

Fish Sampled 8-5-2019

Species	Gear	CPUE*	Normal Range	Avg Weight	Normal Range	Count
bigmouth buffalo	Standard gill nets	0.08	0.3-1.7	0.12	N/A	1
bigmouth buffalo	Standard trap nets	0.33	0.2-0.8	7.74	2.5-5.7	4
black bullhead	Standard trap nets	0.75	0.7-25.7	0.83	0.3-0.6	9
black bullhead	Standard gill nets	12.08	2.5-45.0	0.76	0.3-0.7	145
black crappie	Standard gill nets	3.92	2.5-16.5	0.16	0.1-0.3	47
black crappie	Standard trap nets	7.67	1.8-21.2	0.51	0.2-0.3	92
bluegill	Standard gill nets	6.67	N/A	0.31	N/A	80
bluegill	Standard trap nets	9.25	7.5-62.5	0.35	0.1-0.3	111
bowfin (dogfish)	Standard gill nets	0.17	0.2-0.8	4.10	2.4-4.2	2
bowfin (dogfish)	Standard trap nets	1.33	0.4-1.3	3.48	2.3-4.1	16
brown bullhead	Standard gill nets	0.08	0.4-2.0	0.23	0.5-1.0	1
common carp	Standard gill nets	1.50	0.3-3.0	4.70	1.9-5.2	18
common carp	Standard trap nets	0.67	0.4-2.0	4.20	2.6-6.0	8
freshwater drum	Standard trap nets	24.08	0.5-4.2	1.27	0.4-1.2	289
freshwater drum	Standard gill nets	36.92	4.0-32.3	1.00	0.3-1.1	443
golden shiner	Standard trap nets	0.08	0.2-0.8	0.04	0.1-0.1	1
largemouth bass	Standard electrofishing	28.33	N/A	1.37	N/A	48
largemouth bass	Standard trap nets	0.75	0.2-0.7	2.15	0.2-0.9	9
northern pike	Standard gill nets	2.08	1.5-7.3	3.39	2.0-3.5	25
northern pike	Standard trap nets	0.83	N/A	2.34	N/A	10
pumpkinseed	Standard gill nets	0.08	N/A	0.21	N/A	1
pumpkinseed	Standard trap nets	0.08	0.7-4.2	0.06	0.1-0.2	1
walleye	Standard gill nets	2.33	1.2-6.3	1.60	1.2-2.7	28
walleye	Standard trap nets	2.17	0.3-1.2	2.43	0.8-2.8	26
white crappie	Standard gill nets	0.08	0.7-10.4	0.43	0.2-0.3	1
yellow bullhead	Standard gill nets	15.42	0.5-7.5	0.96	0.5-0.8	185
yellow bullhead	Standard trap nets	4.08	0.9-5.7	1.26	0.5-0.8	49
yellow perch	Standard gill nets	10.17	2.0-27.9	0.17	0.1-0.2	122

*Catch Per Unit Effort

showing 28 of 28 fish samples

Length of Select Species Sampled - All Gear Combined

Species	Number of fish caught in each category (inches)													Total
	0-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	
bigmouth buffalo	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
black bullhead	0	4	33	72	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	154
black crappie	36	9	45	47	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139
bluegill	23	93	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191
bowfin (dogfish)	0	0	0	0	1	3	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
brown bullhead	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
common carp	1	0	0	0	2	6	14	2	1	0	0	0	0	26
freshwater drum	5	0	1	2	559	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	731
golden shiner	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
largemouth bass	7	2	7	2	18	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
northern pike	0	0	0	0	0	5	17	12	1	0	0	0	0	35
pumpkinseed	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
walleye	0	0	2	3	8	26	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	54
white crappie	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
yellow bullhead	0	3	33	90	85	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234
yellow perch	4	92	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121

Status of the Fishery

Lake Washington is a 1,519-acre lake located in Le Sueur County about 7 miles northeast of Mankato. About half of the lake (783 acres) is less than 15 feet deep. Separate basins form Lake Washington into 2 main bays; an east bay and a west bay. The east bay is deeper, with a maximum depth of 51 feet. Two DNR- operated public accesses are available for use; one on the north end of the east bay and one on the southwest corner of the west bay. Lake Washington is a popular lake for angling and recreation. Much of the shoreline has been altered with residential development. Lake Washington is managed primarily for Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, and Bluegill and secondarily for Northern Pike and Walleye. Walleye is the only fish species that is stocked in Lake Washington.

Lake Washington was surveyed the week of August 5, 2019 by the MN DNR as part of a regularly scheduled monitoring program. This standard survey included deploying 12 gill nets and 12 trap nets, as well as recording water quality parameters. Since Largemouth Bass are not effectively sampled in nets, electrofishing was conducted on May 20, 2019 to assess the Largemouth Bass population. A standard survey is used for sampling a wide range of fish species during the summer months using standard methods (i.e. standard time of year, set sampling stations, taking water clarity readings and oxygen/temperature profiles, etc.) and gears (i.e. lake survey gillnets, trap nets, and spring electrofishing for Largemouth Bass).

Walleye were sampled at a rate of 2.3 fish/gill net, which was less than the long-term average for Lake Washington (4.0 fish/net). Walleye were also sampled in trap nets at a rate of 2.2 fish/net. Walleye from both gear types ranged in total length from 9.5 to 27.2 inches and averaged 17.2 inches. About 80% of all Walleye were 15.0 inches or longer. Age-4 Walleye comprised 42% of all aged fish, which suggested that the 2015 stocking effort was successful. The previous survey reported the 2014 year class was made up 47% of aged fish. In 2019 the 2014 year class was the second most abundant making up 13% of aged Walleye. Non-stocked year classes were also present, which resulted from natural reproduction.

The Northern Pike catch rate in 2019 was 2.1 fish/gill net, which is near the long-term average for Lake Washington (2.0 fish/net). Northern Pike were also sampled in trap nets at a rate of 0.8 fish/net. The total lengths of fish from both gear types averaged 23.7

inches. The largest fish measured was 34.3 inches. Northern Pike are not stocked in Lake Washington, so the population is the result of natural reproduction.

Lake Washington is located in the Southern Northern Pike Regulation Zone. In this zone a Northern Pike must be over 24 inches in length in order to be harvested. The daily bag limit for this zone is 2 fish.

Black Crappie were sampled in trap nets at a rate of 7.7 fish/net, down from 2016 which was the highest trap net catch rate (17.6 fish/net) on record for Lake Washington. The 2019 catch rate was below the long-term average of 11.1 fish/net. Total lengths ranged from 4.9 to 12.2 inches and averaged 9.7 inches. Sixty percent of all aged fish were age-2 or age-3. Black Crappie are not stocked in Lake Washington, so the population persists through natural reproduction.

The 2019 Bluegill catch rate was 9.3 fish/trap net, which was far below the long-term lake average for Lake Washington (23.3 fish/net). Despite the low abundance, the Bluegill population exhibited a quality size structure. The total lengths of Bluegill from trap nets averaged 7.2 inches, with the largest individual measuring 9.9 inches. The Bluegill population in Lake Washington is completely self-sustaining.

Largemouth Bass are not effectively sampled in traditional gears (gill and trap nets). As a result, targeted sampling using an electrofishing boat is required to assess the population. Electrofishing was conducted on Lake Washington on May 20, 2019 to target Largemouth Bass. The catch rate was 28.3 fish/hour in 2019. Largemouth Bass were sampled in trap nets in low abundance (0.8 fish/net). Total lengths of all Largemouth Bass in the survey ranged from 4.0 to 18.1 inches and averaged 13.2 inches. Age groups from 1-10 were represented. The largest year class represented was the 2015 (age 4) year class. Largemouth Bass are not stocked in Lake Washington. Spring electrofishing surveys targeting Largemouth Bass will be completed in conjunction with each standard survey on Lake Washington (every three years).

The Yellow Perch catch rate in 2019 was 10.2 fish/gill net. This catch rate was below the long-term average for Lake Washington (15.4 fish/net). Total lengths averaged 6.5 inches and ranged from 5.7 to 9.9 inches. Yellow Perch are an important prey species for predator fish, especially Walleye.

Freshwater Drum, often referred to as "sheepshead", were the most abundant fish species sampled in the 2019 Lake Washington survey. A total of 732 Freshwater Drum were sampled throughout the survey. The average length was 13.3 inches and the largest fish was 18.8 inches. Freshwater Drum are native to Minnesota and are often caught on common angling gear.

Other fish species sampled throughout the survey included Black Bullhead, Yellow Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Common Carp, Bowfin (dogfish), Bigmouth Buffalo, and Pumpkinseed.

Water quality measurements recorded in the 2019 survey included secchi depth, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen readings. The secchi depth reading was 3.5 feet. During the week of August 5, 2019 water temperatures ranged from 79.2 degrees Fahrenheit at the surface to 65.1 degrees at a depth of 30 feet. Dissolved oxygen ranged from 12.3 mg/l at the surface to 0.0 mg/l at a depth of 30 feet. However at a depth of only 9.0 feet the reading was only 1.2 mg/l.

Anglers can help maintain or improve the quality of fishing by practicing selective harvest. Selective harvest allows for the harvest of smaller fish for table fare, but encourages release of medium- to large-sized fish. Releasing these fish can help maintain balance in the fish community and provide anglers the opportunity to catch more and larger fish in the future.

Shoreline areas on the land and into the shallow water provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife that live in or near Minnesota's lakes. Overdeveloped shorelines cannot support the fish, wildlife, and clean water that are associated with natural undeveloped lakes. Shoreline habitat consists of aquatic plants, woody plants, and natural lake bottom soils.

Plants in the water and at the water's edge provide habitat, prevent erosion, and absorb excess nutrients. Shrubs, trees, and woody debris such as fallen trees or limbs provide good habitat both above and below the water and should be left in place. By leaving a buffer strip of natural vegetation along the shoreline, property owners can reduce erosion, help maintain water quality, and provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife.

-Tyler Fellows, natural resources specialist

Washington (40011700)

Fish [Stocked](#) by Species for the Last Ten Years

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2019	Walleye	fry	391,000	3.1
2017	Walleye	fry	796,897	7.3
2016	Walleye	fry	867,040	8.0
2015	Walleye	fry	790,320	7.4
2014	Walleye	fry	787,479	7.7
2012	Walleye	fry	784,800	7.2

Stocking Notes

1 - indicates fish purchased and stocked by private citizens and sporting groups.

2 - indicates fish purchased by the DNR for stocking.

Stocking Fish Sizes

Fry - Newly hatched fish that are ready to be stocked usually called "swim-ups". Walleye fry are 1/3 of an inch or around 8 mm.

Fingerling - Fingerlings are one to six months old and can range from a size of one to twelve inches depending on the species. Walleye fingerlings range from three to eight inches each fall.

Yearling - Yearling fish are at least one year old. A one-year-old fish can range from three to twenty inches depending on the species. Walleye yearlings average from six to twelve inches.

Adult - Adult fish are fish that have reached maturity. Depending on the species, maturity can be reached at two years of age. Walleye reach maturity between the ages of four and six years.