

Four-Mile Lake Survey Summary

Four Mile Lake, located 3.0 miles northwest and 1.5 miles south of Lake City, is managed as a northern pike and yellow perch fishery, but other fish species (e.g., bluegill, walleye) are present and contribute to the fishery.

- **Northern pike.** Fewer northern pike were sampled in 2024 than in 2019. At 2.5 per gill net, relative abundance was considered moderate for Four-Mile Lake. Sampled northern pike ranged in length from 11.8 to 29.1 inches, of those at least 14.0 inches, 53% were ≥ 21.0 inches and 7% were ≥ 28.0 inches.
- **Walleye.** Although the lake is managed as a northern pike and yellow perch fishery, walleyes are commonly stocked. In 2024, relative abundance was low (0.2 per gill net) as only one individual that measured 12.2 inches was caught.
- **Yellow perch.** Yellow perch numbers were higher in 2024 than in 2019. At 22.5 per gill net, relative abundance was considered moderate. Five year classes (2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023) contributed to the gill net catch. Individuals from the 2021 (age-3) and 2023 (age-1) cohorts were the most numerous accounting for 45% and 31%, respectively, of yellow perch in the sample. The 2024 sample suggests moderate growth with a mean length at capture at age 3 of 8.7 inches.

For more detailed results see the computer generated South Dakota Statewide Fisheries Survey for Four Mile (Marshall; below)

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

Four Mile, Marshall County

UJA-Lake-866-007

2024

Lake Information

Name: Four Mile **Maximum Depth:** 11 Feet
County: Marshall
Surface Area: 415 Acres

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS std gill net	Sep 10, 2024	6 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Walleye

Northern Pike

Yellow Perch

Black Bullhead

Common Carp

Largemouth Bass

White Sucker

Bluegill

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.
- **std 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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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).

Species Name	Stock		Quality		Preferred		Memorable		Trophy	
	(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**

Gear	Species	Sample Size (n)	Abundance		Stock Density Indices			Condition		
			CPUE	CI-80	PSD	CI-80	PSD-P	CI-80	Wr	CI-80
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead	170	17.8	5.7	19	5	2		90	1
	Bluegill	2	0.3	0.3	0		0		108	4
	Common Carp	81	13.5	4.2	62	8	0		108	1
	Largemouth Bass	4	0.5	0.7	0		0		117	2
	Northern Pike	18	2.5	0.9	53	21	7		89	2
	Walleye	1	0.2	0.2	0		0		102	
	White Sucker	2	0.3	0.3	100		100		106	2
	Yellow Perch	135	22.5	4.0	50	6	9	4	90	1

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

Gear	Species	CPUE										Avg
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead					0.2					17.8	9.00
	Bluegill					0.0					0.3	0.15
	Common Carp					0.0					13.5	6.75
	Largemouth Bass					0.0					0.5	0.25
	Northern Pike					4.7					2.5	3.60
	Walleye					1.5					0.2	0.85
	White Sucker					0.0					0.3	0.15
	Yellow Perch					14.0					22.5	18.25

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.

Gear	Species	Index	Year											
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
AFS std gill net	Northern Pike	PSD						89						53
		PSD-P						0						7
		Wr						92						89
	Walleye	PSD							100					0
		PSD-P							89					0
		Wr							98					102
	Yellow Perch	PSD							1					50
		PSD-P							0					9
		Wr							96					90

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+
2024	1	309 (1)									
2019	9			509 (1)		556 (3)	515 (1)	515 (1)	535 (1)		650 (2)

Species: Yellow Perch

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2024	135	172 (42)	199 (26)	222 (61)	244 (3)		244 (3)				
2019	85		140 (11)	153 (73)	183 (1)						

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).

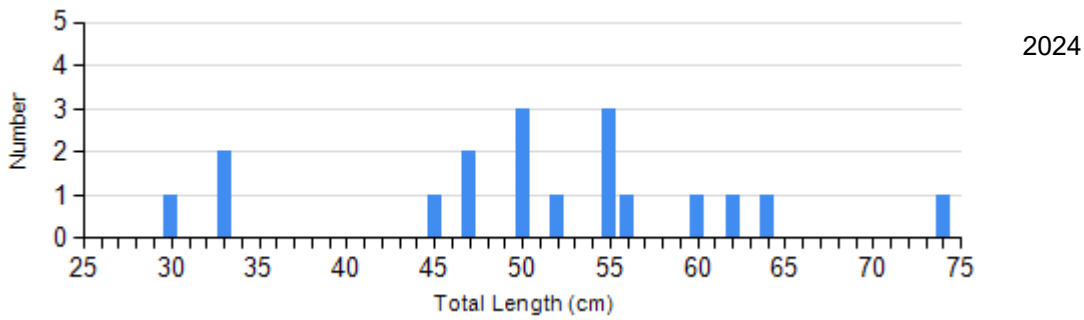
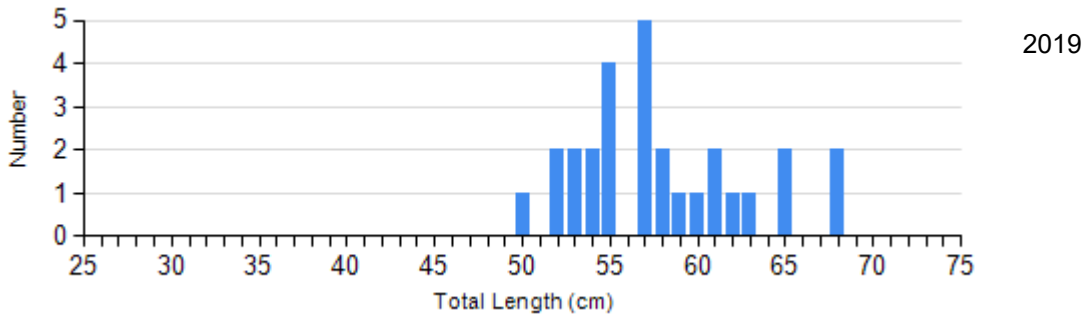
Species	Year	Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
		N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Northern Pike Gill Net	2024	7	86 (2.4)	7	91 (1.6)	1	89	0	
Walleye Gill Net	2024	1	102	0		0		0	
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2024	67	91 (0.7)	56	89 (0.7)	12	89 (2.4)	0	

Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

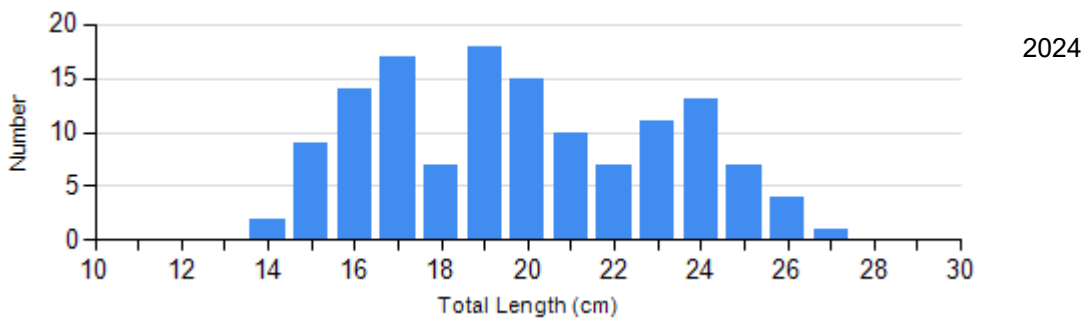
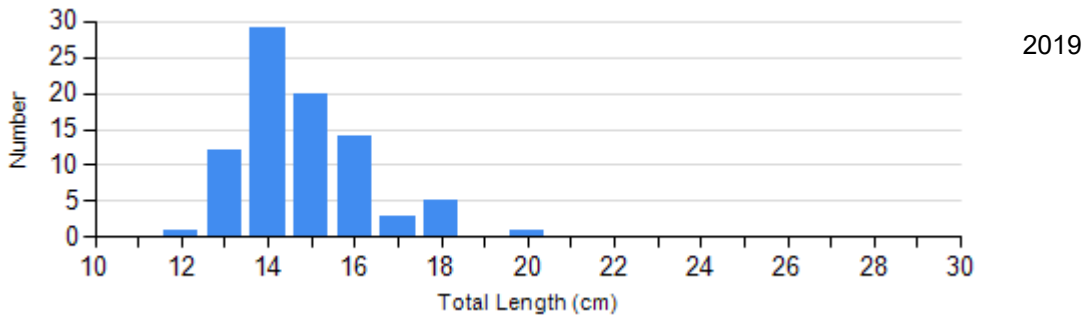
Species: Northern Pike

Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Yellow Perch

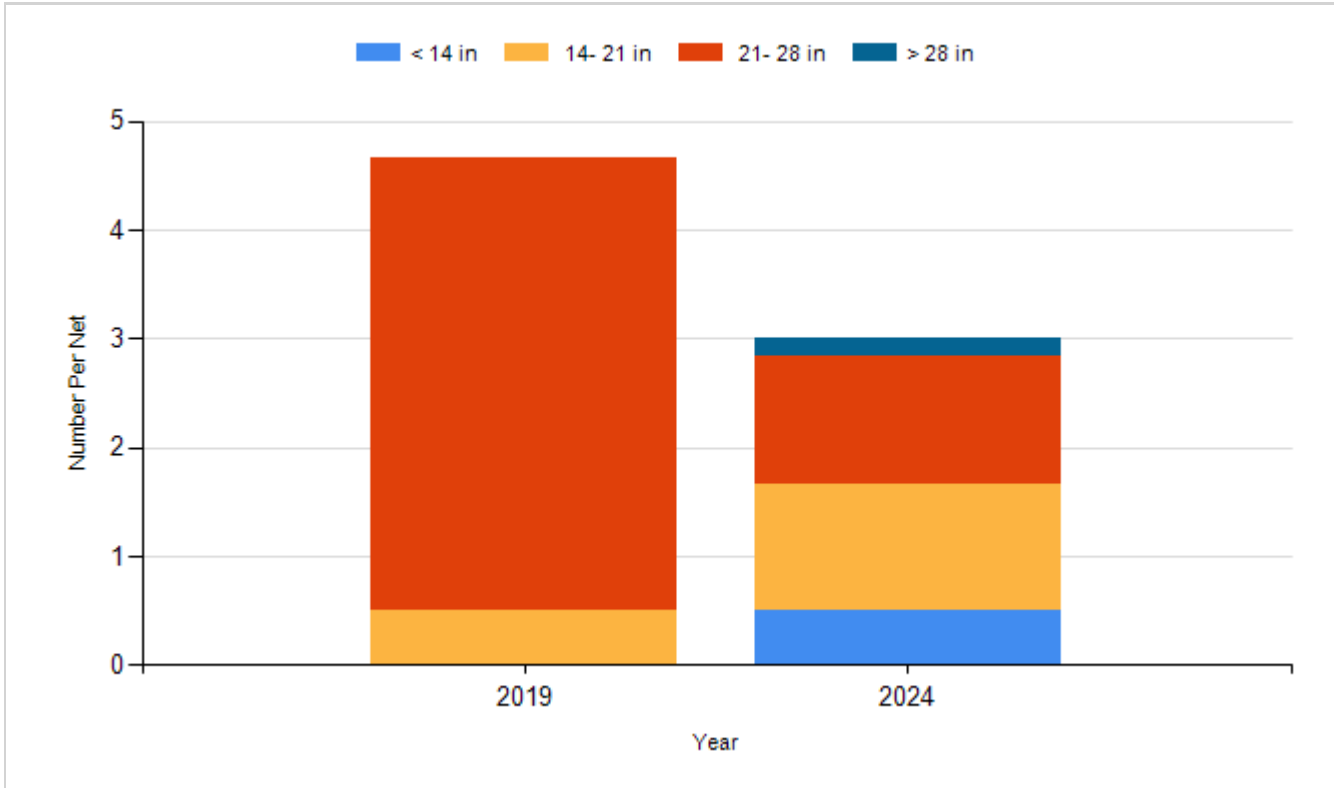
Gear: AFS std gill net



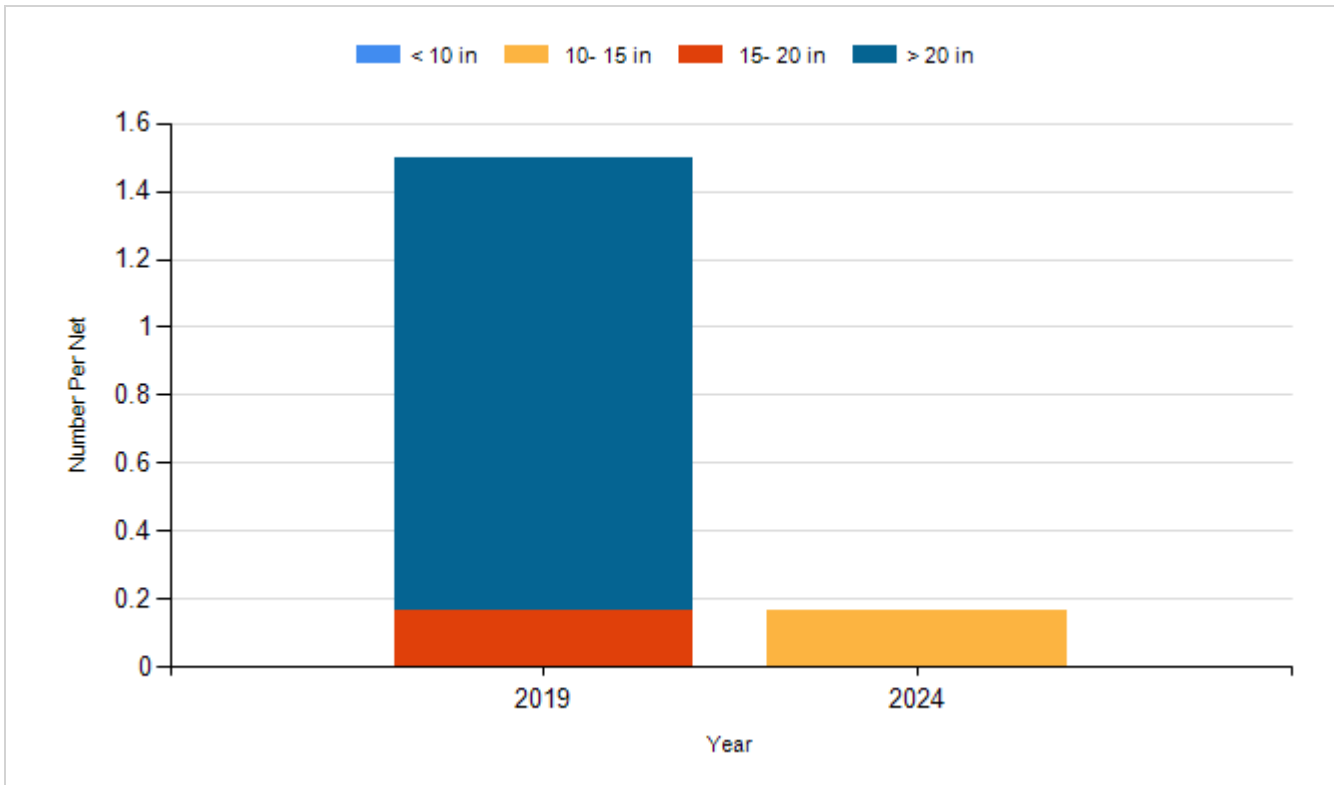
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

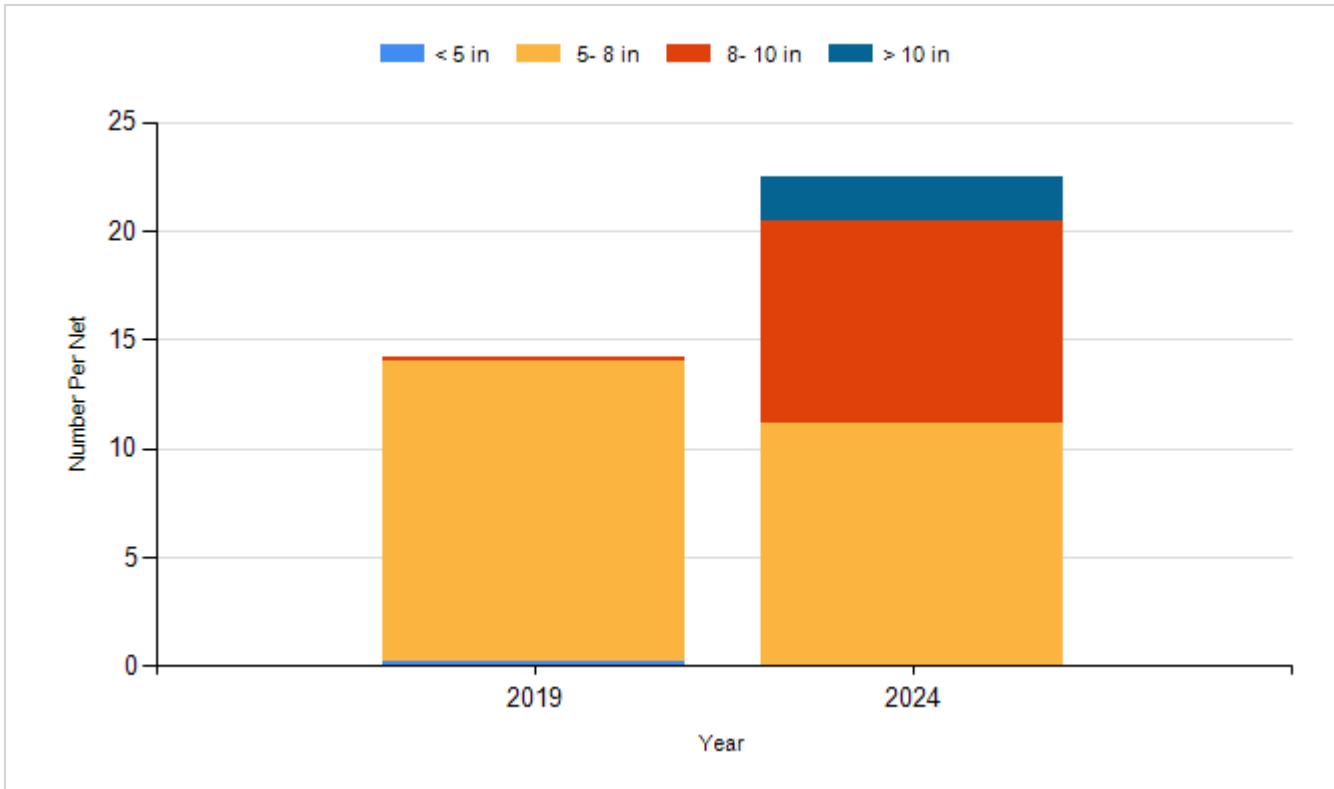
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



Fish Stocking

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

Year	Species	Size	Number
2014	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2017	Walleye	Fry	180,000
2019	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2021	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2022	Walleye	Fry	200,000
2023	Walleye	Fry	200,000