

Hamilton Lakes Survey Summary (2012)

Northern pike were sampled at Hamilton Lake (Steuben County) from March 5-15, 2012. Surface water temperatures ranged from 36.0 to 48.0 °F during the sampling period. Research biologists captured, marked, and released 935 pike that averaged 23.6 inches (range: 18.0 to 33.5 inches) and ranged from 1.5 to 11.5 pounds. The number of female, male, and juvenile pike collected were 184 (20%), 750 (80%), and 1 (<1%), respectively. Pectoral fin rays were collected from pike for subsequent age and growth analyses. Research biologists also set gill nets in Hamilton Lake from April 9-11, 2012. Based on the number of recaptured pike, the size of the population was estimated to be 6,662 legally harvestable-size (20 inch minimum length limit) pike, or 8.3 pike per acre. A late-summer (August 8) temperature and oxygen profile showed that summer stratification constricted the availability of coolwater habitat for pike to a layer between 22 to 25 feet deep in Hamilton Lake.

