

The Wisconsin DNR completed a survey of Horsehead Lake during the spring of 2025. Night time electrofishing was completed on 5/13/25 targeting bass and panfish. Two unique half mile stations targeting all fish were completed. Two transects sampled the remaining shoreline targeting gamefish.

### **Black crappie**

- 40 caught for a rate of 23.0 per mile during electrofishing
  - Increase from the 2019 survey
  - Around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes meaning around 75% of lakes have lower catch rates
- Mean length 8.4 inches with a min of 1.8 and max of 12.5
  - None caught in 2019 so can't compare sizes
  - Around the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes

### **Bluegill**

- 36 caught for a rate of 36.0 per mile during electrofishing
  - Increase from the 2019 survey
  - Around the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes meaning around 25% of lakes have lower catch rates
- Mean length 5.2 inches with a min of 1.7 and max of 6.7
  - None caught in 2019 so can't compare sizes
  - Around the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes

### **Northern Pike**

- 37 caught for a rate of 2.7 per mile during electrofishing
  - Decrease from the 2018 survey
  - Around the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes
- Mean length 18.3 inches with a min of 13.6 and max of 23.9
  - Increase from the 2018 survey
  - Around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes

### **Pumpkinseed**

- 100 caught for a rate of 100.0 per mile during electrofishing
  - Increase from the 2018 survey
  - Around the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes
- Mean 4.0 inches with a min of 2.2 and max of 6.1
  - Decrease from the 2018 survey
  - Around the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes

## Yellow perch

- 6 caught for a rate of 6 per mile during electrofishing
  - Decrease from the 2018 survey
  - Around the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes
- Mean length 5.3 inches with a min of 3.5 and max of 6.8
  - Similar to the 2019 survey
  - Around the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for similar lakes

Other species captured include black bullhead (191), golden shiner (29), yellow bullhead (28).

Fish species commonly found in winterkill prone systems of pumpkinseed, bullhead, and northern pike were prevalent. Operation of aerators may allow other species to take hold in the community the longer the system goes with a winter kill as a result of their operation. However, aerators cannot prevent all winterkills and tolerant species adapted to survive through times of low dissolved oxygen levels such as northern pike and pumpkinseed will likely dominate the fishery.

This information will be included in a summary report written this coming winter. The report will be posted online and shared with you.

Happy to help if you have any additional questions.

Fish on,

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