# Cottonwood Lake Survey Summary

Cottonwood Lake, located 3.5 miles west and 3.0 miles north of Bradley, was initially managed as a self-sustaining northern pike and yellow perch fishery because public access was limited. Land purchases made by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks on the west and south shores improved access and allowed construction of an access trail and primitive ramp. As a result of the increased public access, walleye was added as a primary management species and an initial fry stocking was made in 2015 with a subsequent fry stocking in 2018. Going forward, Cottonwood Lake will be managed as a northern pike, walleye, and yellow perch fishery, provided water levels remain adequate.

- **Northern pike.** Northern pike numbers were considerably lower in 2019 (1.8/gill net) than 2015 (17.0/gill net). In 2019, 11 northern pike that ranged in length from 20.1 to 29.1 inches were sampled. Northern pike respond to rising water levels and population increases are expected following high-water conditions experienced across northeast South Dakota in 2019.

- **Walleye.** Walleyes were the most abundant species in the 2019 gill net catch. At 6.7/net, relative abundance was considered moderate to high. Sampled walleyes ranged in length from 7.0 to 20.0 inches of those that were at least 10.0 inches, all were $\geq$15.0 inches and 18% exceeded 20.0 inches. The entire sample was comprised of individuals from year classes that aligned with fry stockings made in 2015 (73%) and 2018 (27%). The 2015 (age 4) cohort has experienced fast growth with a mean length at capture of 18.1 inches.

- **Yellow perch**. Yellow perch were not abundant (3.0/gill net). Sampled yellow perch ranged in length from 6.7 to 13.0 inches. Six year classes (2011, 2013, and 2015 – 2018), each represented by fewer than 10 individuals, were present. Yellow perch appear to grow well in Cottonwood Lake reaching ≈10.0 inches by age 4.

For more detailed results see the computer generated South Dakota Statewide Fisheries Survey for Cottonwood Lake (below).

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
## Cottonwood, Clark County
## UBS-Lake-407-800
## 2019

## Lake Information

**Name:** Cottonwood

**County:** Clark

**Surface Area:** 506 Acres

## Surveys and Investigations

Survey methods used by gear type, date, and effort.

| Gear | Date | Effort |
|---|---|---|
| AFS std gill net | May 24, 2019 | 6 net-nights |

## Common Fish Species Present

Walleye

Yellow Perch

Northern Pike

## Terminology

Catch per unit effort (**CPUE**) refers to the relative abundance of a species. It is defined as the number of fish captured per unit of effort (i.e., number of fish captured per net-night or number of fish captured per hour electrofishing). In this report CPUE is typically given for only stock-length fish (see length categories table for stock lengths).

A statewide effort to help make netting efforts comparable to all waters sampled across the state, occurred in 2017, with a switch to American Fisheries Society gill nets. Past gill netting efforts were completed with different style/types of nets and are not comparable side by side.

- **AFS std gill net** – 80 ft experimental gill net containing eight panels (10 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25 and 2.50 inches.
- **std experimental gill net for non-Missouri River waters** - 150 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (25 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.
- s**td experimental gill net for Missouri River reservoirs** – 300 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (50 ft each) of varying multifilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.

$$CPUE = \frac{number\ of\ fish}{effort}$$

Population size structure is quantified using the indices proportional size distribution of quality-length fish (**PSD**) and proportional size distribution of preferred-length fish (**PSD-P**). These indices indicate the proportion of stock-length fish that are equal to or greater than a given length. Minimum lengths for stock, quality and preferred length fish are given in the length categories table.

$$PSD = \left(\frac{number\ of fish \geq quality\ length}{number\ of\ fish \geq stock\ length}\right) \text{x } 100$$

$$PSD - P = \left(\frac{number\ of fish\ \geq preferred\ length}{number\ of\ fish \geq stock\ length}\right) \text{x } 100$$

Relative weight (**Wr**) is used to quantify fish plumpness. Relative weight is the ratio of what a fish weighs (W) compared to a length-specific standard weight (Ws) multiplied by 100. Relative weight values of 95-105 are commonly cited as optimum values, but values in the 80s are common during summer sampling in South Dakota.

$$Wr = \left(\frac{W}{Ws}\right) \text{x } 100$$

Confidence intervals (**CI**) are provided for many of the estimates calculated in this report. The confidence interval provides a range in which the true mean is expected to fall. For example, with an 80% CI we are 80% confident that the interval contains the true value.

Length categories include stock (**S**), quality (**Q**), preferred (**P**), memorable (**M**) and trophy (**T**). Length categories for most species have been defined based on a percentage of the world record length for that species. Some species mentioned in this report do not have defined length categories. Length categories for species used in this report are provided in the following table. Measurements are the minimum total length for each category and are reported in inches (in) and centimeters (cm).

| | Stock | | Quality | | Preferred | | Memorable | | Trophy | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Species Name | (in) | (cm) | (in) | (cm) | (in) | (cm) | (in) | (cm) | (in) | (cm) |
| Black Bullhead | 6 | 15 | 9 | 23 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 18 | 46 |
| Black Crappie | 5 | 13 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 |
| Bluegill | 3 | 8 | 6 | 15 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 |
| Brown Trout | 8 | 20 | 12 | 30 | 16 | 40 | 20 | 50 | 18 | 46 |
| Channel Catfish | 11 | 28 | 16 | 41 | 24 | 61 | 28 | 71 | 36 | 91 |
| Freshwater Drum | 8 | 20 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 20 | 51 | 25 | 63 |
| Lake Trout | 12 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 26 | 65 | 31 | 80 | 39 | 100 |
| Largemouth Bass | 8 | 20 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 20 | 51 | 25 | 63 |
| Muskellunge | 20 | 51 | 30 | 76 | 38 | 97 | 42 | 107 | 50 | 127 |
| Northern Pike | 14 | 35 | 21 | 53 | 28 | 71 | 34 | 86 | 44 | 112 |
| Pumpkinseed | 3 | 8 | 6 | 15 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 |
| Rainbow Trout | 10 | 25 | 16 | 40 | 20 | 50 | 26 | 65 | 31 | 80 |
| Rudd | 6 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 19 | 48 |
| Sauger | 8 | 20 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 20 | 51 | 25 | 63 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 7 | 18 | 11 | 28 | 14 | 35 | 17 | 43 | 20 | 51 |
| Walleye | 10 | 25 | 15 | 38 | 20 | 51 | 25 | 63 | 30 | 76 |
| White Bass | 6 | 15 | 9 | 23 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 | 18 | 46 |
| White Crappie | 5 | 13 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 |
| Yellow Bullhead | 4 | 10 | 7 | 18 | 9 | 23 | 11 | 28 | 14 | 36 |
| Yellow Perch | 5 | 13 | 8 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 30 | 15 | 38 |

## Catch Summary of Stock Length Fish

Catch per unit effort (CPUE), proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) for species sampled in survey with 80% confidence interval (CI-80).

*** Methods/Species that ignore stock length**

| | | | Abundance | | Stock Density Indices | | | | Condition | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gear | Species | Sample Size (n)* | CPUE | CI-80 | PSD | CI-80 | PSD-P | CI-80 | Wr | CI-80 |
| AFS std gill net | Northern Pike | 11 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 82 | | 18 | | 84 | 3 |
| | Walleye | 55 | 6.7 | 2.2 | 100 | | 3 | | 88 | 1 |
| | Yellow Perch | 18 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 83 | | 61 | 19 | 99 | 2 |

## 10-Year Catch Per Unit Effort by Gear and Species

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) and average (Avg) of species across 10 years using different gear types.

| | | CPUE | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gear | Species | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Avg |
| AFS std gill net | Northern Pike | | | | | | | | | | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| | Walleye | | | | | | | | | | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| | Yellow Perch | | | | | | | | | | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| frame net (std 3/4 in) | Northern Pike | | 0.7 | | | | | | | | | 0.7 |
| | Yellow Perch | | 0.2 | | | | | | | | | 0.2 |
| std exp gill net | Northern Pike | | 7.0 | | | | 17.0 | | | | | 12.0 |
| | Yellow Perch | | 4.0 | | | | 19.0 | | | | | 11.5 |

## 10-Year Size Structure and Condition Statistics by Gear and Species

Species proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) collected by different gear types across 10 years.

| | | | Year | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gear | Species | Index | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| AFS std gill net | Northern Pike | PSD | | | | | | | | | | 82 |
| | | PSD-P | | | | | | | | | | 18 |
| | | Wr | | | | | | | | | | 84 |
| | Walleye | PSD | | | | | | | | | | 100 |
| | | PSD-P | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | Wr | | | | | | | | | | 88 |
| | Yellow Perch | PSD | | | | | | | | | | 83 |
| | | PSD-P | | | | | | | | | | 61 |
| | | Wr | | | | | | | | | | 99 |
| std exp gill net | Northern Pike | PSD | | 90 | | | | 75 | | | | |
| | | PSD-P | | 33 | | | | 37 | | | | |
| | | Wr | | 81 | | | | 82 | | | | |
| | Yellow Perch | PSD | | 92 | | | | 49 | | | | |
| | | PSD-P | | 42 | | | | 28 | | | | |
| | | Wr | | 102 | | | | 101 | | | | |

## Length at Capture

Mean length at capture by age across years sampled, sample size (N).

Species: Walleye

| | | Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | N | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ |
| 2019 | 55 | 208 (15) | | | 461 (40) | | | | | | |

Species: Yellow Perch

| | | Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | N | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ |
| 2019 | 18 | 174 (1) | 186 (3) | 240 (3) | 257 (2) | | 317 (7) | | 293 (2) | | |
| 2015 | 57 | | 182 (32) | 224 (2) | 251 (13) | 297 (9) | 315 (1) | | | | |
| 2011 | 12 | | 209 (7) | | 290 (2) | | 338 (1) | 346 (2) | | | |

## Fish Condition

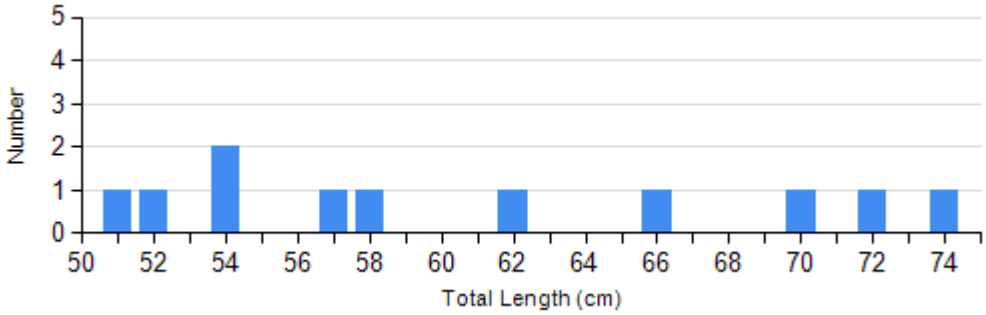
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

| | | Length Groups | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | S-Q | | Q-P | | P-M | | M | |
| Species | Year | N | Wr (SE) | N | Wr (SE) | N | Wr (SE) | N | Wr (SE) |
| Northern Pike Gill Net | 2015 | 13 | 91 (1.8) | 19 | 81 (1.8) | 19 | 77 (1.3) | 0 | |
| | 2019 | 2 | 91 (6.6) | 7 | 81 (3.2) | 2 | 87 (2.7) | 0 | |
| Walleye Gill Net | 2019 | 0 | | 39 | 88 (1.1) | 1 | 84 | 0 | |
| Yellow Perch Gill Net | 2015 | 29 | 101 (1.1) | 12 | 100 (1.6) | 9 | 100 (2.2) | 7 | 100 (4.0) |
| | 2019 | 3 | 103 (6.0) | 4 | 95 (3.9) | 5 | 99 (4.1) | 6 | 99 (2.5) |

## Length Frequency Distribution

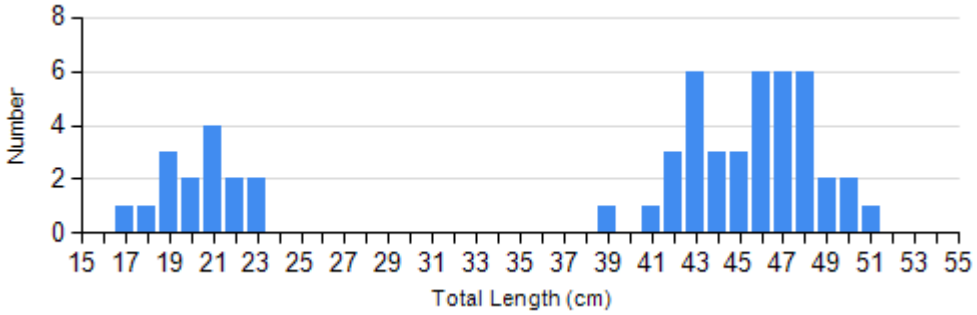
Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



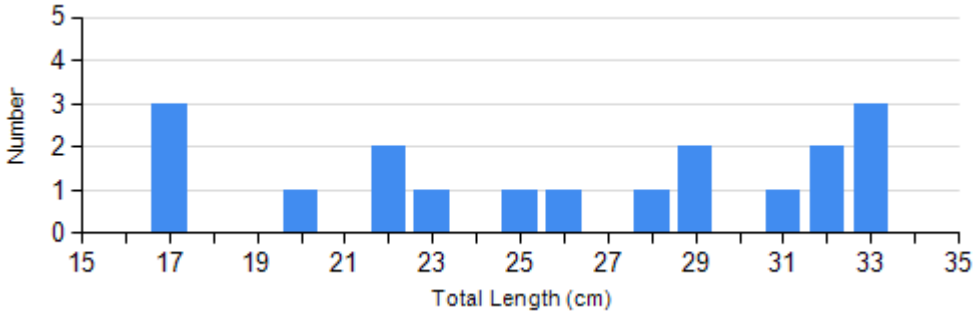

2019

Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net




2019

Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net

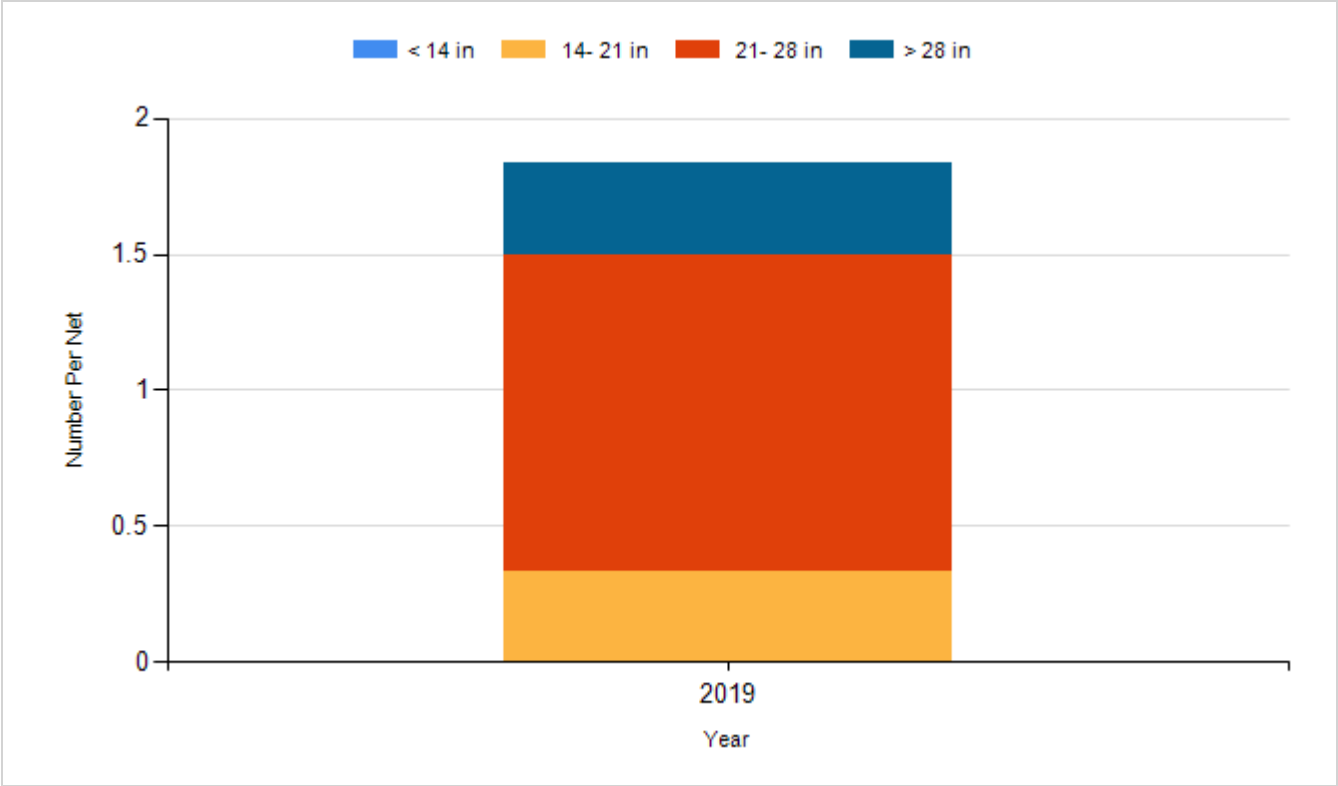



2019

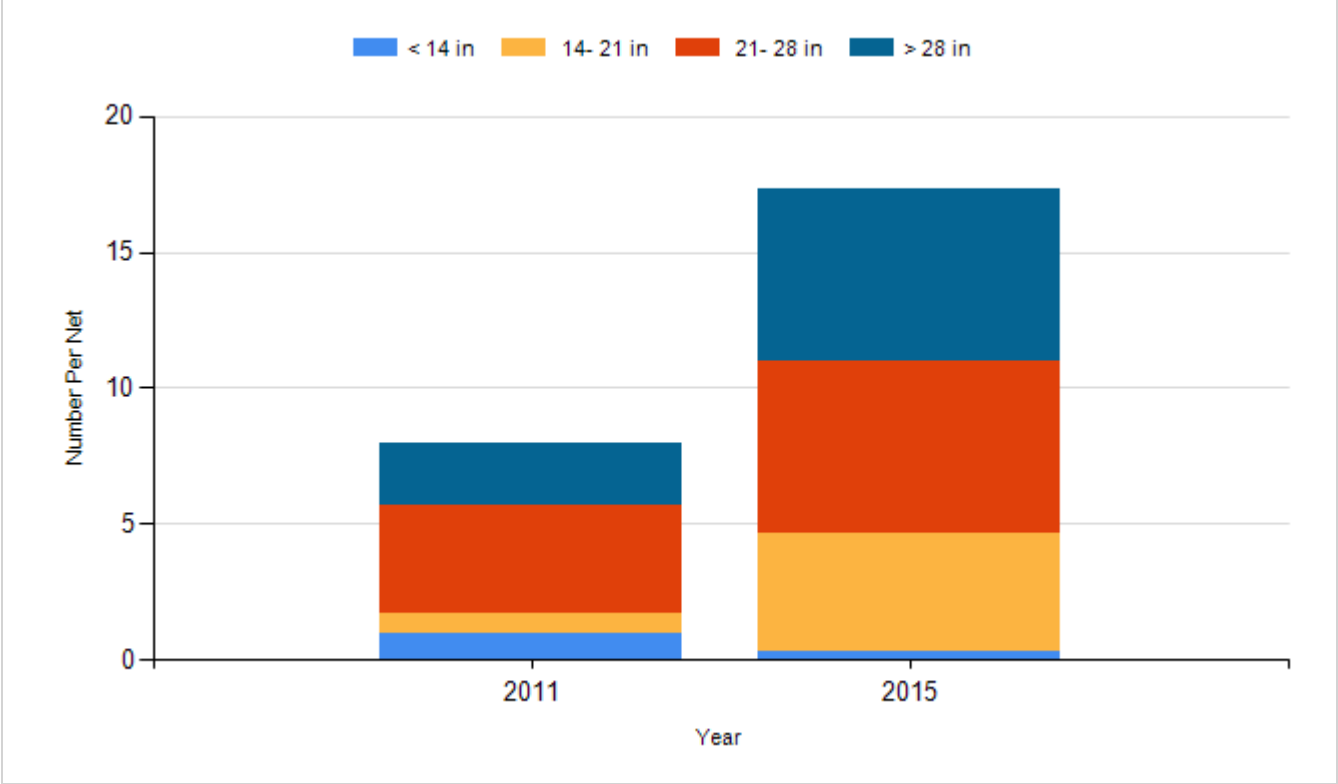
## Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

Size distribution per net by color for species sampled by year.

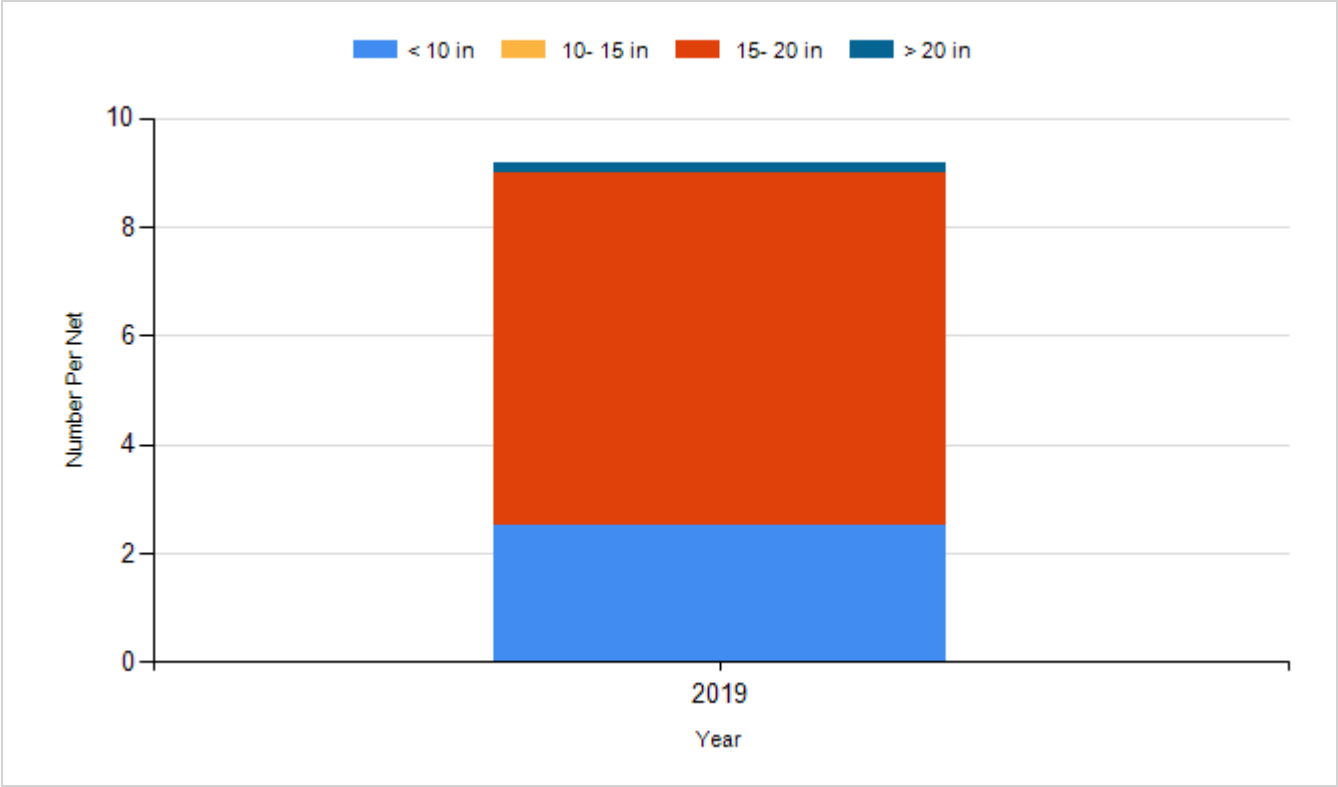
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



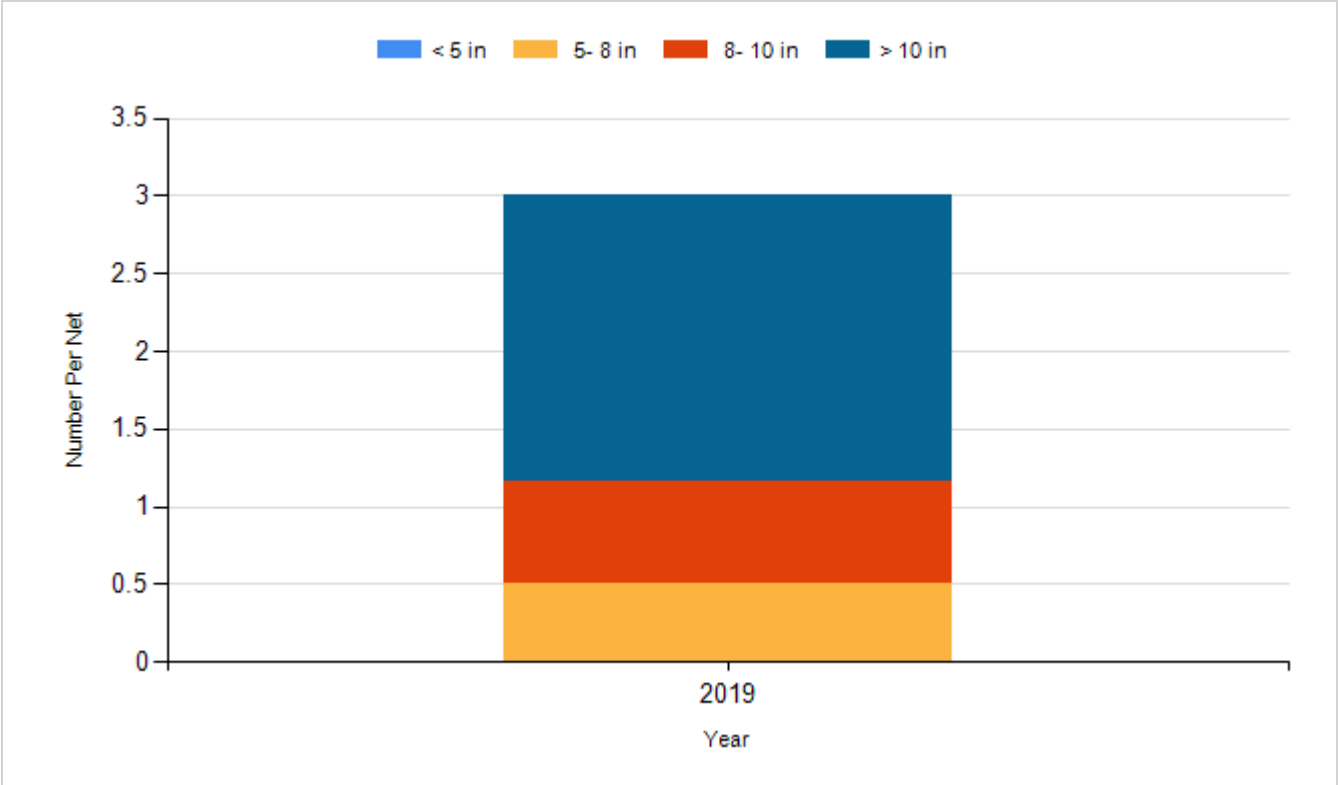

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: std exp gill net



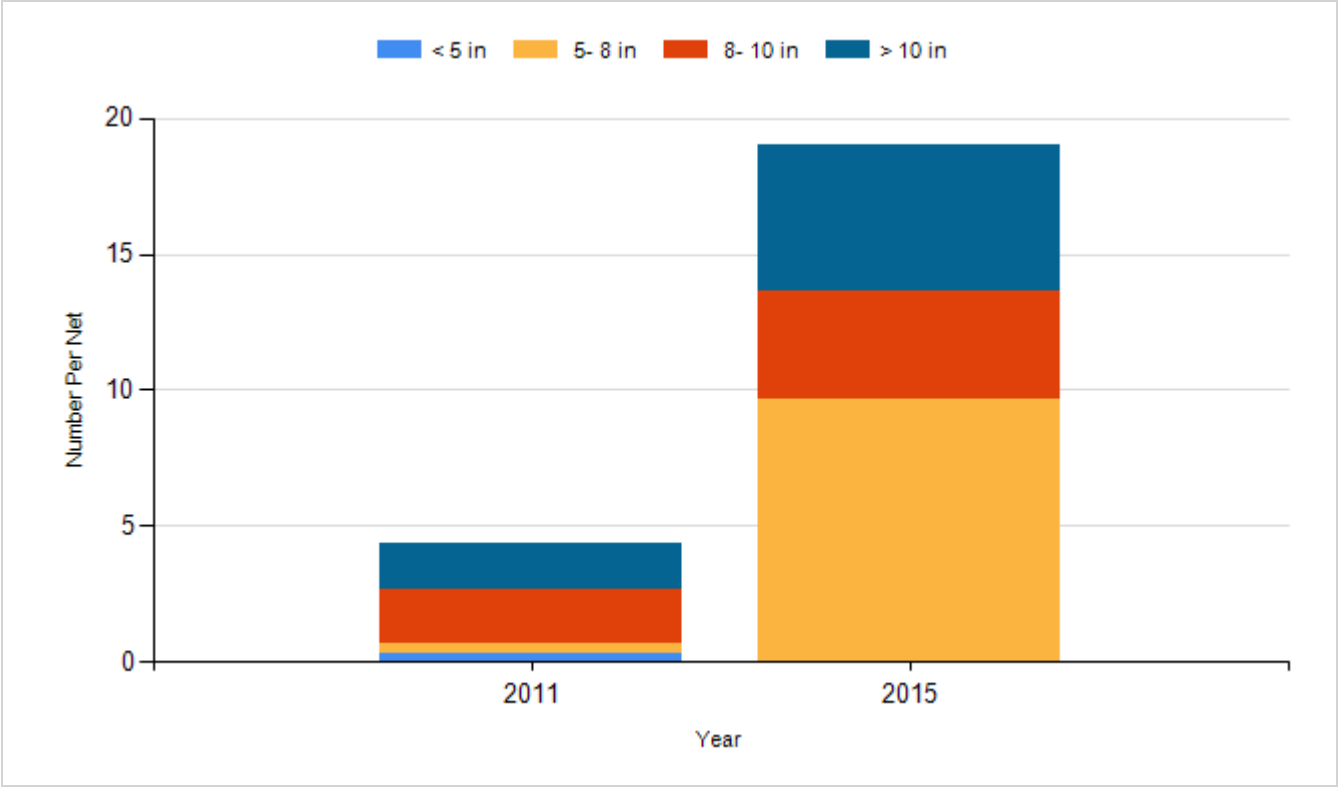
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net




Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: std exp gill net



## Fish Stocking

Number of fish stocked by year, species, and size.

| Year | Species | Size | Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2015 | Walleye | Fry | 200,000 |
| 2018 | Walleye | Fry | 200,000 |