

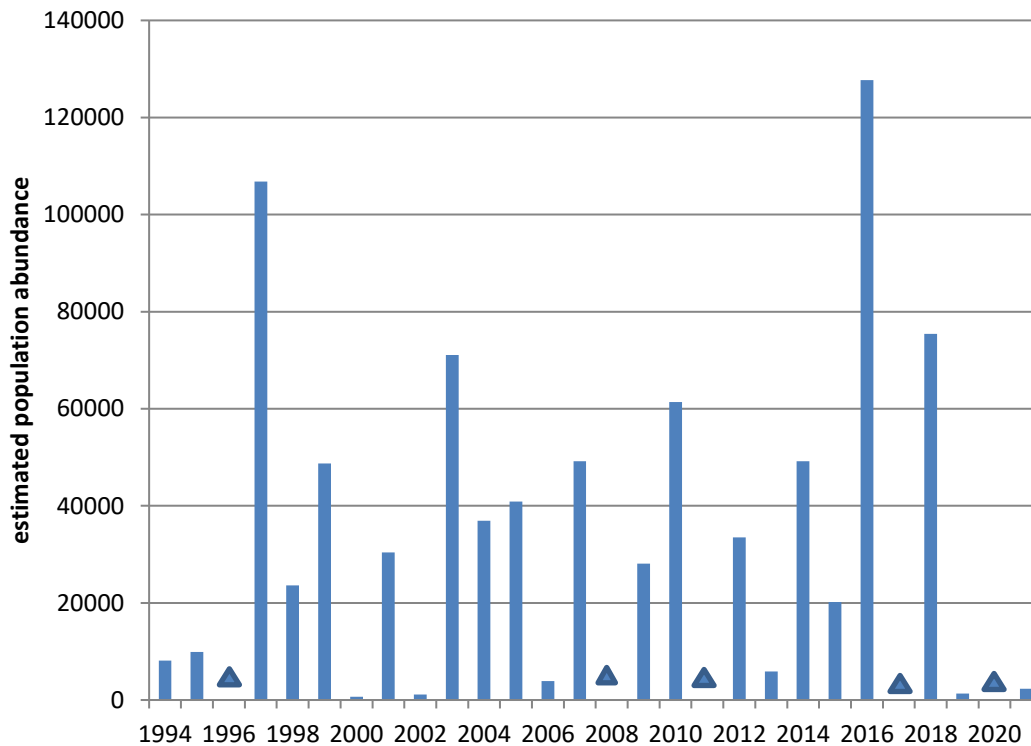
# Whitney Point Reservoir Percid Monitoring (Survey #:721030)

Emily Zollweg-Horan, Region 7 Fisheries

5/25/2022

Whitney Point Reservoir, located on the Otselic River in Broome County, is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project. Besides being used for flood control, and occasionally to augment river flows during drought, Whitney Point Reservoir offers great recreational opportunities. Dorchester Park, operated by Broome County, is located at the southeast end of the reservoir and offers picnicking, swimming, shoreline fishing and boat rentals. DEC maintains a hard surface ramp in the park as well as a gravel launch at the north end of the reservoir near the Upper Lisle bridge. Numerous informal access points exist along Kiebel Road on the west side of the reservoir. Whitney Point Reservoir supports a diverse warmwater fish community dominated by walleye and crappie, but with significant fishable populations of sunfish, bullheads, catfish, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Management concerns range from periodic flooding or drying of nearshore habitat, to invasive species both aquatic and riparian. Over the past two decades the reservoir fish community has shifted from one dominated by white crappie to one dominated by walleye.

This survey, conducted to estimate young-of-year walleye abundance, is part of our long-term data set for Whitney Point Reservoir which includes biennial summer gill netting and trap netting, and annual fall walleye electrofishing surveys. This survey is the fall electrofishing for 2021. All four standard sites were surveyed on October 5 and 6, 2021 for a total of 3.75 miles of shoreline. A total of 269 walleye were captured. As a summary, 31 fish (11.5% of the catch) were young-of-year walleye (5.8 to 8 inches) and 10 fish (3.7% of the catch) were of legal size (18 inches or larger). Searns' (1982) formula for estimating population sizes gives an estimated 2,300 young-of-year walleye present in the reservoir. This is a very low estimated abundance given the history of sampling in this reservoir (most years since 1994). Surveys were not conducted in the years indicated by triangles below.



There are legal walleye available to be caught in Whitney Point Reservoir, but recruitment seems to be variable with occasional very high years, such as 2016.

**Literature Cited**

Serns, S. L. 1982. Relationship of walleye fingerling density and electrofishing catch per effort in northern Wisconsin lakes. *N. American Journal Fisheries Management* 2:38-44.