



# FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

## Lake Como, Chippewa County 2019

### Lake Description and Management:

Lake Como (Bloomer Mill Pond) is a 97-acre impoundment of Duncan Creek located in Chippewa County. Public access to Lake Como is provided by a boat landing, a swimming beach, and North City Park - all within the city limits of Bloomer. In 2019, the Department of Natural Resources surveyed Lake Como to obtain baseline fisheries data to determine the status and health of the fishery. This report combines data from a fyke net survey conducted from April 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> targeting northern pike and a night electrofishing survey targeting bass, bluegill and crappie on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Como Lake is on an eight-year survey rotation, so the fishery will be assessed again in the spring of 2027.

### Gamefish Collected:

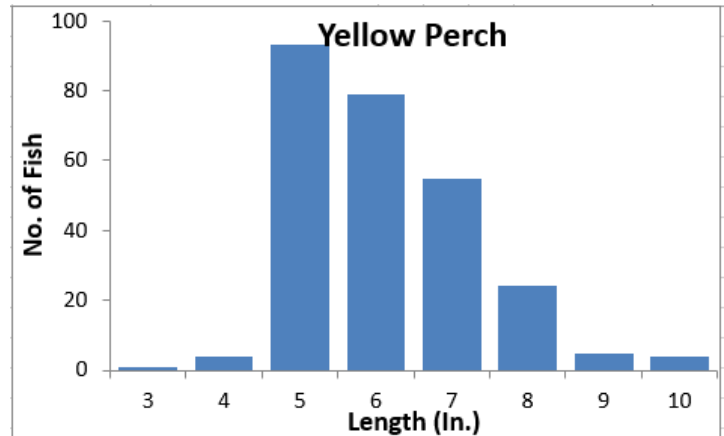
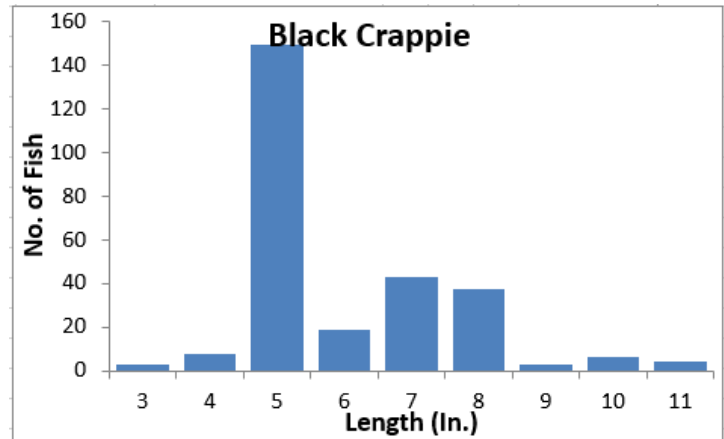
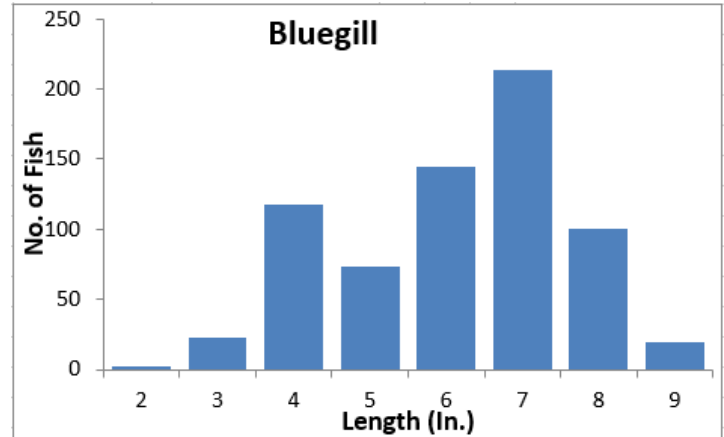
The most common gamefish species found was northern pike (n=121), followed by largemouth bass (n=119). Northern pike ranged from 7.0 to 36.7 inches and averaged 20.6 inches. Largemouth bass ranged from 5.1 to 19.0 and averaged 12.5 inches.

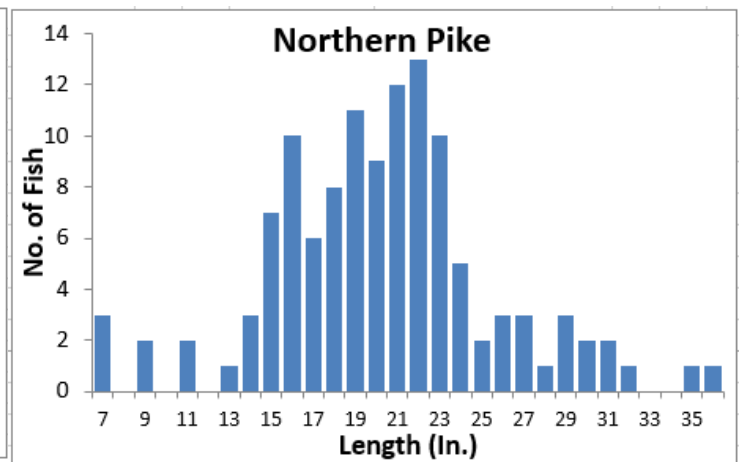
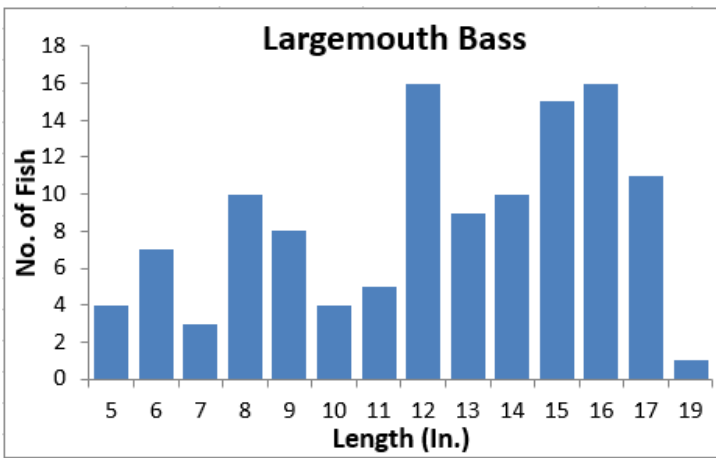
### Panfish Collected:

The most common panfish collected was bluegill (n=1026), followed by black crappie (n=427), yellow perch (n=338), and pumpkinseed (n=5). Bluegill ranged from 1.6 to 9.9 inches and averaged 6.5 inches. Black crappie ranged from 3.3 to 11.9 inches and averaged 6.5 inches. Yellow perch ranged from 3.8 to 10.5 inches and averaged 6.5 inches. Pumpkinseed appear to represent a small portion of the panfish fishery.

### Other Species:

Other species collected include: brook trout, white sucker, and yellow bullhead.





**Survey Summary:**

**Panfish:** The bluegill catch rate was similar to the 2011 survey, but size structure showed dramatic improvements and is considered excellent. Out of the 695 bluegill that were measured, 69% were over 6 inches (n=478), and 17% of the catch was over 8 inches long (n=119). The black crappie catch rate was down compared to 2011 and there was a strong, 2017 year class coming into the fishery so average size was small. Out of the 272 black crappie collected and measured, 18% were over 8 inches (n=50), while only 4% of the catch was 10 inches or larger (n=10). Given a few years to grow, ideally these fish will reach a desirable size for anglers. Lastly, the yellow perch catch rate was down, which may be a cause for the improved size structure. Out of the 265 yellow perch collected and measured, 12% of the catch (n=33) was over 8 inches and 2% of the catch (n=4) hit the 10 inch mark. Yellow perch serve as an important forage species for northern pike which is important for a balanced fish community.



**Gamefish:** The largemouth bass catch rate was higher than in 2011 and the size structure was very good with substantial improvements from 2011. Of the 119 largemouth bass collected, 66% reached the 12 inch mark (n=78) and 45% of the catch reached the legal size limit of 14 inches (n=53). Northern pike catch rates were higher than in the previous survey, but size structure was down slightly. Out of the 121 northern pike collected, 49% were over 21 inches long (n=59), and 9% were over 28 inches long (n=11). Variation in size structure is common and quality fish are present in the population with northern pike over 36 inches sampled.

**Overall:** Key takeaways from this survey are is that the fish community in Lake Como is in a healthy state. Largemouth bass and bluegill populations have showed excellent improvements and likely drive the fishery. The northern pike population is strong which provides a good action fishery with quality fish present. The high density and poor size structure issue with the northern pike population that was present two decades ago is no longer a concern. If survival is good, a strong black crappie year class may enter the fishery in the 2021/2022 timeframe. Yellow perch serve as supplemental panfish species anglers and important forage for predators.

**For more information on Como Lake, contact:**

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