

Minutes of Buffalo Lake Fish Committee

08/25/2022 DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM in the Marquette Co Board Room, by Paul Ratzburg, Co-Chair.

Members present: Paul Ratzburg, Gary Doudna, Dan Braaksma, Bernie Sosinsky, Board Rep Ro Klecz.

A presentation was given by Adam Nickel and Scott Bunde from the WDNR with the 2022 fish survey. Adam reviewed the data and provided slides and graphs of the results. Adam is looking for volunteers towards the Endeavor area, far west end of Buffalo Lake to install some sensors as part of the Walleye fish management program.

Ro and Bernie cleared up the confusion with the dollar amount available. The total available is \$5,567.70. Late donation Schrams farms, \$5667.70.

Dan gave a report of the lack of Perch west of the causeway.

After reviewing the data, conferring with the WDNR and other observations the species of fish settled on is 37.5% Perch, 37.5 Crappie, 25% Large Mouth Bass for stocking.

A list of district people available with boats was taken down for distribution of the fish from the landing points. Buffalo Lake Campground landing, HWY C landing and freedom landing. Coolers should be used to maintain the water temperature while moving the fish from the stocking truck to the lake. (50-60 degree water temp is ideal)

Bernie covered the challenges of fund raising, donation boxes were discussed and more sponsors are needed. The Buffalo Lake [Facebook Page](#) and web site [Service Directory](#) are very good resources for local business exposure given the seasonal population on Buffalo Lake.

Ro explained the grant for 5k that was awarded for fish stocking and the restrictions. This was a team effort from several district members. Must be used by June 2023.

A motion was made by Bernie seconded by Gary to open a separate account for the fish funds. Much discussion took place on the accounting pearls of the time between fund raising, the stocking and the amount of money it takes to make stocking worthwhile. Normally two years. This will take effect after the minute's approval at the next meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

A thank you to Al Rosenthal as he retires from the board for his support and service to the fish stocking efforts on Buffalo Lake.

Meeting adjourned 5:12 PM

The following area businesses support Buffalo Lake by contributing to an annual fund used to stock the lake with fish each fall. District members can show their support by patronizing these businesses -- and be sure to mention your appreciation. If you'd like more information, contact the Fish Committee chairs.



With over 710 properties with exposure to our web site and facebook page this is an excellent way to reach seasonal, visiting and year-round people on or near Buffalo Lake!

New Walleye Sonic Tagging Study is Underway!

A new sonic tagging study is underway on the Winnebago System to evaluate adult walleye movement and habitat use on the system including the Wolf and upper Fox Rivers. Although the Wolf River holds some of the most productive walleye spawning marshes on the Winnebago System, walleye have also historically made spawning runs on the upper Fox River, and occasionally spawn along Lake Winnebago shorelines. Although past survey efforts and studies indicate that good numbers of walleye utilize the Wolf River for spawning, it is still unknown what percent make spawning runs up the Wolf River, upper Fox River, or stay in Lake Winnebago. Further understanding walleye habitat use on the Winnebago System is critical for guiding management and habitat restoration efforts. The upper Fox River walleye spawning run has become less predictable in recent years. Fishways have also been installed to improve fish passage including at Eureka in 1993 and more recently in Princeton and **Montello**. Many of the historical walleye spawning marshes are located downstream of Princeton on the upper Fox River, but walleye should now have access to upstream reaches with the recent Princeton and **Montello** fishways. Therefore, it is important to evaluate if walleye movement and habitat use has changed on the upper Fox River. The study will help guide management and habitat restoration efforts on the Winnebago System which also has some benefit to downstream populations.

During fall of 2021, DNR staff tagged 74 adult walleye with internal sonic tags on Lake Winnebago during electrofishing surveys in several areas including Black Wolf (24), Grundman County Boat Landing (19), Asylum Bay (14), Paynes Point (13), Pipe (3) and Fond du Lac (1). In addition, the upper Fox River receiver network was expanded upstream to Portage and staff are also working to install 20 releasable acoustic receivers on Lake Winnebago as part of the study. For **2022**, staff will focus tagging efforts on Lake Puckaway and the upper Fox River. This study is currently being funded by the Department, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Walleyes for Tomorrow, and Sheboygan Walleye Club. We hope to expand the project with more partners as the project continues.

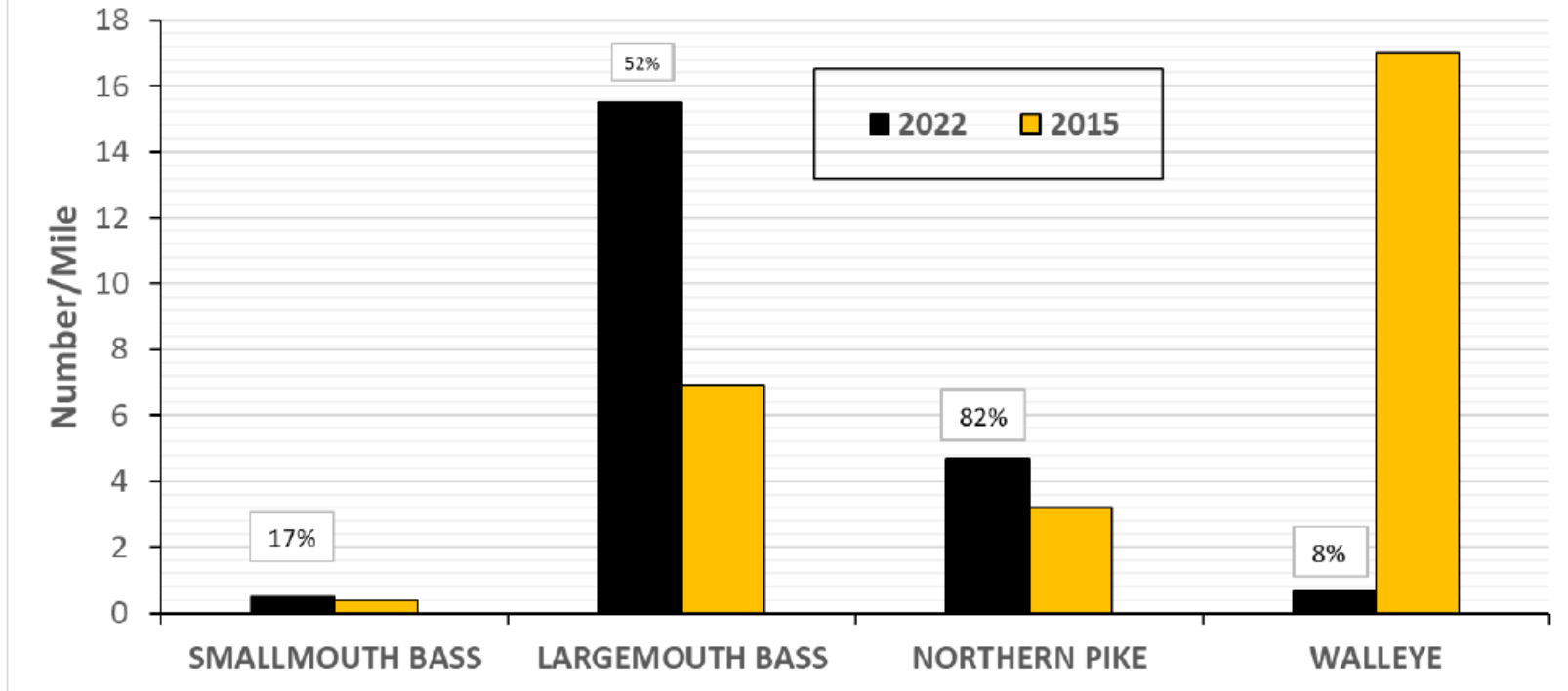


All sonic tagged fish are also marked with an orange loop tag near the dorsal fin that reads, **RESEARCH REWARD**. Anglers that happen to catch a sonic **tagged fish** are asked to record the tag number information and approximate length, take a picture with the fish and close up of the both sides of loop tag showing the number, and report their catch. If the fish is released please leave the loop tag intact. If the fish is harvested please contact the DNR, the internal sonic tags have a 3 year battery life and may be able to be reused. Anglers that report the catch or harvest of a loop tagged fish and have proper confirmation (the physical loop tag or picture with fish and verifiable loop tag number) will receive a \$100 reward (reward expires Dec. 31, 2025). To report tags and catch information, anglers can email the information to DNRWINNEBAGOSYSTEMTAGRETURNS@wisconsin.gov, call 920-303-5429, or mail to the Oshkosh DNR office (625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh WI 54901).

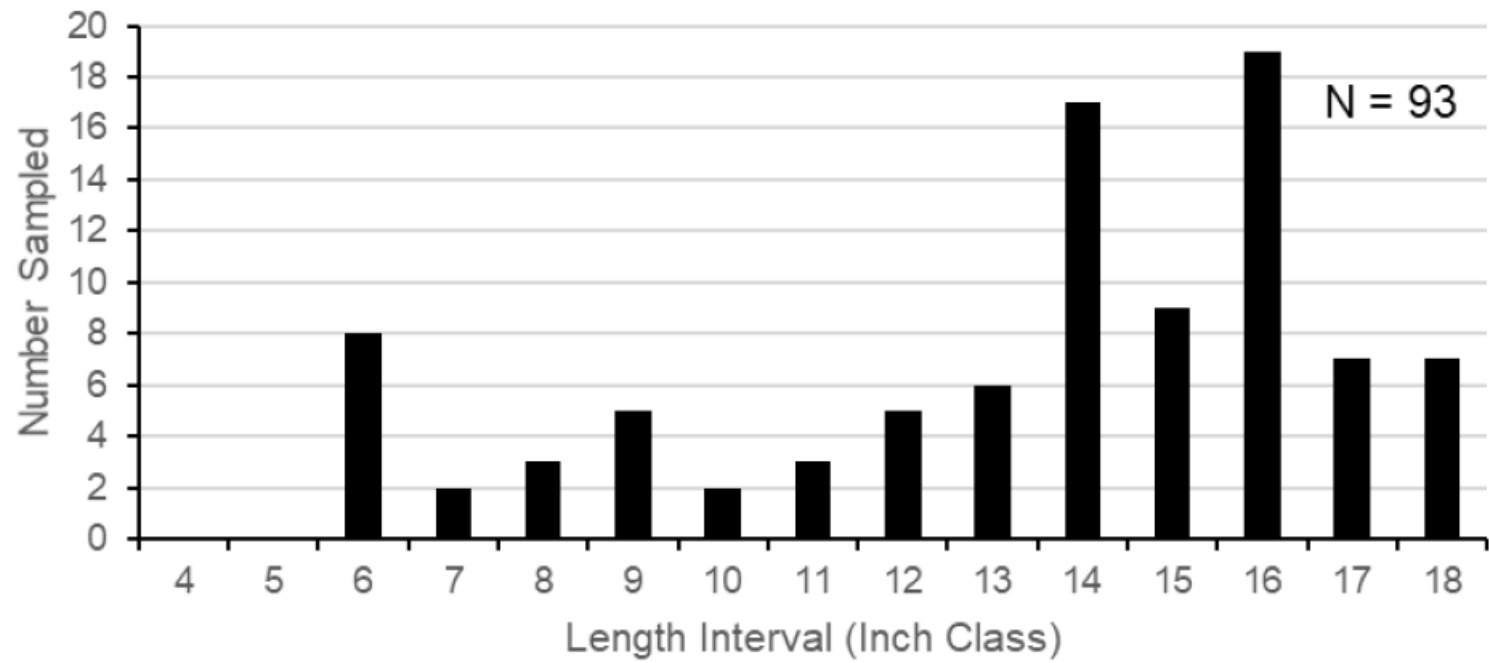
Buffalo Lake Bass/Panfish Survey 2022 Initial Results

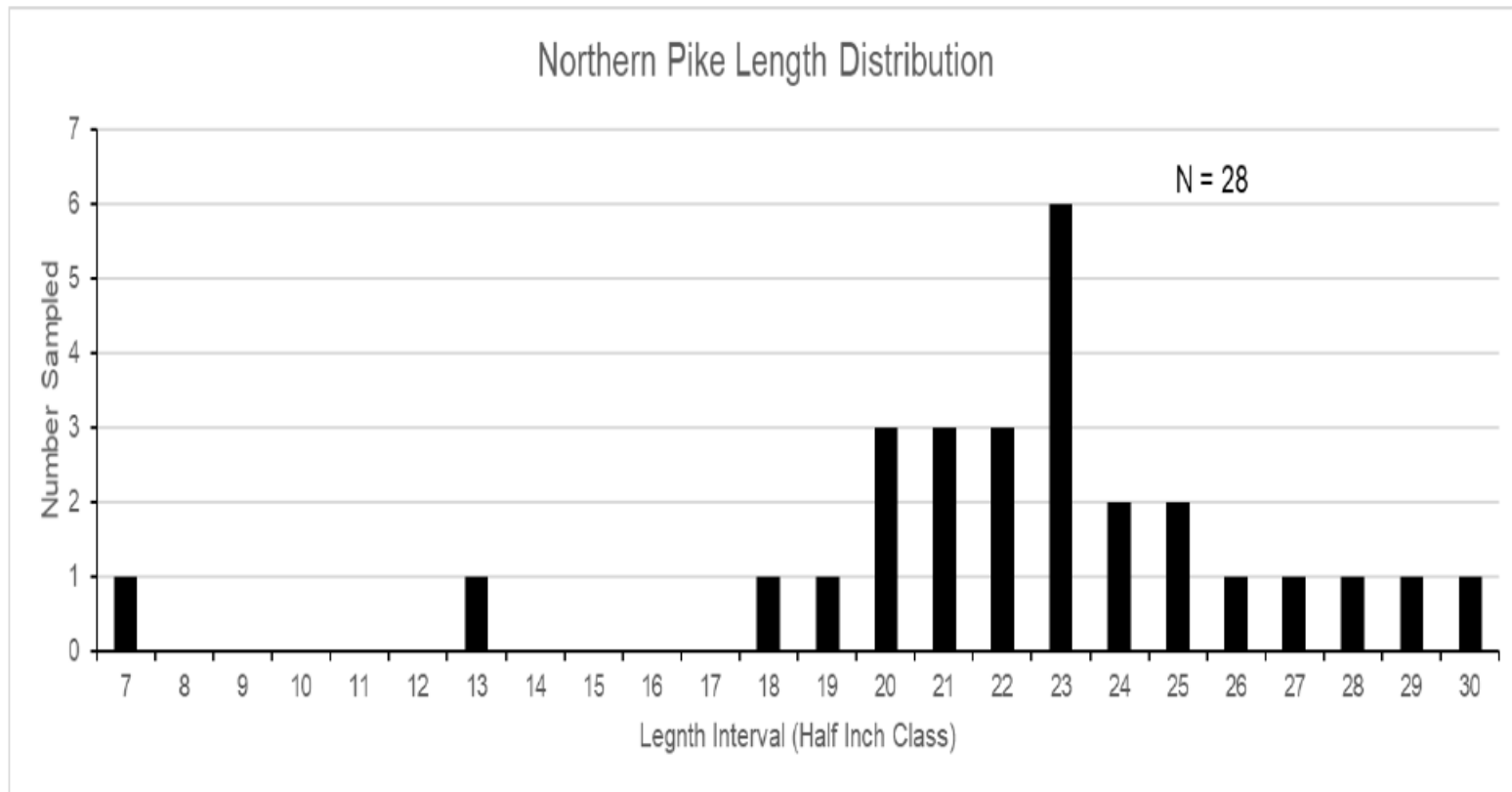


Buffalo Lake Bass/Panfish Electrofishing

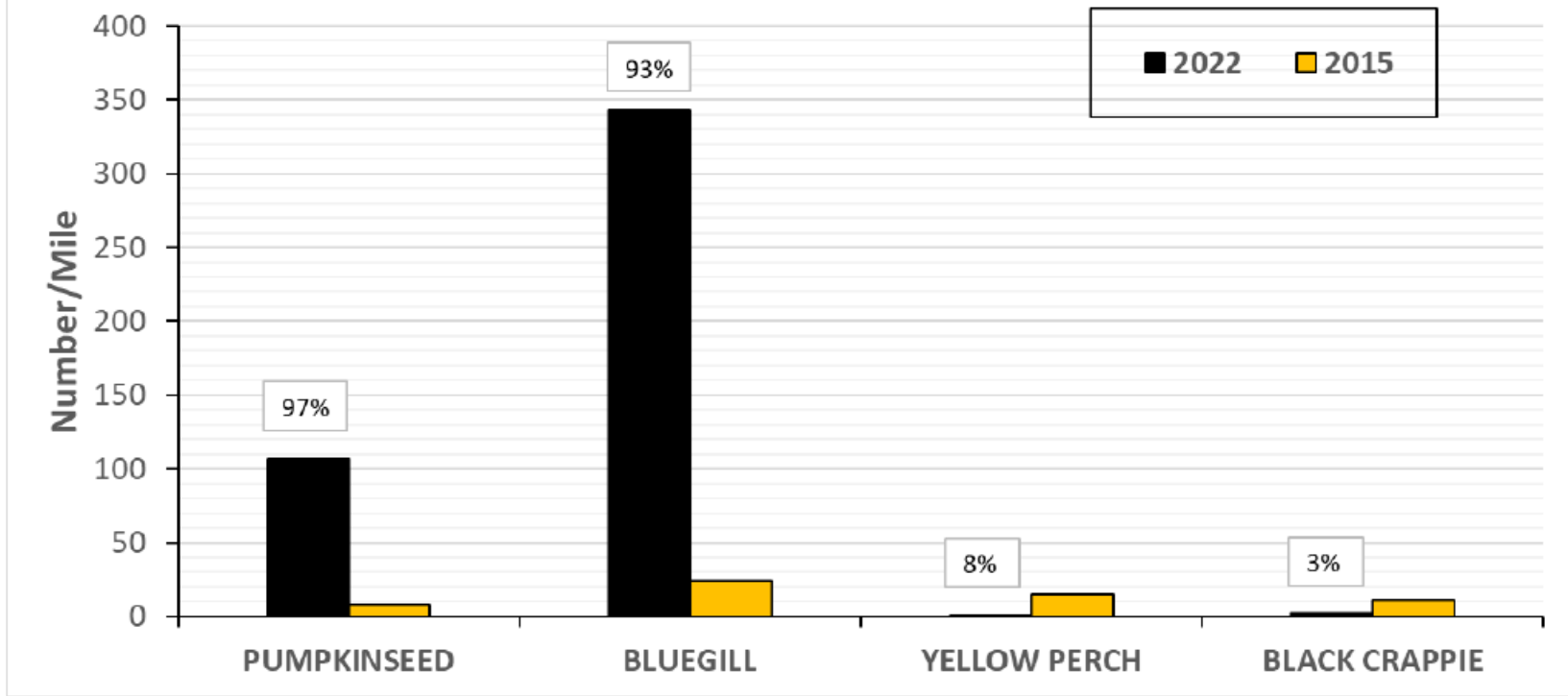


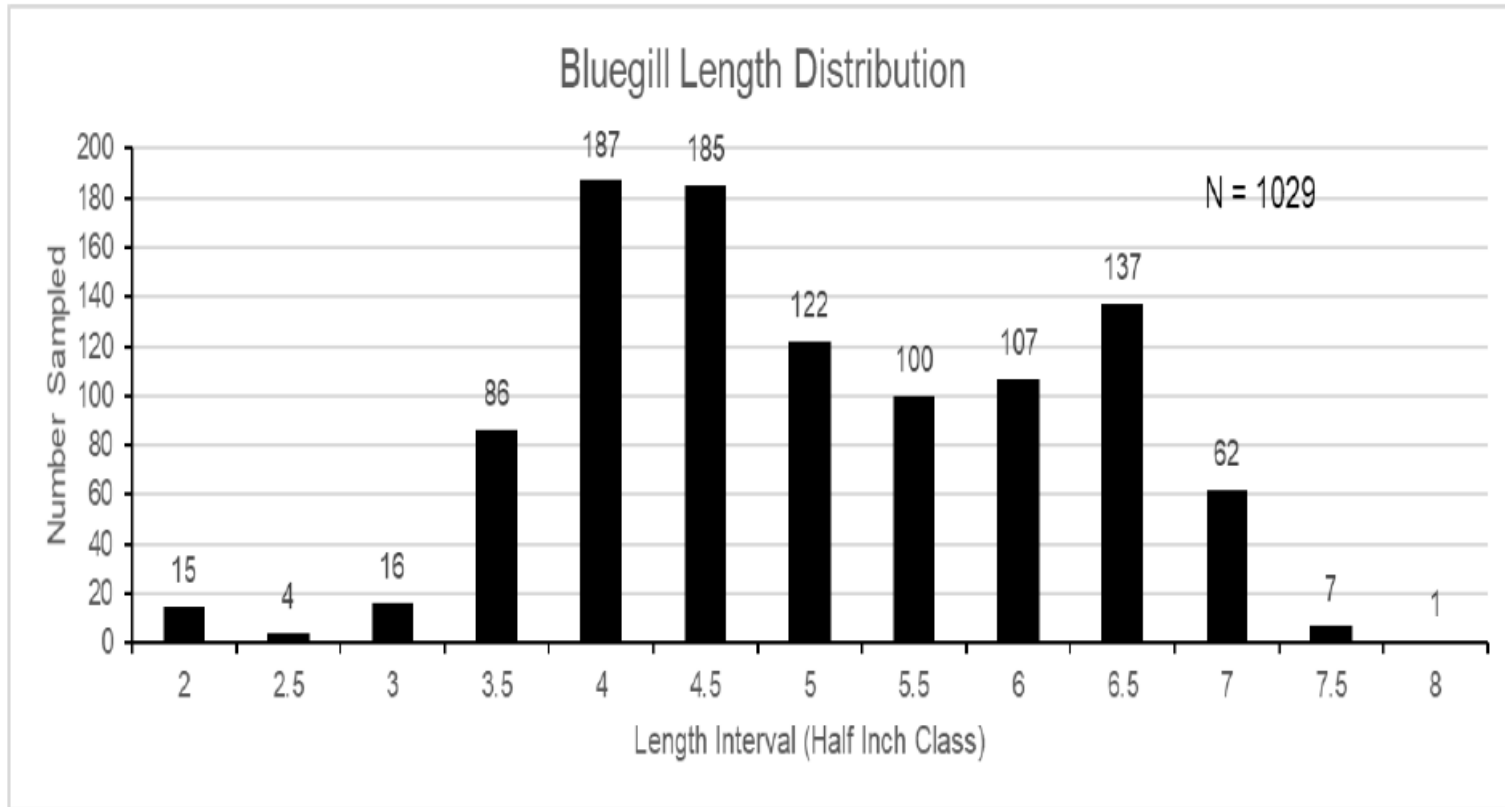
Largemouth Bass Length Distribution

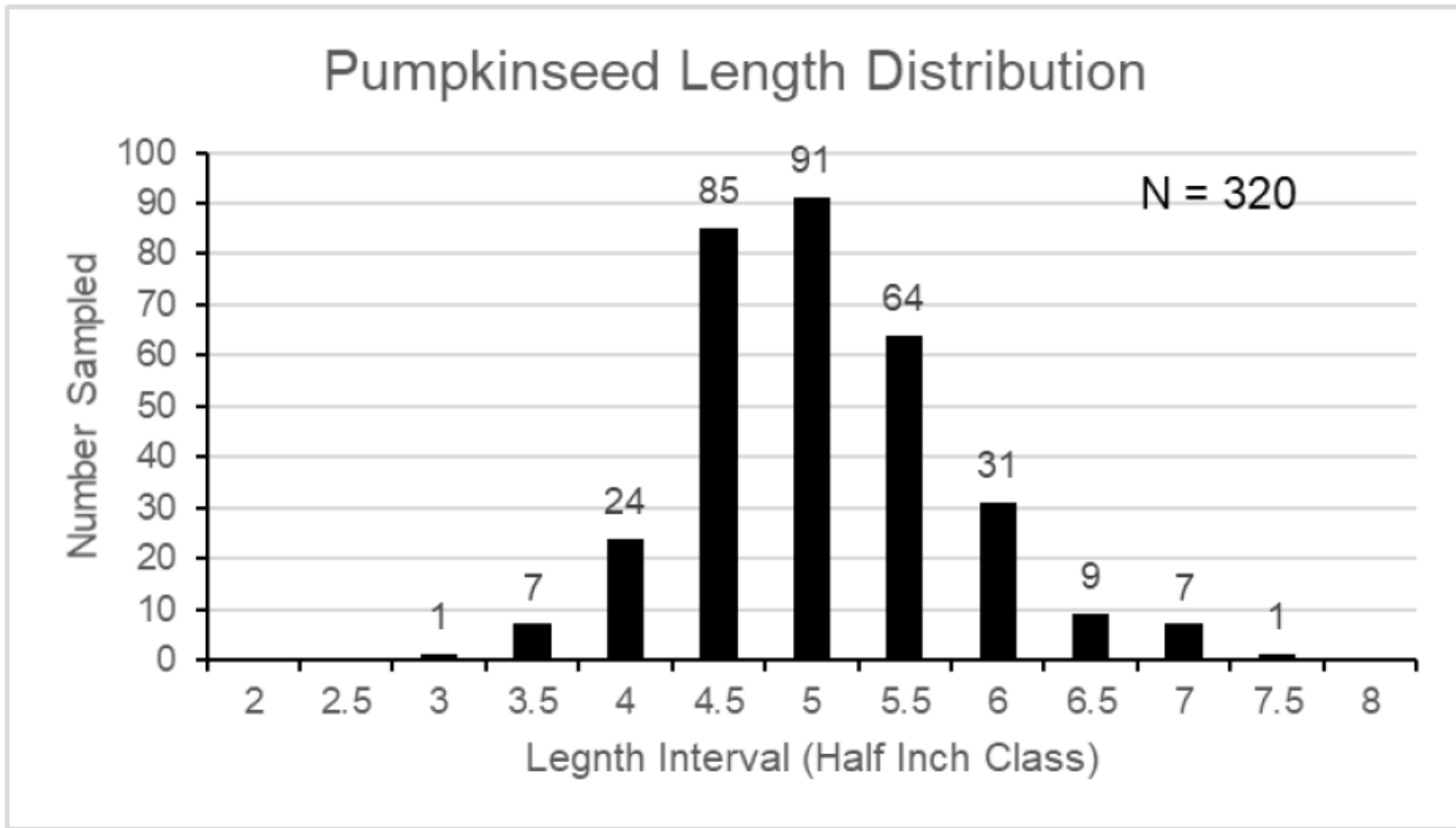


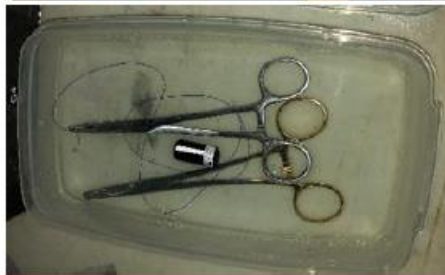
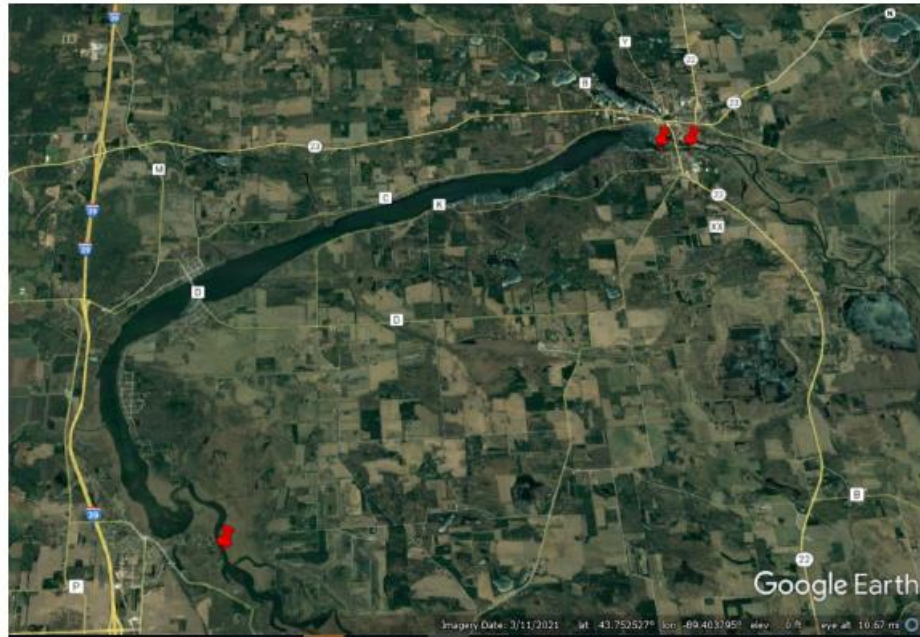


Buffalo Lake Bass/Panfish Electrofishing









WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | DNR.WI.GOV



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 866-208-0724
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Estimate/Agreement

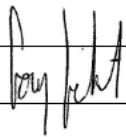
Date	Agreement #
8/29/2022	BffLkFsh22

Billed To:
Paul Ratzburg Buffalo Lake

Ship To (Pond Address)

Pond	Qty	Unit	Description	Rate	Total
	550	Each	Black Crappie 5-7"	4.50	2,475.00T
	620	Each	Yellow Perch 5-7"	4.00	2,480.00T
	300	Each	Largemouth Bass 4-6"	5.50	1,650.00T
			Fish Subtotal Amount		6,605.00
			20% discount	-20.00%	-1,321.00
		Each	DNR Fish Stocking Permit Application (charged by KSH)	15.00	15.00
	1	Each	Delivery Charge (Marquette)	360.00	360.00T

<p>Prices are subject to change to the prices in effect at the time of delivery. Seller reserves the right to make any corrections to prices quoted due to market volatility. In the event of any specific requirements representing a price increase, Buyer will be notified and afforded an opportunity to confirm.</p>	Subtotal	\$5,659.00
	Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
	Total	\$5,659.00

<p>Thank you for the opportunity to earn your business!</p> <p>Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource LLC Date: 8/29/2022</p> <p>Title: Owner _____</p> <p>Signature:  _____</p>	<p>CUSTOMER</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Agreement Valid Thru: 9/13/2022</p> <p>Acceptance of this agreement requires signature. Full payment due upon completion of work.</p>
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