WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2024 Comprehensive Summary Report
Chute Pond, Oconto County

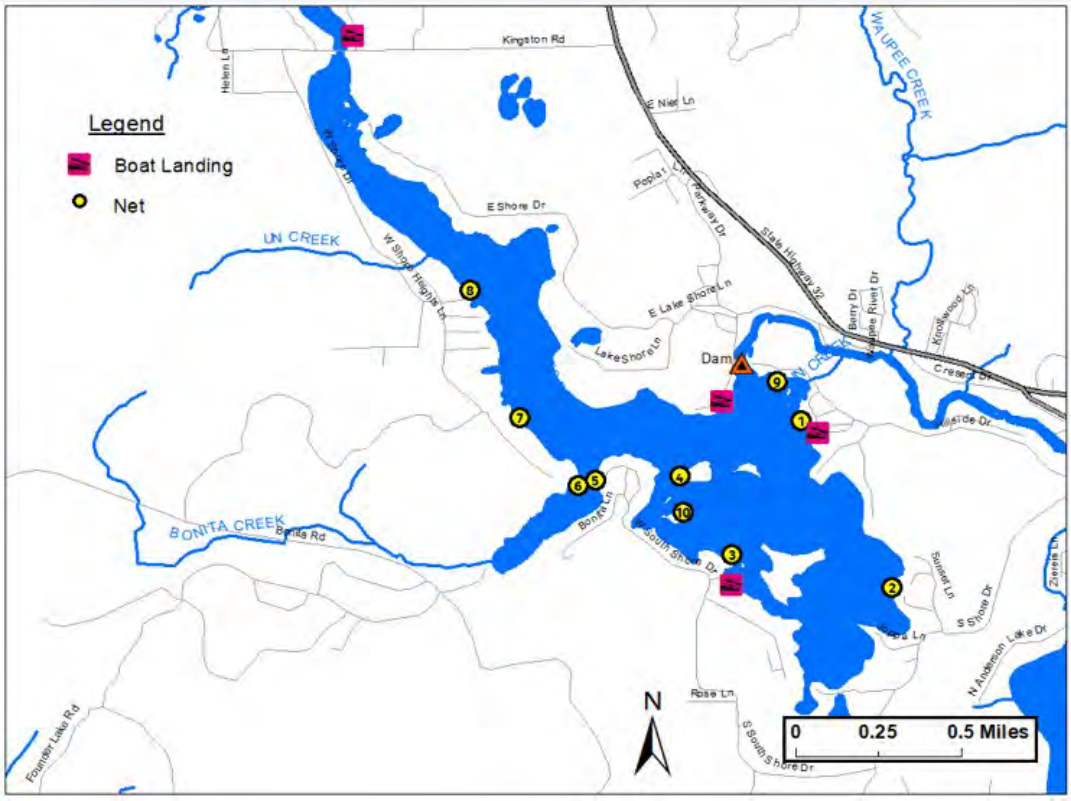
Waterbody Code 462520

Introduction And Objectives

In 2024, the Department of Natural Resources conducted a comprehensive fish survey of Chute Pond in order to provide insight and direction for the future fisheries management of this flowage. Comprehensive fish surveys include both spring fyke netting and spring electrofishing surveys. Primary sampling objectives of these surveys are to characterize species composition, relative abundance, and size structure. The following report is a brief summary of the activities conducted, general status of fish populations and future management options for Chute Pond. Prior to 2024, the most recent comprehensive survey was conducted in 2013. Chute Pond is on a 10-year rotation for spring netting, with next survey planned for 2034.

The littoral area is primarily sand and muck with some boulders and rock outcroppings. A surface discharge dam owned by Oconto County at the outlet maintains a head of 13 feet. The water level is sometimes drawn down a few feet in the winter. The last major drawdown was from September 2015 to April 2016, when the flowage was drawn down four feet for aquatic plant management purposes but with limited success. There are four public boat landings. These access locations are owned and maintained by Oconto County. About 20% of the approximately 12 miles of shoreline is in public ownership (county or national forest). The remainder of the shoreline is developed as homes and seasonal cottages. The Chute Pond Protection and Rehabilitation District (CPPRD) is a non-governmental group that is active in the lake community. There is a campground, picnic area, and public swimming beach that is managed by Oconto County. Chute Pond is classified as a complex riverine waterbody. As a local comparison, this is the same classification as Caldron Falls Reservoir, on the border of Oconto and Marinette counties.

Aquatic invasive species present in Chute Pond include banded mystery snail, Chinese mystery snail, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil and yellow iris. Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed were first documented in Chute Pond in 2007. Since then, various treatments to chemically or physically reduce milfoil have occurred. In 2019, the CPPRD received a grant for invasive species management and has been working with a consultant, Onterra, LLC. In late 2022, post-treatment milfoil monitoring was completed by Onterra. In that survey, milfoil was reduced in some areas but limited herbicide contact time in the flowage may hamper chemical treatment efforts. In 2023, a 6.6-acre area was chemically treated but was surrounded by a barrier curtain to improve herbicide contact time. Onterra recommends continued monitoring and mechanical harvesting to improve navigational and recreational opportunities within the flowage.



DNR Contact

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Lake Information

Acres: 433
Max. Depth: 18 ft
Shoreline Miles:12.5
Public Access: 4 boat ramps owned by Oconto County
Lake Class: complex riverine

Regulations

General Inland Waters for all species

Survey Method

- Chute Pond was sampled according to spring netting I (SN1), spring netting II (SN2) and spring electrofishing II (SE2) protocols as outlined in DNR Fisheries monitoring protocols. The primary objective for these sampling periods is to count and measure adult gamefish and panfish.
- A boom shocker was used to electrofish 4 miles of shoreline. Gamefish were collected and measured throughout, and panfish were collected and counted along two 0.5 mile transects.
- Fyke nets were deployed in areas of the lake that contained spawning habitat or were likely travel areas for northern pike and muskellunge. All newly captured gamefish were given a top caudal fin clip for mark-recapture population estimates. Age structures were collected from a subsample of gamefish species and from black crappie and bluegill.

Checking nets after the lake re-froze on Day 3 of fyke netting. Photo credit T. Paoli.

SURVEY INFORMATION						
Site Location	**Survey Dates**	**Water Temperature (°F)**	**Target Species**	**Gear**	**Number of Nets**	**Effort**
Chute Pond	03/18/2024 - 03/23/2024	35 - 37°F	Northern pike and Panfish	3' x 6' hoop fyke nets with 3/4" bar mesh	8	40 net nights
Chute Pond	04/16/2024 - 05/01/2024	46 - 53°F	Muskellunge and Panfish	3' x 6' hoop fyke nets with 3/4" bar mesh	8	97 net nights
Chute Pond	05/22/2024	64°F	Bass and Panfish	Boomshocker		4.0 miles

DNR crew checking nets on Chute Pond. Photo credit G. Golden.

Metric Descriptions

- **Catch per unit effort (CPUE) is an index used to measure fish population relative abundance**, which simply refers to the number of fish captured per unit of distance or time. For netting surveys, we typically quantify CPUE by the number and size of fish per net night. For electrofishing, we quantify CPUE as the number caught per mile of water electrofished. CPUE indexes are compared to statewide data by percentiles and within lake trends. For example, if a CPUE is in the 90th percentile, it is higher than 90% of the other CPUEs in the state.
- **Total abundance is a metric that describes population size and is estimated by mark and recapture.** In our study, all captured gamefish were given a partial caudal fin (i.e., tail fin) clip and released. Each time the nets were checked, all gamefish were examined for a partial caudal fin clip. The number of previously captured individuals (i.e., fin clipped) was recorded, and proportions of marked individuals to unmarked individuals were used to estimate the total abundance.
- **Proportional Stock Density (PSD) is an index used to describe the size structure of fish populations.** It is calculated by dividing the number of quality size fish by the number of stock size fish for a given species. PSD values between 40 - 60 generally describe a balanced fish population.
- **Length frequency distribution is a graphical representation of the number or percentage of fish captured by half-inch or one-inch size intervals.** Smaller fish (or younger age classes) may not always be represented in the length frequency due to different habitat usage or sampling gear limitations.
- **Mean Length at Age** is an index used to assess fish growth. Calcified structures (e.g., otoliths, spines, or fin rays) are collected from fish of all sizes that are present in the sample. Mean lengths at ages are calculated as the average length of all fish of a given age.

FISH STOCKING INFORMATION, 2000—2024						
Year	**Species**	**Age Class**	**Number Stocked**	**Average Length (Inches)**	**Marks Given/Notes**	**Hatchery Source & Strain**
2024	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	216	11.5	PIT	DNR Wild Rose Hatchery Great Lakes spotted
2021	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	212	10.4	PIT	DNR Wild Rose Hatchery Great Lakes spotted
2019	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	420	12.0	PIT	DNR Art Oehmcke Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2018	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	432	11.8	150 PIT tagged	DNR Art Oehmcke Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2016	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	421	10.3	RV - pellet fed	DNR Art Oehmcke Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2016	Bluegill	Adult	100	6.0		Private funds Unspecified strain
2016	Yellow Perch	Adult	200	6.0		Private funds Unspecified strain
2014	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	420	10.0	LV - minnow fed	DNR Wild Rose Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2013	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	422	10.0	LV - minnow fed	DNR Wild Rose Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2011	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	400	10.0		DNR Wild Rose Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2009	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	200	10.5	RV - not part of minnow/ pellet study	DNR Art Oehmcke Hatchery Upper Wisconsin River
2006	Walleye	Large Fingerling	363	7.0		Private funds Unspecified strain
2003	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	497	10.9		DNR Art Oehmcke Hatchery Unspecified strain

Northern Pike

- Due to an unusual spring and good numbers of northern pike caught in the March SN1 survey and April SN2 survey, both netting surveys were combined to calculate CPUE, PSD, and PE for northern pike.
- Catch rates of northern pike in 2024 were moderate at 1.8 per net night. This catch rate ranks in the 51st percentile for all Wisconsin lakes and between the 25th and 50th percentile for complex riverine lakes in Wisconsin.
- Size structure of northern pike in 2024 was fair with a PSD of 43, slightly lower than in 2013.
- Sectioned pelvic fin rays were used for age estimation of northern pike. Growth rates of male and female northern pike in 2024 were generally below the lake class average. Growth rates of northern pike were also below average in the 2013 survey.
- There are an estimated 2,202 adult northern pike in Chute Pond which is equivalent to 5.1 adult northern pike per acre. This is above the 75th percentile compared to other lakes of similar class in Wisconsin.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

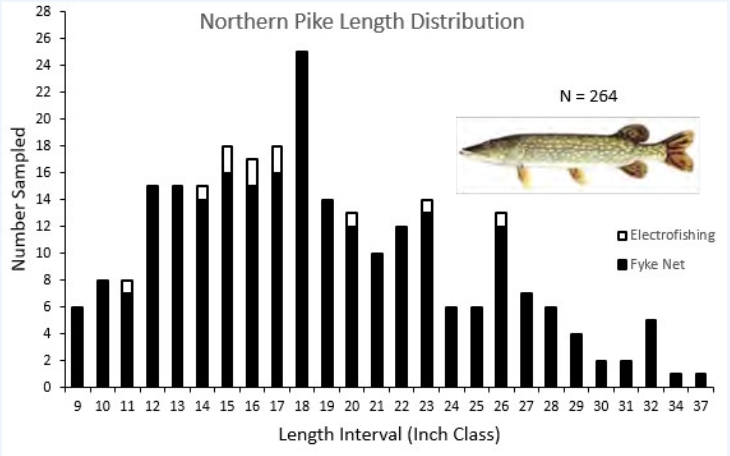
Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	253	19.2	9.1 - 37.6				
Electrofishing	11	17.6	11.6 - 26.5				
All	264	19.2	9.1 - 37.6	14.0 and 21.0	209	89	43

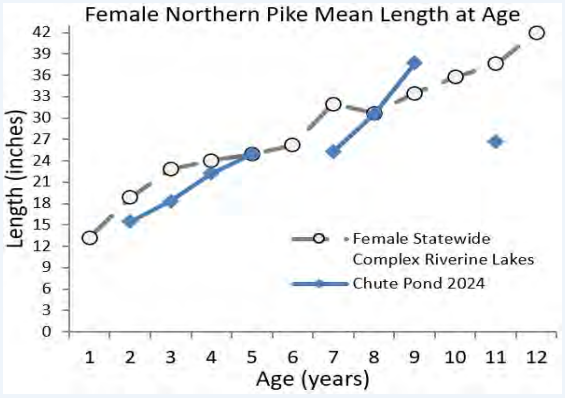
RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT)

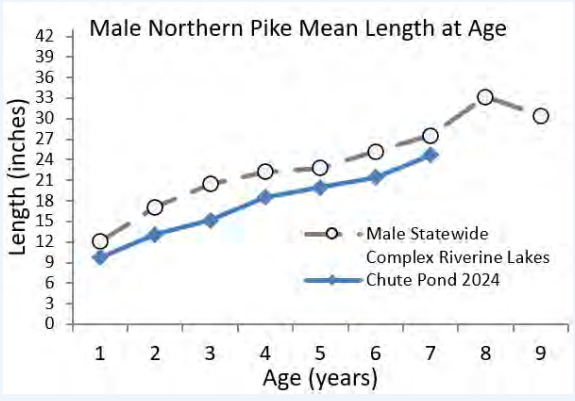
2024 Total Number Captured	2002	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
253	1.7	3.3	1.8	51	Moderate

ADULT ABUNDANCE (POPULATION ESTIMATE)

Marked	Captured	Recaptures	Population Estimate (95% CI)	Number per Acre	Abundance Rating
242	253	11	2,202 (1,277 - 4,070)	5.1	High >75th percentile







SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

PSD by Year (all gear types)		
2002	2013	2024
44	51	43

POPULATION ESTIMATE (PE) TRENDS

Number per Acre		
2002	2013	2024
3.4	3.8	5.1

Kassaundra Kiehnau and a 37.6 inch female northern pike, estimated at 9 years old. Photo credit T. Paoli.

Devin Bort with a 26.5 inch northern pike captured during electrofishing. Photo credit T. Paoli.

Muskellunge

- Chute Pond is a Class B muskellunge waterbody, which is an intermediate class of waters that provide good fishing for muskellunge. It is also considered a Category 2 reproductive category, which has some natural reproduction yet stocking occurs to supplement the fishery.
- Muskellunge large fingerlings have been stocked sporadically by the Wisconsin DNR from the 1930's to the early 2000's. More consistent musky stocking has occurred from 2009 to 2024. Stocking rates have varied from 0.5 to 1 per acre in recent years.
- Annual stockings of 1 per acre from 2013 to 2016 were planned as part of a statewide musky stocking assessment of pellet versus minnow reared fish, where all stocked muskies were given a unique fin clip. Muskies were not stocked in 2015 due to the partial drawdown project. To evaluate survival, growth, and contribution of stocked and naturally reproduced muskellunge, DNR conducted fall electroshocking surveys in 2013, 2014, and 2016.
- Minnow-fed fish were stocked in 2013 and 2014 and pellet-fed fish were stocked in 2016. Age-0 CPE of minnow-fed fish averaged 1.75/mile in 2013 and 1.1/mile in 2014. Pellet-fed age-0 CPE was 0.5/mile in 2016 indicating that minnow-fed fish survived better.
- A total of 30 age-0 muskies were captured during the fall surveys during those three years. Five of the 30 age-0 muskies were unclipped and were all captured in the fall 2016 survey. This might suggest that there is some natural reproduction of muskellunge in Chute Pond but it is difficult to be certain simply based on the absence of clips. Some unclipped muskies were also stocked into Townsend Flowage one month prior to the Chute Pond fall 2016 survey and unclipped muskies could have migrated downstream.
- Due to low numbers of musky caught in the 2024 survey (7 male; 2 female; 1 unknown), both netting efforts were combined for CPUE, length frequency, and aging analysis for muskellunge. Two musky were caught in the SN1 (March) survey (all in Net 2) and an additional 7 musky were caught in the SN2 (April) netting survey (all in Net 3). One musky was caught during the SE1 (electrofishing) survey.
- None of the musky captured in 2024 had been previously PIT tagged, but this is not unexpected. DNR began PIT tagging musky stocked into Chute Pond from 2018 to present. 35% of the muskies stocked in 2018 were PIT tagged, and all were tagged from 2019 and later. Larger, older fish would not likely have a PIT tag unless they were remnants from the 2013 survey when all musky handled in that survey were PIT tagged.
- Catch rates of muskellunge in 2024 were low at 0.07 per net night. This catch rate ranks in the 10th percentile for lakes in Wisconsin.
- Size structure of muskellunge in 2024 was excellent with a PSD of 100, as all fish were 30 inches or greater.
- Sectioned pelvic fin rays were used for age estimation of muskellunge. Growth rates of all sexes were combined due to low sample sizes. In 2024, growth rates were near average compared to other complex riverine lakes, with males reaching a lower maximum length as expected.
- The minimum length limit for muskellunge in Chute Pond is 40 inches, and it takes approximately 8 years for fish to reach that size.
- A recapture survey was not conducted in 2025 due to low sample size and a population estimate for muskellunge was not generated.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	9	37.1	30.7 - 46.4				
Electrofishing	1	37.6					
All	10	37.1	30.7 - 46.4	20.0 and 30.0	10	10	100

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT)

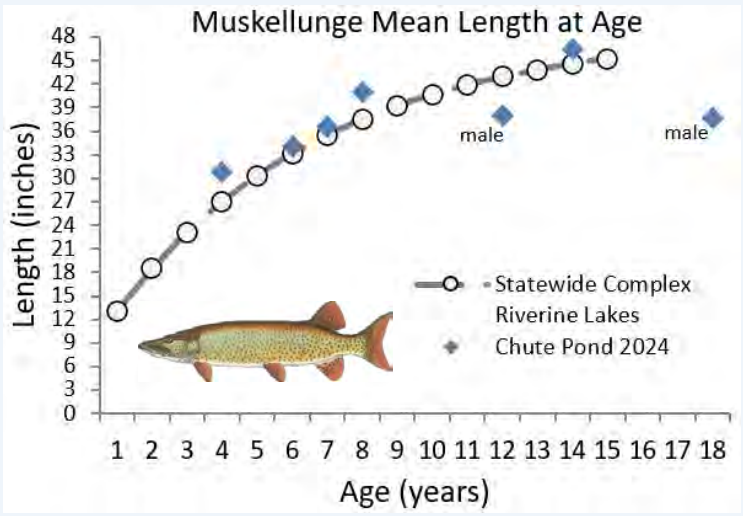
2024 Total Number Captured	2002	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
	0.05	0.9	0.07	10	Low

SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

PSD by Year (all gear types)

2002	2013	2024
100	88	100

Tammie Paoli with a 34.2 inch male musky. Photo credit K. Kiehnau.



Devin Bort holds a 37.6 inch male musky that was estimated as Age 18. Photo credit T. Paoli.

Largemouth Bass

- Since good numbers of largemouth bass were caught in the March SN1 survey, April SN2 survey, and May SE2 electrofishing survey, all gear types were combined to generate length frequencies.
- Catch rates of largemouth bass in 2024 were high at 25 bass per mile. This catch rate ranks between the 75th-90th statewide percentile.
- Size structure of largemouth bass in 2024 was fair with an electrofishing PSD of 52, and was lower compared to 2013. 43% of largemouth bass sampled were 14 inches or greater (legal size).
- Sectioned dorsal spines were used for age estimation of largemouth bass over 10 inches and scales were used for bass under 10 inches. As in 2013, growth rates of largemouth bass in 2024 were generally below the statewide average. Age interpretation of dorsal spines for older bass can result in underestimation due to the eroded center lumen.
- There is steady recruitment of largemouth bass based on multiple age classes represented in the sample.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

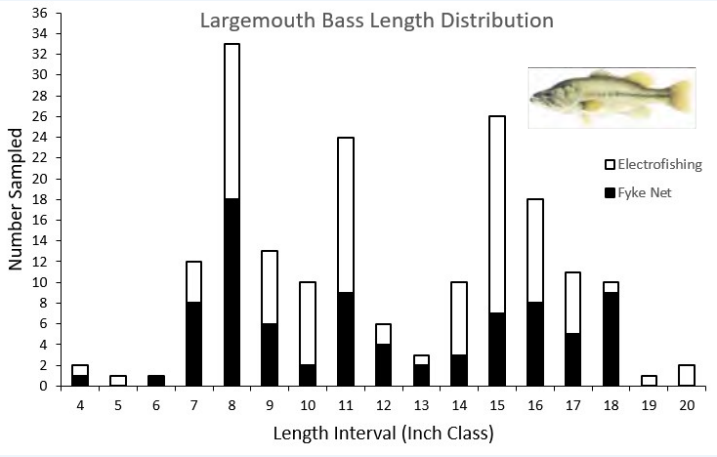
Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	83	12.2	4.5 - 18.8	8.0 and 12.0	73	38	52
Electrofishing	100	12.7	4.3 - 20.2	8.0 and 12.0	94	49	52
All	183	12.5	4.3 - 20.2	8.0 and 12.0	167	87	52

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
100	17.5	25	75th to 90th	High

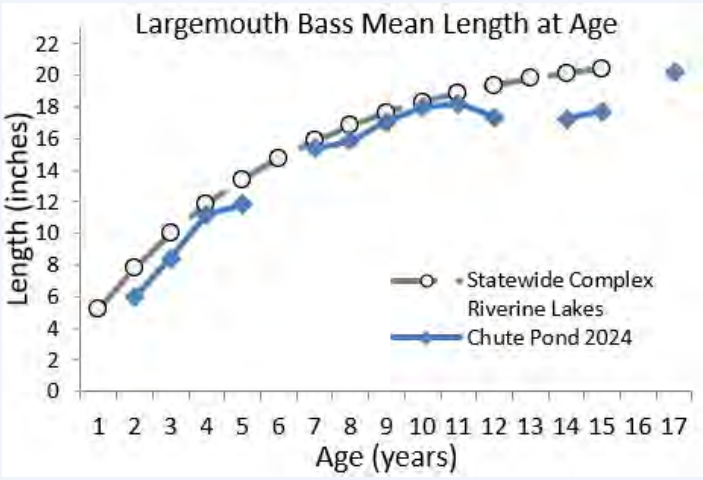
SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

PSD by Year (SE2 survey)	
2013	2024
88	52



Devin Bort displays a 20.2 largemouth bass, estimated at age 17. Photo credit T. Paoli.

A healthy largemouth bass from Chute Pond. Photo credit T. Paoli.



Bluegill

- All gear types were combined to generate length frequencies for bluegill.
- Catch rates of bluegill in 2024 were high at 211 per mile. This catch rate ranks between the 75th-90th statewide percentile.
- Size structure of bluegill in 2024 was poor with an electrofishing PSD of 12. Only 3 bluegill sampled were greater than the “preferred” size of 8 inches.
- Sectioned dorsal spines and otoliths were collected from 10 bluegill per inch length bin and used for age estimation. Otoliths are considered to be the “gold standard” of fish aging structures and were collected in anticipation of a slow-growing population documented in past surveys. Otoliths were mounted in epoxy, sectioned with an isomet saw, and read through a microscope. Otolith and dorsal spine age estimates differed in 19 out of 94 samples. In most of those cases, dorsal spines were assigned to be a year younger than otoliths as a result of the eroded lumen in the center of the dorsal spine.
- As in 2002 and 2013, growth rates of bluegill in 2024 were generally below the statewide average. The bluegill population is at a high density dominated by slow growing fish with poor size structure.
- There is steady recruitment of bluegill based on multiple age classes represented in the sample, with age-3 and age-4 bluegill dominating the catch.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	4244	5.3	3.4 - 8.8	3.0 and 6.0	301	86	29
Electrofishing	211	4.3	1.3 - 7.0	3.0 and 6.0	141	17	12
All	4455	5.0	1.3 - 8.8	3.0 and 6.0	442	103	23

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
211	443	211	75-90th	High

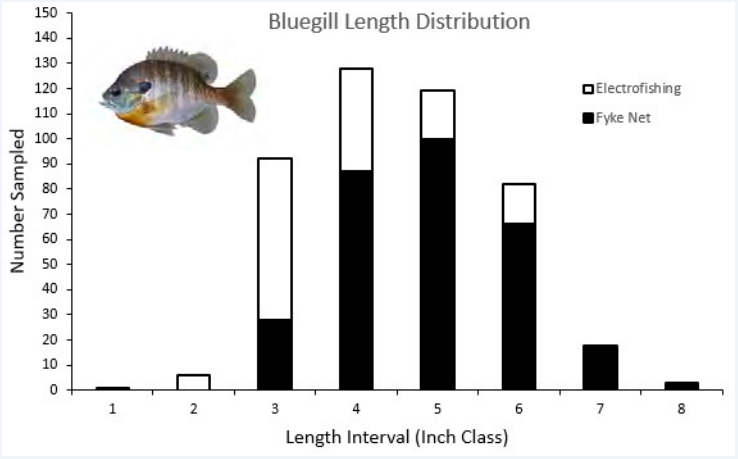
SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

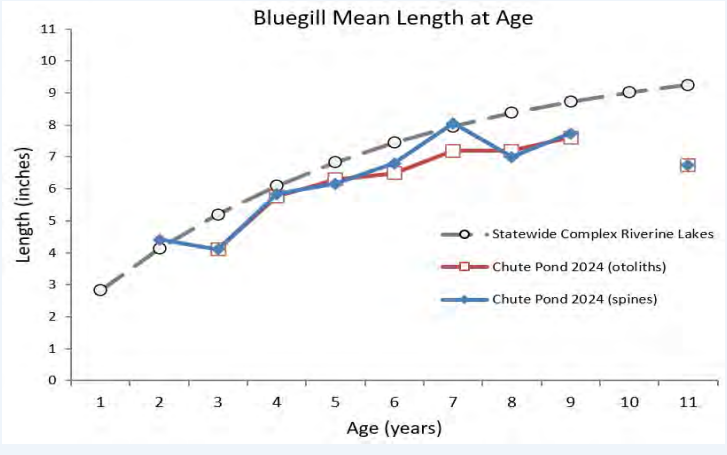
PSD by Year (SE2 survey)	
2013	2024
25	12

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024
4244	104	31

A 7.4 inch bluegill from Chute Pond, estimated as age 8. Photo credit T. Paoli





Black Crappie

- All gear types were combined to generate length frequencies and PSD for black crappie.
- Fyke net catch rates of black crappie in 2024 were high at 20 per net night. This catch rate ranks between the 75th-90th statewide percentile. Electrofishing catch rates of black crappie (4 per mile) were low.
- Size structure of black crappie in 2024 was poor with a PSD of 16. Only 23 black crappie sampled were greater than the "preferred" size of 10 inches.
- Sectioned dorsal spines were used for age estimation of black crappie over 7 inches and scales were used for crappie under 7 inches. As in 2013, growth rates of crappie in 2024 were below the statewide average. The crappie population is at a high density dominated by slow growing fish with poor size structure.
- The 2021 and 2020 year classes (age 3 and 4) collectively comprised 74% of the sample. It is common for one or two year classes to dominate a crappie population.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	2792	6.8	4.1 - 13.3				
Electrofishing	4	7.1	6.5 - 7.7				
All	2796	6.8	4.1 - 13.3	5.0 and 8.0	278	45	16

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
2792	96	20	75-90th	**High**

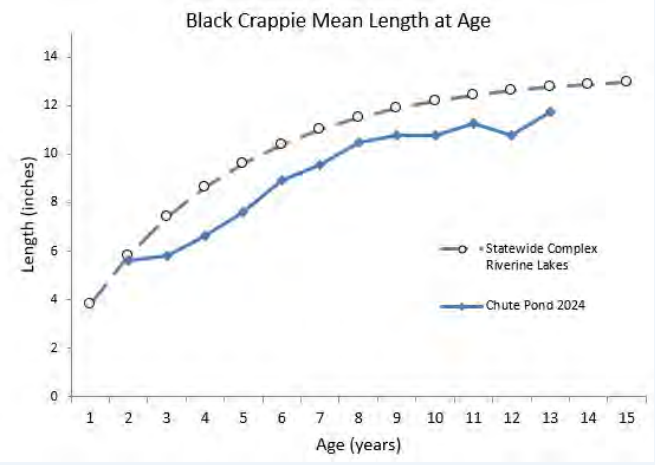
SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

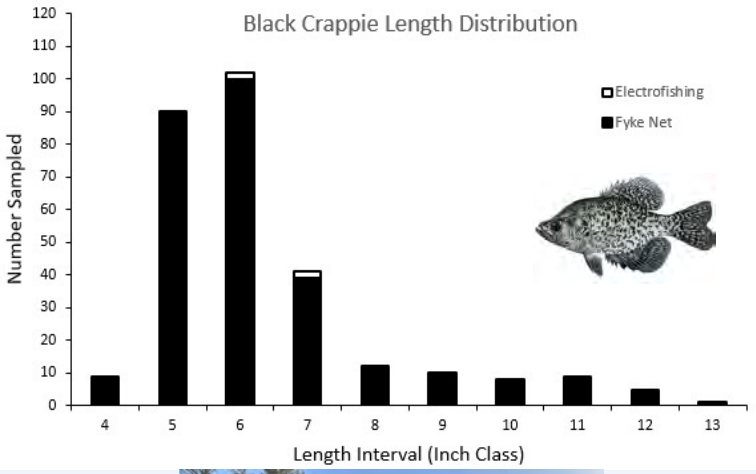
PSD by Year (all gear types)

2013	2024
12	16

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024
4	33	4





Downstream view of the outlet dam on Chute Pond. Photo credit T. Paoli.

Pumpkinseed & Hybrids

- All gear types were combined to generate length frequencies and PSD for pumpkinseed sunfish and hybrids.
- Pumpkinseeds hybridize with other species within the Lepomis genus including bluegill, warmouth, green sunfish. For this analysis, we combined pumpkinseed and hybrids. 7% of the pumpkinseed catch in 2024 were likely pumpkinseed x bluegill hybrids. Hybrids were also common in the 2013 survey.
- Electrofishing catch rates of pumpkinseed in 2024 were high at 48 per mile. This catch rate ranks between the 90th-95th statewide percentile. Fyke net catch rates of pumpkinseed (7 per net night) were low.
- Size structure of pumpkinseed sunfish in 2024 was moderate with a PSD of 29. No pumpkinseed greater than the “preferred” size of 8 inches were sampled.
- Aging structures were not collected from pumpkinseed sunfish.

2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	953	4.9	3.8 - 7.6				
Electrofishing	48	5.4	2.8 - 7.1				
All	1001	5.1	2.8 - 7.6	3.0 and 6.0	75	22	29

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE

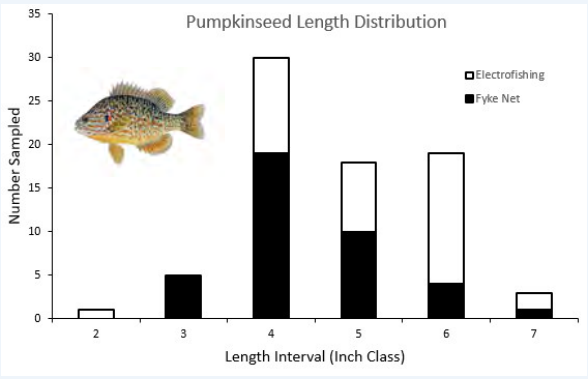
2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
48	69	48	90-95th	High

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT)

2024 Total Number Captured	2013	2024
953	42	7

SIZE STRUCTURE (PSD) TRENDS

PSD by Year (all gear types)	
2013	2024
38	29



Yellow Perch

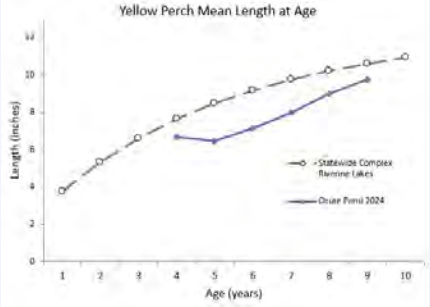
- All gear types were combined to generate length frequencies for yellow perch, although only one perch was captured by electrofishing.
- Fyke net catch rates of yellow perch in 2024 were moderate at 2.3 per net night. This catch rate ranks between the 50th-75th percentile.
- Size structure of yellow perch in 2024 was poor with a PSD of 10. Only one yellow perch greater than the “preferred” size of 10 inches was sampled.
- Sectioned anal fin rays were used for age estimation of yellow perch. As in 2013, growth rates of yellow perch are below the statewide average. The 2020 and 2019 year classes (age 4 and 5) collectively comprised 68% of the sample.

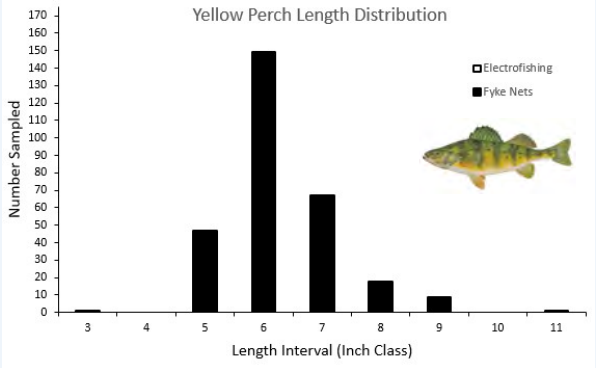
2024 SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS

Gear	Total Number Captured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD
Fyke Netting	315	6.7	5.0 - 11.2				
Electrofishing	1	3.1					
All	316	6.7	3.1 - 11.2	5.0 and 8.0	291	28	10

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER NET NIGHT

2024 Total Number Captured	2002	2013	2024	2024 Statewide Percentile Rank	2024 Abundance Rating
315	2.5	13.6	2.3	50-75th	Moderate





Final Summary and Management Recommendations

Chute Pond supports a good overall fishery. While most fish species have shown decreases in abundance compared to the 2013 survey, catch rates of both predator species (largemouth bass and northern pike) and prey species (panfish) are still quite high compared to other complex riverine waterbodies. Growth rates of gamefish and panfish are generally below average. This may be density dependent, related to high abundance.

Northern Pike

Catch rates were moderate in 2024, but density (5.1/acre) was high. Size structure of pike was fair despite slower than average growth rates. The current regulation (5 bag; no minimum size) will continue to allow for harvest opportunities.

Muskellunge

Nine musky were captured in 137 net nights of effort (0.07/net night), with an additional musky sampled in the SE2 survey. Size structure of musky was excellent, with all fish over 30 inches. Catch rates were significantly lower than 2013, when a total of 43 adult musky were captured in the SN1 survey (0.9 per net night). Lower musky abundance compared to 2013 may be due to downstream migration of fish through the dam over the years. Muskies have been observed in the North Branch Oconto River below the dam. Survival of stocked fingerling muskies might be affected by high densities of other predators such as northern pike and largemouth bass. Another possible explanation for fewer muskies sampled may be the timing of the unusual 2024 spring, with an early ice-out followed by water temperatures that were slow to rise. In the 2013 survey, ice-out occurred late April and ripe musky were encountered on the first day in the SN1 survey. Musky stocking by DNR will be discontinued due to the lake not meeting criteria in the DNR stocking guidance (>0.23/acre or >0.32/net night for Class B waters). Private musky stocking permit applications will be considered based on stocking and genetic management guidelines.

Largemouth Bass

Catch rates of largemouth bass in 2024 were high at 25 bass per mile. Size structure of largemouth bass in 2024 was fair with a PSD of 52, and was lower compared to 2013. Similar to the 2013 survey, growth rates of largemouth bass in 2024 were generally below the statewide average. Although the bass density is high, since 43% of largemouth bass sampled were 14 inches or greater (legal size), the current regulation seems appropriate and allows for harvest opportunities.

Bluegill

Catch rates of bluegill in 2024 were high at 211 per mile for electrofishing. This catch rate ranks between the 75th-90th percentile. Size structure of bluegill in 2024 was poor with a PSD of 12, which is lower than 2013. Only 3 bluegill sampled were greater than the “preferred” size of 8 inches. The bluegill population is at a high density dominated by slow growing fish with poor size structure.

Black Crappie

The crappie population is at a high density dominated by slow growing fish with poor size structure. Fyke net catch rates of black crappie in 2024 were high at 20 per net night. This ranks between the 75th-90th percentile. Only 23 black crappie sampled were greater than the “preferred” size of 10 inches.

Pumpkinseed

Electrofishing catch rates of pumpkinseed in 2024 were high at 48 per mile. This catch rate ranks between the 90th-95th percentile. Size structure of pumpkinseed sunfish in 2024 was moderate with a PSD of 29. No pumpkinseed greater than the “preferred” size of 8 inches were sampled.

Yellow Perch

Fyke net catch rates of yellow perch in 2024 were moderate at 2.3 per net night, which is between the 50th-75th percentile. Size structure of yellow perch in 2024 was poor and only one yellow perch greater than the “preferred” size of 10 inches was sampled. As in 2013, growth rates of yellow perch are below the statewide average.

Other Species

In addition to species highlighted above, other species captured with total in parentheses include rock bass (275), rusty crayfish (179), yellow bullhead (162), white sucker (69), golden shiner (34), brown bullhead (18), creek chub (13), common shiner (10), brook trout (9), walleye (6), and common carp (1). It is likely that the walleye originated from one of the upstream flowages (Townsend Flowage; Reservoir Pond) where walleye were stocked by DNR up until 2020 and 2021, respectively. Walleye stocking by DNR in those upper flowages has since been discontinued.

Acknowledgements

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Adam Nickel with a 46.4 inch female muskellunge from Chute Pond. Photo credit J. Kohls.

Tammie Paoli with a 12.7 inch brook trout from Chute Pond. Photo credit R. Rhode.