



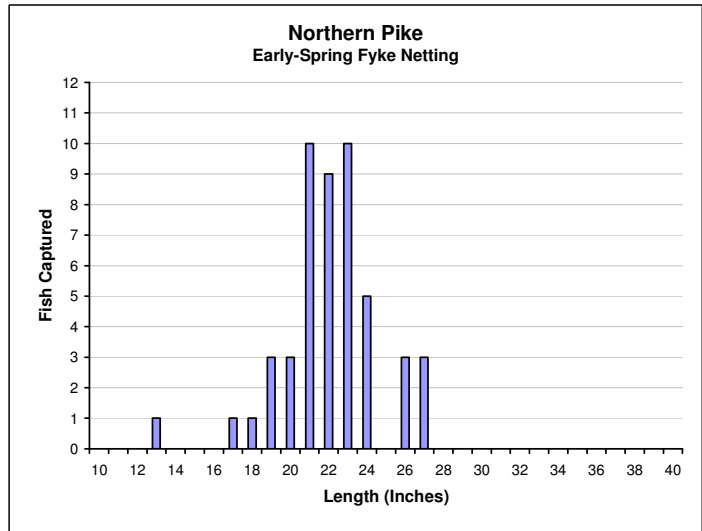
## Early-Spring Fyke Netting Survey Summary Osprey Lake, Sawyer County, 2011

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Osprey Lake during May 5-6, 2011 as part of our baseline monitoring program. Six nets were set overnight for two nights, resulting in 12 net-nights of effort. Primary target species were northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, and black crappie. An electrofishing survey conducted by our team in late May documented the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. Those results are summarized in a separate survey report. 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.

### Northern Pike



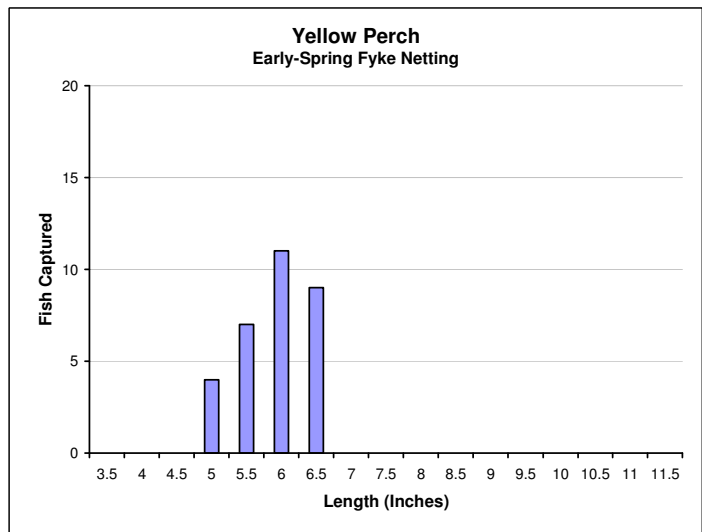
Captured 4 per net-night $\geq 14''$	
Quality Size $\geq 21''$	83%
Preferred Size $\geq 28''$	0%



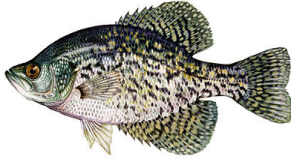
### Yellow Perch



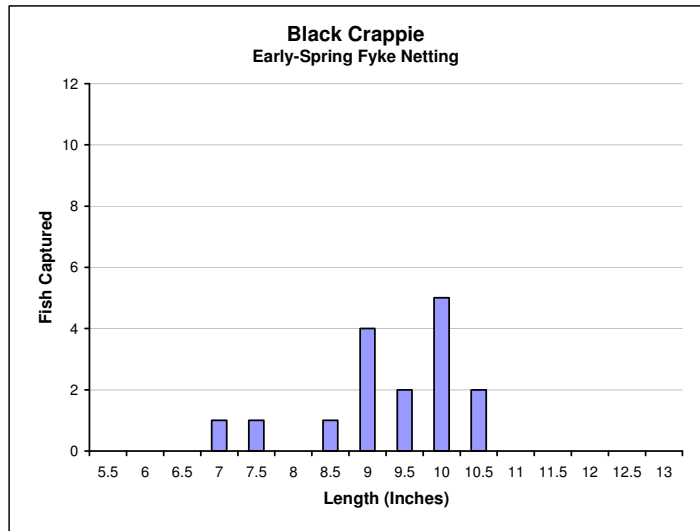
Captured 3 per net-night $\geq 5''$	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	0%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	0%



## Black Crappie



Captured 1.3 per net-night $\geq 5''$	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	88%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	44%



## Summary of Results

Our survey was appropriately timed to sample northern pike, walleye, and yellow perch during their spawning seasons. Adult black crappies were present in the shallows and are described in this survey also.

Only two adult walleyes were captured in 12 net-nights of effort. These large, old fish were remnants of a previously abundant, naturally reproducing walleye population. Recent fall stockings of extended-growth (6- to 8-inch) walleye fingerlings by the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa appear to be largely unsuccessful, although limited survival is assumed based on our observation of a few young walleyes in our late-spring electrofishing survey (results reported separately). Good spawning habitat is present in Osprey Lake, so factors unrelated to habitat are suspected in the decline of walleye in a lake that our late-spring electrofishing survey revealed to be dominated by abundant largemouth bass.

Northern pike were captured at a moderate rate (4 per net-night) but did not have the above-average size structure that is often characteristic of low-density pike populations in deep, clear lakes. The relatively abundant largemouth bass population may compete with northern pike for prey resources, including yellow perch that were captured at a very low rate and disappeared (due to predation?) before ever achieving a length marginally acceptable to anglers (7 inches).

Black crappies were captured at a very low rate also (1.3 per net-night), but size structure of these fish was more favorable (44%  $\geq 10$  inches), possibly because crappies are less vulnerable than perch to predation by large bass and pike once they achieve adult size. It is possible that this survey occurred before the peak in crappie spawning activity, and only a few large mature fish were vulnerable to our gear.

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