



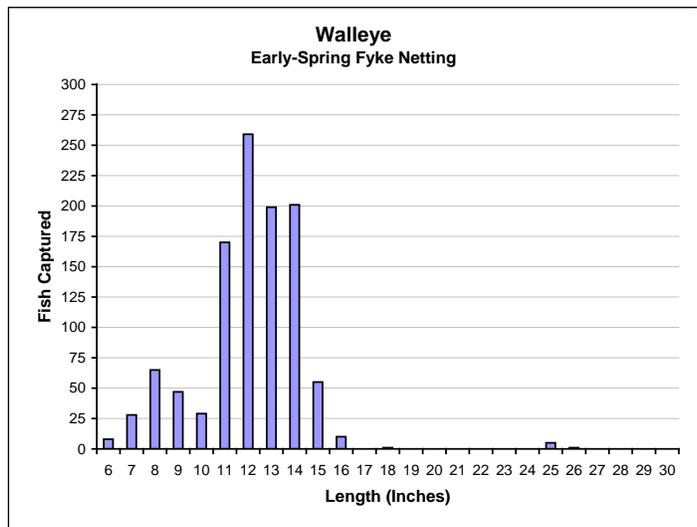
Early-Spring Fyke Netting Survey Summary Windfall Lake, Sawyer County, 2011

The Spooner Treaty Fisheries Unit conducted a fyke netting survey on Windfall Lake during April 18-20, 2011 primarily to assess the walleye population. Six nets were set overnight for three nights, resulting in 18 net-nights of effort. Primary target species was walleye. An electrofishing survey conducted in late May documented the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. Those results are summarized in a separate survey report. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Walleye



Captured 60 per net-night $\geq 10''$	
Quality Size $\geq 15''$	8%
Preferred Size $\geq 20''$	1%



Yellow Perch



Captured 75 per net-night

Black Crappie



Captured 6 per net-night

Summary of Results

Water temperature during this survey was 41-42°F, allowing for a representative sample of spawning walleye and yellow perch. Pre-spawn crappies were also captured with some frequency.

Walleyes were captured at a high rate of 60 per net-night. A mark-recapture effort generated a population estimate of 13.7 walleyes per acre, which is very high density compared with most populations in Sawyer County and the Ceded Territory in general. However, we captured few legal-size fish (≥ 15 inches) and very few large, old adults. Possible reasons for poor size structure include slow growth rate (due to high competition for food among abundant walleyes) and/or high exploitation of legal-size fish by anglers. Growth rates will be monitored going forward to ensure that abundant sub-legal fish are not experiencing reduced growth as a result of prey shortages. If growth rate is slow and natural recruitment remains high, a regulation change that would allow some harvest of fish < 14 inches long may be proposed.

Yellow perch were captured at a relatively high rate of 75 fish per net-night. Perch are likely an important diet item for walleye in this lake. Perch captured in this survey were not measured, so conclusions about size structure cannot be made.

Black crappies were captured at a moderate to low rate and were not measured, so conclusions about size structure cannot be made.

Bluegill, largemouth bass, northern pike, rock bass, and white sucker were also captured during this survey.

Report By: Max Wolter, Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County, 11/29/12

Edited By: Dave Neuswanger, Fisheries Supervisor, Hayward Field Unit, 5/2/13

Approved for Posting By: Steve Avelallemant, Fisheries Supervisor, Northern District, 12/23/13