SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Buffalo North, Marshall County
UJA-Lake-917-700
2024

Lake Information

Name: Buffalo North

County: Marshall

Surface Area: 414 Acres

OHWM Elevation: 1,835

Outlet Elevation: 1,835

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
fall night EF-WAE	Sep 10, 2024	3600 seconds

Common Fish Species Present

Walleye

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

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.

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

		CPUE										
Gear	Species	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Avg
AFS std frame net	Black Bullhead		31.8									31.80
	Black Crappie		0.3									0.30
	Bluegill		33.8									33.80
	Golden Shiner		0.0									0.00
	Northern Pike		0.2									0.20
	Walleye		0.4									0.40
	White Sucker		0.2									0.20
	Yellow Perch		1.1									1.10
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead		22.2			1.0			3.8			9.00
	Black Crappie		0.8			0.3			2.3			1.13
	Bluegill		1.0			1.7			7.0			3.23
	Common Carp		0.2			0.2			0.0			0.13
	Golden Shiner		0.0			0.0			0.0			0.00
	Largemouth Bass		0.3			0.0			0.5			0.27
	Northern Pike		3.2			5.0			8.0			5.40
	Walleye		3.0			3.7			2.2			2.97
	White Sucker		3.0			0.0			0.7			1.23
	Yellow Perch		14.7			15.2			22.0			17.30
fall night EF-WAE*	Walleye								50.5		7.0	28.75
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead					11.6			14.5			13.05
	Black Crappie					2.7			3.1			2.90
	Bluegill					50.0			59.2			54.60
	Green Sunfish					0.0			0.1			0.05
	Northern Pike					0.5			1.3			0.90
	Walleye					0.0			0.2			0.10
	White Sucker					0.0			0.3			0.15
	Yellow Perch					0.5			3.8			2.15

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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AFS std frame net	Walleye	PSD		80								
		PSD-P		40								
		Wr		87								
AFS std gill net	Walleye	PSD		89			100			100		
		PSD-P		33			55			85		
		Wr		90			92			90		
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Walleye	PSD								100		
		PSD-P								50		
		Wr								91		

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+
2022	13			428 (2)				571 (1)	559 (1)		659 (9)
2019	22				432 (8)		514 (2)		553 (6)	618 (2)	581 (4)
2016	18					393 (10)	478 (2)	517 (2)	656 (1)		595 (3)

Fish Condition

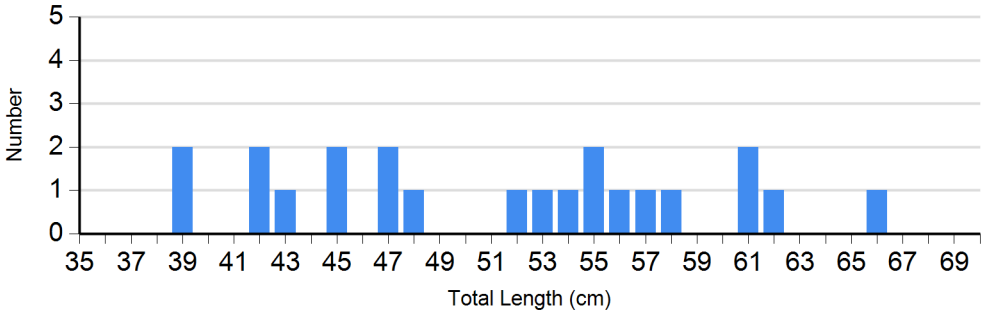
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Walleye Gill Net	2022	0		2	89 (1.6)	3	87 (3.1)	8	91 (2.6)

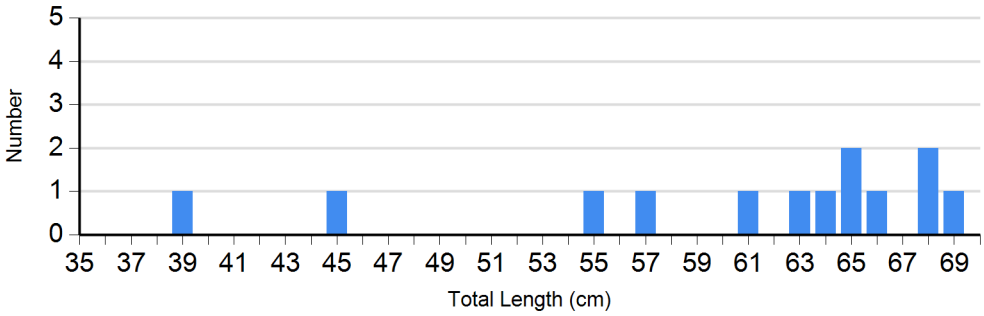
Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



2019

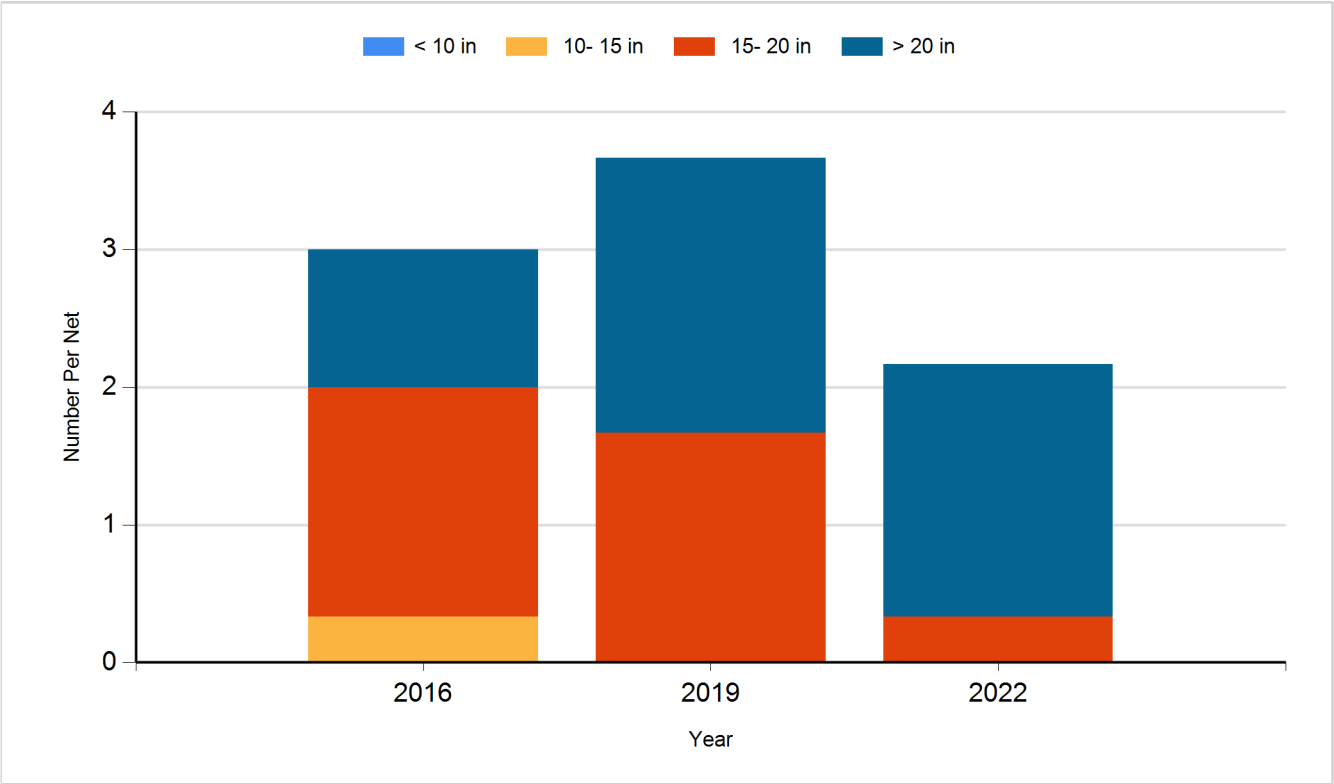


2022

Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



Fish Stocking

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

Year	Species	Size	Number
2013	Walleye	Fry	175,000
2015	Walleye	Fry	170,000
2017	Walleye	Fry	170,000
2019	Walleye		170,000
2021	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2022	Walleye	Juvenile	17,670
2023	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2024	Walleye	Juvenile	39,284