

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife and Fisheries

September 8, 2016



Proposed Orders

- For Information - NRC
 - Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes, Complex, Schoolcraft County (FO 201.16)
 - Minnow, Wiggler, and Crayfish Regulations for Commercial Purposes and Waters that are Closed to the Personal Take of Minnows (FO 216.16)
 - Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations (FO 219.16)
 - Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians (FO 224.16)
 - Technical Amendment- Use of Suppressors in the Taking of Game (WCO No. 9 of 2016)
- For Information – Director
 - Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County (LUOD No. 10 of 2016)



Proposed Orders

- For Action – Director
 - Order to Regulate the Use of the Otsego Dam Area, Allegan County (LUOD No. 7 of 2016)
 - Order to Restrict the Use of Motorized Vehicles on Specific Hunting Trails in the Cedar River Grouse Enhanced Management System, Garden Grade Grouse Enhanced Management System, and the Melstrand Grouse Enhanced Management System (LUOD No. 9 of 2016)
 - State-Licensed Commercial Fishing (FO 243.16)



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
 - Lake Michigan Salmon Reduction
 - Lake Gogebic Walleye
 - Yellowstone River, Montana
 - Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lake Complex, Schoolcraft County (FO 201)
 - Minnow, Wiggler, and Crayfish Regulations for Commercial Purposes and Waters Closed to Personal Take of Minnows (FO 216)
 - Bow, Spear, Crossbow Fishing Regulations (FO 219)
 - Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians (FO 224)
 - Guidelines for Selection of Quality Non-Trout Fishing Lakes (FO 224)
 - 10-Brook Trout Bag Data Summary



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Wildlife Chief Update
 - Predatory-Prey Study Update
 - Technical Amendment-Use of Suppressors in the Taking of Game (WCO No. 9 of 2016)
 - Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County (LUOD No. 10 of 2016)





Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

September 8, 2016

Lake Michigan Salmon Reduction

- Meetings across the basin to discuss a Chinook stocking reduction
- Propose to reduce stocking by 50%
- 2015 & 2016 alewife classes look good
- Reduce lake trout by 20% in S. Lake Michigan
- Continue to monitor predator/prey relationships and adapt



Lake Gogebic Walleye

- Strong natural recruitment, slow growth, and many fish < 15"
- Experimental regulation allows for two walleyes between 13" – 15" in bag
- Creel survey suggests some positive results
- Future surveys and meetings are planned



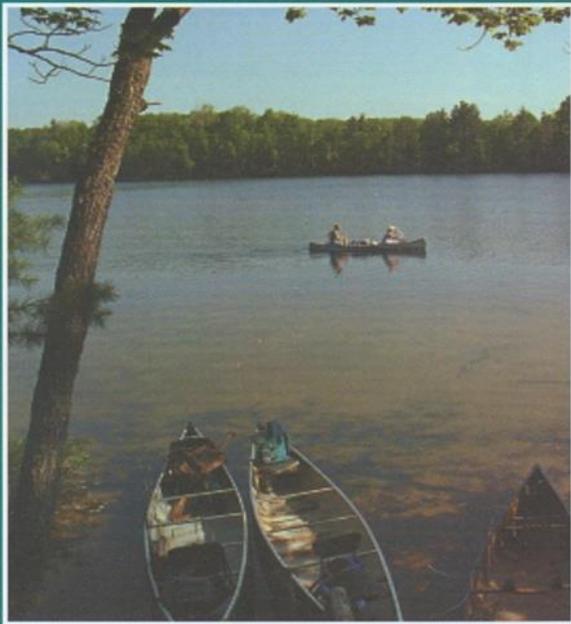
Yellowstone River, Montana

- Invasive parasite has killed thousands of fish
- Regulations in place to limit further spread:
 - ~200 miles closed indefinitely to all activity
 - High river temperature a factor
 - Detections in other western states: WA, ID, OR
- Equipment disinfection is critical



BIG ISLAND LAKE WILDERNESS

Hiawatha National Forest



United States Department of Agriculture

FO 201 – Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lake Complex, Schoolcraft County

- Several lakes have been added to clarify which named waters are regulated under this order
- No regulation changes



FO 216 – Minnow, Wiggler, and Crayfish Regulations for Commercial Purposes and Waters Closed to Personal Take of Minnows

- FO-203, FO-227, FO-231: consolidated into this order – removes redundancy
- Gun Lake (Allegan and Barry Counties) recommended for removal from waters closed to commercial minnow collection

FO 219 – Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations

- Remove Big Bear L. (Otsego Co.) from spearing ban list – former broodstock lake
- Remove Caribou L. (Chippewa Co.) from spearing ban list - former tiger musky lake
- Remove Tower Dam Pond (Designated Trout Stream Open to Pike Spearing category) – no longer managed as trout stream
- Rename the order



FO 224 – Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians

- Adding: mudpuppy, Fowler's toad, pickerel frog, Butler's garter snake, and smooth green snake as protected species



FO 244 – Guidelines for Selection of Quality Non-Trout Fishing Lakes

- Allowing to expire March 31, 2017
- Moving guidelines to Fisheries Division Policy





Questions?

10-Brook Trout Bag Limit Summary

Natural Resources Commission meeting
September, 2016

Ironwood



Upper Peninsula 10 Brook Trout Bag Limit Regulation Study

Study will run during 2013-17 on 11 UP rivers

Treatment rivers with 10 fish bag

Experimental control rivers

Additional rivers chosen for potential expansion of the regulation in 2015

Electrofishing, creel, postcard, and online surveys will be used to obtain both biological and fishing-related information



Going in

- 10-brook trout bag predicted to have minimal effect on populations (based on biology, field and angler surveys, computer simulations)
- Opportunities to harvest more fish predicted to increase angler interest/participation/effort



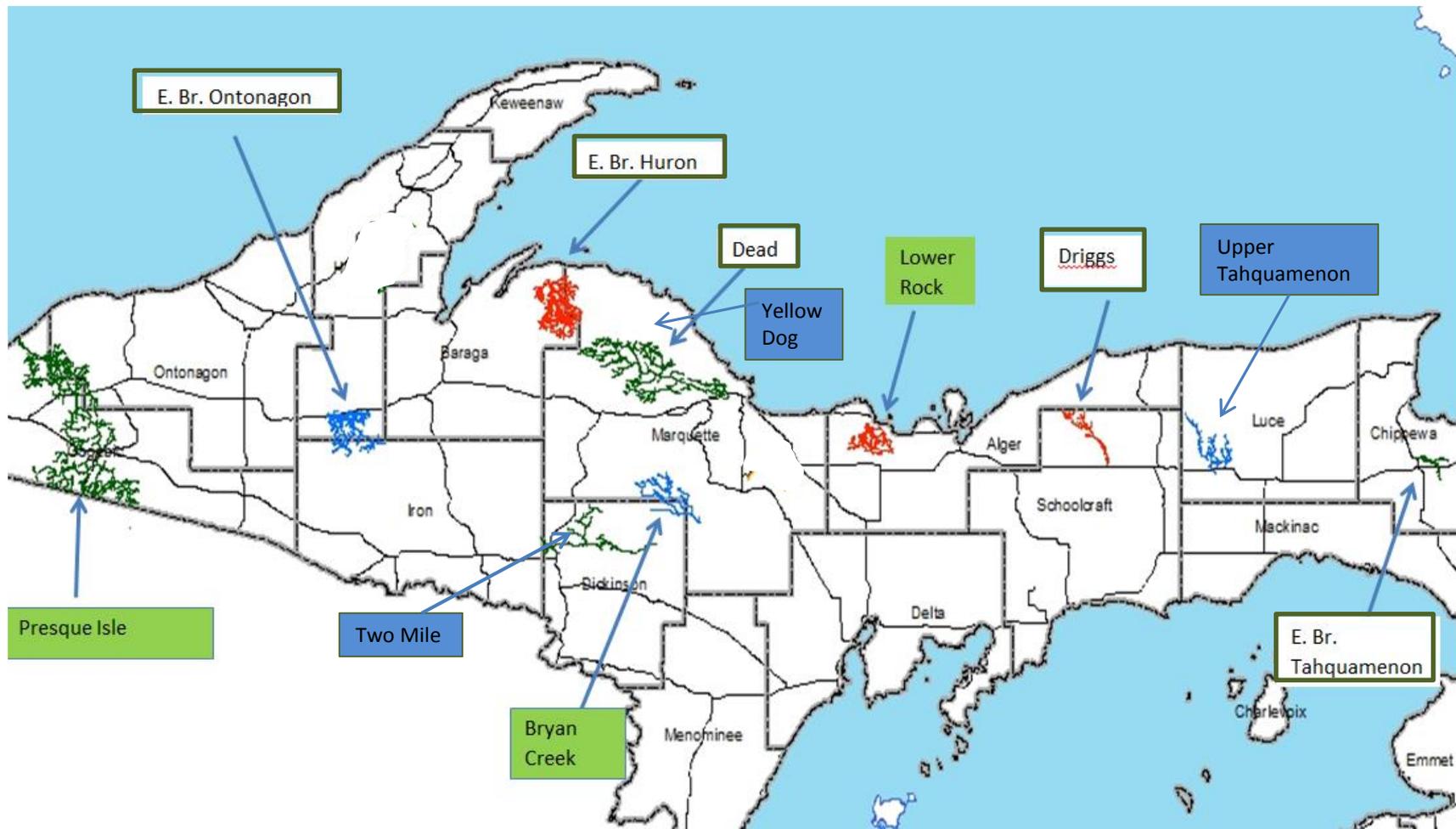


Treatment Map

5 Treatment 2013

3 Treatment 2015

3 Control



Data

Electrofishing

Numbers of legal-sized fish

- Treatment (-58%)
- Control (+47%)

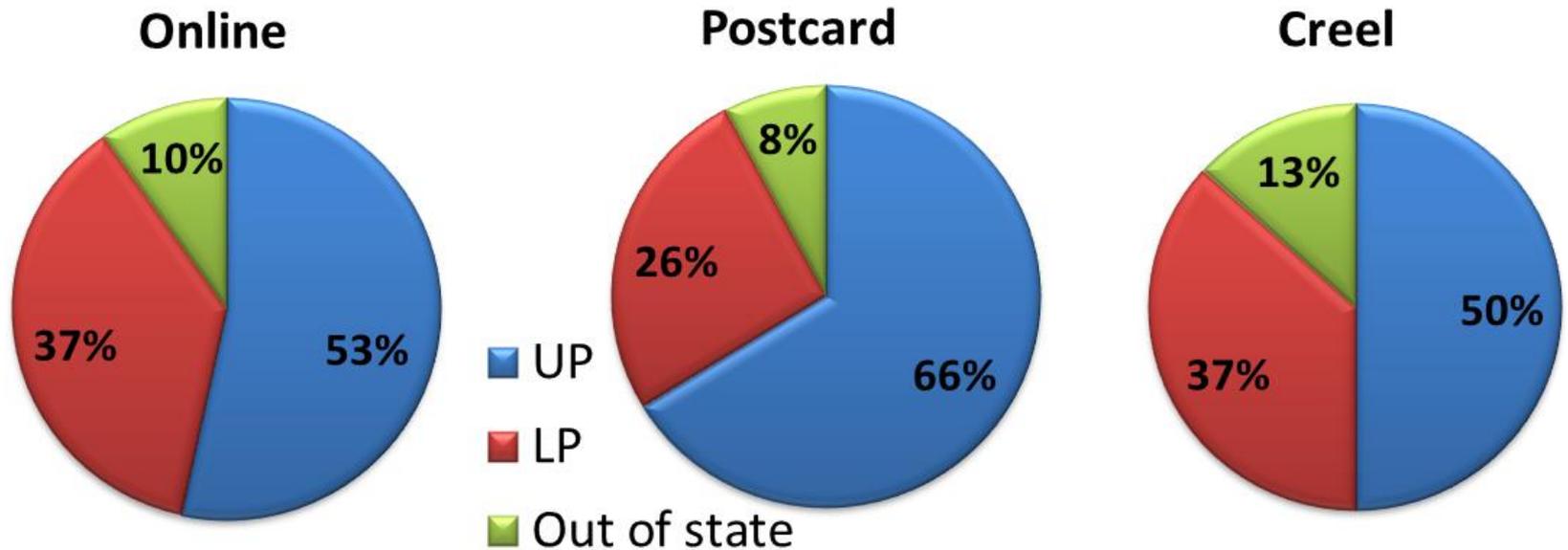
Creel survey estimates

Data from 4 streams (Treatment & Control)

- Local pop. depletion under 10 bag?
- Decreased effort under 10 bag?

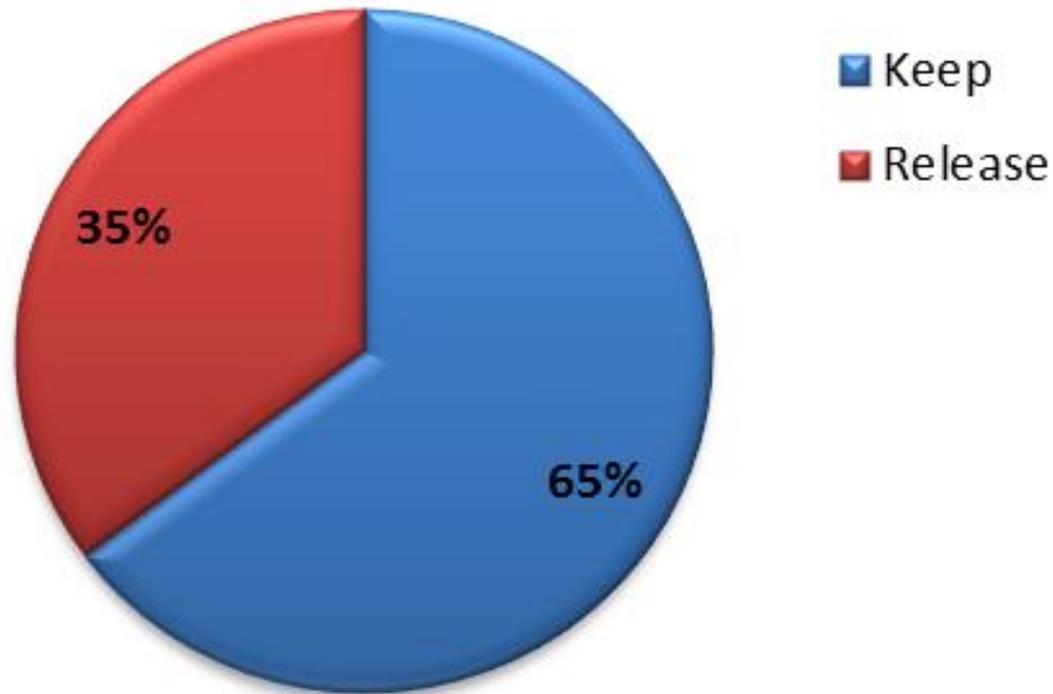


Residence of brook trout survey respondents



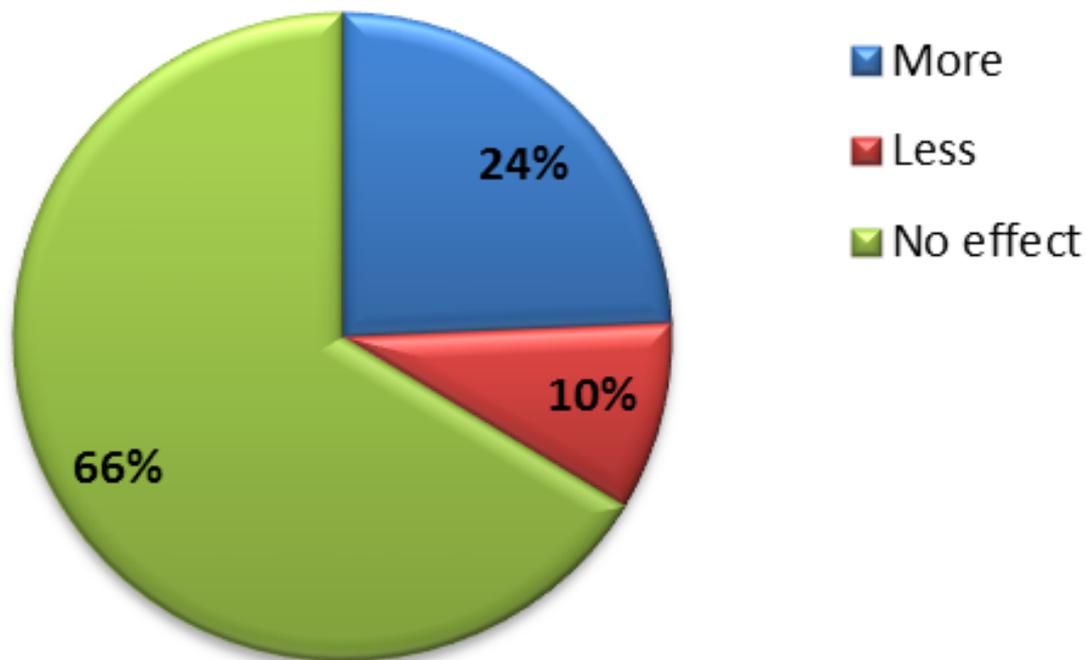
When you catch a legal-sized trout, what do you usually do with them?

N=383



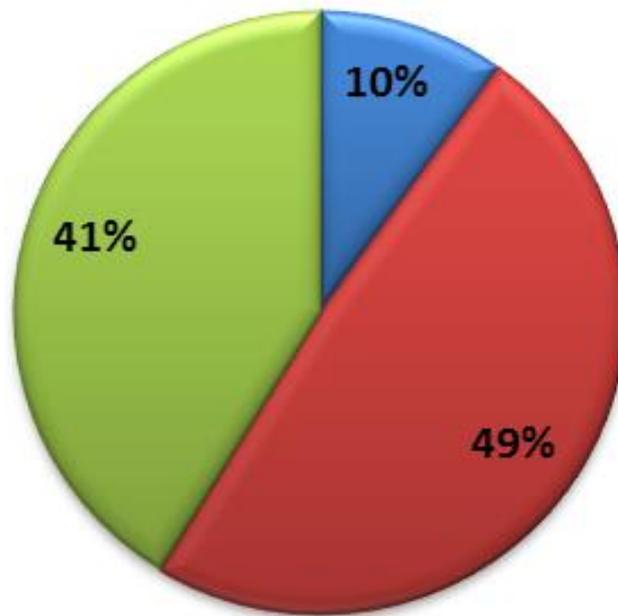
How does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit on a river influence how often you'd fish there?

N=362



In your opinion, how does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit affect a river's brook trout population?

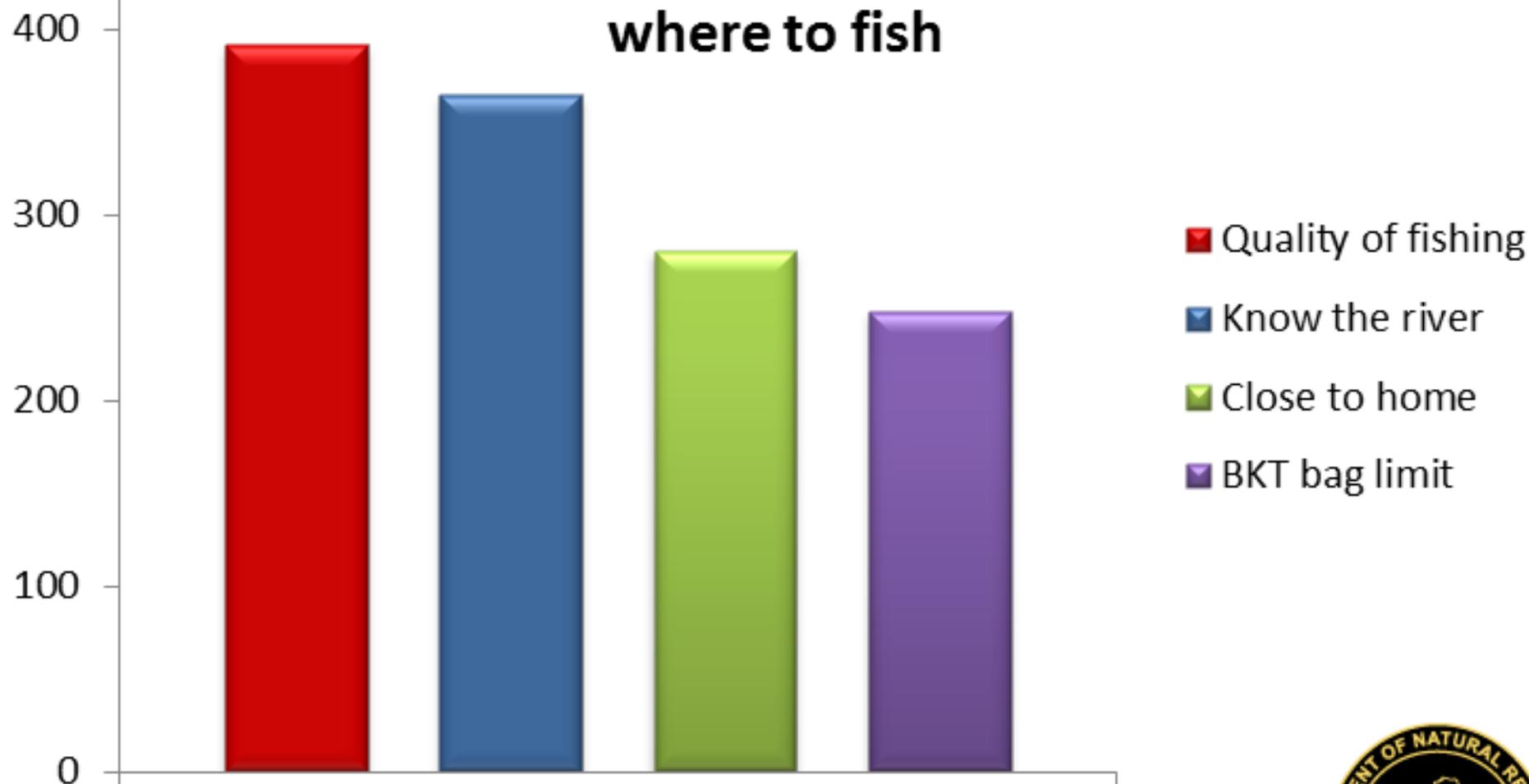
N=383



- Positive
- Negative
- No effect

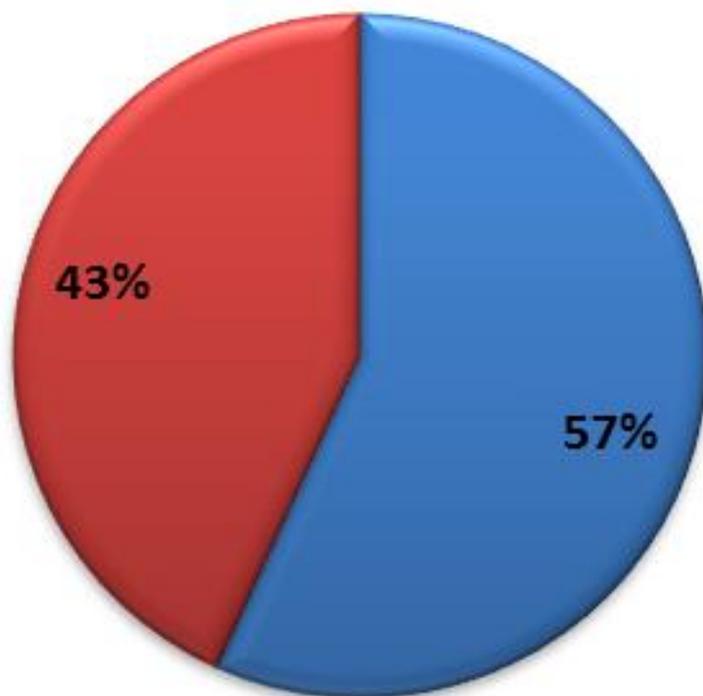


Importance of factors that helped you choose where to fish



Which brook trout bag limit do you personally prefer for all UP rivers?

N=384



■ 5 fish

■ 10 fish



Preliminary indications

Minimal effect on populations?

- UP brook trout populations highly variable
- 10-fish bag has potential to deplete local pops

Increase angler effort?

- Bag limit relatively unimportant to most anglers
- Decreased effort due to 10-fish bag ?
- Majority of anglers prefer 5-fish bag



Thank you

Questions and comments?





Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Chief
Wildlife Division

Wildlife Chief Update

- Elk Season Results (Hunt Period 1)
 - August 31 through September 2
 - 100 state licenses (70 antlerless, 30 any elk), plus 3 Pure Michigan Hunters and 11 Tribal Hunters eligible to hunt during this period
 - Good Weather; Highs in the 70's, Lows in the 40's. No Rain
 - Total of 40 elk were taken; 28 antlerless and 12 bulls



Wildlife Chief Update

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
 - 1 Suspect Positive; 3 year old buck
 - Haslett, MI
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)
 - No Confirmed Cases
- National Wild Turkey Federation contribution to the Glassen Education Building at the Rose Lake Shooting Range



Role of predators, winter weather, and habitat on white-tailed deer fawn survival in Michigan



Safari Club International
Michigan Involvement Committee

Influence of Habitat



- Adult females selected mixed forest types with greater horizontal cover for fawn parturition
- Horizontal hiding cover explained 16% of variation in fawn survival
- Fawn survival was greater in years when more horizontal cover was available (earlier green up linked to earlier snowmelt)

Important Findings for Deer Management (1)

- Preliminary findings influenced harvest recommendations in response to high mortality following severe winters of 2013 and 2014.
- Fawns surviving to age 1 drives population dynamics in low snowfall zone, should be a priority cohort for monitoring*
- Severe winter weather can result in low adult survival, lessens number of deer in older cohorts that produce fawns year after year
- Time-lags should be considered, previous years winter weather has lasting effects on deer survival



Important Findings for Deer Management (2)

- Skewed buck:doe ratios observed during study did not result in reduced doe pregnancy rates
- Reducing coyote density over a large spatial scale is likely not a feasible management strategy
- Fawn predation by coyote may be lessened from large-scale habitat management that provides deer with spatially dispersed forage and hiding cover
- Improving the distribution of early successional forest could help reduce overlap of coyotes and deer

Important Findings for Deer Management (3)

- Myth “removing old aged does is good for the herd”
 - No reproductive senescence observed
 - A long-lived strategy may allow for significant weather events and high fawn loss but introduce stability in fawn production over time
- Population level effects of predators are influenced by kill rates and predator abundance
- Reliance on alternative prey in predator diets (grouse, snowshoe hare) can change the impact on deer predation



Questions?



Winter '08-'09



Summer 2009



Winter '09-'10



Summer 2010



Winter '10-'11



Summer 2011



Fall/Winter 2011



Summer 2012



Winter '12-'13



Summer 2013



Winter '13-'14



Summer 2014



Winter '14-'15



Summer 2015

WCO No. 09 of 2016

- Technical Amendment- Use of Suppressors in the Taking of Game
 - Technical Amendment to remove the silencer prohibition in Section 3.100



LUOD No. 10 of 2016

- Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County
 - The Lapeer Pit is a high-use area where the Department recommends that an individual shall not:
 - Use aerial targets for target shooting.
 - Use clay targets unless the targets are on the ground at the base of a berm.
 - Target shoot in front of concrete barriers.
 - Enter, use, or occupy the area when gates are closed. This does not apply to Department employees and their designees to perform official duties, or to fire, emergency or law enforcement personnel to perform official duties.



Thank You

