



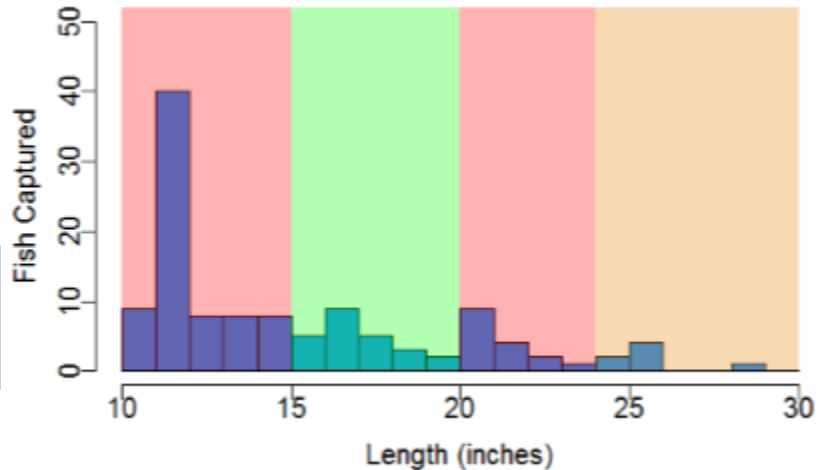
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Teal Lake, Sawyer County, 2018

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team (with the Governor Thompson Hatchery Team) conducted a fyke netting survey on Teal Lake from May 7-9, 2018 to assess the adult walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, yellow perch, and black crappie populations in the lake. An electrofishing survey conducted on May 21, 2018 documented the status of bluegill, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and non-game species but also provided information on juvenile walleye. Four miles of shoreline were shocked. 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.

Walleye (Adult)



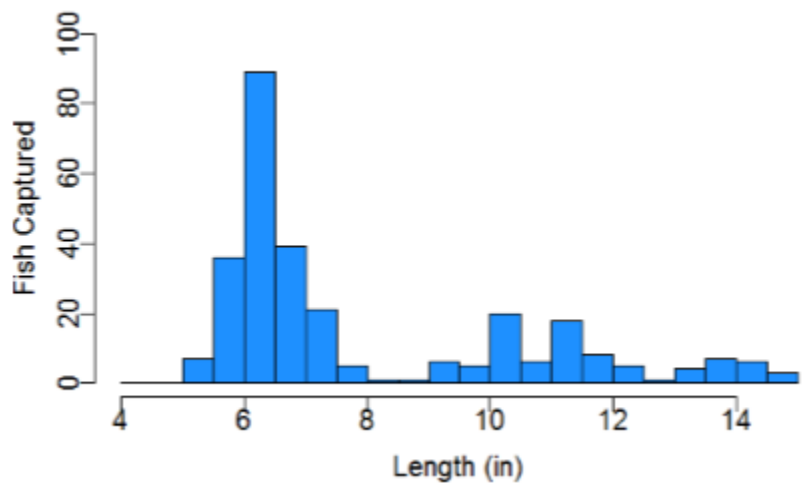
Captured 15 per net-night ≥ 10 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 15"	39%
Preferred Size ≥ 20"	19%



Walleye (Juvenile)



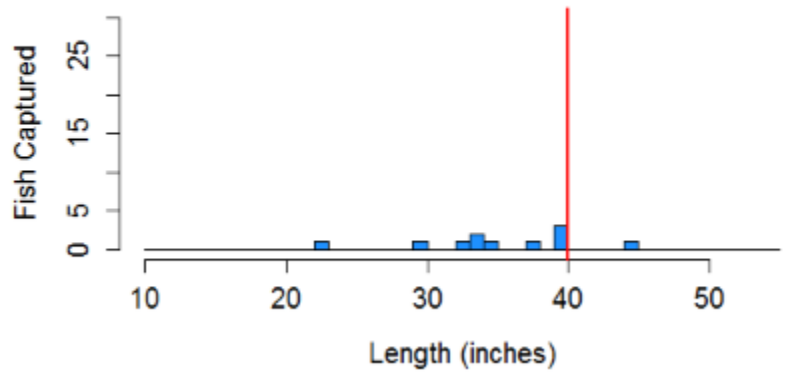
Captured 72 per mile ≤ 15 inches



Muskellunge



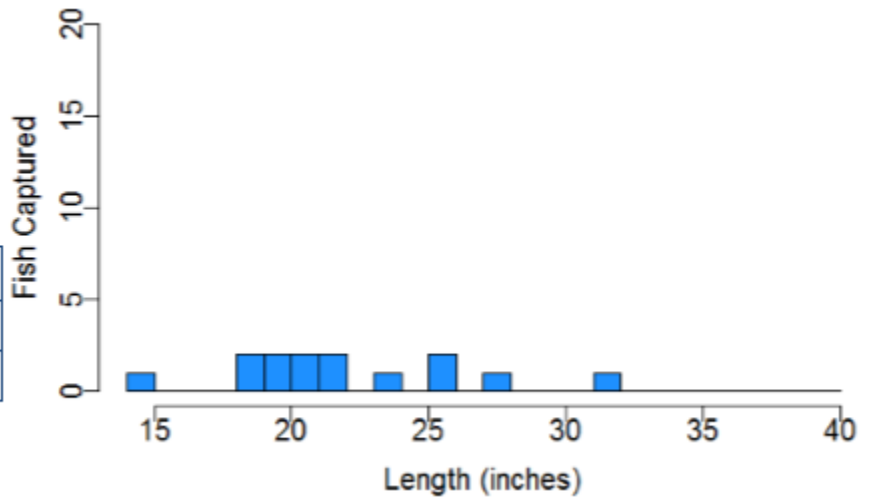
Captured 1.4 per net-night ≥ 20 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 30"	81%
Memorable Size ≥ 42"	9%



Northern Pike



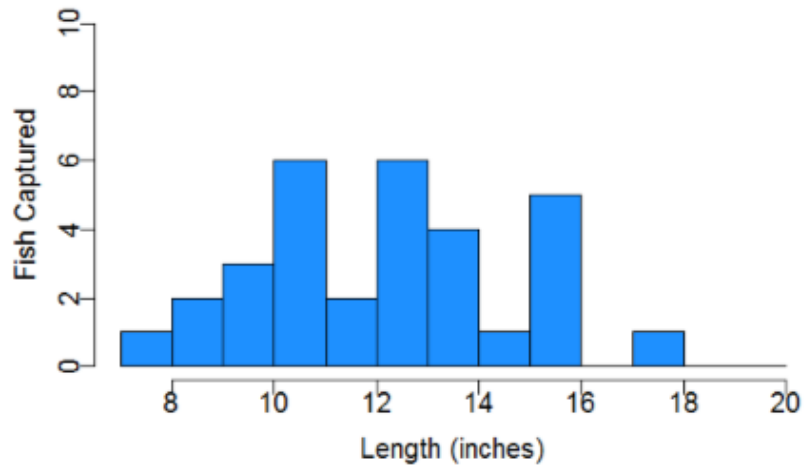
Captured 2 per net-night ≥ 14 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 21"	50%
Preferred Size ≥ 28"	7%



Smallmouth bass



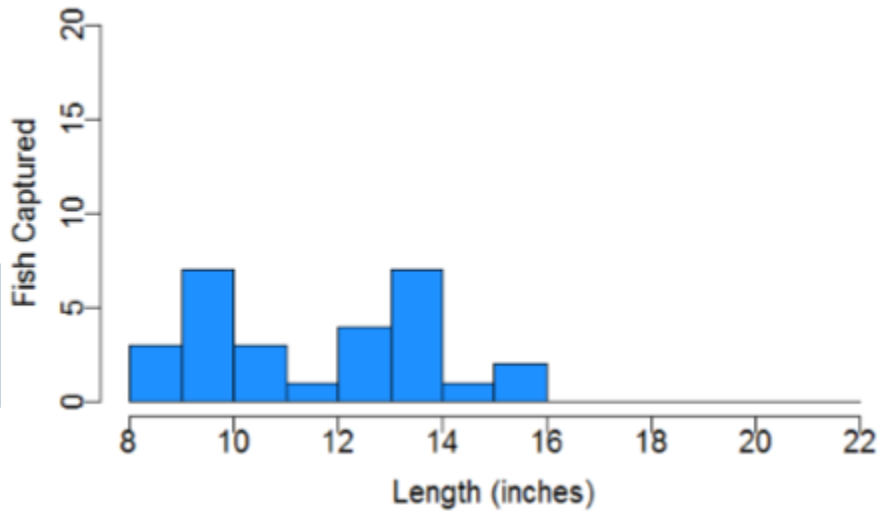
Captured 8 per mile ≥ 7 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 11"	61%
Preferred Size ≥ 14"	23%
Memorable Size ≥ 17"	3%



Largemouth bass



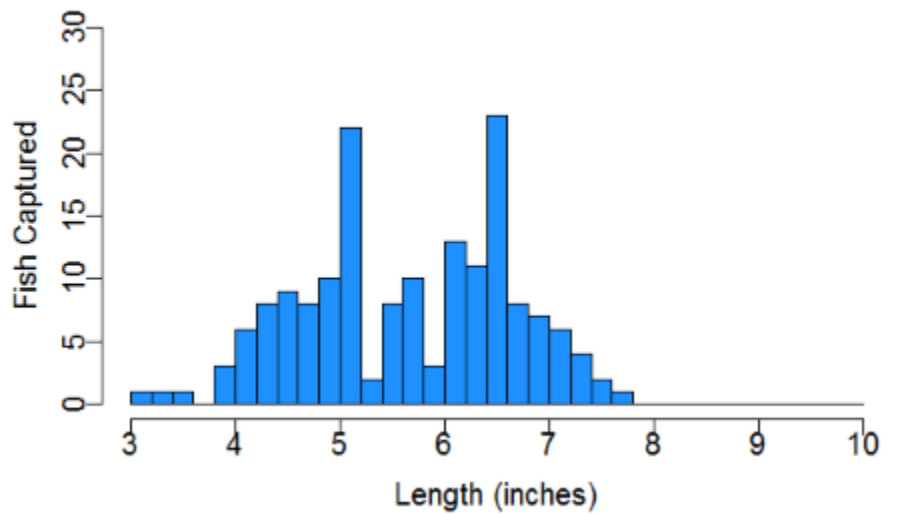
Captured 7 per mile \geq 8 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12"	50%
Preferred Size \geq 15"	7%



Bluegill



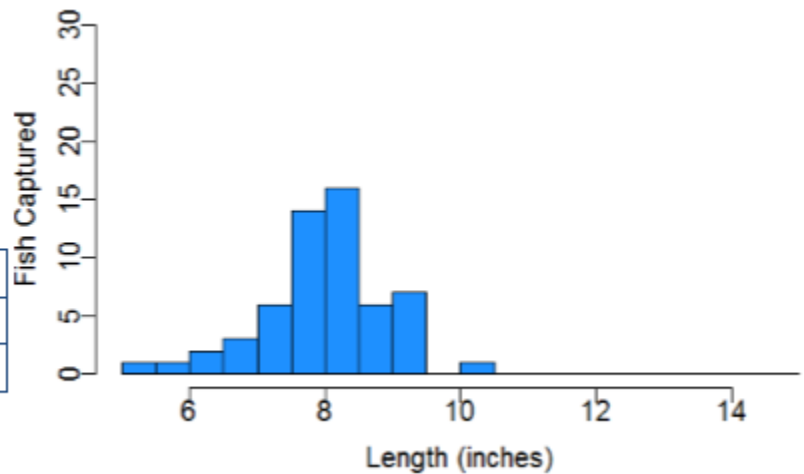
Captured 167 per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6"	45%
Preferred Size \geq 8"	0%



Black Crappie



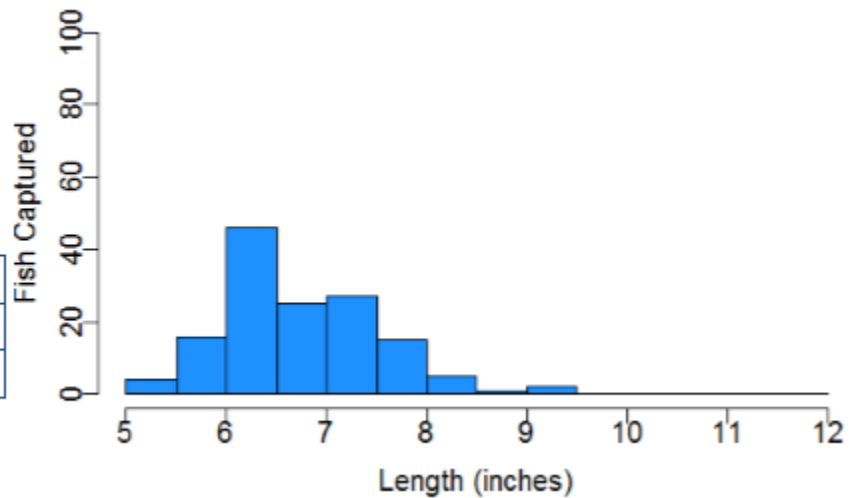
Captured 8 per net-night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8"	53%
Preferred Size \geq 10"	2%



Yellow Perch



Captured 114 per net-night \geq 5 inches	
Quality Size \geq 8"	6%
Preferred Size \geq 10"	0%



Summary of Results

Teal Lake was surveyed at the same time as Lost Land Lake but received less netting effort. Despite the low effort, all species were captured in adequate numbers to characterize their size and abundance.

Adult walleye were captured at a moderate to high rate in comparison to other lakes in the area. Of note, was the abundance of “cookie cutter” 11-inch males that were present. These fish likely represent a very strong stocked year class, as little natural reproduction has been observed on Teal Lake over the last 10 years. Larger walleye were captured as well with 39% being over 15 inches. Juvenile walleye were captured at a very high rate during the electrofishing portion of this survey. The high catch rate of walleye in the 6-8 inch range during electrofishing indicates good survival of the fingerlings stocked into Teal in the fall of 2017.

Muskellunge were captured at a high rate, which is typical of Teal Lake. Both Teal and Lost Land support dense muskellunge populations that create “action” fisheries. Anglers can expect to encounter more muskellunge in these lakes in comparison to most other lakes, but size tends to be generally smaller. Muskellunge over 42 inches are relatively rare, though a few large fish are caught each year.

Northern pike are present in Teal Lake and occur at a low density. Habitat for pike is more suitable in Lost Land Lake where there are more aquatic plants.

Smallmouth bass were captured at a moderate rate with about one in five fish being over 14 inches. Habitat in Teal Lake is more suitable for smallmouth bass compared to Lost Land Lake and the relative abundance of smallmouth in each lake reflects that. Largemouth bass were captured at a similar rate and had generally poor size with few over 15 inches.

Panfish in Teal Lake have generally high relative abundance (perch in particular) and poor size. Several strategies are in place to try to improve panfish size, including the implementation of a reduced panfish bag limit in 2016 and continued walleye stocking efforts that may reduce panfish abundance and increase growth. It may take time for these strategies to show positive effects. While most yellow perch are too small to be appreciated by anglers, they are known to be an important prey item for walleye and may be factor contributing to good walleye stocking success.



Fisheries technician Evan Sniadajewski with a big Teal Lake walleye. Photo by Max Wolter.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County

Survey conducted by Max Wolter, Scott Braden, Evan Sniadajewski, and Governor Thompson Hatchery staff

Special thanks to volunteers Bryan Neuswanger, Dan Richards, John Garby, Steve Fiala, John Gouze, Jim Dooley, and Dave Neuswanger,

Reviewed and Approved by Jeff Kampa – Area Fisheries Supervisor