

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife & Fisheries

June 11, 2015



Proposed Orders

- For Information
 - Migratory Game Bird Early Seasons Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 6 of 2015)
- For Action
 - Deer Harvest Reduction Regulations in the Upper Peninsula (WCO Amendment No. 5 of 2015)
- For Director Approval
 - Michigan Wolf Management Plan Update



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Fish Stocking: Where and Why?
- Lake Erie Walleye Management Plan
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Migratory Game Bird Early Seasons Regulations



Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division Update

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief

June 11, 2015



Commercial Fishing



Harbor Beach Permit Fishery



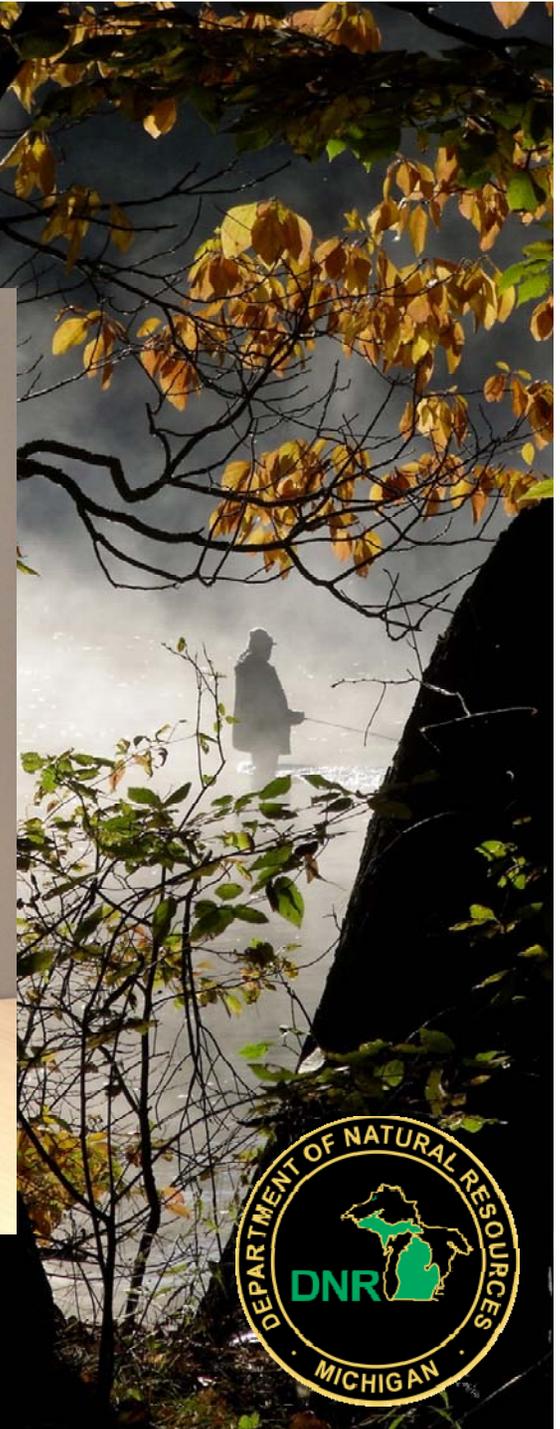
Detroit River - Downtown



International Creel Survey



Conversations & Coffee



Public Outreach

Thank you!

Questions?





Fish Stocking: Where and Why

Natural Resources Commission

June 11, 2015

Jim Francis, Lake Erie Basin Coordinator

Biological Considerations

Habitat

- physical
- thermal

Forage

Predators / competitors



Where we stock

Streams

Logging

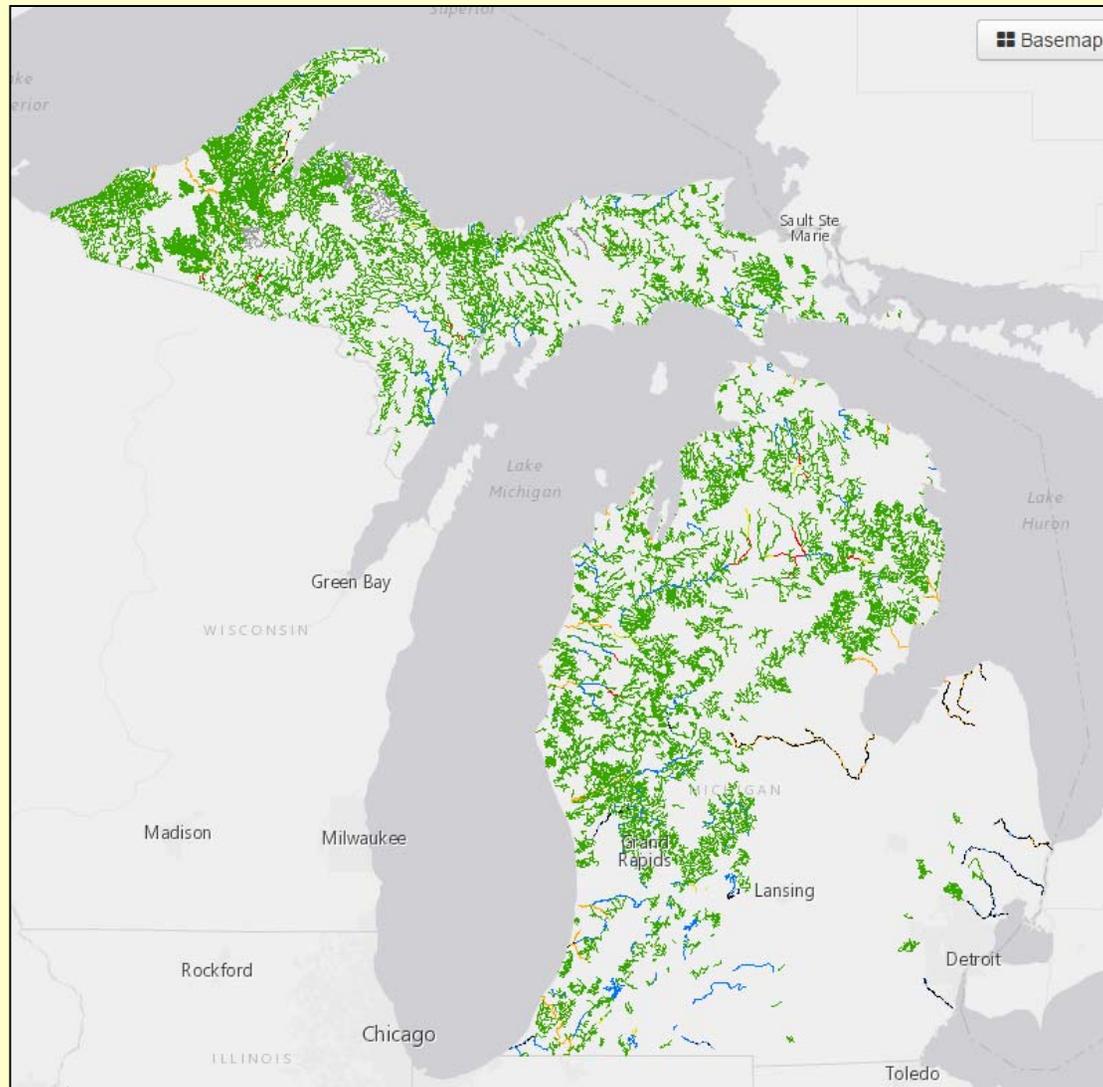


Dams



Where we stock

Streams



Where we stock

Inland Lakes



Where we stock

Inland Lakes



Where we stock

Great Lakes



Why we stock

- **Provide ecosystem balance**
- Supplement natural reproduction
- Provide diverse fishing opportunities



Why we stock

- Provide ecosystem balance
- **Supplement natural reproduction**
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Why we stock

- Provide ecosystem balance
- Supplement natural reproduction
- **Provide diverse fishing opportunities**



Cost of Stocking

FY 14-15

Fish Division Budget: \$33.7 million

Fish production \$10.1 million ~ 30%



Return on Investment

Approximately 30% of all recreational fishing in MI depends on stocked fish, including 70% of the Great Lakes trout and salmon fishery

Sportfishing in Michigan generates

- 28 million angler days
- \$4.4 billion in economic activity



Thank You





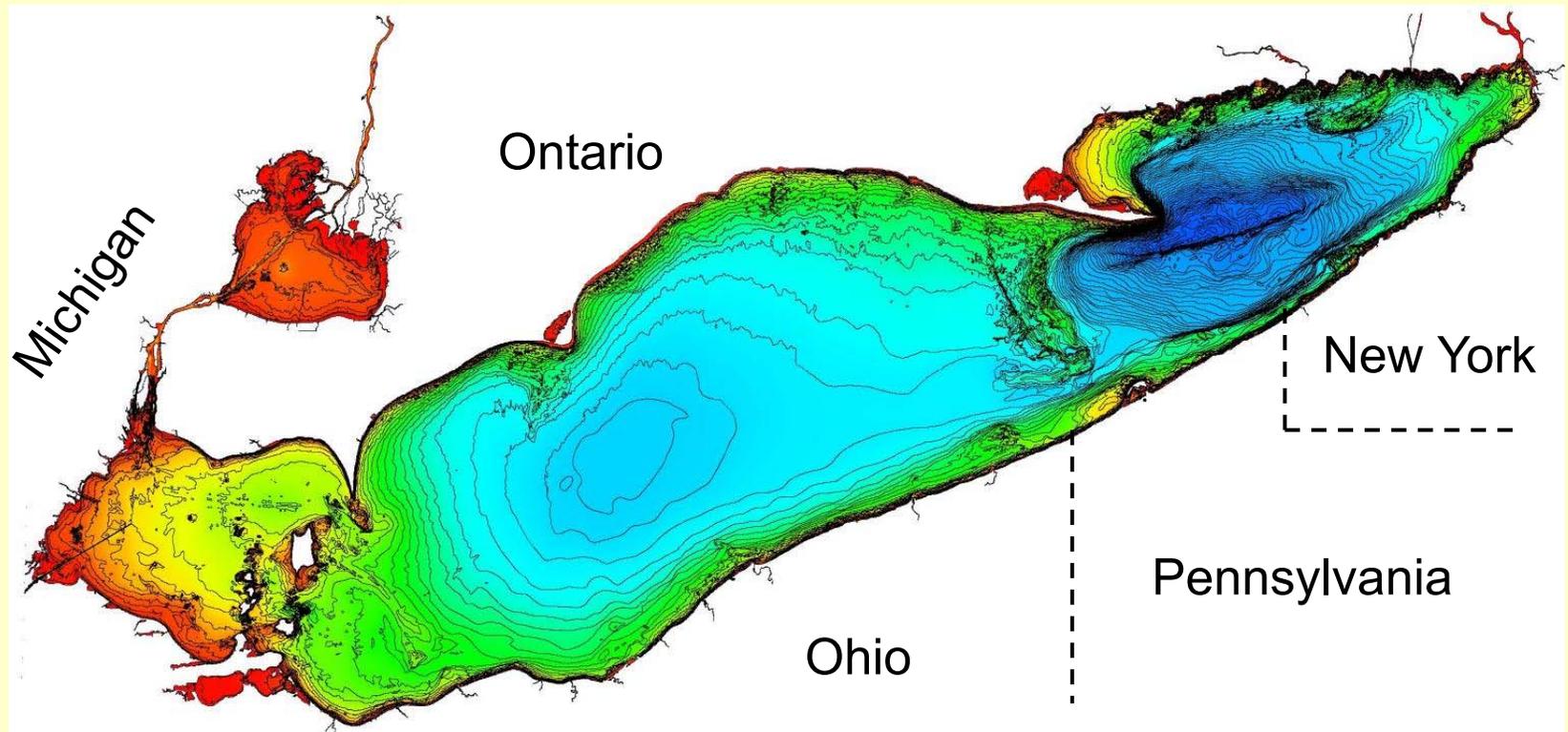
Lake Erie Walleye Management

Natural Resources Commission

June 11, 2015

Jim Francis, Lake Erie Basin Coordinator

Lake Erie



Lake Erie Fisheries Management

Lake Erie Committee

Bi-national committee of state and provincial fisheries agencies

Work under the GLFC and guided by the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries

Walleye and yellow perch harvest is managed by a quota system



Determining Walleye Quota

- Assessment
- Statistical catch-at-age model to estimate walleye population parameters
- Lake Erie Walleye Management Plan (2005)



Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group

First meeting in July 2011

Stakeholder involvement

stakeholder appointed by LEC agencies
from their respective jurisdictions

Facilitated by Dr. Mike Jones, Quantitative
Fisheries Center at MSU



Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group

Twelve meetings over a 4 year period

Direct advice to the LEC specific to walleye management objectives, alternatives, and evaluation of trade-offs between various management options

First applied to the 2014 TAC setting process for Lake Erie Walleye

Documented in the 2015 Walleye Management Plan



Michigan Possession Limit

Quota is divided based on walleye habitat surface area in each jurisdiction

5.3% - Michigan

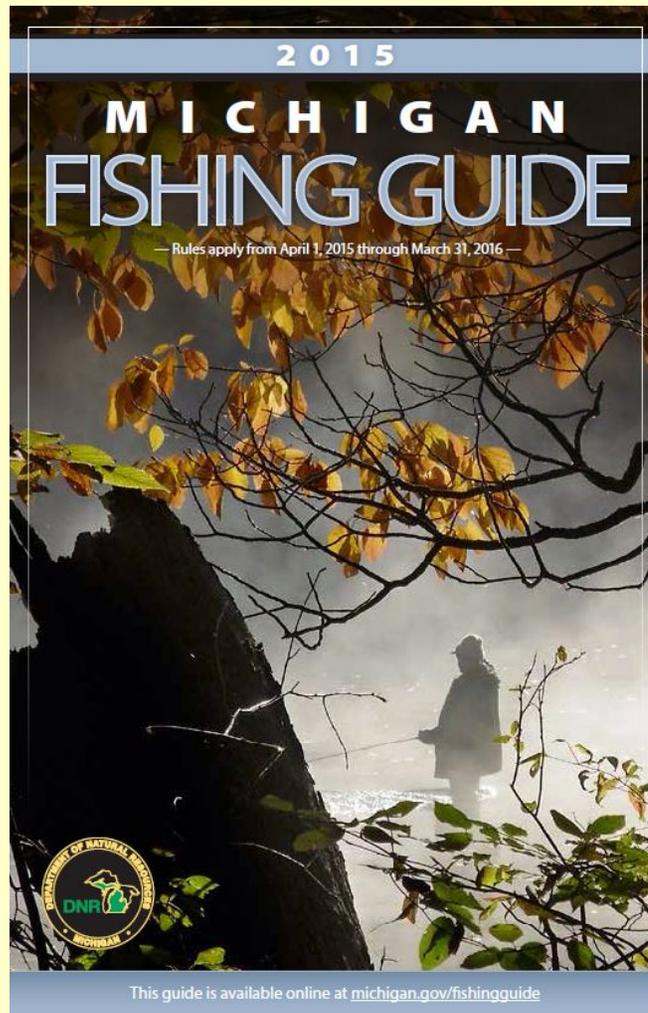
51.4% - Ohio

43.3% - Ontario

<u>Michigan's TAC</u>	<u>Daily Possession Limit</u>
> 108,364	6
96,958 to 108,364	5
85,551 to 96,957	4
74,144 to 85,550	3
62,737 to 74,143	2
< 62,737	1



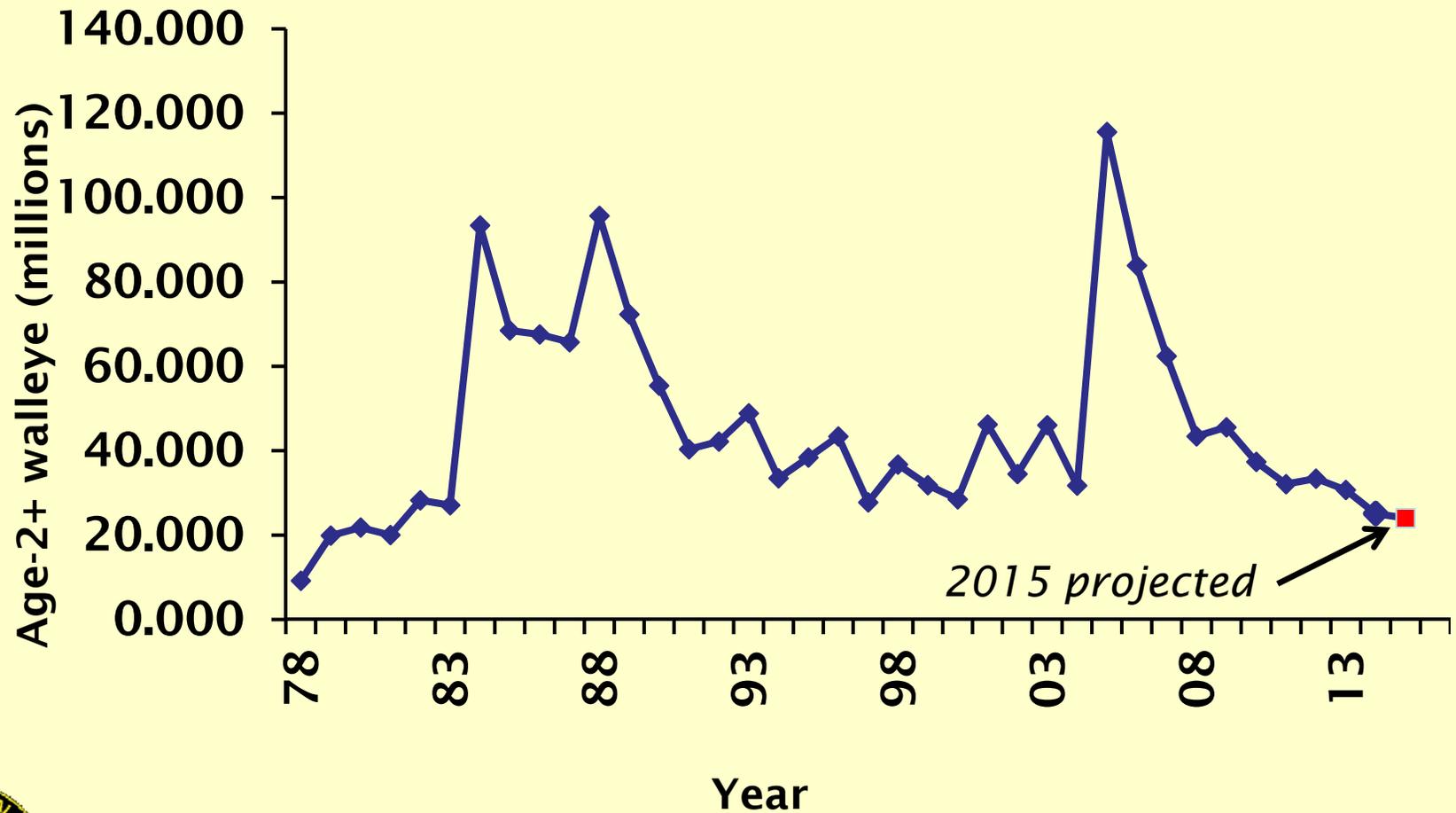
Regulation Notification



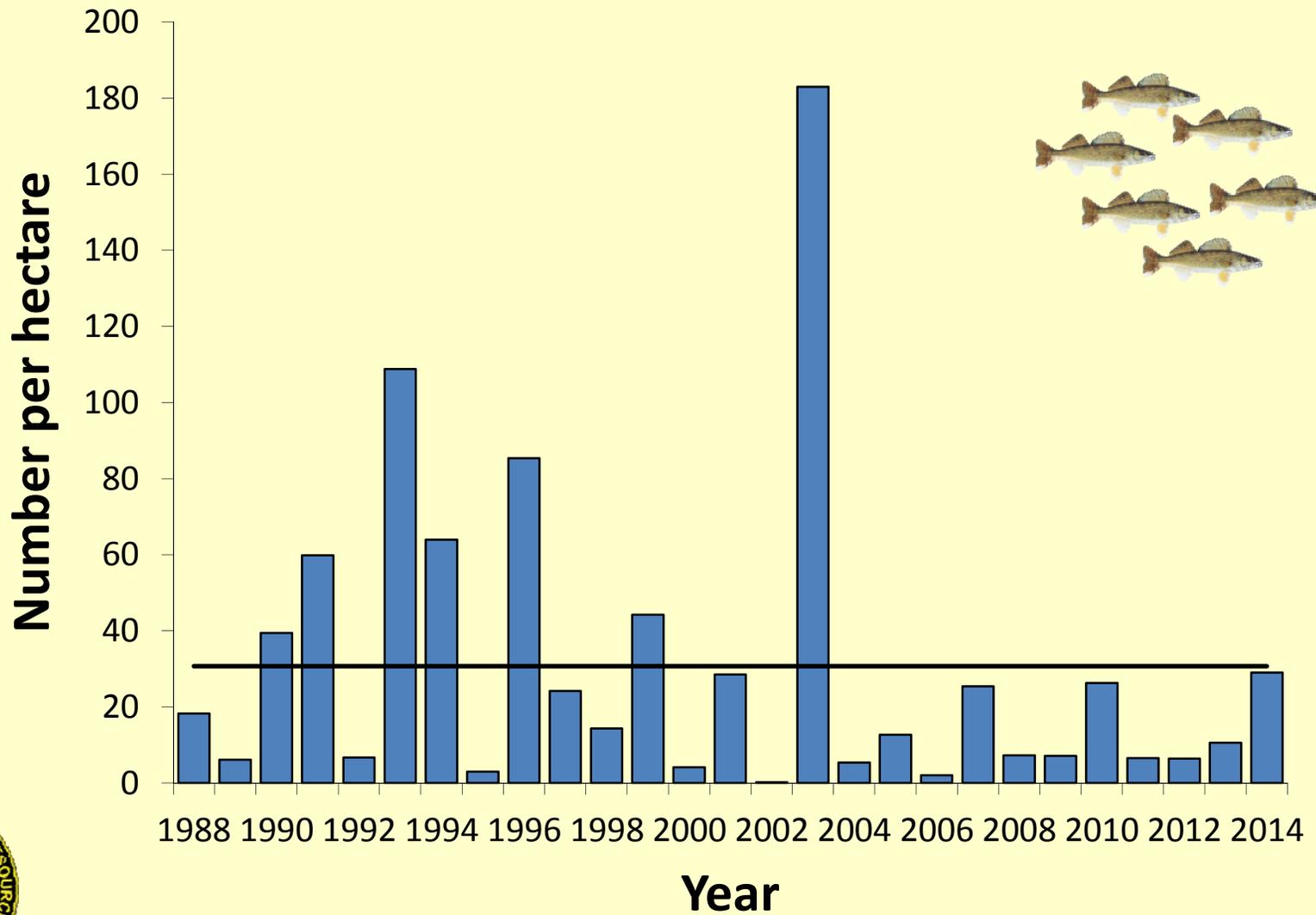
- Press Release
- DNR Website
- Phone Hotline



Lake Erie Age-2 and Older Walleye



Young-of-Year Trawl Survey



Thank You



Wildlife Chief Update



Wildlife Chief Update

- Customer Service
- State Game Area Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel
- Safari Club International Deer Habitat Workgroup
 - Identifying deer wintering complexes
 - Hired a part time data analyst/ wildlife biologist
 - \$40,000 SCIF funds committed



Thank You



Hunting Regulations for Early Waterfowl Season Dates

Barbara Avers
Waterfowl and Wetland
Specialist, Wildlife Division
June 11, 2015



Regulations Schedule

Early Seasons

- February/March
 - Mississippi Flyway Council
 - Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)
- June
 - Regulations for information at NRC
 - USFWS Regulations Committee
 - Set early season framework
- July
 - Regulations for action at NRC Meeting
 - Early Season Selections Due to USFWS

Regular Seasons

- July
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 - Set regular season framework
- August
 - CWAC Meeting
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Changing to Single Process

- Beginning in January of 2016
 - Begins with 2016-17 Waterfowl Hunting Season
 - Frameworks set on previous year's biological and habitat data
 - More simplified and efficient process
 - Allows for seasons to be set earlier and better planning for hunters
 - Developing a communication strategy



Early Canada Goose Season

- No Change Proposed
 - September 1-10 (UP, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron Counties)
 - September 1-15 (NLP and SLP)
 - Daily bag limit of 5



Proposed Regular Canada Goose Season First Split Dates

North Zone	Sept. 11 – Dec. 11					
Middle Zone	Sept. 19 – Dec. 19					
South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	Sept. 19-27	TBD	TBD			
Tuscola/Huron GMU	Sept. 19-27	TBD	TBD			
Saginaw County GMU	Sept. 19-27	TBD	TBD			
Allegan County GMU			TBD			
Muskegon W.W. GMU		TBD	TBD			
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb



Youth Waterfowl Season

- No changes proposed
 - 2nd weekend in September
 - Sept. 12 & 13, 2015



Experimental Early Teal Season

- Department recommendations
 - September 1 to September 7
 - Daily limit 6, possession limit 18
 - Hunting hours begin at sunrise
- Continue 3-year evaluation for take of non-target species
- Continue education efforts



2014 Teal Season Evaluation Results

- Exceeded target sample size
- 41 observers worked approx. 290 hours
- Observations were well within criteria for non-target attempt rates and non-target kill
- Likely hunter performance will improve with experience





Thank You

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