

Name: Turtle

Nearest Town: Staples
 Primary County: Todd
 Survey Date: 08/13/2007
 Inventory Number: 77008800



Purchase a walleye stamp.
 Your voluntary contribution will be used to

support walleye stocking.

Public Access Information

Ownership	Type	Description
DNR	Concrete	North side of lake

Lake Characteristics

Lake Area (acres): 115.78
Littoral Area (acres): 34
 Maximum Depth (ft): 39
Water Clarity (ft): 18.5

Dominant Bottom Substrate: Marl (Abundant)
Abundance of Aquatic Plants: 34 Varieties Sampled
 Maximum Depth of Plant Growth (ft): 14.5 (8-16)

Fish Sampled for the 2007 Survey Year

Species	<u>Gear Used</u>	Number of fish per net		<u>Average Fish Weight (lbs)</u>	<u>Normal Range (lbs)</u>
		Caught	<u>Normal Range</u>		
<i>Black Bullhead</i>	Gill net	0.50	0.5 - 11.0	0.53	0.2 - 0.6
<i>Black Crappie</i>	Trap net	0.89	0.5 - 3.3	0.32	0.3 - 0.5
	Gill net	3.67	0.5 - 2.9	0.19	0.2 - 0.5
<i>Bluegill</i>	Trap net	6.00	5.7 - 40.5	0.10	0.1 - 0.2
	Gill net	0.50	N/A	0.05	N/A
<i>Bowfin (dogfish)</i>	Trap net	0.11	0.4 - 1.3	6.20	3.0 - 4.5
	Gill net	0.17	0.3 - 0.5	5.00	2.7 - 4.7
<i>Brown Bullhead</i>	Trap net	0.11	0.5 - 2.2	0.65	0.5 - 1.0
	Gill net	1.50	0.5 - 2.2	0.75	0.4 - 0.9
<i>Hybrid Sunfish</i>	Trap net	0.11	N/A	0.20	N/A
<i>Largemouth Bass</i>	Gill net	0.17	0.3 - 1.5	2.12	0.5 - 1.3
<i>Northern Pike</i>	Trap net	0.44	N/A	1.38	N/A

<i>Pumpkinseed</i>	Gill net	3.67	2.8 - 8.7	2.52	1.5 - 2.9
	Trap net	0.44	1.3 - 6.3	0.10	0.1 - 0.2
<i>Rock Bass</i>	Trap net	0.22	0.5 - 2.8	0.21	0.2 - 0.4
<i>Tullibee (cisco)</i>	Gill net	0.33	1.0 - 13.3	1.50	0.5 - 1.3
<i>Walleye</i>	Gill net	1.17	0.5 - 3.3	2.28	1.1 - 2.7
<i>White Sucker</i>	Gill net	1.83	0.5 - 2.9	1.96	1.3 - 2.4
<i>Yellow Bullhead</i>	Trap net	0.44	1.0 - 8.4	0.83	0.5 - 0.7
	Gill net	1.17	0.5 - 11.0	0.79	0.4 - 0.7
<i>Yellow Perch</i>	Trap net	0.11	0.5 - 3.8	0.14	0.1 - 0.2
	Gill net	0.33	1.5 - 23.0	0.11	0.1 - 0.2

Normal Ranges represent typical catches for lakes with similar physical and chemical characteristics.

Length of Selected Species (Trapnet, Gillnet) Sampled for the 2007 Survey Year

Species	Number of fish caught in each category (inches)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
<i>black bullhead</i>	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>black crappie</i>	9	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	30
<i>bluegill</i>	51	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
<i>bowfin (dogfish)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
<i>brown bullhead</i>	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	10
<i>hybrid sunfish</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>largemouth bass</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>northern pike</i>	0	0	0	2	11	7	4	2	26
<i>pumpkinseed</i>	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
<i>rock bass</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>tullibee (cisco)</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<i>walleye</i>	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	7
<i>white sucker</i>	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	11
<i>yellow bullhead</i>	0	2	5	4	0	0	0	0	11
<i>yellow perch</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Fish Stocking Activity

Fish Stocked by Species for the Last Ten Years

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Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2010	Walleye	fingerlings	612	34.0
2008	Walleye	fingerlings	684	36.0
2006	Walleye	fingerlings	1,020	34.0
2004	Walleye	adults	12	4.0
	Walleye	fingerlings	930	25.0
	Walleye	yearlings	21	6.0
2002	Walleye	fingerlings	40	10.0
	Walleye	yearlings	43	27.0

Privately Stocked Fish

* indicates privately stocked fish. Private stocking includes fish purchased by the DNR for stocking and fish purchased and stocked by private citizens and sporting groups.

Stocking Fish Sizes

Fry - Newly hatched fish that are ready to be stocked usually called "swim-ups". Walleye fry are 1/3 of an inch or around 8 mm.

Fingerling - Fingerlings are one to six months old and can range from a size of one to twelve inches depending on the species. Walleye fingerlings range from three to eight inches each fall.

Yearling - Yearling fish are at least one year old. A one-year-old fish can range from three to twenty inches depending on the species. Walleye yearlings average from six to twelve inches.

Adult - Adult fish are fish that have reached maturity. Depending on the species, maturity can be reached at two years of age. Walleye reach maturity between the ages of four and six years.

Fish Consumption Guidelines

No fish consumption guidelines are available for this lake. For more information, see the "[Fish Consumption Advice](#)" pages at the [Minnesota Department of Health](#).

Status of the Fishery (as of 08/13/2007)

Turtle Lake is a small, moderately deep lake, with excellent water clarity in late summer with a secchi disk reading of 18.5 feet. The clear water could make fishing more of a challenge for anglers who may have to try night fishing especially if seeking walleye. With the clear water, submergent vegetation grew out to a depth of 16 feet with muskgrass and Illinois pondweed being the most abundant species. Wild rice was the most abundant emergent species around the lake. Steep drop-offs and weedlines provide the most common fishing structures in the lake. The lake supports a variety of fish species which attract anglers including northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, bluegills, and black crappies. Turtle Lake has a reputation of producing some large pike and walleye likely due to the tullibee population in the lake. Both the northern pike and tullibee showed a decline in

abundance since the last survey but some quality pike were still observed. Due to the lake's small size, the numbers of large pike could easily be decimated by overharvest. People seeking northern pike should be aware of the fragile nature of this fishery and consider releasing large pike when they catch them. Fingerling stocking likely sustains the walleye fishery in the lake and a variety of sizes was observed in the survey. Fishermen occasionally report good walleye fishing in the spring. Few largemouth bass were sampled during the survey and abundance has been low but reports were that anglers were catching some over the summer. The summer survey showed few panfish of a size to interest most anglers but that is not unusual. By late summer most of the panfish caught in surveys are the smaller ones thus our results are usually not a reliable indication of the adult population. Past surveys have shown that the lake can produce quality size bluegills over 7 inches and crappies over 9 inches but also that the populations could easily be affected by angler harvest. Pumpkinseeds, hybrid sunfish, and rock bass were also sampled but the fish were small. Both tullibee and yellow perch abundance was low when compared to similar type lakes which could affect northern pike and walleye growth rates. Both species can be important prey species for promoting good growth rates in the gamefish. White sucker numbers were normal for this type of lake and can provide an alternative prey base. All three species of bullhead, black, brown, and yellow, were sampled in the nets along with bowfin or dogfish. Although, Turtle Lake has moderate development around it's shore, the homeowners have done little to disturb the shoreline vegetation. The shoreline vegetation provides valuable fish habitat, protects against shoreline erosion, and filters pollutants entering the lake which helps maintain good water quality and clarity. ?

For more information on this lake, contact:

Area Fisheries Supervisor
16543 Haven Rd
Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone: (320) 616-2450
E-Mail: LittleFalls.Fisheries@state.mn.us

Lake maps can be obtained from:

Minnesota Bookstore
660 Olive Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 297-3000 or (800) 657-3757
To order, use C1198 for the map-id.

For general DNR Information, contact:

DNR Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
TDD: (651) 296-6157 or (888) MINNDNR
Internet: www.dnr.state.mn.us
E-Mail: info.dnr@state.mn.us



Turn in Poachers (TIP):

Toll-free: (800) 652-9093