

Snow Lake Survey Summary (2013)

A northern pike survey was conducted on Snow Lake (Steuben County) from April 1-9, 2013. Surface water temperatures ranged from 40.6-43.5 °F in the main lake and from 44.9-47.0 °F in the littoral area during the sampling period. Twenty pike were collected that ranged from 19.2-35.8 inches and 1.5-12.3 pounds. The number of female, male, and juvenile pike collected were 10 (50%), 8 (40%), and 2 (10%), respectively. Pectoral fin rays were collected from pike for subsequent age and growth analyses. Although the catch rate of pike in Snow Lake was low compared to surveys conducted on Clear/Round and Hamilton lakes in 2012, two “memorable” pike (between 34 to 44 inches) were collected in Snow Lake in 2013 compared to 0 and 5 “memorable” pike collected in Hamilton and Clear/Round lakes, respectively. This study provided evidence that Snow Lake has the necessary coolwater habitat available to produce pike of large size-classes. A late-summer temperature and oxygen profile will be collected in August to determine precisely how much coolwater habitat ($\leq 77^{\circ}\text{F}$ and ≥ 3 mg/L DO) is available for pike in Snow Lake during the period when habitat is most limited due to summer stratification. In addition, biologists collected 34 walleyes between 18.6-27.5 inches and 3.5-9.0 pounds during the survey. Walleye fingerlings were stocked in Snow Lake from 2003-2004.

