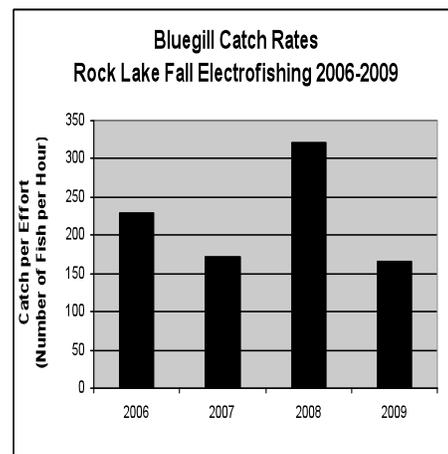
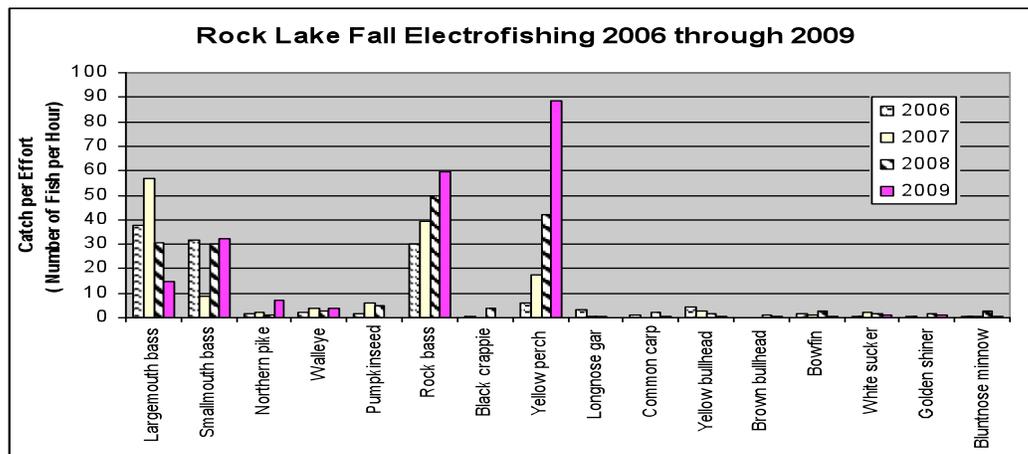


Rock Lake Fall Electrofishing Summary Report – 2009

Fall Electrofishing - Defined

Fall electrofishing was conducted on Rock Lake in Jefferson County on October 13, 2009. Fall electrofishing is conducted using a large boomshocker boat allowing for the collection of young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye and adult bass that are often undersampled by other gear types. In order to standardize fisheries data, total effort in the form of time spent shocking and/or miles of shoreline shocked is recorded. For this survey, the total effort expended was 3 hours (covering 5.85 miles of shoreline) and the following stations were sampled: 1.) County boat launch on Hwy B to boat canal north of Korth's Bay (67 minutes), 2.) Boat canal north of Korth's Bay to just past the railroad trestle bridge (41 minutes), 3. Sandy Beach Park to Tyranena Park (72 minutes). This summary report presents fall electrofishing data from 2009 with comparisons to 2008 and previous fall electrofishing surveys. This report was compiled by: Laura Stremick-Thompson, DNR Fisheries Biologist-Horicon (920) 387-7876 or Laura.StremickThompson@wisconsin.gov



Gamefish Summary

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Largemouth bass				
Total Catch:	44	84	139	108
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	15	31	57	38
Length Range (inches):	2.1-15.4	2.4-16.5	2.5-20.5	2.9-17.8
Average Length (inches):	7.9	9.6	9.5	9.4

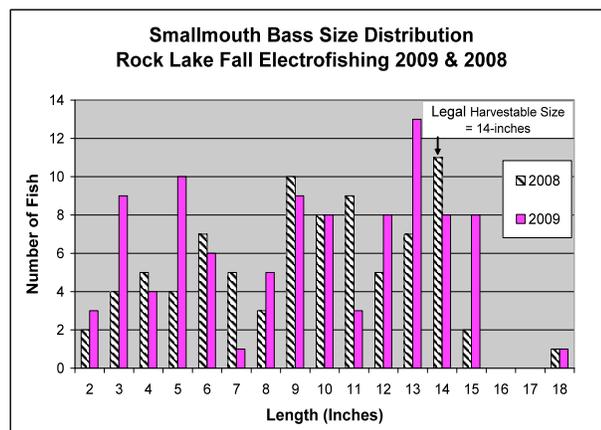
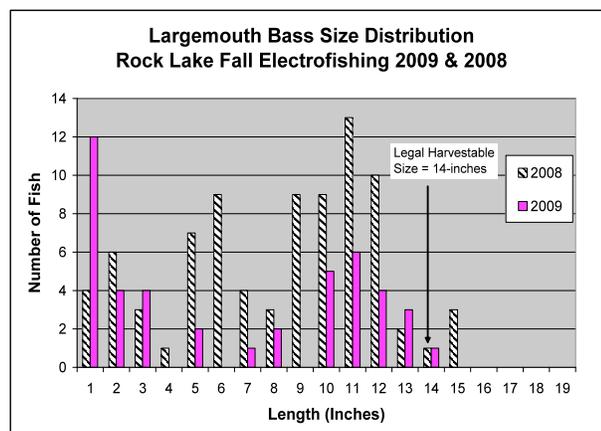
2009 largemouth bass catch rates were 15/hour, below the 10-year fall electrofishing average of 54/hour. The number of largemouth bass greater than 14-inches (current legal harvestable size) was 9%, compared to 7.1% in 2008, 10.8% in 2007 and 3.7% in 2006. The largemouth bass population in Rock Lake is naturally reproducing and no stocking is currently conducted by the DNR.

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Smallmouth bass				
Total Catch:	96	83	21	91
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	32	30.2	9	32
Length Range (inches):	2.5-18.1	2.8-18.0	3.0-18.0	3.3-16.7
Average Length (inches):	9.7	9.8	10	9.8

2009 smallmouth bass catch rates (32/hour) are comparable to the 10-year fall electrofishing average of 31/hour. 18% of the smallmouth bass sampled were greater than 14-inches (current legal harvestable size), compared to 17% in 2008. The smallmouth bass population in Rock Lake is naturally reproducing and no stocking is currently conducted by the DNR.

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Walleye				
Total Catch:	11	7	9	7
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	4	3	4	2
Length Range (inches):	16.1-25.5	13.0-24.0	7.1-23.8	15.4-21.1
Average Length (inches):	19.1	18.2	14.9	18.3

Overall walleye abundance was low with a total of 7 walleye collected during 2009 fall electrofishing. Despite the stocking of 68,550 small fingerling (1-inch) walleye in June 2009, no young-of-the-year walleye (under 10-inches) were sampled during 2009 fall electrofishing. This trend is consistent with low YOY numbers in 2008 (zero YOY), 2007 (three YOY), and 2006 (zero YOY).



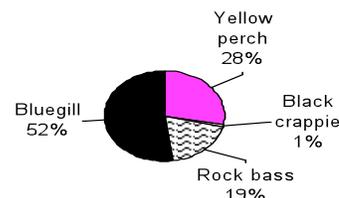
Northern pike	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Catch:	21	3	5	4
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	7	1	2	1
Length Range (inches):	9.1-33.1	10.6-34.2	20.5-36.5	22.0-25.3
Average Length (inches):	18	20.9	25.7	23.4

A total of 21 northern pike were collected during 2009 fall electrofishing. Electrofishing is not an effective method for sampling northern pike, as pike population data is best obtained using fyke nets set during spring spawning. No northern pike stocking occurred on Rock Lake in 2009.

Panfish Summary

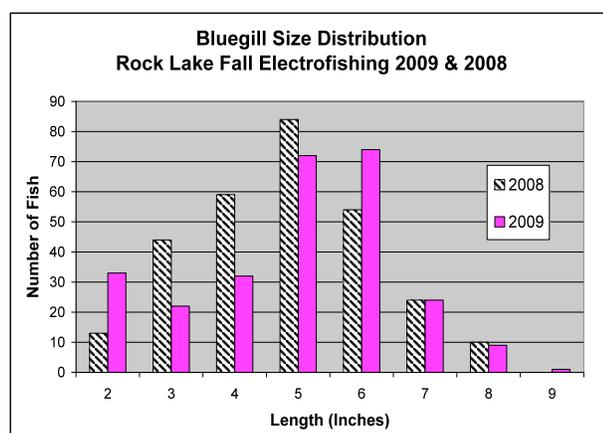
A diverse panfish community exists in Rock Lake, including bluegill, yellow perch, rock bass, pumpkinseed, black crappie and green sunfish. Bluegill were the most abundant panfish species sampled in 2009 fall electrofishing, followed by yellow perch and rock bass. A small number of black crappie (five fish) were sampled. No pumpkinseed or green sunfish were sampled in our 2009 fall survey.

Panfish Relative Abundance
Rock Lake Fall Electrofishing 2009
 (number of fish sampled = 949)



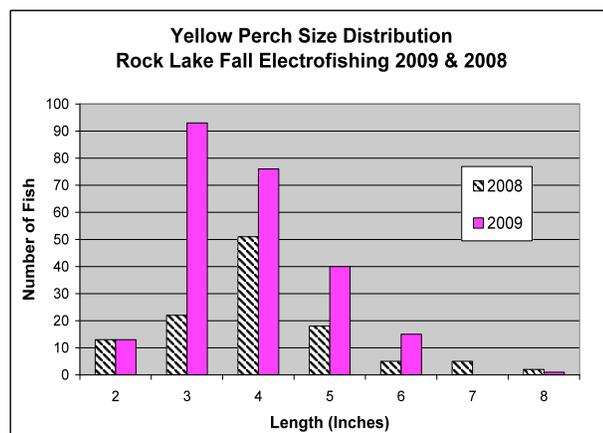
Bluegill	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Catch:	496	881	421	662
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	165	320	172	230
Length Range (inches):	2.0-9.1	2.2-8.9	2.5-8.7	1.6-9.0
Average Length (inches):	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.7

In 2009, 40% of the bluegill measured were greater than 6-inches in length, compared to 31% in 2008 and 34% in 2007, 49% in 2006 and 25% in 2005. The majority of bluegill measured (55%) were between 5 and 6.9 inches in length.



Yellow Perch	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Catch:	266	116	43	17
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	89	42	18	6
Length Range (inches):	2.1-8.4	2.3-8.6	2.4-8.9	4.4-8.4
Average Length (inches):	4.3	4.5	6.2	6.1

Yellow perch catch rates in 2009 were higher at 89/hour, compared to 42/hour in 2008, 18/hour in 2007 and 6/hour in 2006. The majority of yellow perch measured (45%) were young-of-the-year (YOY) produced in 2009 indicating excellent recruitment.



Rock bass	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Catch:	178	137	96	86
Catch Rate (fish per hour):	59	50	39	30
Length Range (inches):	1.7-10.7	2.9-10.8	2.6-10.5	3.2-10.5
Average Length (inches):	6.3	6.7	7.7	6.9

Rock Lake supports a healthy population of rock bass with fish up to 10.8 inches common.

Non-game Species

Rock Lake contains a diverse non-game fish community including: bowfin, grass pickerel, white sucker, brook silverside, golden, emerald, blacknose, and mimic shiners, bluntnose and fathead minnows, yellow, black and brown bullhead, longnose gar, central mudminnow, blackstripe topminnow, banded killifish, Johnny darter, Iowa darter and common carp. In addition, two Special Concern (SC) species, the lake chubsucker and least darter and one Threatened (T) species, the pugnose shiner, inhabit Rock Lake. The pugnose shiner was not sampled during 2009 fall electrofishing, but was found during fall electrofishing surveys conducted in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and summer shoreline seining in 2008. Lake chubsuckers (five individuals) were collected in 2009 fall electrofishing, after being absent from fall electrofishing surveys since 2001. Lake chubsuckers were sampled during spring fyke netting and May electrofishing surveys conducted in 2009. Of note, the blacknose shiner (one individual) was collected during 2009 fall electrofishing. The blacknose shiner was last documented in Rock Lake in 1974.