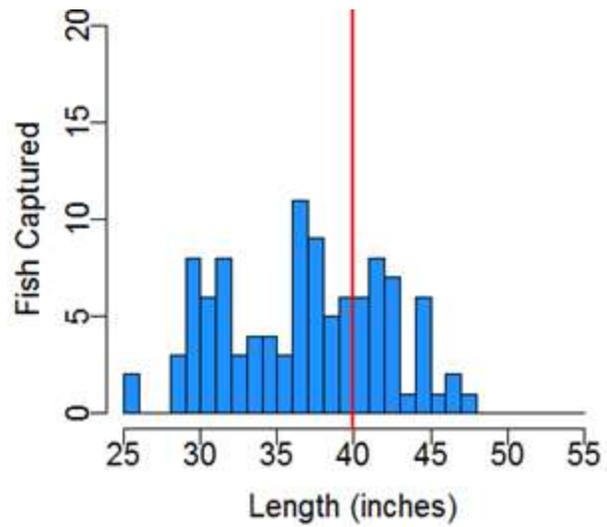
Captured 15 per mile ≤ 10 inches



Muskellunge



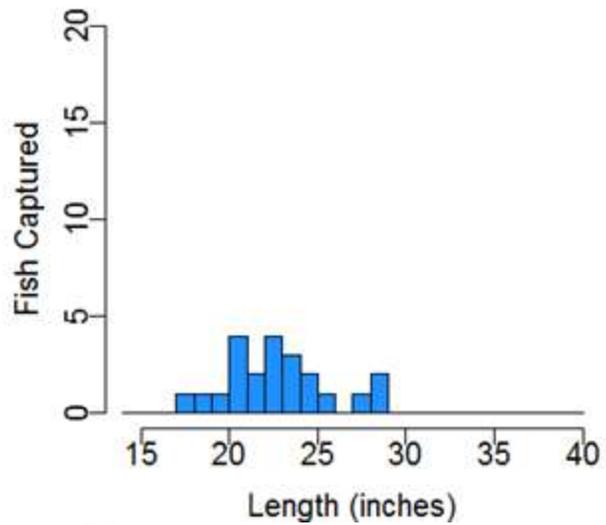
Captured 2 per net-night ≥ 20 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 30"	88%
Memorable Size ≥ 42"	17%



Northern Pike



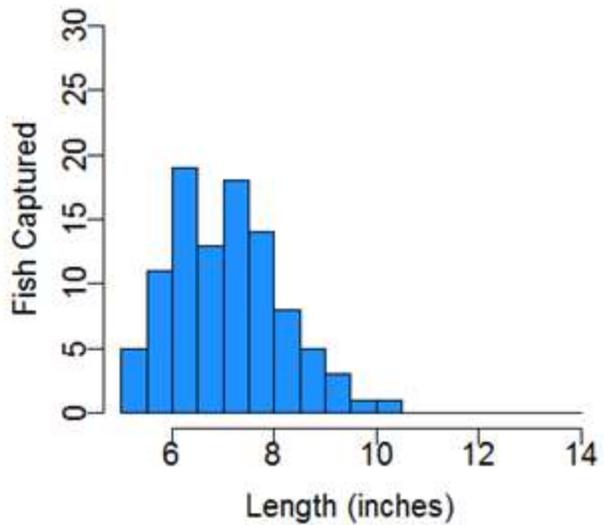
Quality Size ≥ 21"	68%
Preferred Size ≥ 28"	9%



Black Crappie



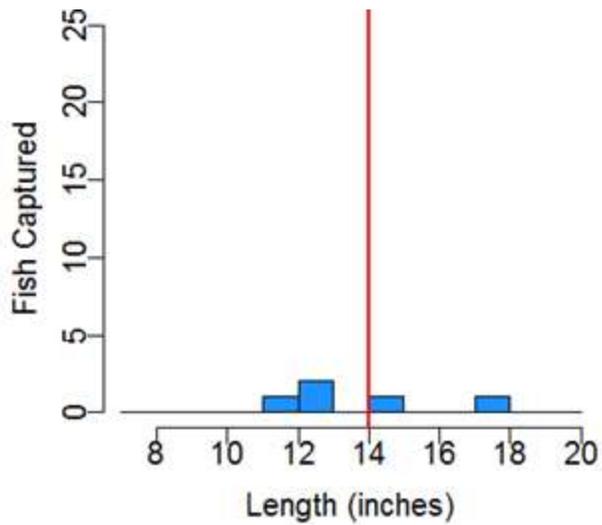
Quality Size ≥ 8"	18%
Preferred Size ≥ 10"	1%



Smallmouth bass



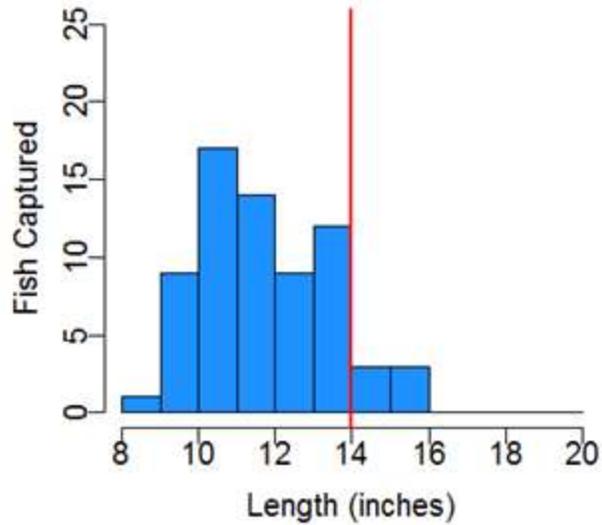
Captured 1 per mile ≥ 7 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 11 "	100%
Preferred Size ≥ 14 "	40%
Memorable Size ≥ 17 "	20%



Largemouth bass



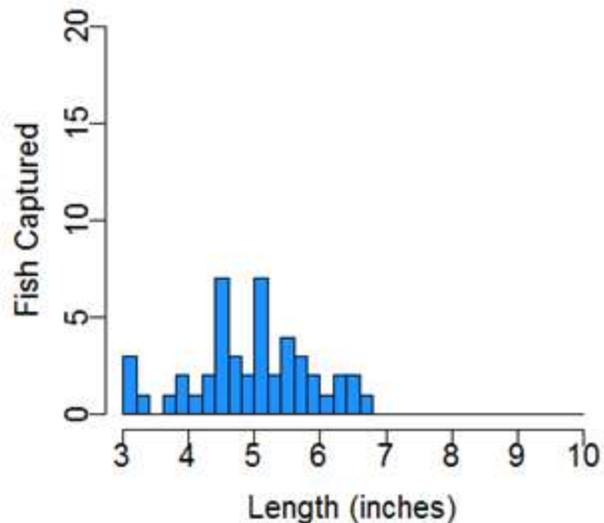
Captured 17 per mile ≥ 8 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 12 "	40%
Preferred Size ≥ 15 "	4%



Bluegill



Captured 46 per mile ≥ 3 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 6 "	13%
Preferred Size ≥ 8 "	0%



Summary of Results

Walleye were not a target species of the 2014 netting effort but some were captured incidentally. The results from Lost Land and Teal are similar to many other lakes in the area where recruitment of young walleye has been poor in recent years. The adult population is predominately large old fish with very few young adults present. There are positive signs for the walleye in these lakes though as many young walleye from stocked year classes in 2011 and

2013 were seen in the electrofishing survey (the 2011 class is mostly 12-14" range while the 2013 fish are mostly 6-8"). Both lakes are planned to be stocked in odd numbered years with extended growth walleye fingerlings. *****A minimum length limit of 15 inches was established in 2015 to protect young walleye until they reach adulthood.*****

Muskellunge were captured at a relatively high rate that reflects their abundance in these lakes. These lakes have become known as action fisheries with good potential to catch a high 30"/low40" musky on any given day of fishing. Muskellunge captured in this survey were given a PIT tag to track their growth and movement between the two lakes.

Northern pike are typically between 20 and 30 inches in length in these lakes.

Black crappie appear to have been increasing in abundance in both lakes in recent years, corresponding to the decline in young walleye. The overall size black crappie is below average, likely as a result of the higher than normal density. It is our hope that as walleye reestablish themselves as a dominant predator in these lakes crappie numbers will drop and size will improve.

Smallmouth bass were captured in low abundance in both lakes. We do not believe that this sample is representative of these smallmouth populations, particularly for Teal Lake. Bigger smallmouth are known to be found in these lakes. Largemouth were more abundant in Lost Land Lake than in Teal, but relative abundance from both lakes was lower than the previous survey (2010). It is unclear if bass abundance has declined or if this survey was not representative of these populations. A proposal has been submitted to remove the minimum length limit for largemouth bass and allow harvest of some of the more abundant small largemouth present in both lakes.

Bluegill size was poor in both lakes with few fish that anglers would be interested in. Reestablishing a dominant walleye population could help restore balance to the bluegill fishery as well.



DNR fish researcher Tim Parks with a Lost Land muskellunge.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County
Survey conducted by Tim Parks, Jeremiah Goerne, Jeff Kamp, Max Wolter, Russ Warwick (Fisheries Technician), and Scott Braden (Fisheries Technician)
Reviewed and Approved by

