

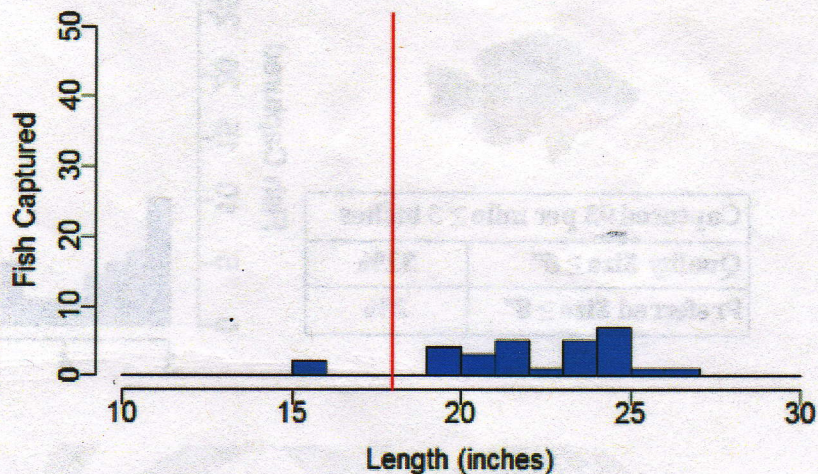
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Osprey Lake, Sawyer County, 2018

The Spooner DNR Treaty Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Osprey Lake from May 6-9, 2018 to assess the adult walleye populations in the lake. Up to five nets were set overnight for four total nights which resulted in 19 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey conducted on May 23, 2018 documented the status of bluegill, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and non-game species. 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.

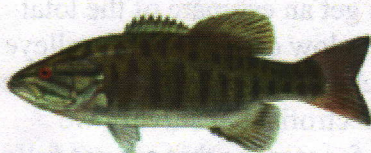
Walleye (Adult)



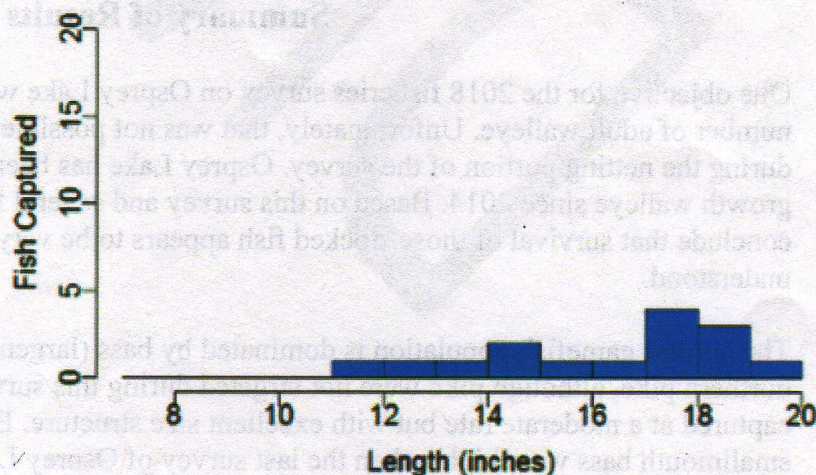
Captured 2 per net-night \geq 10 inches	
Quality Size \geq 15"	100%
Preferred Size \geq 20"	86%



Smallmouth bass



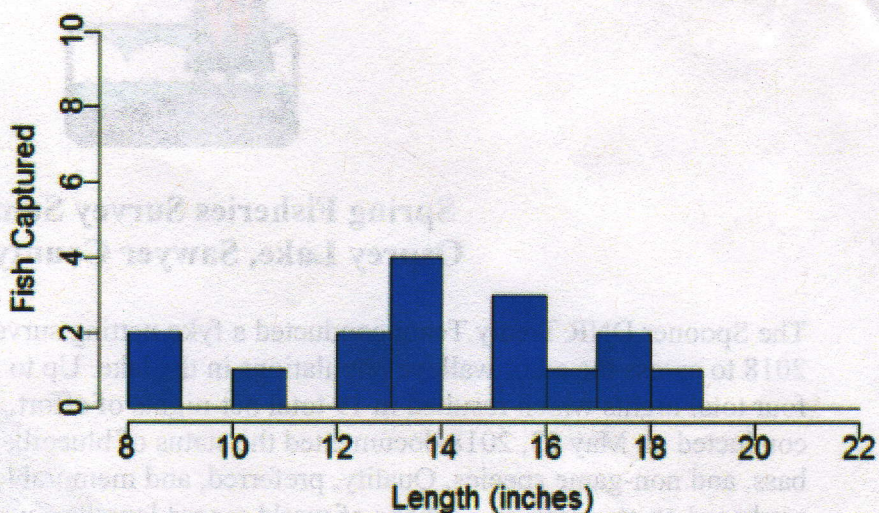
Captured 7 per mile \geq 7 inches	
Quality Size \geq 11"	93%
Preferred Size \geq 14"	80%
Memorable Size \geq 17"	60%



Largemouth bass



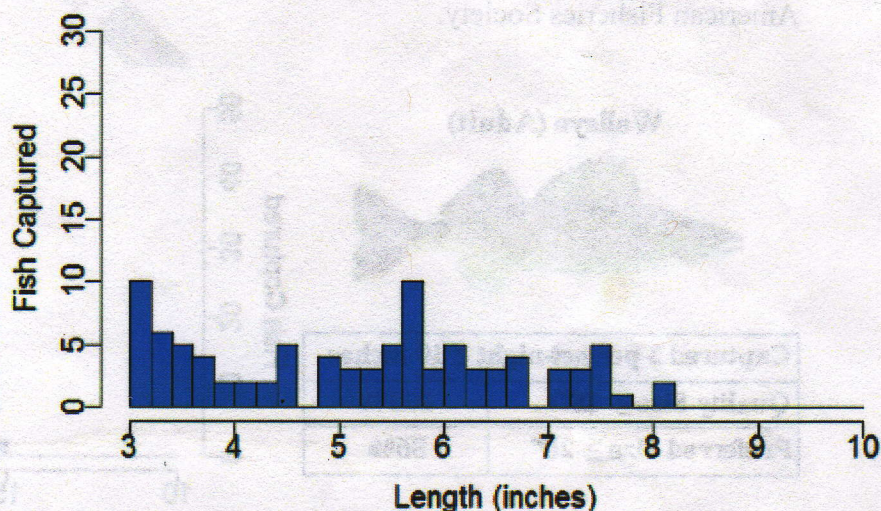
Captured 6 per mile ≥ 8 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 12 "	81%
Preferred Size ≥ 15 "	44%



Bluegill



Captured 93 per mile ≥ 3 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 6 "	31%
Preferred Size ≥ 8 "	2%



Summary of Results

One objective for the 2018 fisheries survey on Osprey Lake was to get an estimate of the total number of adult walleye. Unfortunately, that was not possible due to low catch rates of walleye during the netting portion of the survey. Osprey Lake has been stocked repeatedly with extended growth walleye since 2014. Based on this survey and several fall electrofishing surveys we conclude that survival of those stocked fish appears to be very low for reasons that are not fully understood.

The current gamefish population is dominated by bass (largemouth and smallmouth) and northern pike, although pike were not targeted during this survey. Smallmouth bass were captured at a moderate rate but with excellent size structure. Both abundance and size metrics for smallmouth bass were higher than the last survey of Osprey Lake (2011). Largemouth bass abundance in previous surveys was exceptionally high and size was poor. Largemouth abundance has dropped since 2011 and size has improved considerably. In 2011, only 10% of largemouth bass in Osprey were over 15 inches. In 2018, we found 44% of largemouth to be over 15 inches.

Bluegill size in Osprey Lake leaves much to be desired, but there are indications that the quality of bluegill is increasing. The percentage of bluegill in the lake that are over 6 inches has increased from 14% in 2011, to 31% in 2018. Panfish in Osprey Lake are currently regulated with an experimental reduced bag limit designed to increase size.



Evan Sniadajewski shows off two nice largemouth bass during a 2018 electrofishing survey on Osprey Lake.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County
Survey conducted by Todd Brecka, Misty Rood, Max Wolter, Scott Braden, and Evan Sniadajewski (Fisheries), and Scott Horton (Forestry)
Reviewed and Approved by Jeff Kampa – Area Fisheries Supervisor