



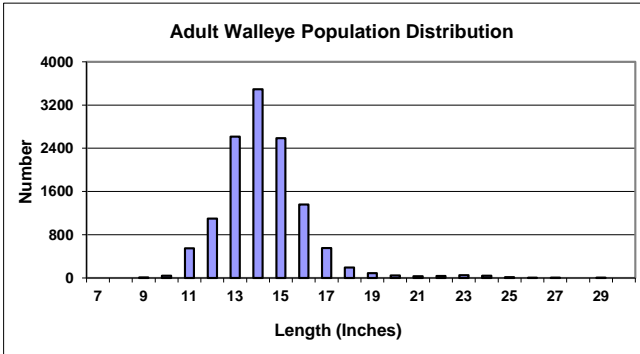
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** NORTH & SOUTH TWIN

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2017

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed North and South Twin Lakes (Twin Chain), Vilas County, from April 13<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>, to assess the status of the gamefish populations. The Twin Chain is a drainage system with predominantly sand and gravel substrates. It has a surface area of 3,430 acres, 14.1 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 60 feet. The Twin Chain's walleye and muskellunge populations are sustained through natural reproduction.



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

**Walleye**



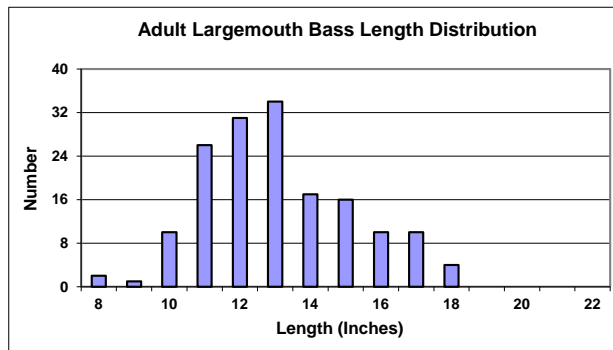
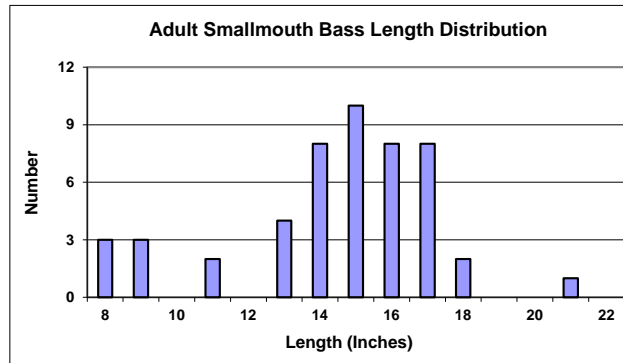
During 10 days of fyke netting, 4,004 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Three crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and captured 983 adult walleye. During electrofishing 31% (301 of 983) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye we captured was a 29.2-inch female.

Based on those results, the Twin Chain was estimated to contain 12,814 adult walleye (3.7/acre). An estimated 39% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

**Smallmouth Bass**



During sampling conducted through June 7<sup>th</sup>, 48 smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 75% were 14 inches long or larger, and the largest was 21.1 inches long. Due to the low number of smallmouth bass captured during the survey, we were unable to reliably estimate their population size.



**Largemouth Bass**



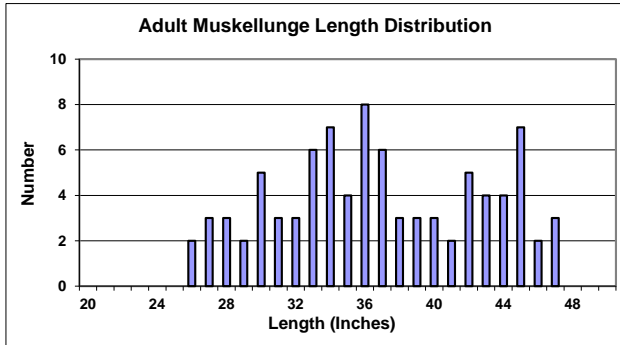
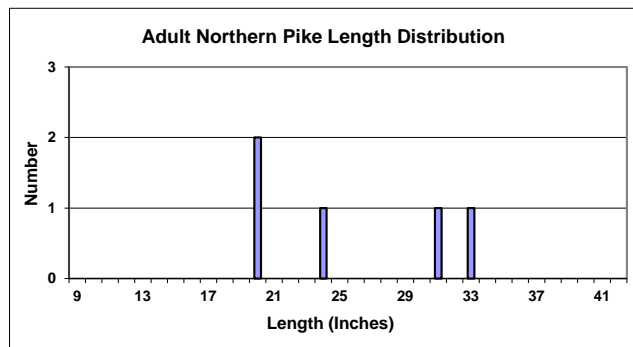
During sampling conducted through June 7<sup>th</sup>, 161 largemouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those largemouth captured, 35% were 14 inches long or larger, and the largest was 18.9 inches long. We were also unable to capture and mark a sufficient number of largemouth bass from the Twin Chain to reliably estimate their population size.

## Northern Pike



Just five adult northern pike were captured during our surveys of the Twin Chain. The largest northern pike captured was a 33.7-inch female.

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



## Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of the Twin Chain, 85 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the adults captured, 35% (30 of 85) were 40 inches long or larger, with the largest being a 47.4-inch female. Additionally, six juvenile muskellunge (13.7 - 29.7) were also captured.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex  $\geq 30$  inches in length.

## Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, 13 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of the Twin Chain. Yellow Perch (range: 2.1" - 9.9") and Rock Bass (3.8" - 8.9") were common in our catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of White Sucker. Other species sampled included Black Crappie, Bluegill (3.8" - 7.4"), Pumpkinseed (4.6" - 7.4"), Burbot, Golden and Common Shiner, Logperch, Bluntnose Minnow, Mimic Shiner, and Mottled Sculpin.

A creel survey will be conducted on the Twin Chain throughout the 2017-18 fishing season. Creel clerks Rich Cechal and Marty Kiepeke will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for North and South Twin Lakes, Vilas County, 2017-18.**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 6 - March 4	3	15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed
Largemouth Bass	May 6 - March 4	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 6 - June 16 (C&R) June 17 - March 4 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 27 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 6 - March 4	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for the Twin Chain 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://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by August 2018 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtyclsrsvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for the Twin Chain, Vilas County, contact:

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