

An underwater photograph showing a large school of walleye fish swimming in a lake. The water is clear and blue-green. A large, dark log is visible in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The fish are of various sizes and are swimming in different directions. The background shows more fish and the bottom of the lake.

Biological and Social Approaches to Walleye Recruitment Failure on Minocqua Chain, Wisconsin

**John Kubisiak – Supervisor
WDNR Treaty Fisheries Team
Rhineland, Wisconsin**

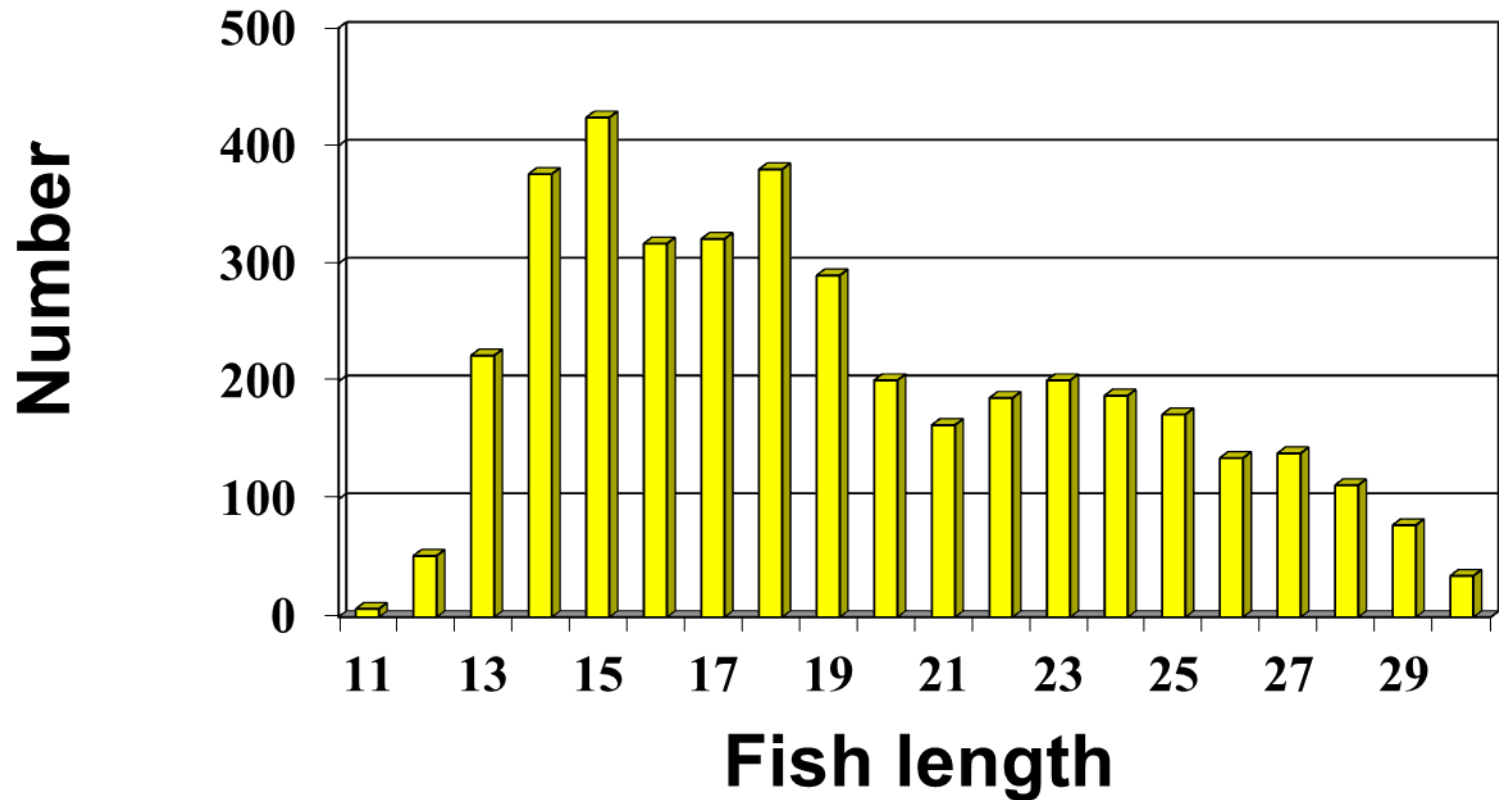






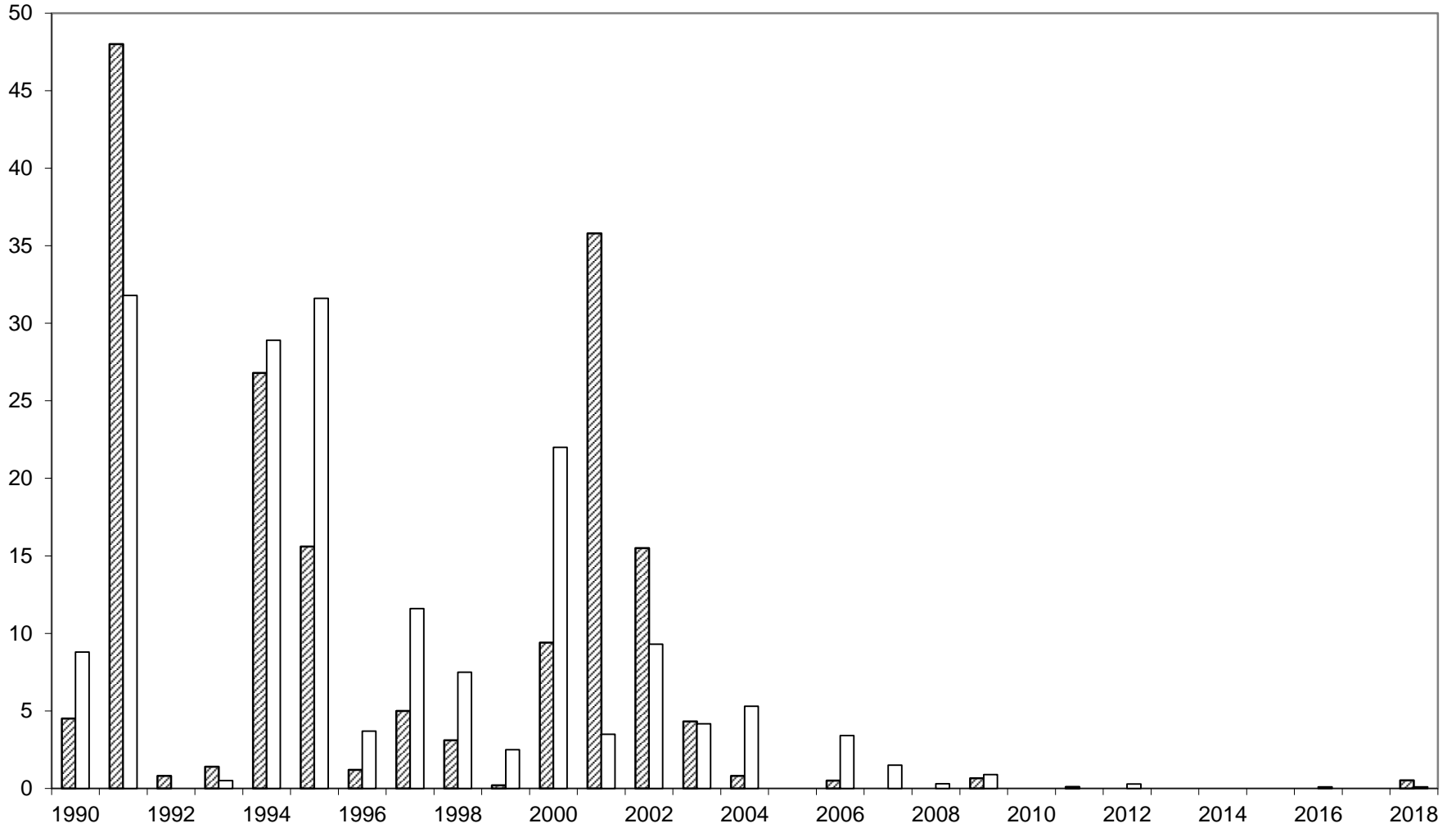
Minocqua Chain

Adult Walleye Length – 2009

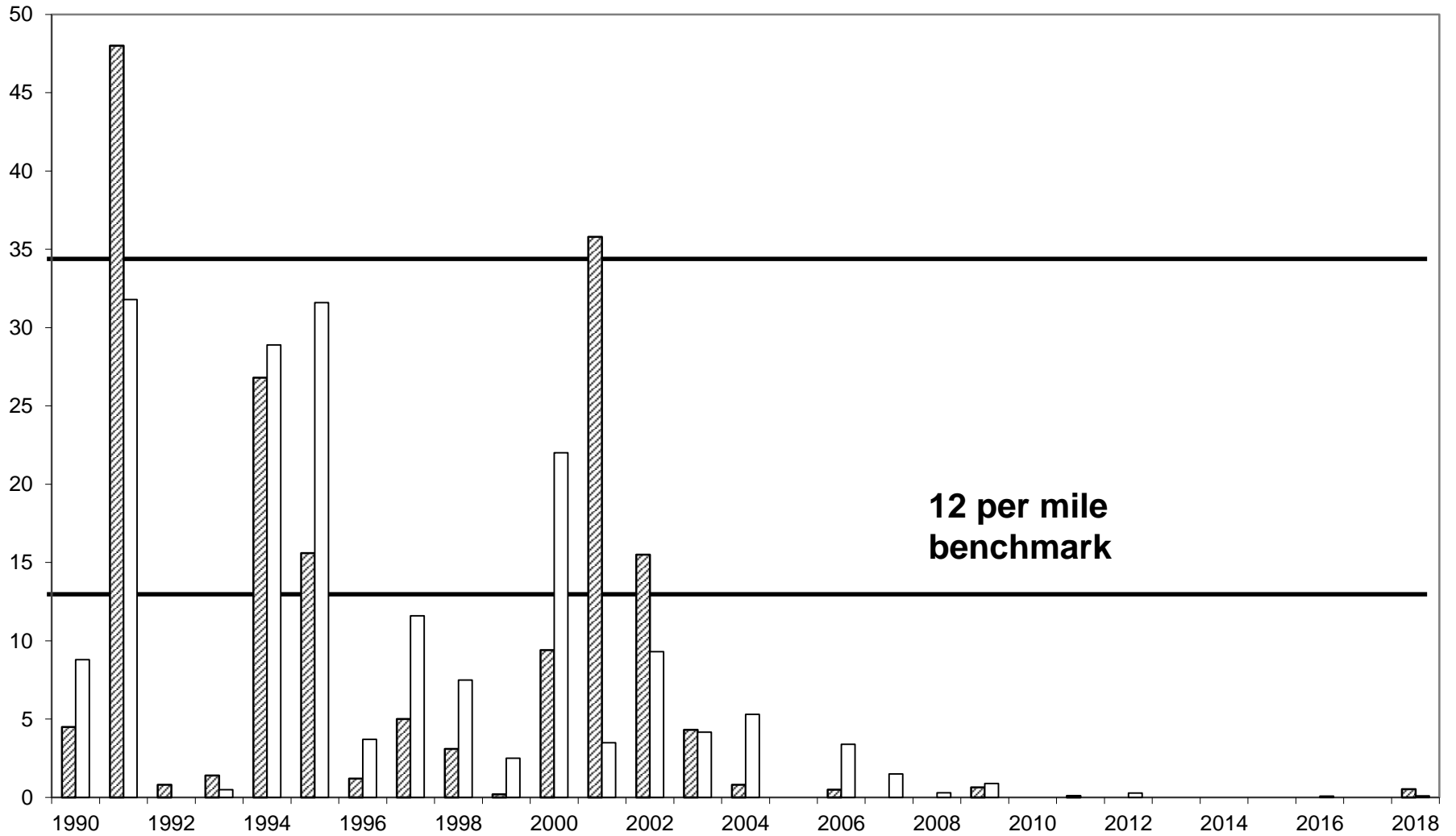




Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Young-of-Year Walleye Surveys



Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Young-of-Year Walleye Surveys

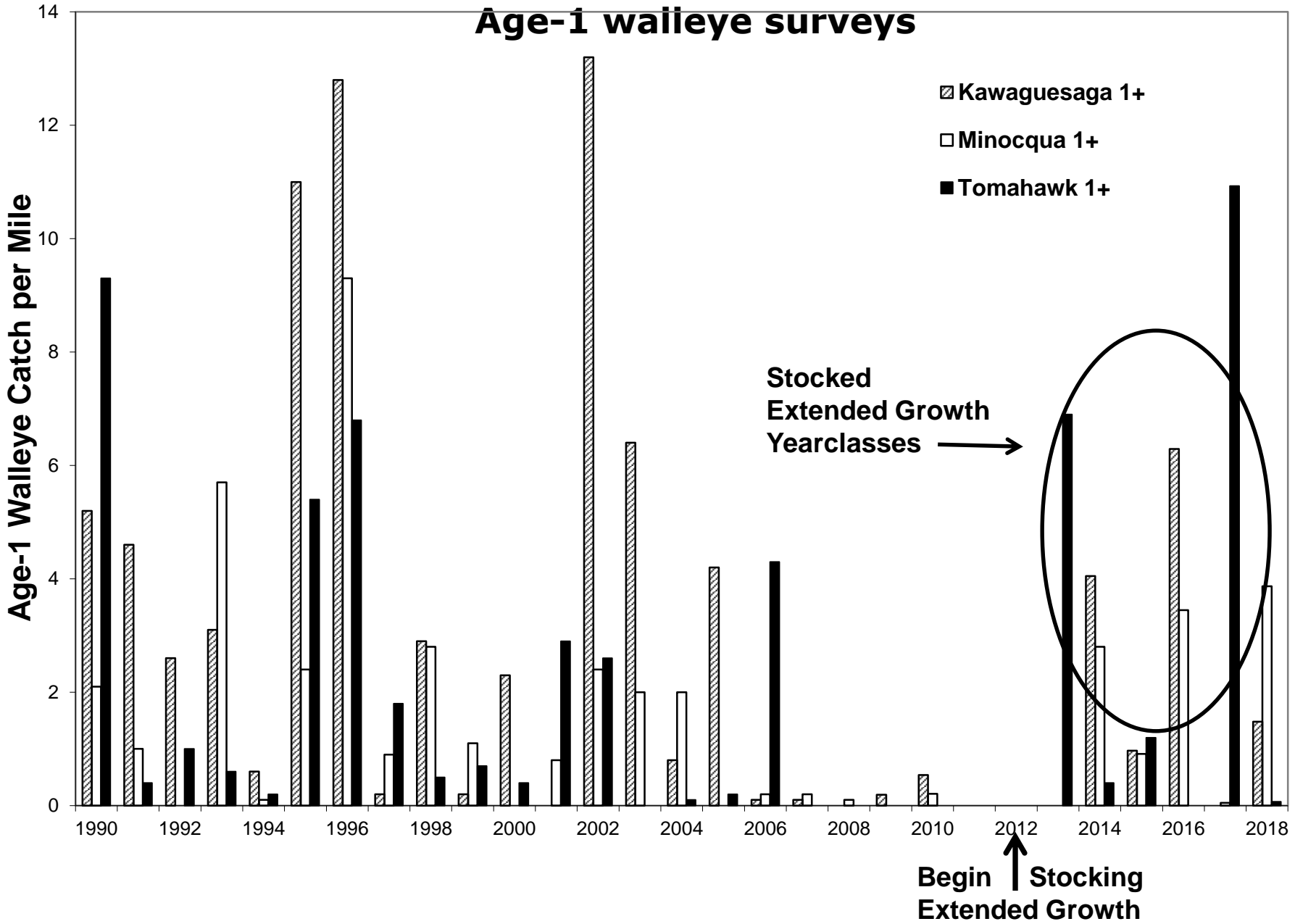


**Extended Growth Walleye
6+”, stocked in fall**



Minocqua Chain

Age-1 walleye surveys



Minocqua Walleye

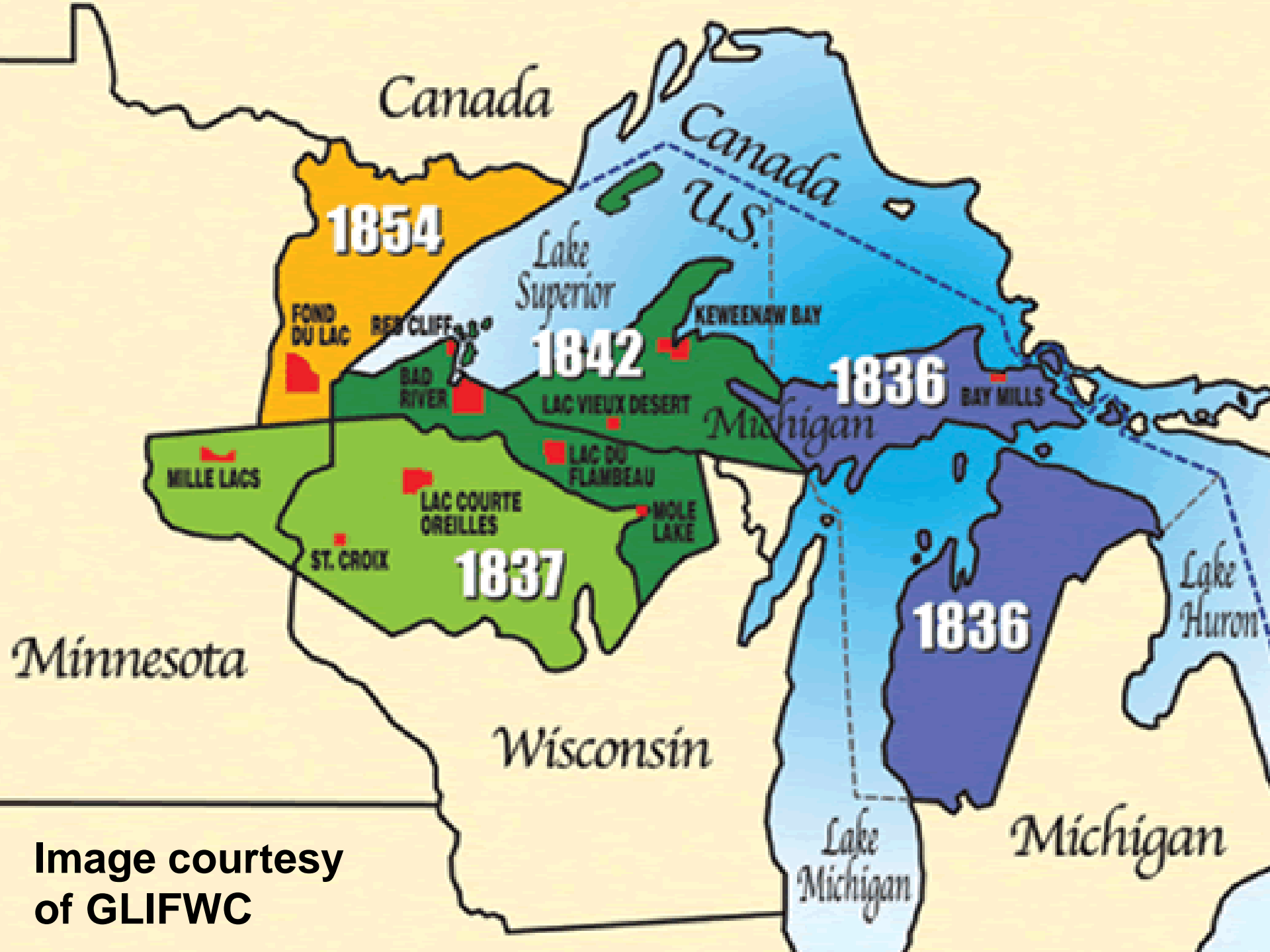
Fish Management Timeline

- 2009 Population Estimates. 1.3 – 3.4/acre, but not much “coming up.”
 - Request extended growth walleye stocking
- 2011 Walleye and Bass rule changes
 - 18” minimum on walleye (formerly 15”)
 - No minimum on bass (formerly 14”)
- 2012 Extended Growth stocking
- 2015 Population Estimates. 0.7 – 1.3/acre.
 - 1st stocked large fingerlings show up.



Minocqua Walleye Public Input

- August 11, 2014 initial meeting
(Walleyes For Tomorrow).
- “Walleye are declining on Minocqua Chain.”
- “Whatever you’ve been doing must be wrong: it is not working.”
- “Tribal Harvest is the cause.”



Canada

Canada
U.S.

1854

FOND DU LAC

RED CLIFF

Lake Superior

Keweenaw Bay

1842

BAD RIVER

LAC VIEUX DESERT

1836

BAY MILLS

Michigan

MILLE LACS

LAC COURTE OREILLES

LAC DU FLAMBEAU

MOLE LAKE

ST. CROIX

1837

1836

Lake Huron

Minnesota

Wisconsin

Lake Michigan

Michigan

Image courtesy of GLIFWC

Minocqua Walleye Public Input

- 08/11/2014 Initial WFT meeting
- 08/23/2014 Minoc-Kawag Association
- Summer/fall, 2014 WFT meets with Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council
- 11/3; 11/17; 12/19. Working Group:
 - Walleyes For Tomorrow
 - Lac du Flambeau tribe
 - Lac du Flambeau - Tribal Natural Resources
 - Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
 - Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Public & Tribal Perceptions

- Without strict rules, anglers and spearers will quickly decimate the population.
- 28" minimum is too much harvest; need C&R
- 3-fish daily bag is 50% more harvest than 2.

Minocqua Walleye Public Input

- Voight Intertribal Task Force approval.
- Natural Resources Board approval.
- Public roll-out, Jan 13 & 22, 2015.



Minocqua Walleye Rule Change

- Winter, 2015 Emergency Rule
- 5 years no harvest (2015-19)
 - C&R for anglers
 - No tribal harvest of walleye
- 5 years limited harvest (2020-24)
 - 18" min, 2-fish daily bag
 - Spearing quotas under the stocked model (unless population estimate is lower)

Take-homes

- Define problems before solutions.
- This is **NOT** an efficient model.
- There are always **BIG** personalities involved.
- Coloring outside the lines is allowed.
- Public buy-in for management actions.

Aaron Cole
Lake Tomahawk
12.5" walleye
August 14, 2017





Aaron Cole
Lake Tomahawk
12.5 & 17.7" walleye
August 14, 2017



