



Southeast Michigan Fisheries

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SCDRS – St Clair Detroit River System

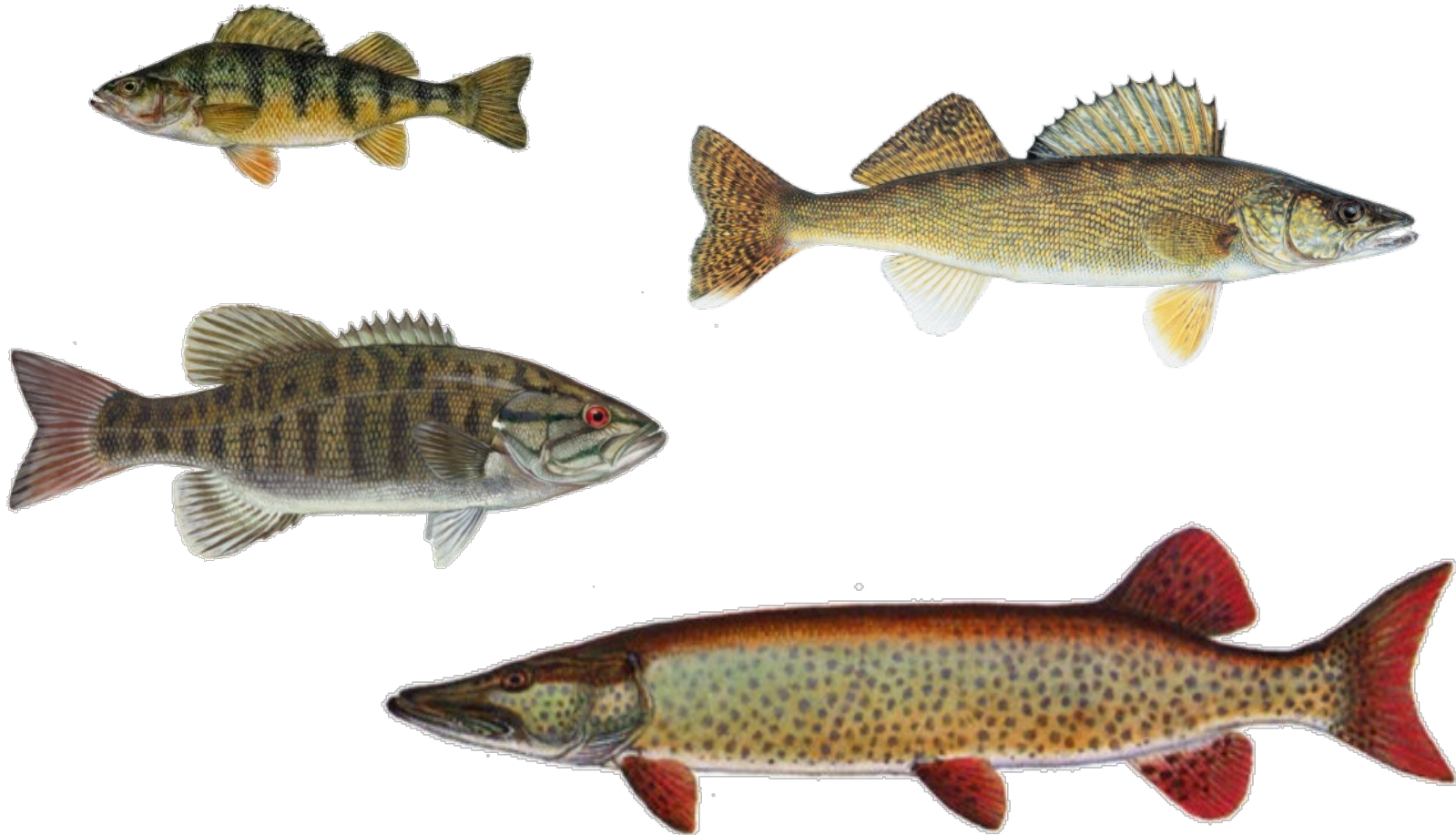


SCDRS Fish Community



- Mixture of warm, cool, and cold water species
- High diversity with over 100 fish species found in the SCDRS
- More than 45 fish species use the SCDRS for spawning/nursery habitat

The Big Four – Lake St Clair



Yellow Perch



- The most sought after species in Lake St. Clair
- Open water and winter ice fishery
- Half of the total annual fishing effort
- Michigan anglers harvest ~750,000 each year

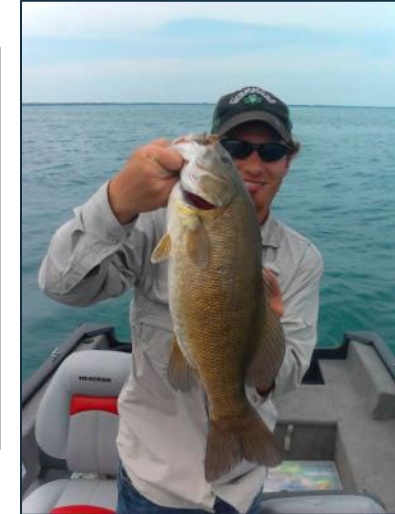
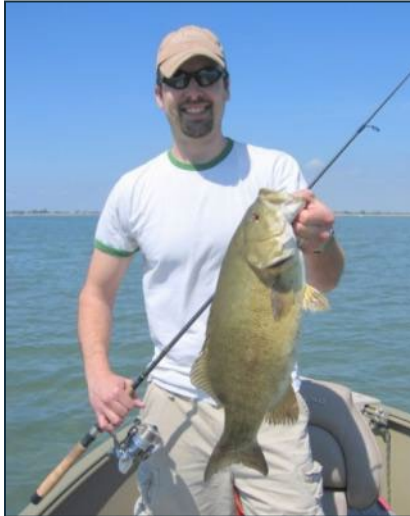


Walleye



- Walleye fishing ~ 30% of the boat fishery
- 80% of legal-sized walleye caught are harvested
- ~45,000 legal walleye are harvested annually in Lake St. Clair by Michigan anglers
- ~300,000 walleye caught in 2022 Detroit Rv. Creel survey

Smallmouth Bass



- ~20% of the boat fishery effort
- >100,000 legal-sized smallmouth bass caught annually from Michigan waters of Lake St. Clair and in Detroit Rv.
- >90% of legal-size smallmouth bass are released
- Fishery attracts out-of-state anglers, tournaments

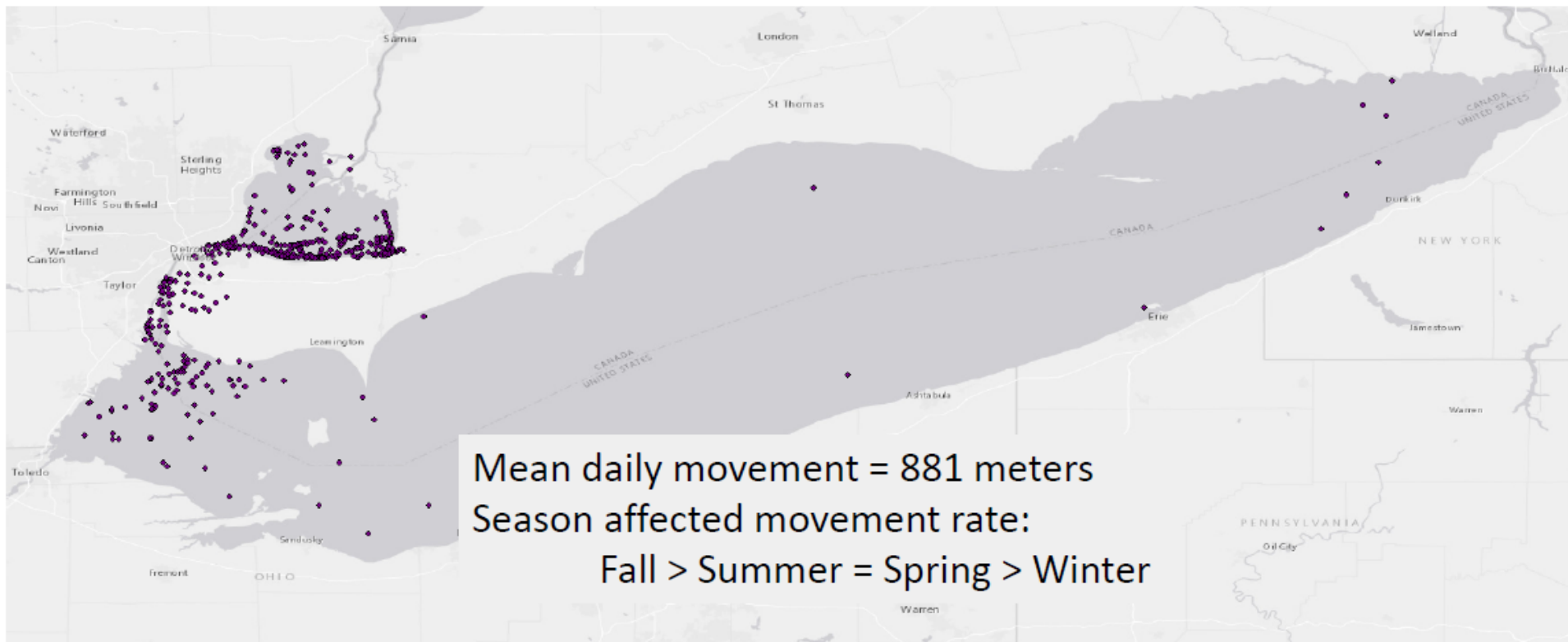
Muskellunge



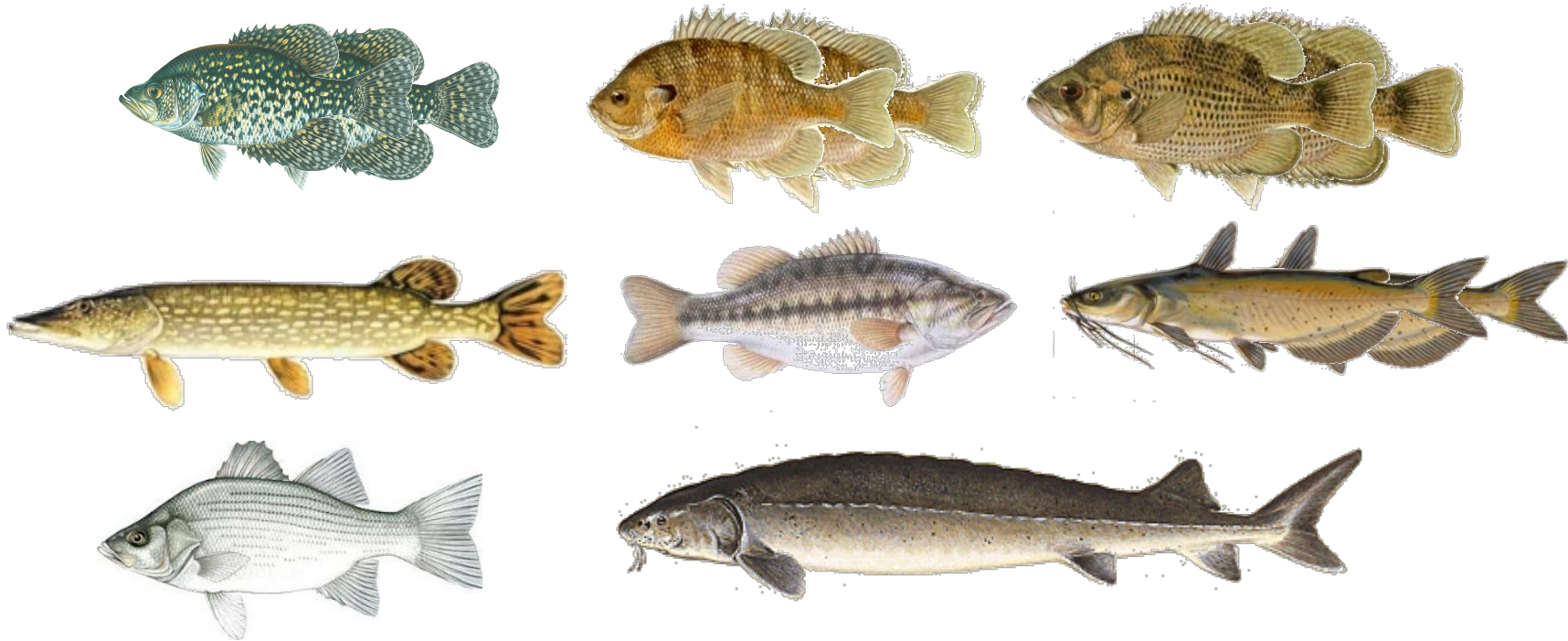
- Legendary fishery known for high catch rates and increasing numbers of large fish
- ~30% of all Lake St. Clair charter fishing trips target muskie
- ~99% of all muskies caught on LSC are released

Muskie Movement Patterns

2. Muskellunge

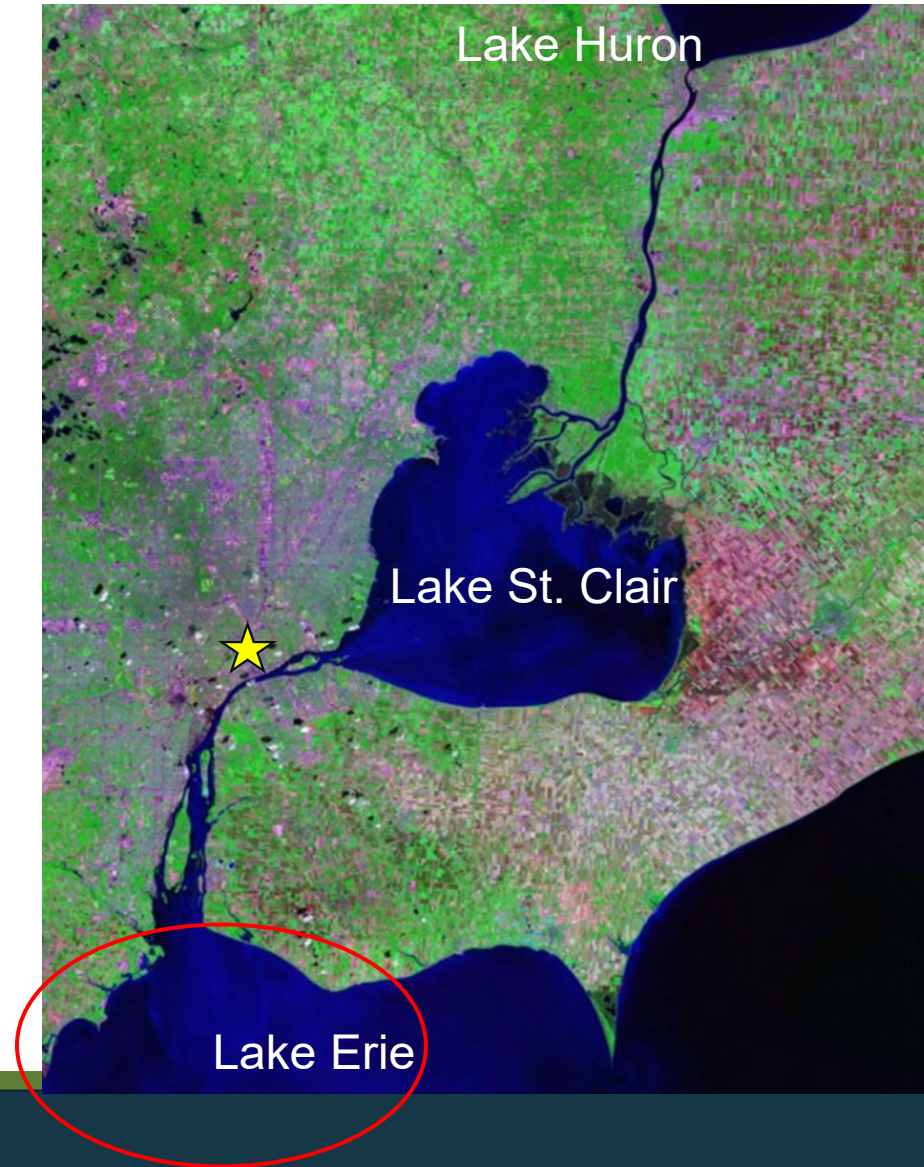


And There's More...



- Abundant populations of other species that provide even more diversity for the fishery
- Includes unique fishing opportunities for lake sturgeon

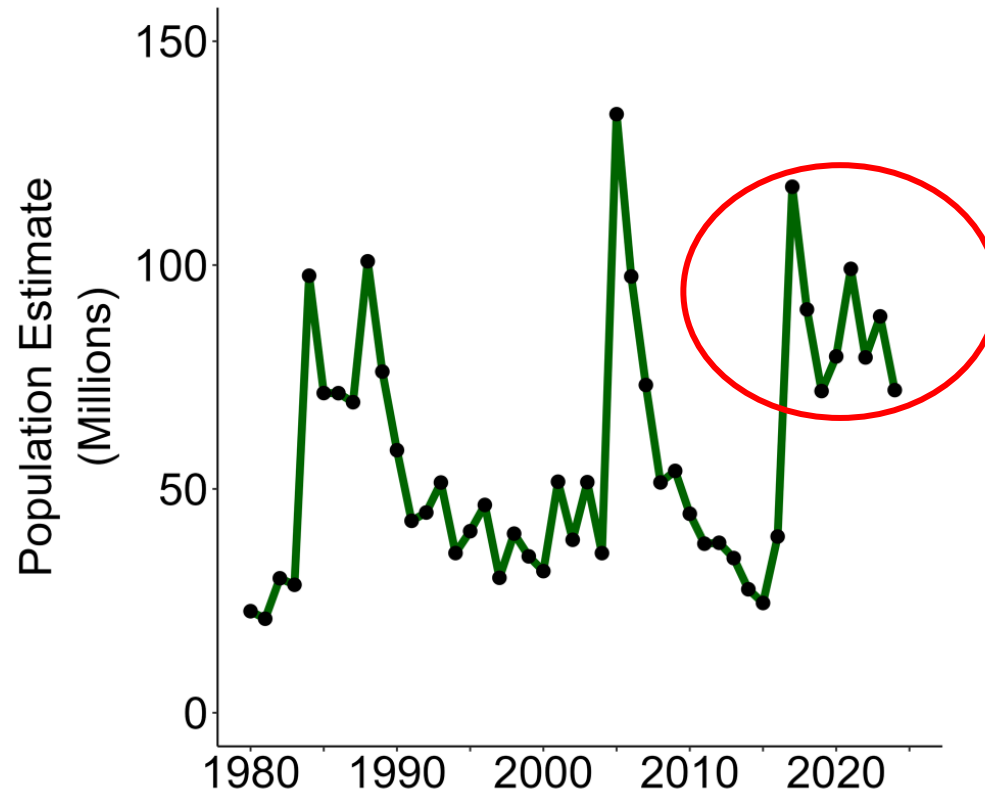
SCDRS – St Clair Detroit River System



Walleye Abundance



Walleye Abundance Estimate



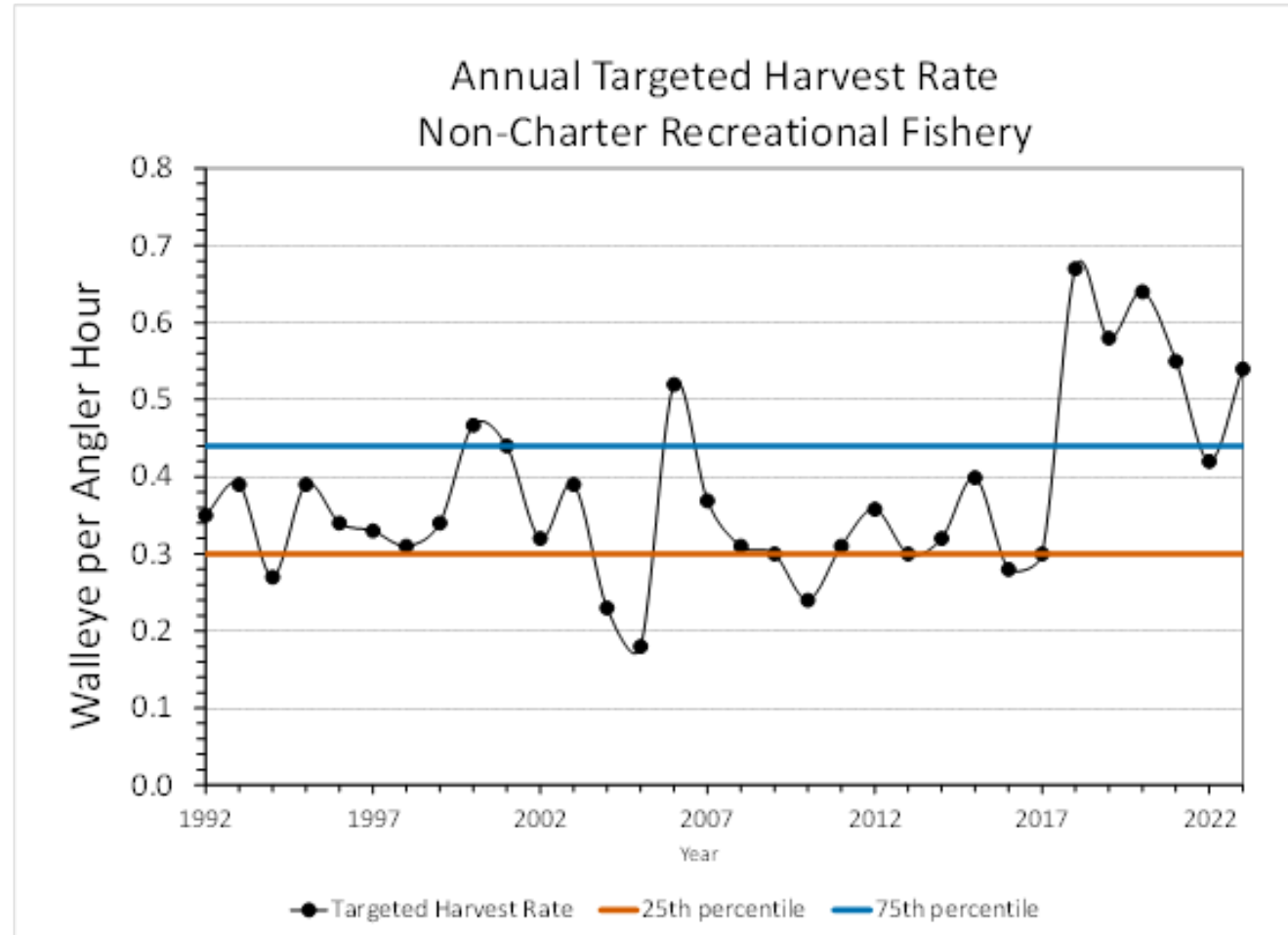
2023 estimate

- 88.536 million age-2+ fish

2024 projection

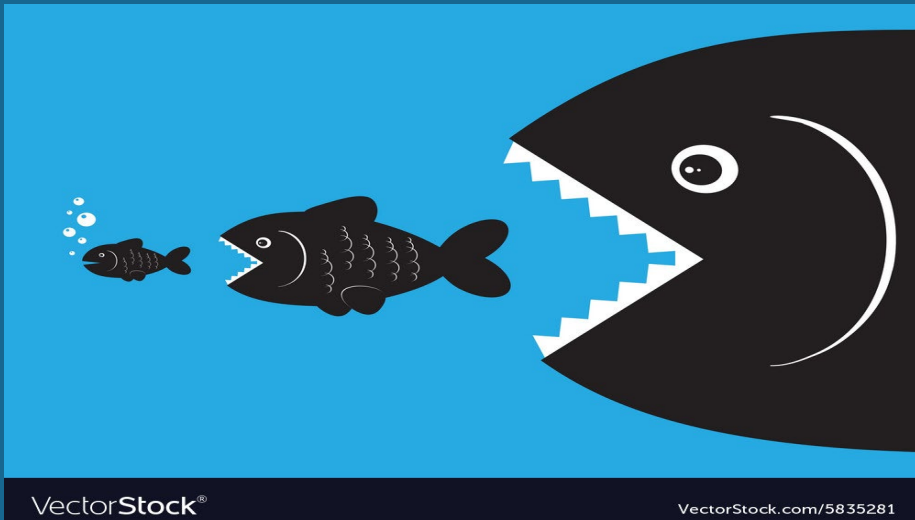
- 72.078 million age-2+ fish

Michigan – Walleye Harvest

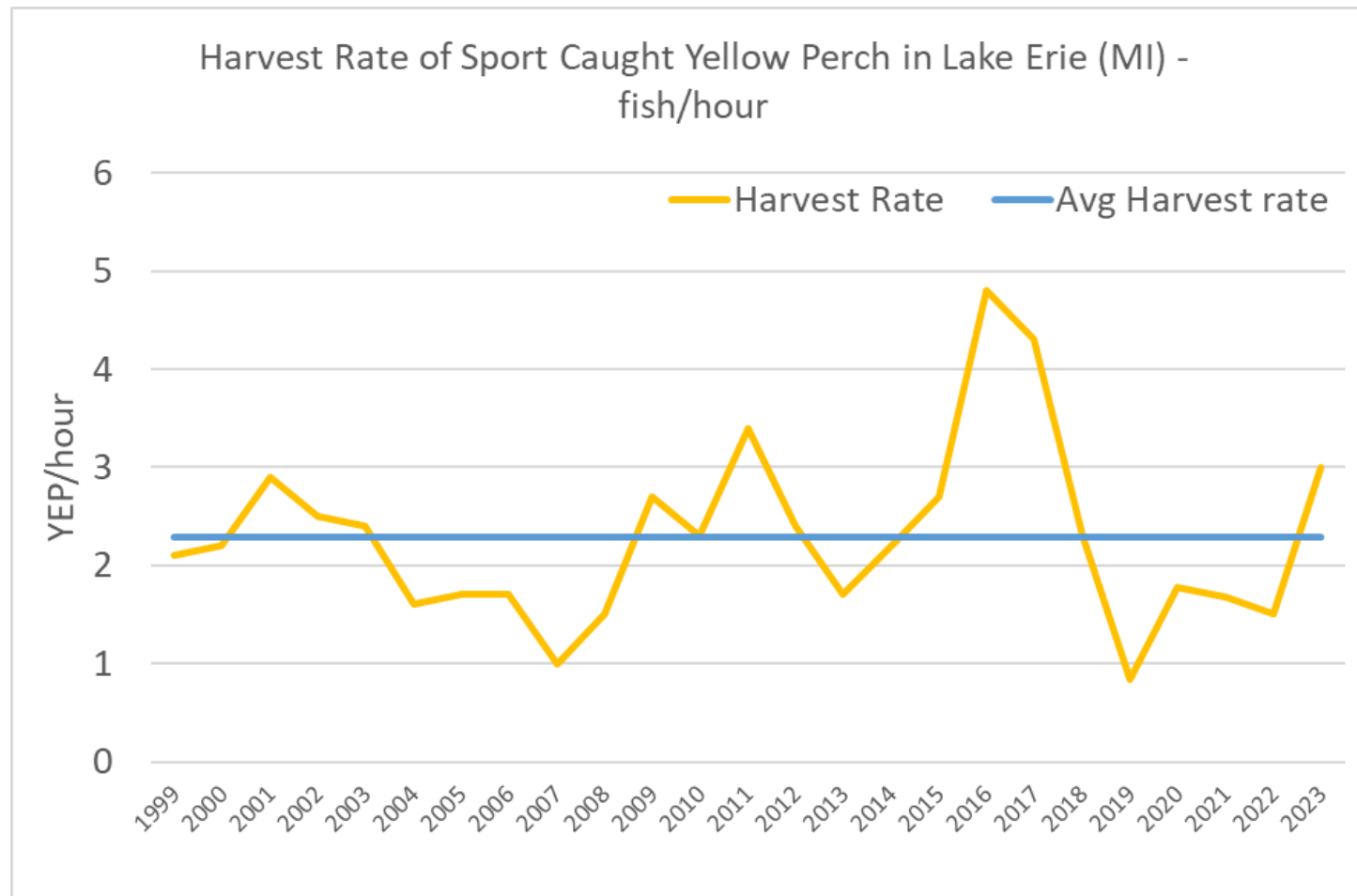


Too much of a good thing . . .

- Walleye growth rates are still good
- Continue to evaluate walleye diets
 - Yellow perch are <10% of walleye diets in summer
 - Yellow perch rarely in diet in fall
- Forage is abundant

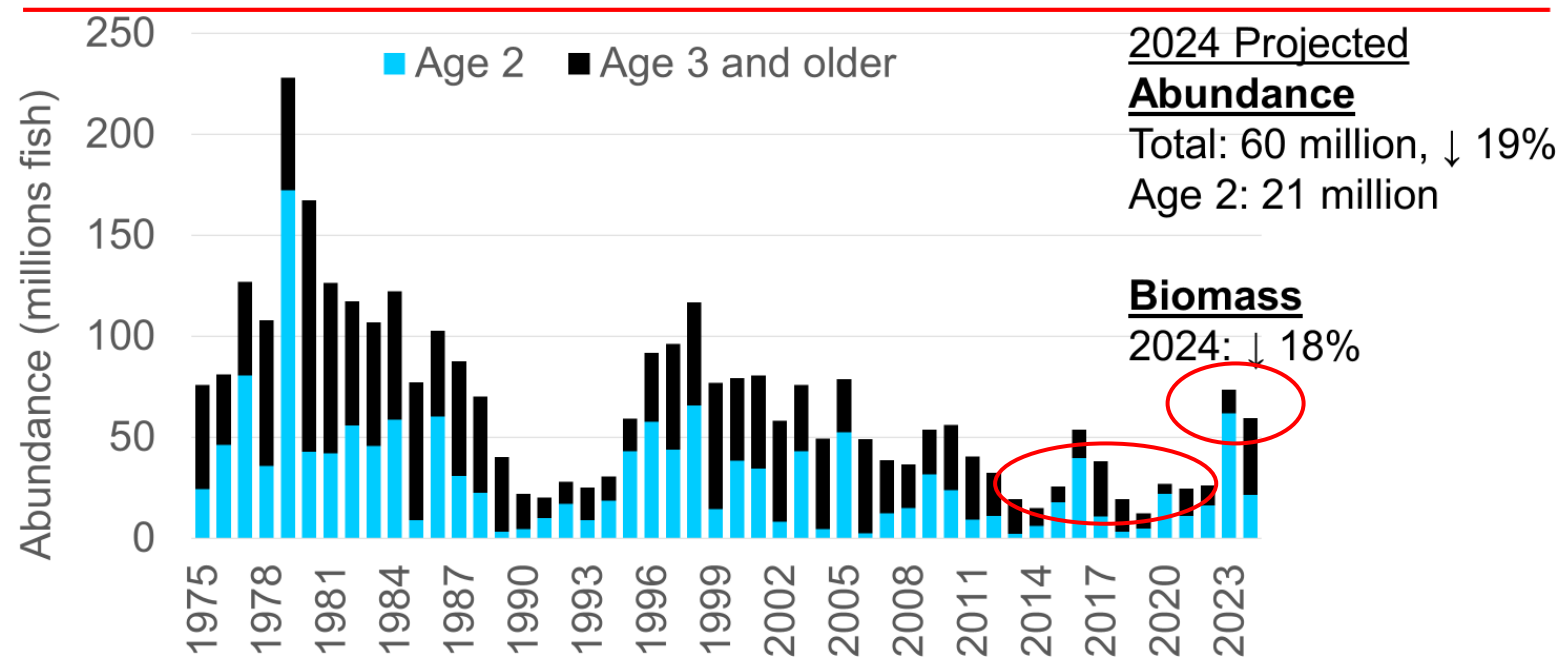


Michigan – Yellow Perch



West Basin – Yellow Perch

Age-2+ Abundance Estimates MU1



Lake Erie Fishery



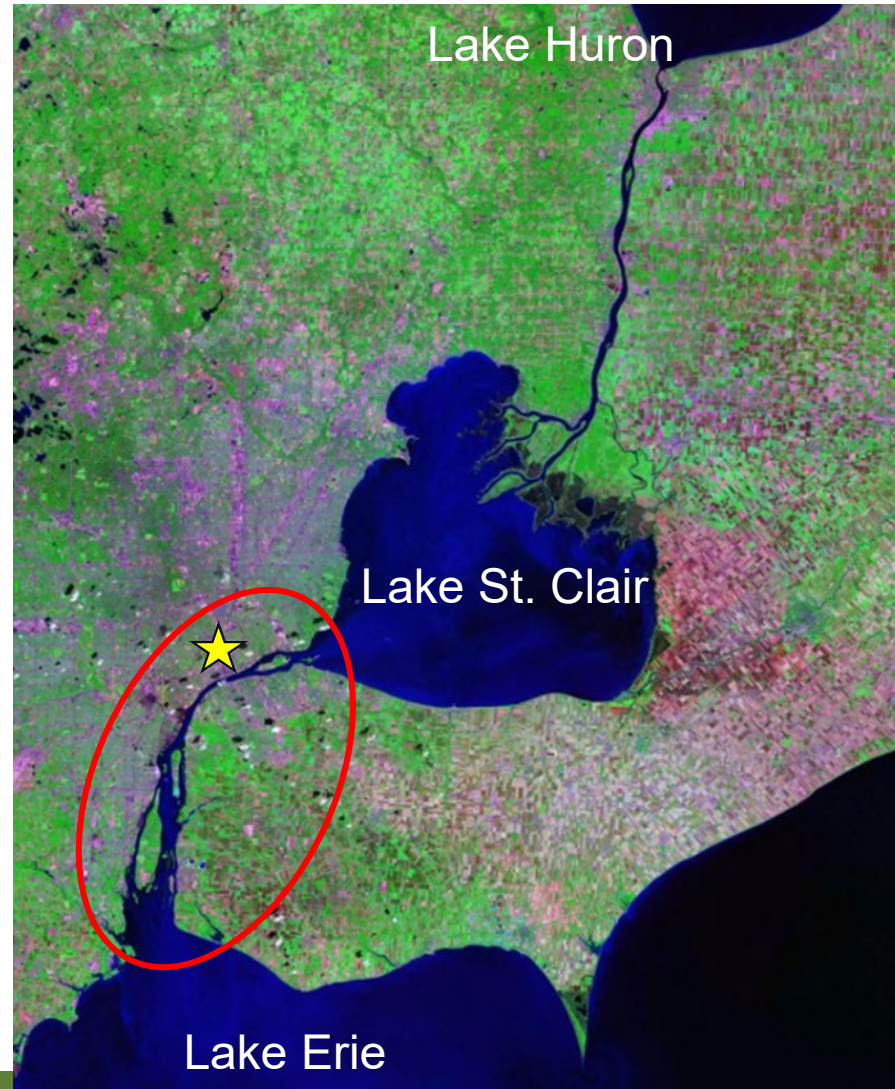
NO STOCKING!



- Good water quality, diverse habitat
- Abundant submerged aquatic vegetation
- Plentiful food resources for small fish
- Sound fisheries management protects spawning populations



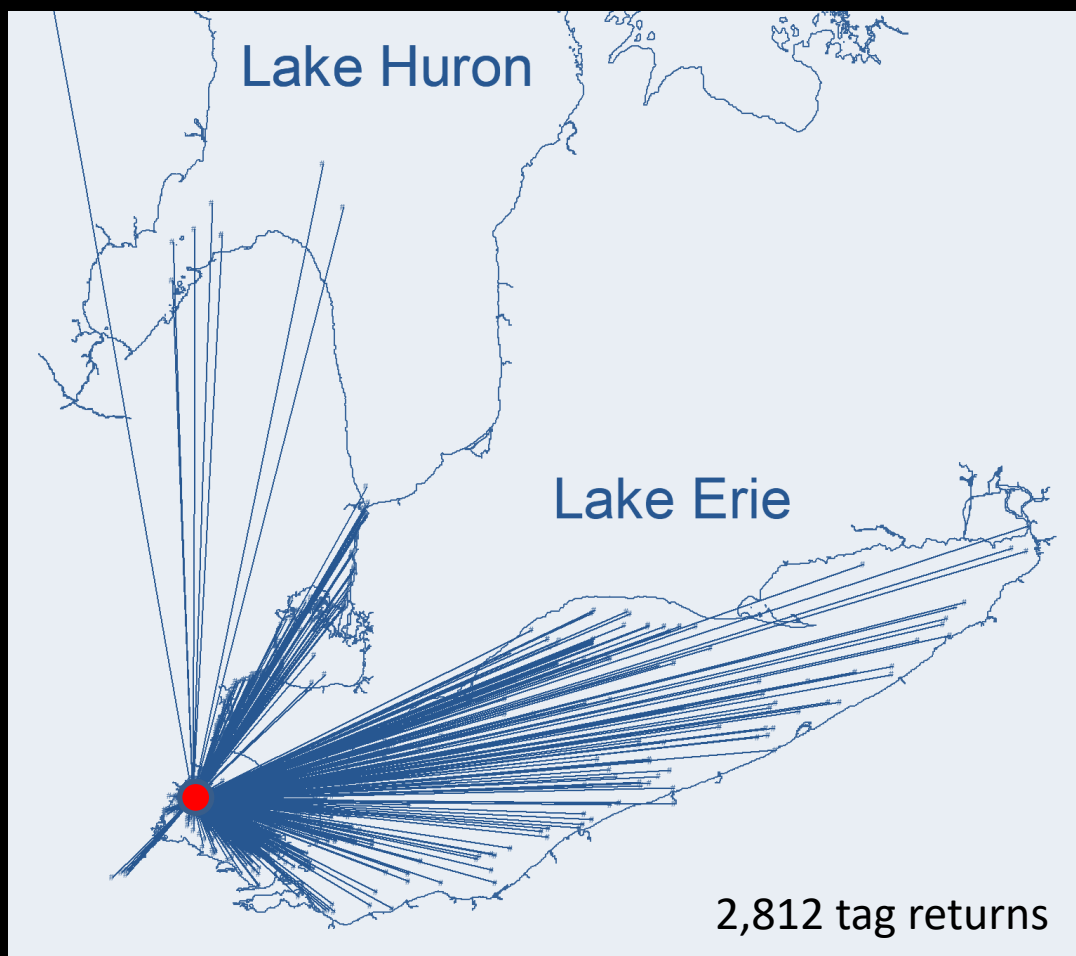
SCDRS – St Clair Detroit River System

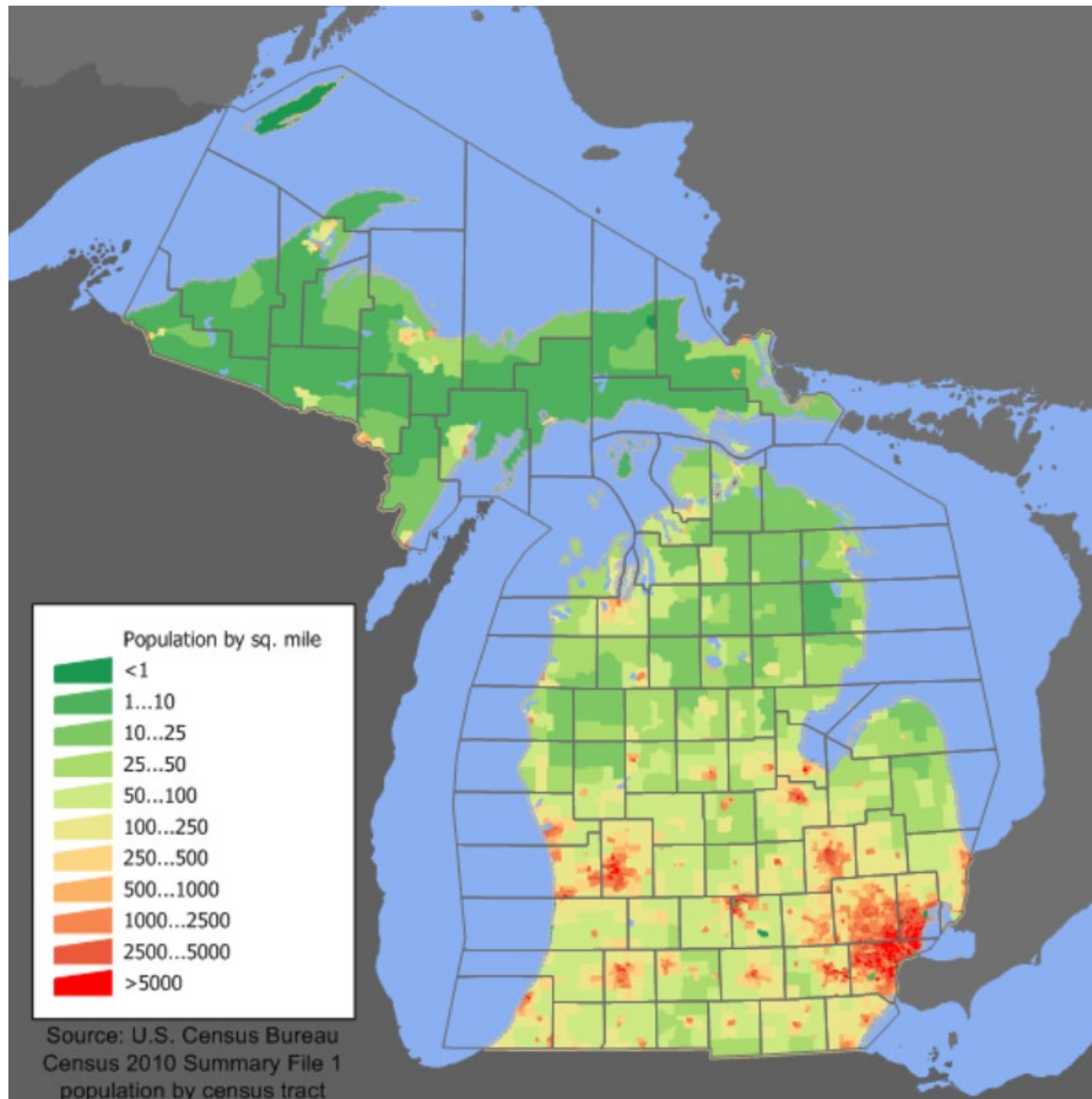


Detroit River Walleye



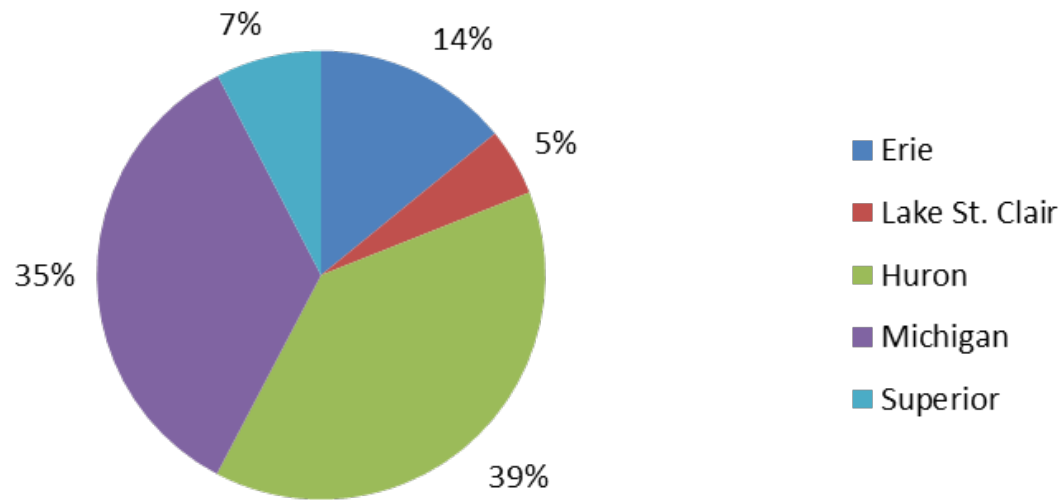
Do Walleye Move Beyond the SCDRS?



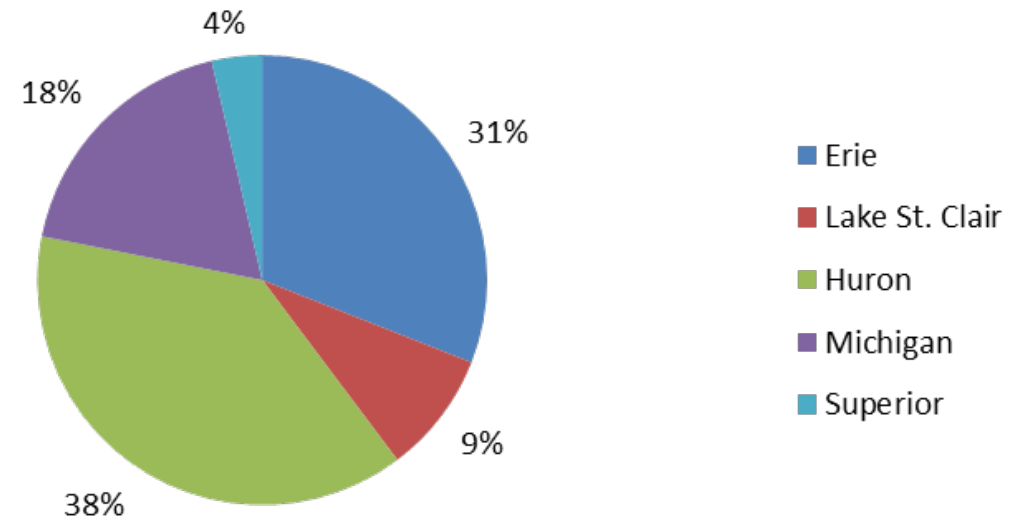


Great Lakes Creel

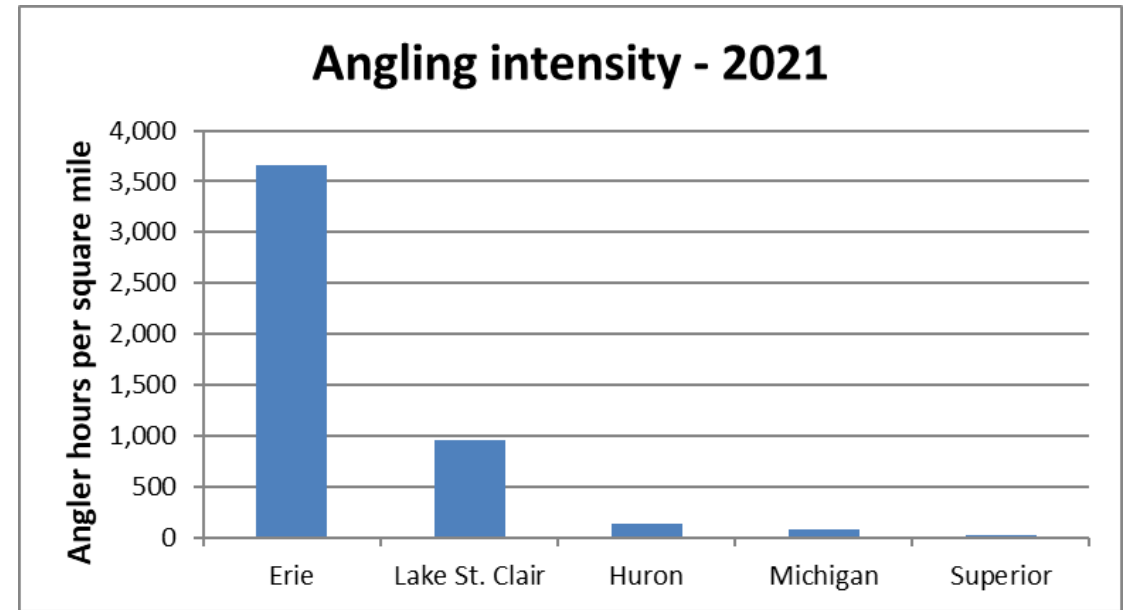
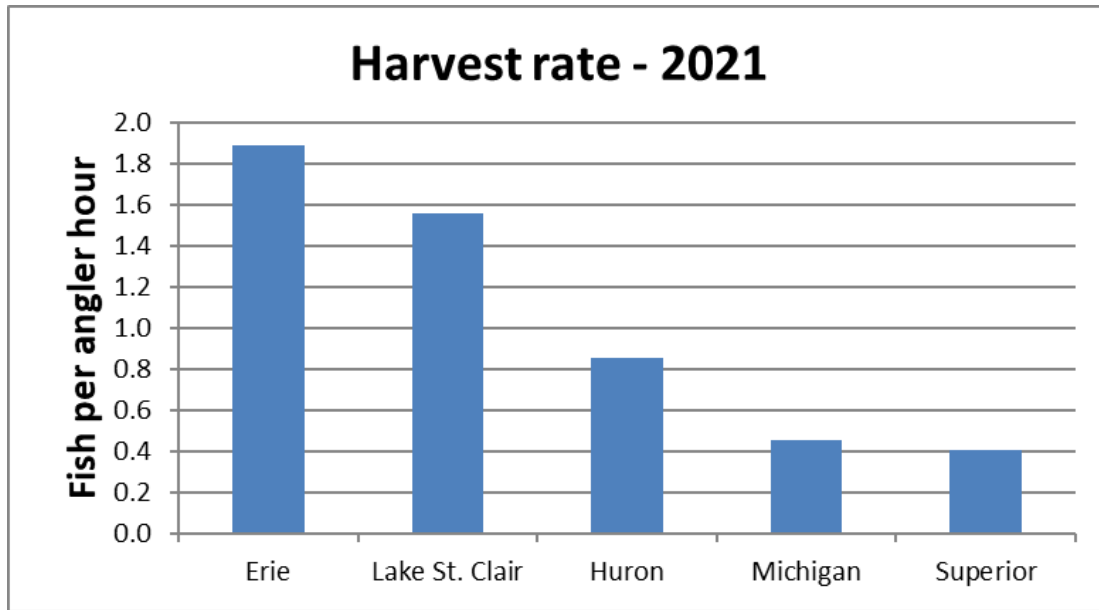
Percent of total angler effort - 2021



Percent of total harvest - 2021



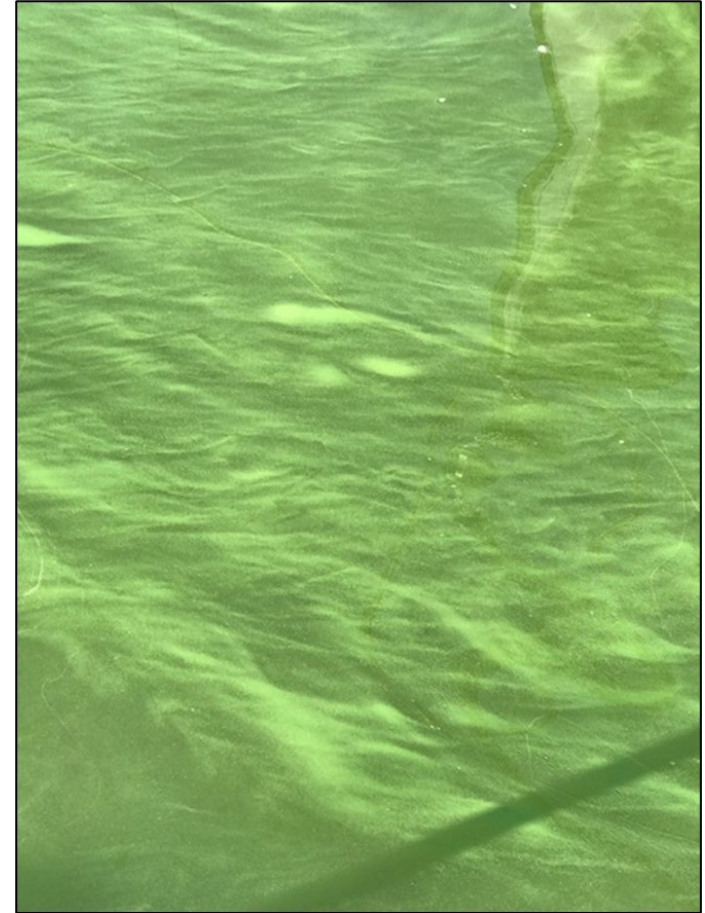
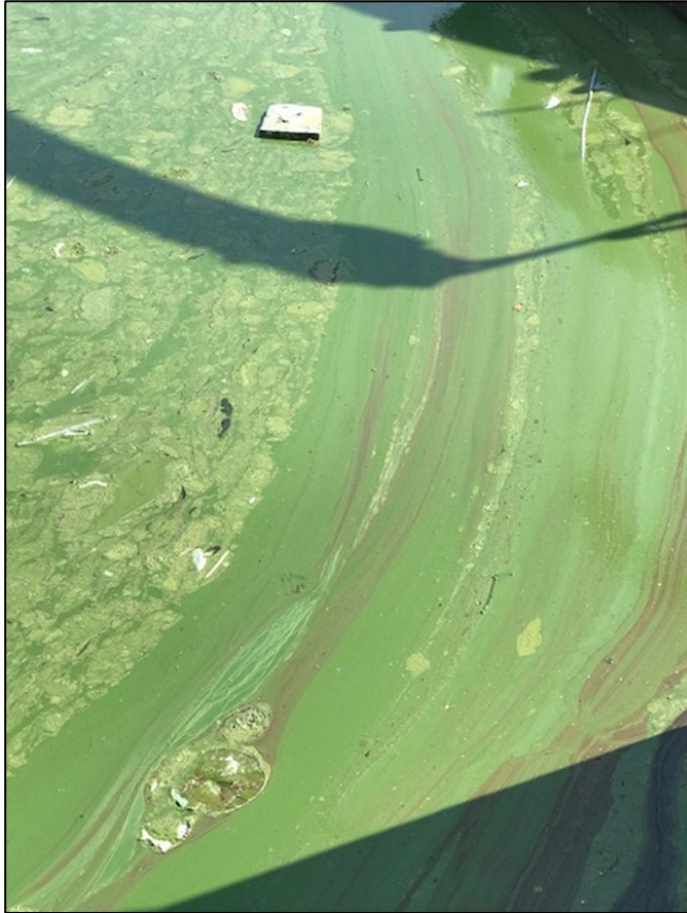
Great Lakes Creel



Limited Access



Harmful Algal Blooms



Harmful Algal Blooms



Great Partnerships



Questions?

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