

# Trouble in paradise: long-term trends in the natural production of Wisconsin walleye 

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## Wisconsin Walleye



## It's complicated...



## Walleye recruitment (to age-0) is declining in Wisconsin



## Increasing black bass abundances




Rypel et al. (2016) Fisheries


Bass-Walleye Team = Gretchen Hansen, Steve Carpenter, Dan Isermann, Hadley Boehm, Jereme Gaeta, Daisuke Goto, Jonathan Hansen, Joseph Hennessy, Craig Kelling, John Lyons, Eric Pedersen, Jordan Read, Stephanie Shaw, Andrew Rypel, Greg Sass, Kaitlin Schnell, Tyler Tunney, Jake Vander Zanden



Credit: John Lyons

## The idea of quantifying fish production



Homer Swingle


William Ricker


Amy Rosemond


Ray Hilborn


Mary Freeman


Tom Waters


Google: Production is a process of combining various material inputs and immaterial inputs in order to make something for consumption


## What is production???



Figure 8.6 A generalized Allen curve depicting growth-survivorship for a fish cohort (after Allen 1951; Waters 1977). Production for the time interval is estimated as the area under the curve (shaded), and biomass at any point in time (dark-shaded area) is the product of the number of individuals (or density) and their mean weight.

Fish production - the amount of biomass produced by a fish population during an interval of time.

## Production $=$ Growth $\times$ Biomass

## What do you need to calculate fish production?

1. Sampling area
2. Population estimate
3. Size-structure data
4. Fish growth information (length-at-age)
5. Weight data, or a length-weight relationship


## Walleye production depends on recruitment






Credit: John Lyons

## Wisconsin lakes are getting warmer



Data Credit: North Temperate Lakes LTER


Hansen et al. (2016) Global Change Biology

## What if we remove warmwater bass and sunfish species?



## What if we rehabilitate lake habitats?



FISHSTICRS
Improving lake habitat with woody structure


## What if we stopped harvesting walleye?

Fishing opener means no walleye dinners from the Minocqua Chain of Lakes

BARRY ADAMS badams@madison.com, 6o8-252-6148 Apr 26, 2015 . 0


NEXT UP
POPULA

1 DN
scie
2 Donald Trumpa over his head'

3 Cottage Grove II identified

4 Monroe mourns
5 City of Madison federal lawsuit r

## Some key lessons:

1. Took a long time for these patterns to develop.
2. No silver bullet...multiple drivers.
3. There are many questions that only science can answer.
4. There is likely a way out, but we need collaborations among scientists, managers, policy makes, nations and the public to get it right.


