

## **Preliminary Clark Lake 2019 Fish Survey Summary**

**Report prepared July 12, 2019 by Nick Legler for Clark Lake Association**

**Survey work conducted by WI DNR crew including Nick Legler, Jacob Steckmesser, Derek Apps, Tom Meronek, Brandon Bastar, and Cody Flavion**

### **Contact Information:**

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### **Introduction:**

By way of introduction (for those I haven't met yet), my name is Nick Legler and I work as a fisheries biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sturgeon Bay. I've worked with DNR for just over 7 years. During this time, I've worked mostly with Chinook salmon and steelhead management for Lake Michigan, but recently (the past couple years) started working with inland waters of Door and Kewaunee Counties too. I've enjoyed attending a couple Clark Lake Association meetings already, and look forward to meeting and working more with your group in the future.

Clark Lake was recently sampled with nets and electrofishing during spring 2019. This was my first time sampling Clark Lake, and I enjoyed experiencing the lake first hand. A detailed survey report is not yet available, but for now I'll provide at least the basic catch summary below. DNR will conduct another night electrofishing survey this fall, followed by lab work for fish age estimation this winter. Sometime after all the sampling, lab work, and data entry are complete, then work will begin to write a more comprehensive report that will look at fish abundance, fish size structure and growth, trends across years, and possible management recommendations. Much of the Clark Lake 2019 survey data has already been entered and good progress made on starting to process structures that will be used to estimate fish ages, thanks to efforts by DNR fisheries technicians Jacob Steckmesser and Derek Apps (both are relatively new or recently hired technicians with DNR in Sturgeon Bay).

### **Basic Survey Summary:**

A comprehensive fish survey for Clark Lake was previously completed in 2013 (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/reports/2013DoorClarkFishSurvey.pdf>), while more recent surveys began spring 2019 and will conclude fall 2019. Spring 2019 fish sampling included netting for one week from Sunday April 14 to Monday April 22, electrofishing on Tuesday evening of April 23, and electrofishing on Wednesday evening of May 29. Another electrofishing survey will occur during fall 2019, likely around October. The table below provides a basic and preliminary summary of fish caught just during the spring 2019 netting survey (table 1). Several survey pictures highlighting some of the different species & bigger fish caught are provided on page 3 (figure 2).

Table 1. Preliminary summary of fish caught with eight nets set on Clark Lake from April 14-22, 2019. These nets were set shortly after ice out to target spawning walleye. Total lengths are reported here in inches per species including minimum length (smallest fish), maximum length (largest fish), and average length.

Species	Total Catch	Min (inch)	Max (inch)	Avg (inch)
Walleye	171	7.5	28	18.4
Northern Pike	56	9.6	33.3	16
Smallmouth Bass	10	7.6	18.5	11.7
Largemouth Bass	7	4.4	17.4	11.3
Bluegill	1,235	3.2	9.9	5.6
Yellow Perch	706	4.9	10.1	6.4
Rock Bass	202	3.5	10.5	6.3
Green Sunfish	5	5	6.5	5.9
Pumpkinseed	2	4.9	6.6	5.7
Bowfin	26			
White Sucker	8			
Longnose Sucker	3			
Rainbow Trout	2	7.3	23.8	15.6

Figure 1. Locations of the eight nets fished in Clark Lake during the 2019 survey. These locations are about the same as the previous 2013 survey, and this map is copied from the 2013 report.

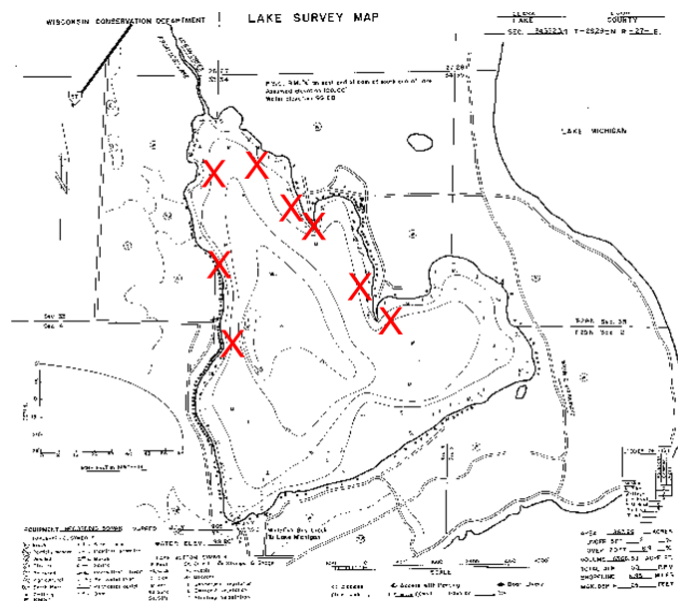




Figure 2. Survey pictures highlighting some of the different species, sizes, & bigger fish caught with nets on Clark Lake during April 14-22, 2019.

