Lake Erie Perch and Walleye Update

February 2020

Travis Hartman
Lake Erie Program Administrator
Percid Management Process

Surveys

Task Group Model

Trawl projection of age 2 yr class

Population Estimate

LEC TAC

Jurisdiction TAC

Agency Quotas/Bag Limits

Sport Commercial

Assessment

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Lake Erie Committee

Protecting Our Fishery

Science - Sea lamprey control partnerships
Walleye Population Estimate

March 2019 Model Run

94 million Age 2 (2018 year class)

2019 year class joins population

Walleye Population Estimate

March 2019 Model Run

94 million Age 2 (2018 year class)

2019 year class joins population
OH-ON August Trawl Index - Walleye

YOY - Arithmetic mean (catch/ha)

Year


2003 2015 2018 2019

YRL - Arithmetic mean (catch/ha)
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- 6 fish daily limit all year when TAC above 3 M fish
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- 6 fish daily limit all year when TAC above 3 M fish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ohio walleye quota (number of fish)</th>
<th>May 1- last day of February</th>
<th>March 1 – April 30</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,000,000 and above</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>950,000 – 2,999,999</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850,000 – 949,999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750,000 – 849,999</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650,000 – 749,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550,000 – 649,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 550,000</td>
<td>1</td>
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*Excludes Sandusky Bay and River which will be capped at 4 fish per day during this period until the walleye stock is sufficiently recovered in the Sandusky River.
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- TAC compliance is critical (annual maximum, not a “goal”)
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- Walleye are long lived (15+ years), strong year classes support many years of angling opportunity
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- Conservative harvest supports diverse age structure and the best fishing opportunities for all sizes of fish
Walleye Daily Limit Considerations

- Harvest rates are quickly increasing
Harvest Rate (fish/hour)

Harvest Rates

2019: 1.05 through July
Lake Erie Management Units (MU)
Current Status
1) Angler catch rates have declined lake-wide
Angler Y. Perch Harvest Rate

Fish Per Hour

All OH Waters of L. Erie
Current Status

1) Angler catch rates have declined lake-wide
2) Population trajectories vary by basin
Lake Erie Management Units (MU)
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Lake Erie Management Units (MU)
Yellow Perch Update

Current Status

1) Angler catch rates have declined lake-wide
2) Population trajectories vary by basin
3) Hatch success is dictating population size
MU 3 Hatch Index

Yellow Perch Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Index</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>
Current Status
1) Angler catch rates have declined lake-wide
2) Population trajectories vary by basin
3) Hatch success is dictating population size
4) Diet data suggest behavior changes
Yellow Perch Diets

Invertebrates in Y. Perch Stomach Contents

*Central Basin, August through October*
Yellow Perch Update

Topic Outline
1) Inter-agency Management Process
2) Current Status
3) Summary
## Yellow Perch Update

### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MU 1</th>
<th>MU 2</th>
<th>MU 3</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Angler Harvest Rate</strong></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/15" alt="↓" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/15" alt="↓" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/15" alt="↓" /></td>
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<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
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<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/15" alt="↓" /></td>
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<td><strong>Hatches</strong></td>
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![Map](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
Contacts

• **Sandusky** or **Fairport Harbor** Fisheries Research Stations
  (419) 625-8062 or (440) 352-4199

• 1-800-WILDLIFE

• 1-888-HOOKFISH (Fishing Report)

• www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife

• Fish Ohio forms online ONLY:
  (apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/FishOhio)

Travis Hartman
Lake Erie Program Administrator