

# *The Quiet Lakes*



**TEAL, LOST LAND and GHOST LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

HAYWARD, WISCONSIN

[www.quietlakes.org](http://www.quietlakes.org)

Meeting Minutes from Monday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: On-line Video/Conference Call

## **Fisheries Discussion**

Minutes created by: Carolyn Ascher, QLIA Secretary

**Meeting Attendees:** Norm Bratteig, President - Kim Phelps, Vice President

Steve Fiala, Director at Large - Perry Cowan, Treasurer - Carolyn Ascher, Secretary

Amy Jo Wittenberg, QLIA Member/Volunteer/Fundraising & Webmaster

Max Wolter, WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist

Nicholas Berndt, West Zone Fish Biologist, US Forest Service

### **Meeting began by introducing special guests. Guest info.:**

Max Wolter, **WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist**, Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Sawyer County 715-634-7429 [Max.Wolter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Max.Wolter@wisconsin.gov)

Nicholas Berndt, West Zone Fish Biologist, US Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest 715-762-5181 x5181 [nicholas.berndt@usda.gov](mailto:nicholas.berndt@usda.gov)

Nick B.'s role is to help the USDA manage lakes close to Federal Forest (lakes bordered by Federal Land) which includes our Quiet Lakes. Nick stated that our lakes are rated a high tier of importance. Nick stated that we can contact him anytime for updates & questions.

MAX WOLTER'S ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

Subject	Counties Served
Bass Management	Sawyer
Bluegill, Panfish Management	Statewide
Citizens Involvement in Fisheries Management	Sawyer
Electrofishing	Sawyer
Fish Age Estimation	Sawyer
Fish Diseases	Sawyer
Fish Stocking, Stocking Permits	Sawyer
Fish Tagging, Telemetry	Sawyer
Fisheries Biologist	Sawyer
Fisheries Field Operations	Sawyer
Fisheries Regulations	Sawyer
Fisheries Work Unit, Hayward	Sawyer
<b>Fishing Tournaments, Permits and Management</b>	Sawyer
Inland Fisheries Management	Sawyer
Muskellunge Management	Sawyer
Northern Pike Management	Sawyer
Spearing, Netting, Bait Harvest Regulations	Sawyer
Trout Management Inland	Sawyer
Walleye Management	Sawyer
Yellow Perch Management	Statewide

**Meeting Goals Announced:**

DNR activities in recent past

DNR activities on our lakes in 2022 and beyond

Discuss projects the QLIA could participate in regarding optimizing our fishery along with their departments or other area of the DNR

Max Wolter launched the conversation with a well prepared slide presentation. **This full presentation is included below.**

Highlights from the discussion with Max W.:

Is the bag limit for panfish still working? (Bag limit for Teal, Lost Land & Ghost Lakes is 25 per day with not more than 10 of one species). Max W. stated that we will not know if the bag limit is increasing our panfish population until the planned 2023 electrofishing study is completed.

The board asked Max W. about our Walleye & other species. Max W. stated that in Spring '23 there will be a walleye study. The board also discussed with Max W. the minimum 14" length/5 fish limit for largemouth & how has this affected the largemouth population. Since this was a new regulation (14" limit) as of 2022, it will take some time to evaluate with studies if this in-fact will increase our largemouth population.

Max W. suggests that we attend future workshops on habitat. We need to get walleye to reproduce in our lakes! In the winter of 2022 “fish sticks” or tree drops were completed on Teal Lake around the islands. The fisheries team does not anticipate doing this tree drop again in the near future. It is a great method to add cribs.

The board announced to Max W. that a few of these trees that were dropped ended up on main shorelines. Max W. made a note of this for future tree drops & adjusting the methods. Max W. reminded us that **we can request permits for tree drops** on our shorelines.

Our Fishery Management Plan is typically conducted every 10 years. Ours is from 2018 and posted on our website.

Amy Jo Wittenberg asked Max W. and the board if a program similar to the Adopt a Musky program could be implemented on our Quiet Lakes. This would be similar to the existing Spooner Hatchery program. Max W. will think about this possible program and how we could implement our own Adopt a Musky program with PIT tags! Information below: *Now you can adopt your own musky that’s released into the Chippewa Flowage in fall 2016 and follow it for its lifetime. The Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) fish research teams regularly check the Chippewa Flowage fish populations. They’ll identify the fish by scanning for their PIT tags, then measure them to see how much they’ve grown.*

*If your fish is among those captured, you can view its progress by looking up its PIT tag when we post it online each year. [Learn more about Chippewa Flowage muskies.](#)*

We discussed as a board that all fish, all species are important to our lakes & to our sport fishing. As we continue to discuss fisheries with Max Wolter & Nicholas Berndt we need to include updates for our membership for all fish. Next Step: The board will speak with Max W. & Nicholas Brandt in the spring after the first 2023 studies have been conducted and when we can inform members about fish stocking for 2023. An additional fact: Our DNR fisheries department stocked 1,419 muskellunge fingerlings on 10/18/22. Their average length = 13.4" which Max stated is very large. The local Muskies Inc. club supported this in rearing these fish by purchasing additional high-quality feed. Each of these fish were tagged so we can track their growth and survival into the future.

END MEETING MINUES

BELOW ARE THE SUPPORT SLIDES FROM NOVEMBER 14 FISHERIES MEETING.

# Quiet Lakes Fish Management

Max Wolter

WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist

# Max Wolter

UW-Stevens Point  
University of Illinois

DNR Fisheries Biologist for Sawyer  
County (since 2012)

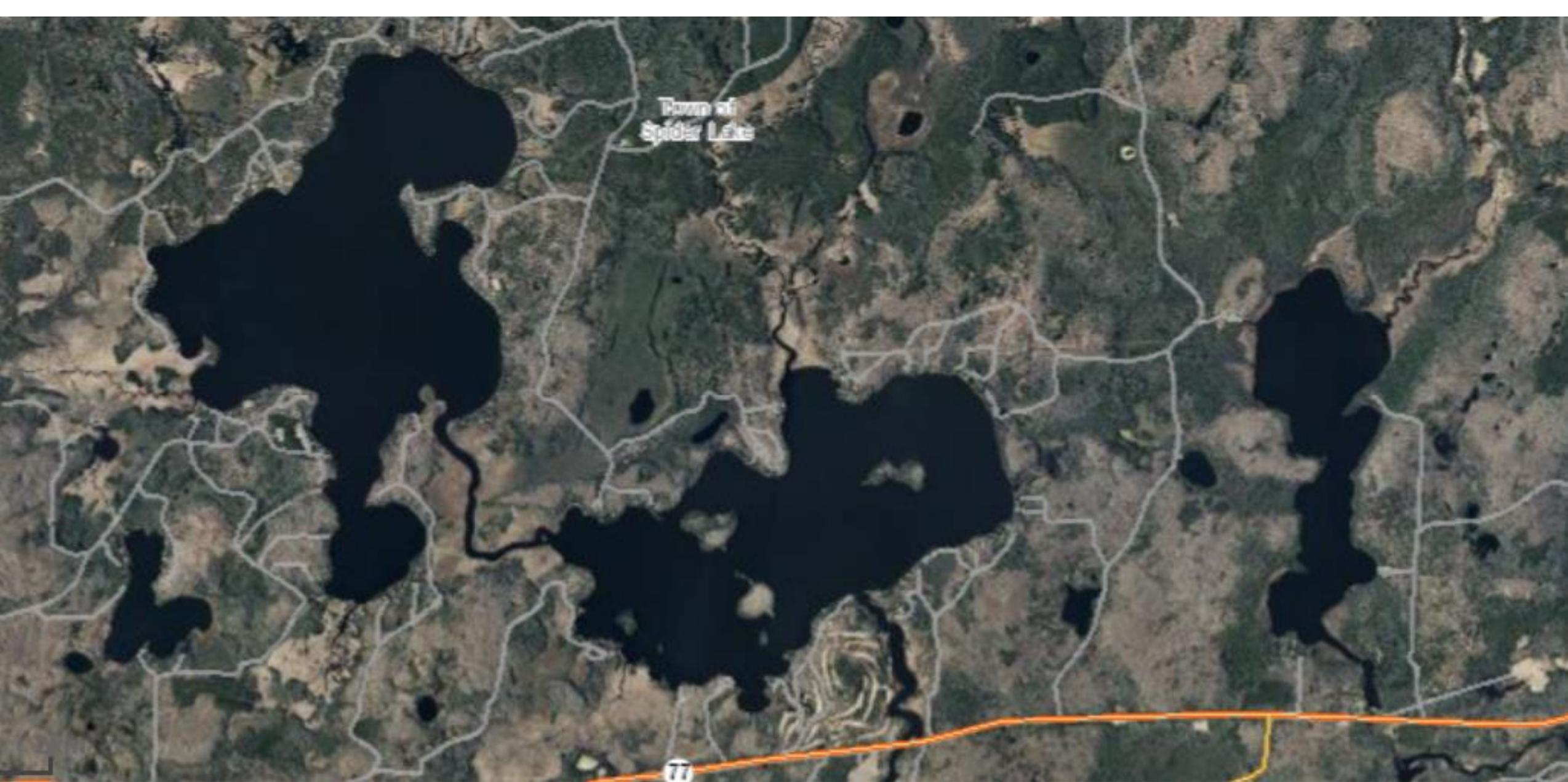
Based in Hayward DNR Office

715-634-7429

[Max.wolter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Max.wolter@wisconsin.gov)



Lost Land Lake 2019



Town of  
Spider Lake

# Who does what on your lakes?

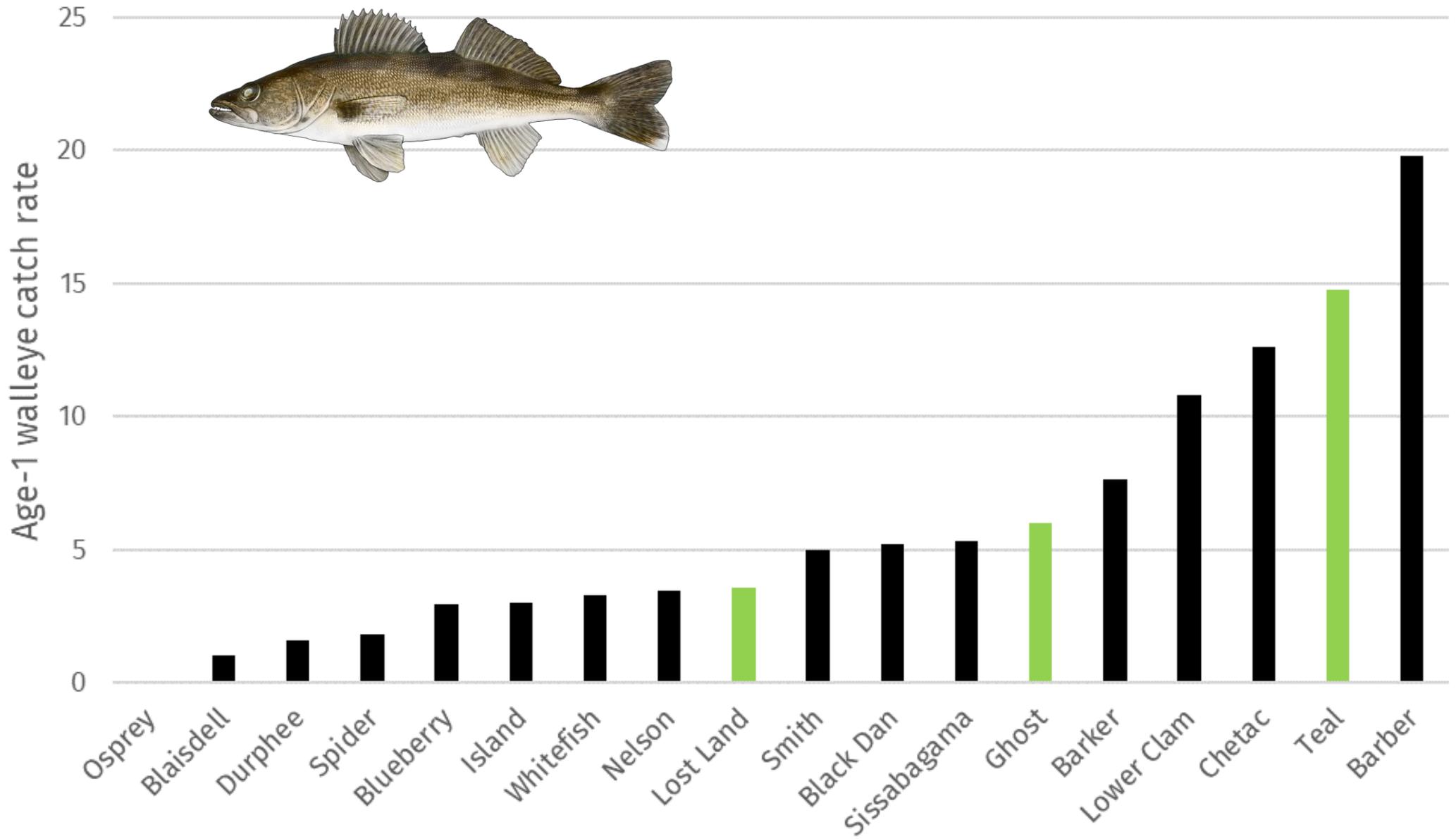
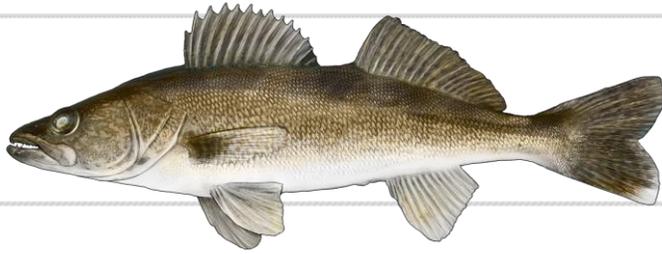
	Lost Land and Teal	Ghost
Regulations	DNR + Conservation Congress	DNR + Conservation Congress
Stocking	DNR + Private and tribal partners	DNR + Private and tribal partners
Surveys	DNR + GLIFWC (tribal)	US Forest Service (sometimes DNR)
Habitat	DNR + Private landowners	US Forest Service + DNR and Private landowners

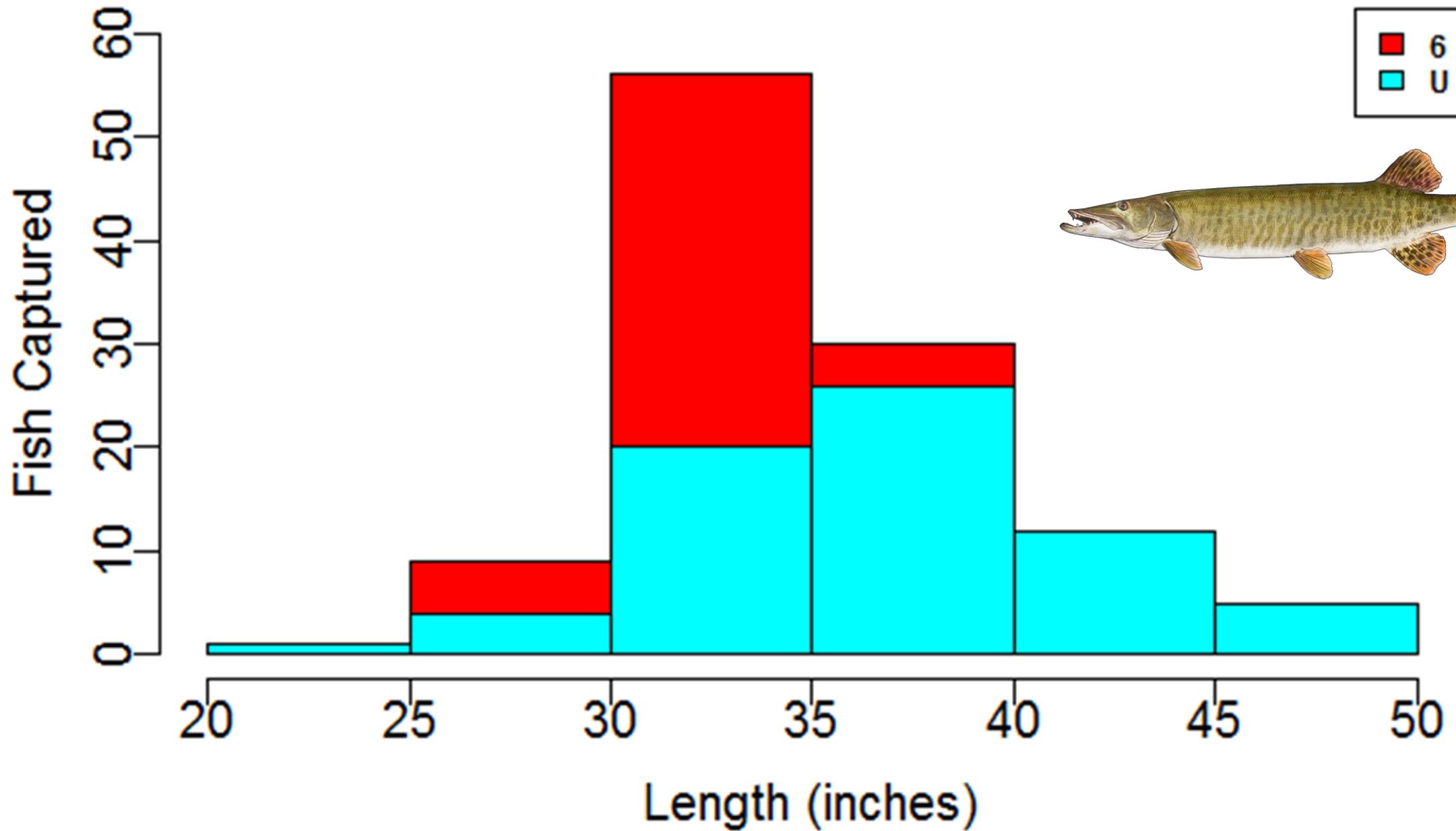
# Regulations

- Ghost – Standard/statewide regulations for all species
- Teal/Lost Land
  - Standard regulations for pike, musky, smallmouth bass and walleye
  - No minimum length limit for largemouth bass
  - Special reduced bag limit for panfish (25 per day, no more than 10 of one species)
  - Lost Land and Teal managed as a “chain” with same regulations

# Stocking

	Walleye	Musky
Lost Land	Odd years, @ 5 large fingerlings/acre	Periodic stocking @ 1 large fingerling/acre
Teal	Odd years, @ 10 large fingerlings/acre	No stocking needed
Ghost	Odd years, @ 10 large fingerlings/acre	No stocking needed





# Fisheries Management Plan

- Guides fish management activities for Teal and Lost Land
- Targets for size and abundance of each species of importance

## **Fishery Management Plan**

**Teal and Lost Land Lakes  
Sawyer County, Wisconsin**

**November, 2018**

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Max Wolter, Senior Fisheries Biologist at Hayward  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

And

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Dave Neuswanger, (retired) Fisheries Team Leader  
Upper Chippewa Basin at Hayward  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

# Surveys

## Lost Land and Teal

- A fall electrofishing at least once every 2 years to look at juvenile walleye and muskellunge
- A spring netting and electrofishing once every 4 years to look at adults of all species (most recent 2018)

## Ghost

- Regular fall electrofishing surveys
- Spring surveys??

# Habitat Projects

- Cribs have been added to most lakes at different points in the past
- “Fish sticks” or tree drops are a more natural woody habitat alternative,
- A tree drop project was completed on Teal Lake last winter



# Healthy Lakes

- <https://healthylakeswi.com/>
- Best Practices, grants, other resources for private lakeshore owners and lake groups
- GOALS: Minimize nutrient inputs into lakes, provide nearshore habitat for fish and wildlife

# Walleye Plan items (not yet an approved plan)

- Shoreline habitat surveys and mapping
- Water quality monitoring (already happening?)
- Attend future workshops on habitat

# CONNECT WITH US

**Max Wolter**

[Max.wolter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Max.wolter@wisconsin.gov)

715-634-7429



/WIDNR



@WIDNR



@WI\_DNR



/WIDNRTV



"WILD WISCONSIN:  
OFF THE RECORD"