



DNR RESPONSE TO COVID-19: For details on adjustments to DNR services, [visit this webpage \(https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html). For information on the state’s response, visit the [Minnesota COVID response webpage \(https://mn.gov/covid19/\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/).

Lobster (21014400)

Area: 1,334.26 acres

Littoral Area: 692.67 acres

Shore Length: 17.33 miles

Mean Depth: 15 feet

Maximum Depth: 65 feet

Average Water Clarity: 8.0 feet

Choose a survey:

Standard Survey (2017-07-24) ▼

Water Access Information:

Administrator	Access Type	Notes	Use Type
DNR	Concrete		Open to Public use

Fish Sampled

Filters:

all species ▼

all gear ▼

Species	Gear	CPUE	Normal Range	Avg Weight	Normal Range	Count
black crappie	Standard gill nets	7.08	0.5-2.7	0.39	0.2-0.4	85
black crappie	Standard trap nets	1.17	0.7-3.2	0.48	0.2-0.5	14

Species	Gear	CPUE	Normal Range	Avg Weight	Normal Range	Count
bluegill	Standard gill nets	25.17	N/A	0.15	N/A	302
bluegill	Standard trap nets	30.58	5.6-42.3	0.17	0.1-0.3	367
bowfin (dogfish)	Standard trap nets	0.08	0.4-1.0	4.05	3.1-4.8	1
brown bullhead	Standard trap nets	0.08	0.3-1.5	0.52	0.6-1.0	1
brown bullhead	Standard gill nets	0.08	0.3-2.2	0.69	0.6-1.0	1
common carp	Standard trap nets	0.33	0.2-1.1	10.17	3.0-7.8	4
hybrid sunfish	Standard gill nets	1.33	N/A	0.19	N/A	16
hybrid sunfish	Standard trap nets	1.92	N/A	0.28	N/A	23
largemouth bass	Standard electrofishing	49.00	N/A	0.87	N/A	49
largemouth bass	Standard gill nets	1.25	0.3-1.2	0.72	0.5-1.1	15
largemouth bass	Standard trap nets	0.42	0.3-1.1	0.26	0.2-0.9	5
muskellunge	Standard gill nets	0.17	0.2-0.6	16.83	3.4-5.7	2
northern pike	Standard gill nets	6.83	3.1-8.5	1.88	1.5-2.7	82
northern pike	Standard trap nets	0.83	N/A	2.78	N/A	10
pumpkinseed	Standard gill nets	2.50	N/A	0.14	N/A	30

Species	Gear	CPUE	Normal Range	Avg Weight	Normal Range	Count
pumpkinseed	Standard trap nets	2.67	1.7-8.2	0.12	0.1-0.2	32
rock bass	Standard gill nets	1.17	0.3-2.0	0.19	0.3-0.5	14
rock bass	Standard trap nets	0.33	0.6-2.5	0.33	0.2-0.5	4
walleye	Standard gill nets	2.75	1.3-5.5	1.33	1.2-2.4	33
walleye	Standard trap nets	0.50	0.2-0.7	1.61	0.9-2.9	6
white sucker	Standard gill nets	0.08	0.5-3.5	0.00	1.6-2.4	1
yellow bullhead	Standard gill nets	3.33	0.9-10.0	0.63	0.5-0.7	40
yellow bullhead	Standard trap nets	1.08	1.5-7.7	0.72	0.5-0.8	13
yellow perch	Standard trap nets	0.08	0.5-2.7	0.08	0.1-0.2	1
yellow perch	Standard gill nets	0.83	2.5-24.2	0.06	0.1-0.2	10

showing 27 of 27 fish samples

Length of Select Species Sampled - All Gear Combined

Number of fish caught in each category (inches)

Species	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+	Tot
black crappie	6	11	63	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99
bluegill	262	406	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	669

Number of fish caught in each category (inches)

Species	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+	Tot
bowfin (dogfish)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
brown bullhead	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
common carp	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
hybrid sunfish	13	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
largemouth bass	3	12	12	16	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
muskellunge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
northern pike	0	0	0	0	9	32	39	10	2	0	0	0	0	92
pumpkinseed	48	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
rock bass	6	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
walleye	0	0	3	1	17	15	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	39
yellow bullhead	4	7	11	18	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
yellow perch	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

Status of the Fishery

Lobster Lake is a 1,308-acre lake located about four miles west of Alexandria. The lake's irregular shape with many arms, bays, and islands has over 17 miles of shoreline and offers a rich diversity of fish habitat and fishing options. The lake is 65.0 feet deep and has an estimated average depth of 15.0 feet. Water quality measures describe a mesotrophic basin. Water transparency measurements during summer months average 9.1 feet. Total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a measurements have been steadily decreasing which indicates

improving water quality.

A standardized fish survey was completed in 2017 to assess integrity of the fish community and gain updated estimates of abundance and size structure of gamefish populations. Standard survey methodology included a spring electrofishing survey completed June 2 to effectively sample the Largemouth Bass population. The netting component of the survey was completed July 24-27. Netting efforts included 12 gill net and 12 trap net sets. The nets are positioned at established locations at as close to the same time of year to remove some possible survey bias associated with divergent habitat types and seasonal capture vulnerability. Lobster Lake was thermally stratified in late-July, thus nets were set above 20.0 feet where there was sufficient dissolved oxygen to support fish.

The Largemouth Bass population continues to be moderately abundant. Electrofishing catches averaged 49.0 bass/hour of effort. Lengths at capture ranged from 2.8 inches to 17.3 inches. Average length was 11.0 inches. Bass growth is slow. Some captures projected to be eight-years-old and older had not yet attained 15.0 inches in length. Only two captures were 15.0 inches and larger.

Bluegills are abundant. Age assignments of captures extended from age 2 to age 10. Similar to bass and crappies, Bluegill growth is too slow to optimize quality fishing potential. Older captures approached or exceeded 8.0 inches in length at age 10. Due to a broad age distribution, average length of captures in trap nets was 6.3 inches, but only one 8.0-inch capture was recorded in 2017.

Black Crappie catches in gill nets were moderately elevated. Relatively few were captured near-shore in trap nets during the late-July survey. Age determinations extended out to age 8, which is old for this short-lived fish. Enhanced reproduction and survival were evident in 2014 and 2015. Average length of crappie captures in gill nets was 8.7 inches. The largest crappie captured measured 11.1 inches, but based on their moderate rate of growth, relative few live long enough to exceed 10.0 inches.

Northern Pike catches have progressively increased over the past four surveys. Eighty-two pike were caught in gill nets. Average length at capture was 20.4 inches. The largest capture measured 31.4 inches. Anglers are encouraged to take advantage of an expanded daily bag limit that will take effect with the 2018 fishing opener and increase harvest of smaller pike.

Walleye catches decreased to average 2.8 fish/gill net. This modest catch rate was disappointing given increased and collective fingerling and yearling stockings by the DNR and the Lobster Lake Association. Most of the catch was comprised of younger Walleyes less than five-years-old. Age determinations did extend to age 14, but missing year classes were evident in the age-frequency distribution even though supplemental stockings dating back to 2002 occurred on a near-annual schedule. Such information would suggest that Walleyes experience a high rate of mortality. Some loss of adult Walleye may occur during spawning movements. Average length of Walleye captures was 15.5 inches. The largest fish measured

was 28.4 inches.

Lobster Lake supports one of three unique fishing opportunities within the Glenwood Fish Management Area. Muskellunge have been stocked since 1968 to expand fishing opportunities around the state and spread fishing pressure directed at this large, popular gamefish. Two Muskellunge were captured in gill nets during the summer survey. One measured 39.2 inches. The second was 42.5 inches in length. An early spring survey was completed in April 2017 to more effectively sample this population. Forty-two Muskellunge were captured. Average size of captures during this targeted survey was 42.6 inches. Three trophy-size Muskellunge measuring 50.0 inches or larger were caught.

Other fishes common to survey catches in Lobster Lake included Rock Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Bowfin, White Sucker, Common Carp, and Yellow and Brown Bullheads.

A DNR public access is located on the southwest end of the lake off Douglas County Highway 27. Anglers and recreational boaters must be aware that zebra mussels were confirmed to be present in Lobster Lake in 2016. Please do your part to prevent spread of aquatic invasive species among lakes.

* Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other invasives from boats, trailers, and water-related equipment

* Drain water from your boat, ballast tanks, motor, live well and bait containers. Remove drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting equipment

* Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. If you wish to keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water

For More Information

Glenwood Area Fisheries Supervisor

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Website (</areas/fisheries/glenwood/index.html>)

We use [JSON \(http://www.json.org/\)](http://www.json.org/), a lightweight data-interchange format, to deliver the lake survey data. If you are an application developer, you can access this data to develop custom reports and products - [get the data \(https://maps2.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/lakefinder/detail.cgi?type=lake_survey&id=21014400\)](https://maps2.dnr.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/lakefinder/detail.cgi?type=lake_survey&id=21014400).

Questions?

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