



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Pretty Lake

Waukesha County

2025

Introduction

On May 13, 2025 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a spring electrofishing two (SEII) survey on Pretty Lake (WBIC 779300) in Waukesha County. The survey included the entire shoreline (approximately 2.3 miles) and targeted primarily largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), walleye (*Sander vitreus*) and panfish. The survey station included two 0.5 mile stations targeting all species encountered and the remaining 1.3 miles was targeting only gamefish species. Water temperature was 72 degrees Fahrenheit and air temperature was 71 degrees Fahrenheit. Water clarity was clear and the wind was calm, providing for good electrofishing conditions and catchability. Pretty Lake is classified as a complex-warm-clear under Wisconsin DNR Fisheries lakes classification system. The results of the 2025 survey will be compared to other simple-warm-clear and previous SEII surveys.

A total of 165 fish were sampled in the survey, representing a moderately diverse fishery of eleven different species. Largemouth bass were the most frequently captured gamefish showing average size structure with the largest bass sampled being 20.1 inches. Eleven walleyes and four northern pike (*Esox lucius*) were also sampled during the survey. Panfish species sampled included bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), black crappie (*Proximus nigromaculatus*), warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*) and green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*). Non-game species sampled included yellow bullheads (*Ameiurus natalis*) and brown bullheads (*Ameiurus nebulosus*).

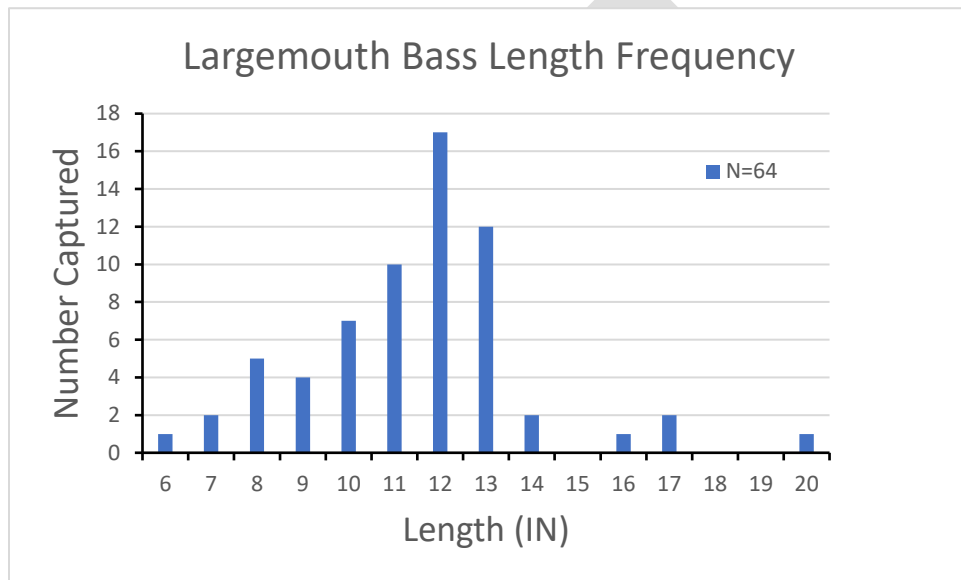
Largemouth Bass

A total of 64 largemouth bass were sampled averaging 11.9 inches in length. Mean length of largemouth bass is greater than 75% of other complex-warm-clear lakes. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 28 per mile of electrofishing, slightly above the median of 25.5% when compared to other complex-warm-clear lakes.

Table 1. Number of quality and preferred largemouth bass captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025

Quality Size $\geq$ 12 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 15 inches
35	4

Figure 1. Length frequency of largemouth bass captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025



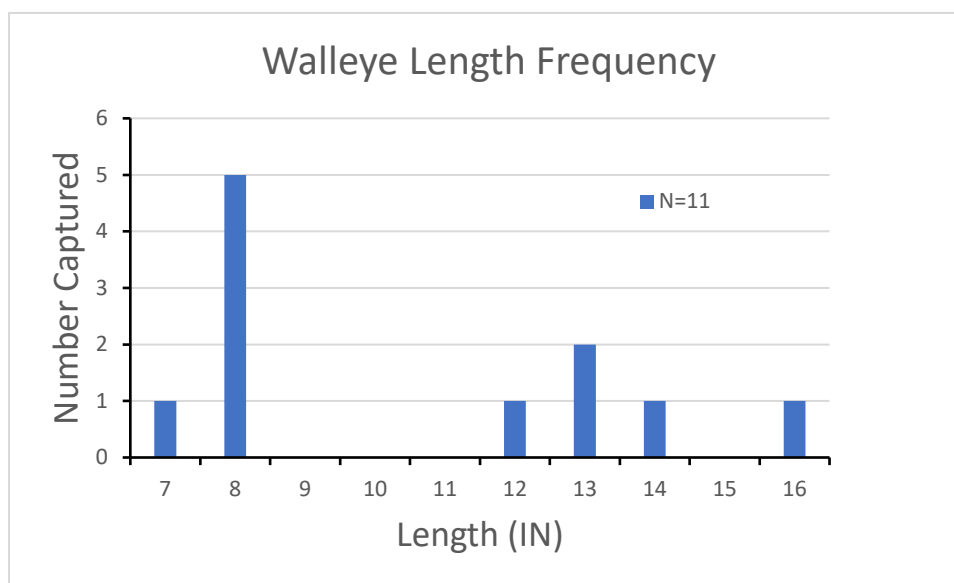
Walleye

A total of 11 walleye were captured averaging 10.9 inches long with the largest walleye captured being 16.1 inches. When comparing mean length of walleye to other complex-warm-clear lakes, Pretty lake is slightly below the median of 12.8 inches. Walleye were captured at rate of 4.8 walleyes per mile. Lake class standards only provide fyke netting data for comparing catch rate.

Table 2. Number of quality and preferred sized walleye captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025

Quality Size $\geq$ 10	Preferred Size $\geq$ 15
5	1

Figure 2. Length frequency of walleye captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025



Northern Pike

A total of 4 northern pike were captured at a rate of 1.7 per mile of electrofishing. Size structure of northern pike is above the third quartile and only slightly below the 90th percentile when compared to other complex-warm-clear lakes. Catch rate is only available for northern pike utilizing fyke netting data.

Table 3: Number of quality and preferred sized northern pike captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025

Quality Size $\geq$ 14 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 21 inches
4	1

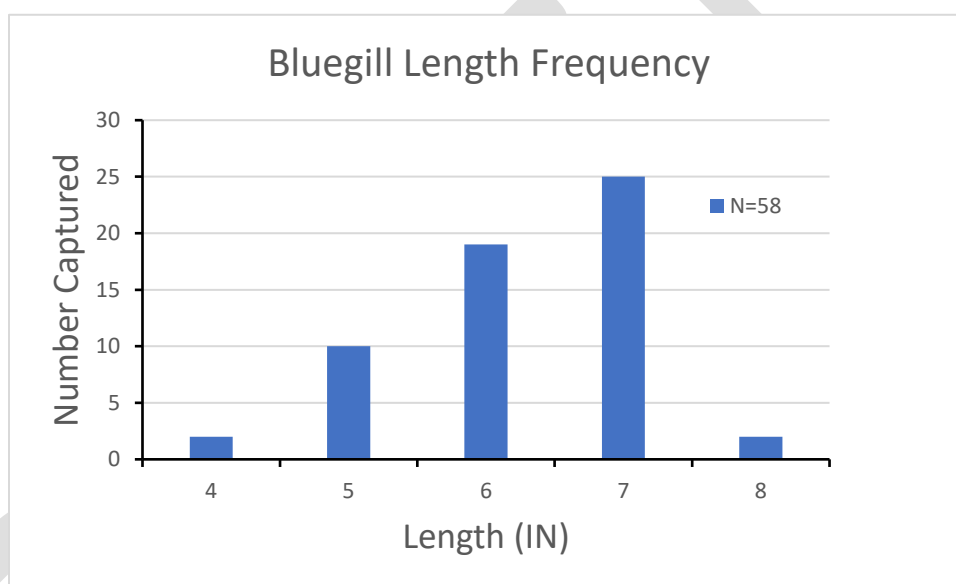
Bluegill

Bluegill were captured at a rate of 58 per mile of electrofishing, below the tenth percentile when compared to other complex-warm-clear lakes in Wisconsin. Bluegill showed an average size of 6.7 inches, which is above 100% of other complex-warm-clear lakes in Wisconsin.

Table 4: The number of quality and preferred sized bluegills captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County.

Quality Size $\geq$ 6 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 8 inches
46	2

Figure 3. Length frequency of bluegill captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025



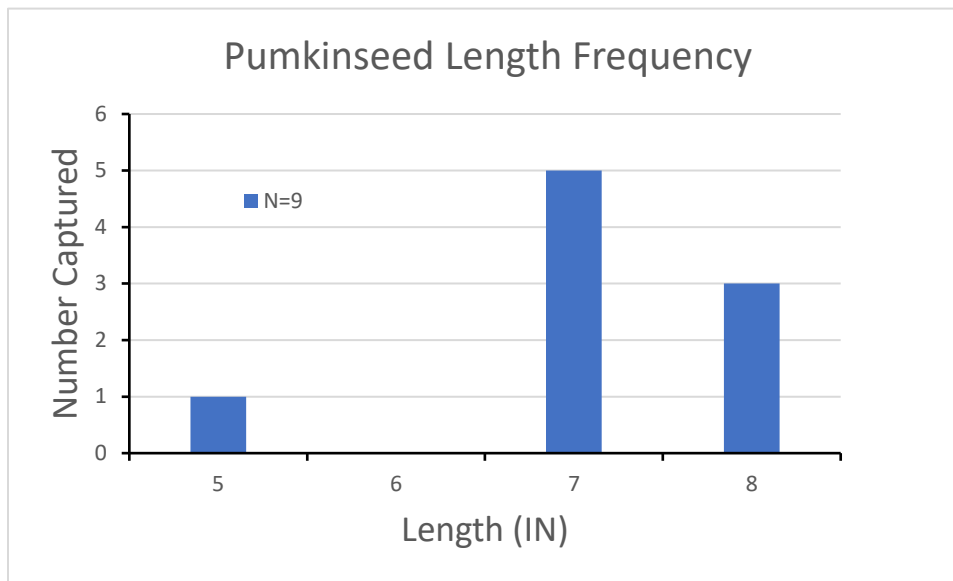
Pumpkinseed

A total of nine pumpkinseeds were collected during SEII, averaging 7.4 inches. Pumpkinseed average size in Pretty Lake is above 100% of other complex-warm-clear lakes. Relatively few pumpkinseed were sampled at a rate of 9 per mile, above 50% of other complex-warm-clear lakes while electrofishing.

Table 5: Number of quality and preferred pumpkinseeds captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County 2025.

Quality Size $\geq$ six inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 8 inches
3	3

Figure 4. Length frequency of pumpkinseed captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025



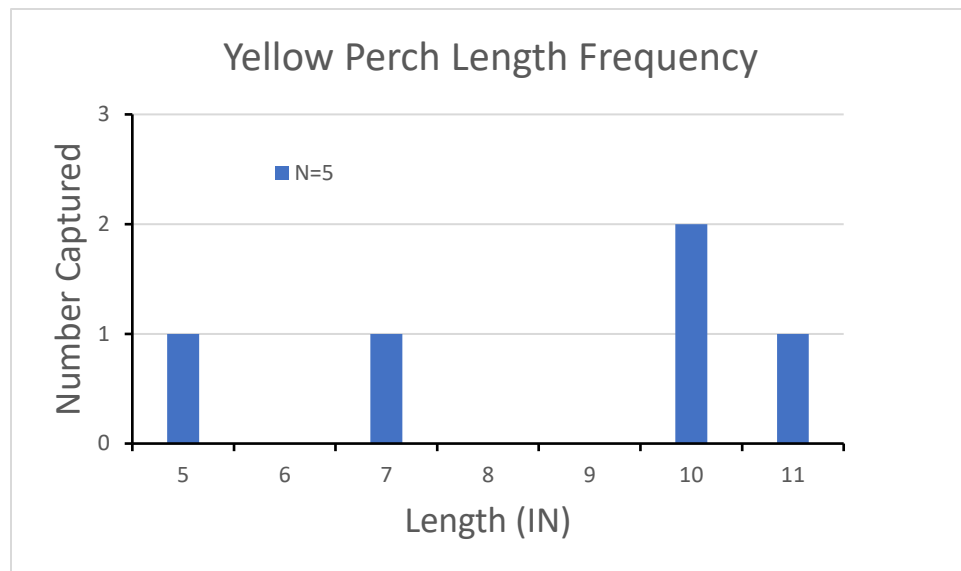
Yellow perch

Only five yellow perch were collected during this survey, averaging 9 inches long. Yellow perch average size is larger than 100% of other complex-warm-clear lakes. Yellow perch were captured at a rate of five per mile of electrofishing.

Table 6. Number of quality and preferred yellow perch captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County 2025.

Quality Size $\geq$ 8 inches	Preferred Size $\geq$ 10 inches
3	3

Figure 5. Length frequency of yellow perch captured during SEII, Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, 2025



Other Species

A total of five brown bullheads and six yellow bullheads were captured during the 2.3-mile electrofishing survey indicating a fishable population exists. There is no bag limit and fishing for non-game fish species, including bullheads, is open year-round. Bullheads are native to Wisconsin and provide additional species diversity as both predator and prey species.

Summary

Pretty Lake has a long history of “stunted” panfish as documented in the 1980’s and 1990’s (Beyler). Walleyes are voracious predators, known to effectively reduce panfish abundance. Continued stocking efforts by the Pretty Lake Protection and Improvement Association (PLPIP) has effectively reduced panfish abundance resulting in improved growth rates for bluegill, pumpkinseed and yellow perch. Management recommendations include continue walleye stocking practices to provide both predatory control of panfish, reduce algae blooms and provide additional angling opportunities.

Table 7. General fishing regulations for Pretty Lake in Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	First Saturday in May - March 31	5	14 inches
Walleye	First Saturday in May - March 31	None	18 inches
Northern Pike	First Saturday in May - March 31	2	26 inches
Panfish	Open all year	25 total in aggregate	No size limit

Acknowledgements

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities on Pretty Lake, Waukesha County, please contact:

Steven M. Gospodarek

Matthew Marquardt

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

S91W39091 Highway 59

Eagle, WI

53119

(262) 470-2373

Steven.gospodarek@wisconsin.gov

Matthew.marquardt@wisconsin.gov