

**Honeoye Lake Big Panfish Initiative Sampling (Survey #: 821006)**  
**Pete Austerman, Region 8 Fisheries**

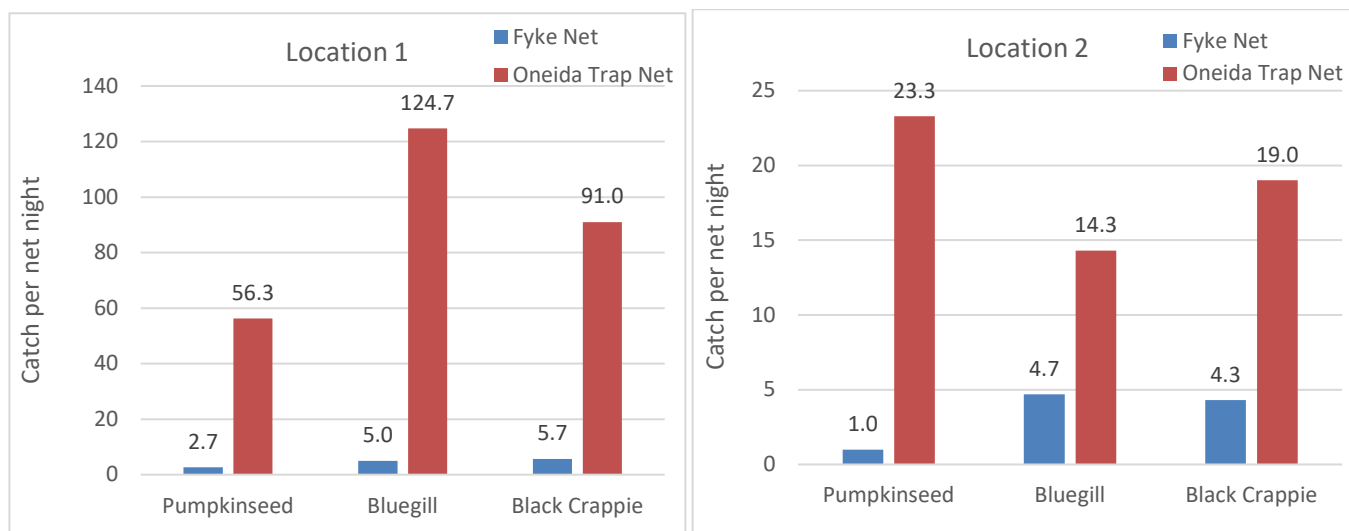
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Honeoye Lake is a 1,772 acre lake in Ontario County with a maximum depth of 30 feet. Most of the lake is shallow and well vegetated. The primary access point for fishing Honeoye Lake is the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) boat launch on the lake’s south end.

Honeoye Lake was recently included in a group of lakes that will be managed for large panfish using special fishing regulations. This effort is referred to as the Big Panfish Initiative (BPI) (Loukmas 2021). All BPI lakes are being sampled for five years to track any changes in panfish (pumpkinseed, bluegill, black crappie) populations. The first sampling effort was conducted in May 2021 using fyke and Oneida style trap nets (trap nets). In addition to monitoring panfish, we also wanted to compare fyke and trap nets to determine which sampling method is more efficient. Two locations were sampled for three nights each with pairs of one fyke net and one trap net set 100 feet apart, resulting in a total of 6 net nights of each net type.

A total of 8 chain pickerel, 2 golden shiner, 3 white sucker, 102 brown bullhead, 54 rock bass, 252 pumpkinseed, 445 bluegill, 4 largemouth bass, 361 black crappie, 14 yellow perch, and 46 walleye were collected. Catch per net night for pumpkinseeds, bluegills, and black crappie was much higher for trap nets (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Mean catch per net night from fyke and trap netting at two locations on Honeoye Lake, 2021.



The pumpkinseed, bluegill, and black crappie sample was dominated by age 3 through age 7 fish (Figure 2). Pumpkinseeds and bluegills reach 8 inches (preferred size) at age 4 or 5, while black crappie reach 10 inches (preferred size) by age 5 (Figure 3). Mean relative weight was high for all size groups for all three species (Figure 4). These parameters will be measured in upcoming years to track any changes in panfish populations in Honeoye Lake and other BPI lakes.



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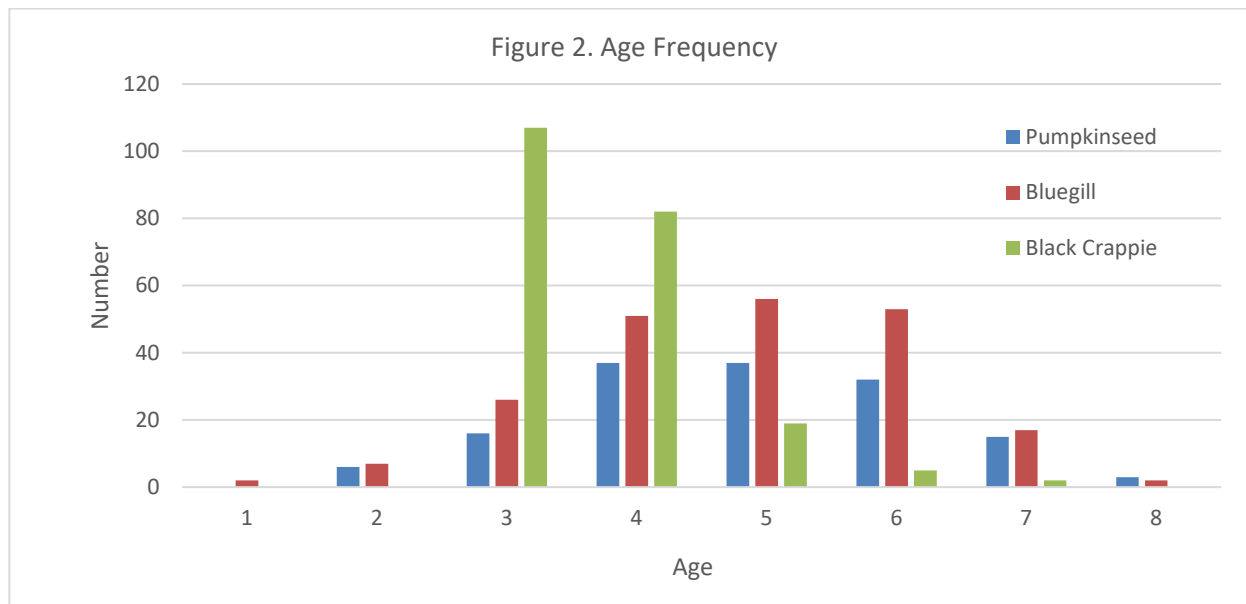


Figure 3. Mean length (inches) at age (with standard error) of pumpkinseeds, bluegills, and black crappie collected from fyke and trap netting on Honeoye Lake, 2021.

Age	Pumpkinseed	Bluegill	Black Crappie
2	6.0 (0.6)	5.7 (0.3)	-
3	7.7 (0.1)	6.3 (0.2)	7.5 (0.1)
4	7.7 (0.2)	7.0 (0.2)	8.6 (0.3)
5	7.9 (0.2)	7.9 (0.2)	10.5 (0.3)
6	8.3 (0.1)	8.4 (0.3)	11.6 (0.3)
7	8.3 (0.5)	9.0 (0.5)	11.7 (0.9)



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Figure 4. Mean relative weight (with standard error) of pumpkinseeds, bluegills, and black crappie collected from fyke and trap netting on Honeoye Lake, 2021.

Size Category	Pumpkinseed	Bluegill	Black Crappie
Overall	112 (1.4)	102 (1.0)	117 (1.2)
Stock - Quality	96 (3.8)	98 (2.2)	121 (1.0)
Quality - Preferred	112 (2.0)	101 (1.3)	118 (2.0)
Preferred - Memorable	113 (2.0)	105 (1.7)	111 (2.9)
Memorable - Trophy	-	-	113 (4.5)

Literature Cited

Loukmas, J. 2021. Big Panfish Initiative Study Plan, 2021-2026. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Fisheries, Albany, New York.

