

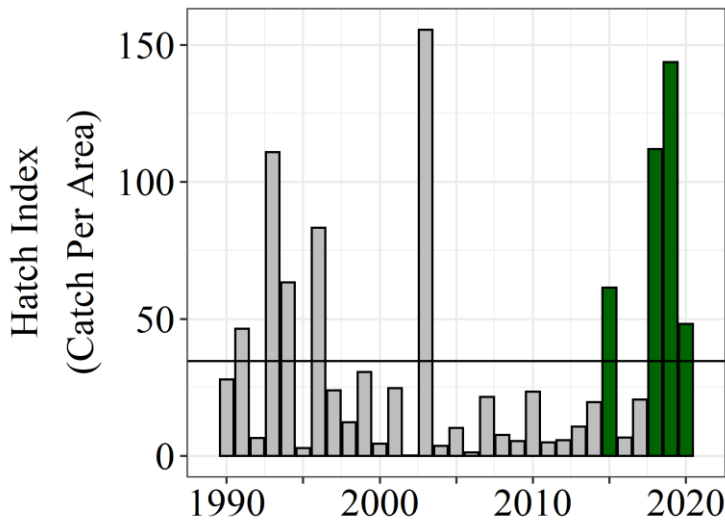
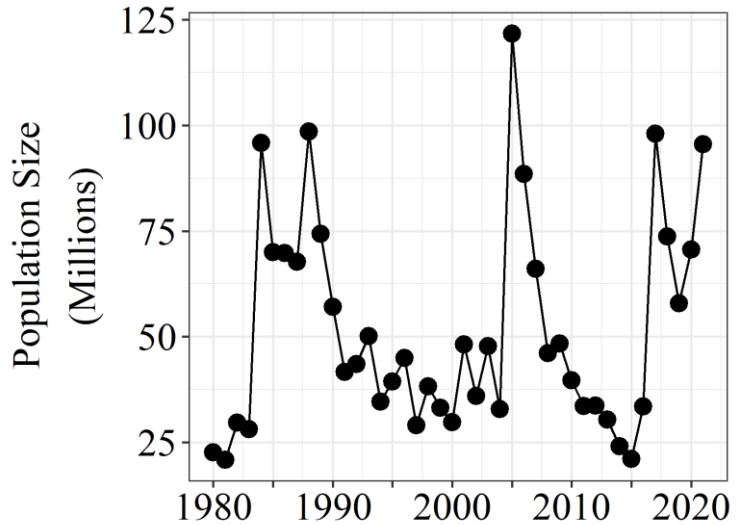


Status of the Lake Erie Walleye Fishery 2021



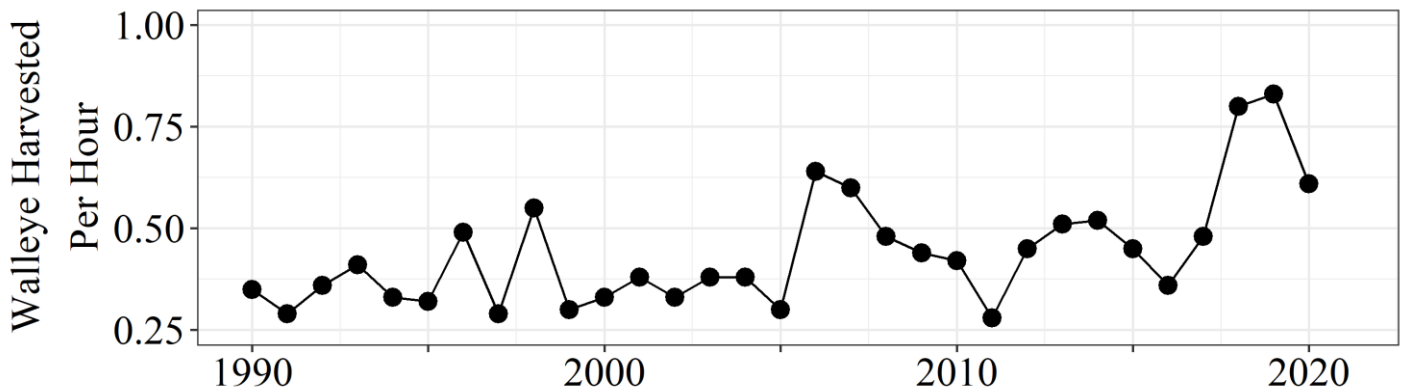
Lake Erie's walleye population is increasing.

- In 2021, 95 million fish are estimated to be age-2 or older. The 2021 estimate varies noticeably from 2020's prediction, but that is expected with large year classes entering the population.
- Despite this variation, the growing population is nearing that of the mid- to late 2000s and late 1980s when Lake Erie became recognized as the Walleye Capital of the World.



The 2020 hatch continues recent successes.

- Four of the past seven walleye hatches have been from above-average to exceptional, including two of the largest hatches ever sampled.
- These successful hatches created strong 2015, 2018, and 2019 year classes that are driving population growth in the current age-2 and older population estimate.



Excellent fishing should continue in 2021 and beyond.

- Most catches will be 15-24" with trophy-sized fish from 2003-2010 year classes.
- In 2020, the number of walleye harvested per hour was the 4th highest on record.