

Walleye Restoration in the Milwaukee River Estuary

Open House
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Expenses by categories and major projects

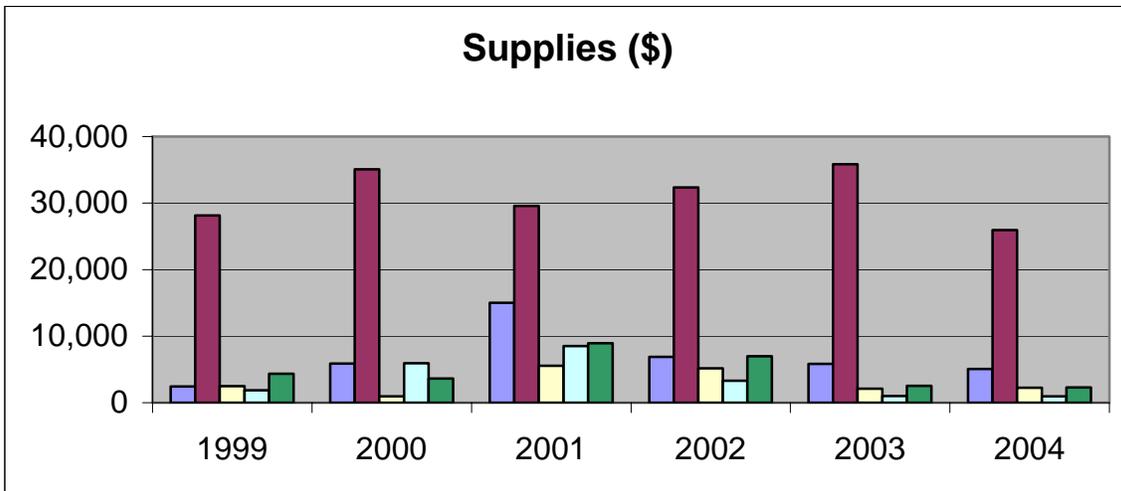
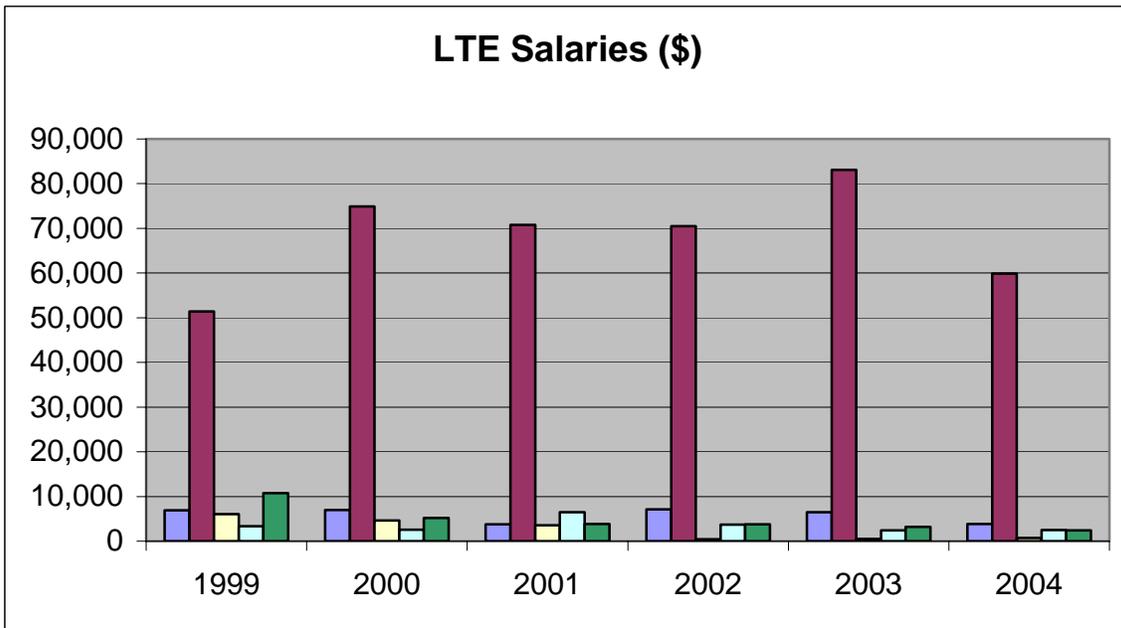
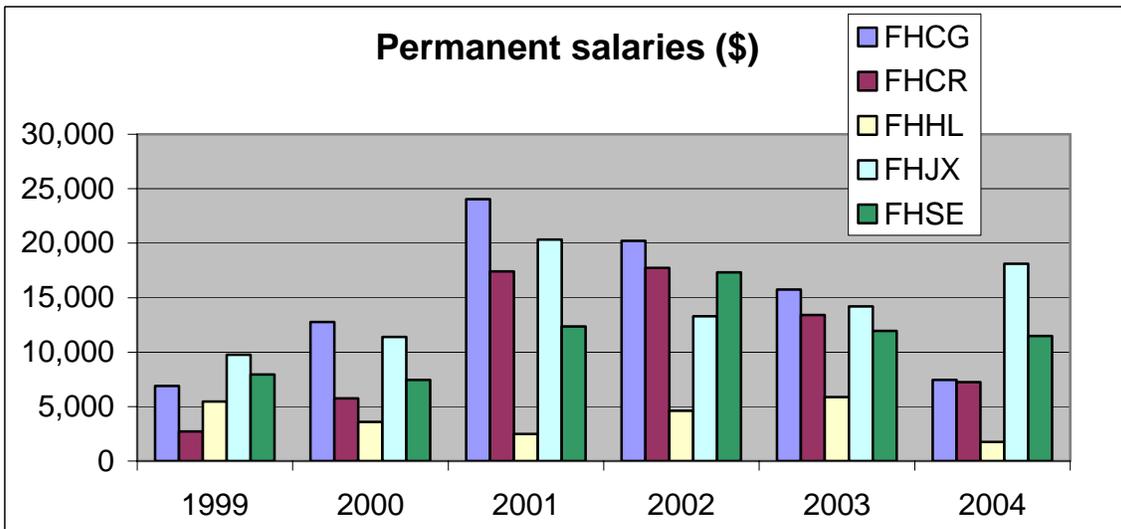
Wisconsin DNR staff develops biennial projects to identify and prioritize our Lake Michigan and tributary fisheries, and allocate an appropriate budget to accomplish the task. There are multiple projects that are carried out at the Southern Lake Michigan Work Unit (LMWU) each year using permanent as well as Limited Term Employees (LTE) staff time. For the purpose of summarizing and comparing costs associated with different projects, we obtained expenditure details from the WDNR finance department from 1999 to 2004. (The current electronic system only allowed us to go back as far as 1999.) The major categories included - permanent staff salaries, LTE salaries, and supplies in each year (in U.S. dollars). Permanent staff time is generally distributed among different projects as required, although the project development process estimates staff time.

Permanent staff salaries varied from year to year for each project. On an average the yellow perch assessment project (FHCG), creel survey (FHCR), walleye restoration project (FHJX) and Root River weir salmon and trout evaluation project (FHSE) were similar in terms of permanent staff salaries (see figure). The yellow perch recruitment project (FHHL) received the least amount of permanent staff time. The creel survey and Root River projects are funded through salmon stamp dollars while the others are funded by general funds.

LTE hours are allocated to each project during the project development stage. LTE salary costs for the creel survey project (FHCR) represent labor cost for the entire Lake Michigan (Wisconsin waters) survey; hence it is disproportionately higher. All other projects are exclusive to LMWU for which LTE costs are more or less uniformly distributed. LTE salaries averaged about \$4,200 across the remaining projects, with FHCG and FHSE incurring slightly higher costs compared to the rest.

Supply costs include money needed for meals, mileage and supplies. The creel survey (FHCR) had the higher costs due to high travel costs and number of LTEs needed to run the program (9 people). Again, costs of supplies for the creel survey represent supplies needed for both northern and southern unit LTEs. All other projects had modest supply costs averaging \$4,600. Increased supply costs in 2000 and 2001 under the walleye restoration project (FHJX) reflect the cost of purchasing radio transmitters.

In summary, other than the creel survey, all other LMWU projects had similar permanent, LTE and supply expenses. These expenses are fairly uniform among the years.



Legend: FHCG: Assess Yellow Perch Fishery; FHCR: L. Michigan Sport Fishing Surveys; FHHL: Assess Y.P. Recruitment; FHJX: Predation on Stocked Salmon; FHSE: Salmon and Trout Stocking Evaluation