



Northern Pike Management in Prairie Lake: Where should we go from here?

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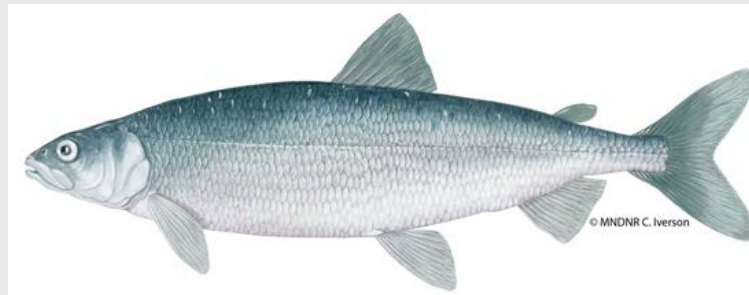
- Why Prairie Lake?
- Timeline
- History of Prairie Lake Northern Pike population dynamics
- The 30” minimum – Has it worked?
- Proposals for moving forward
- Discussion
- Vote



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Potential to support large Northern Pike

- Low density pike population present in Prairie Lake
- Presence of high quality forage (Cisco)



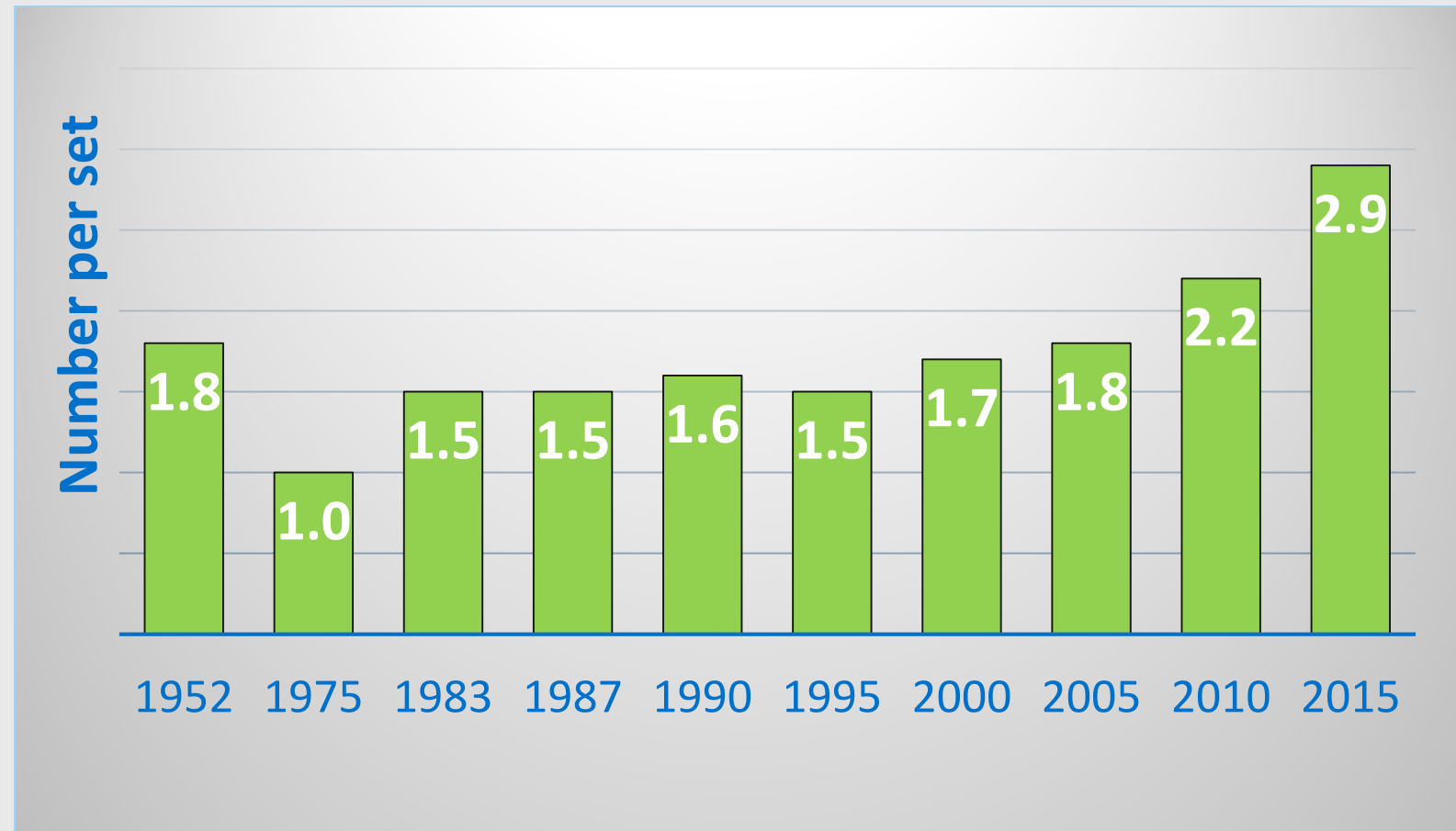
Mid-90's	Statewide decline in pike size structure documented
Late-90's	Pressure builds to address pike abundance/size issues
2001	Proposal for statewide 24-36 PSL (failed)
2002	Pike "toolbox" regulations developed (3 options) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24"-36" PSL; 30" minimum; 40" minimum
2003	New special pike regulations implemented on about 56 lakes statewide, including Prairie (30" minimum)
2018	Evaluation of existing special regulations statewide
2019	Public input
2020	Implementation

2018 Statewide Evaluation – Tentative Results

Tentative action:	Number of lakes
Drop Regulation for new Zone Reg.	10
Retain Existing Regulation	69
Modify Regulation	5
Total Reviewed	84

Prairie Lake Pike Catch Rates

- Modest increases
- Historically very low abundance
- Record high (2015) still below average for lake class.



What's a Lake Class?

- A way to categorize lakes based on physical, chemical, and biological characteristics:

Max depth	Lake Area	Median depth	Percent littoral
Shoreline length	Fetch	Water clarity	pH
Total PO ₄	Total N	Fish community	Vegetation

- 44 Lake Classes statewide
- Prairie has been assigned to Lake Class 5

Lake Class 5



Abbr	Species	Total Fish	Number Per Set	Quartiles for Lake Class 5*		
				25%	50%	75%
NOP	Northern Pike	35	2.92	1.77	3.18	5.50

- 2.92 for 2015 below the average Lake class 5 of 3.18

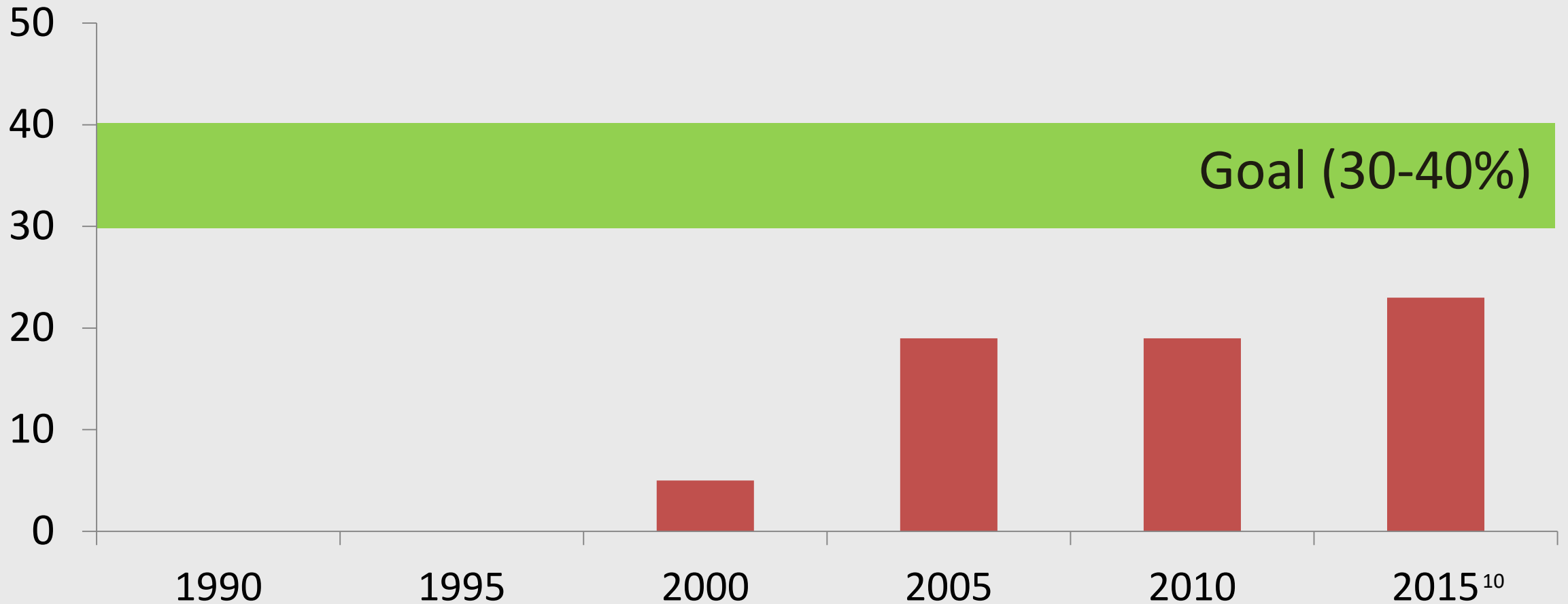
The 30" Minimum – Goals

Improve size structure of Northern Pike

- Attain adult population size structure whereby 30-40% of the (DNR gillnet) catch exceeds 28" in length

The 30" Minimum – Has it worked?

Density of Pike exceeding 28"



Option 1- Retain existing regulation

Retain existing regulation:

- 30" minimum; bag limit 1



Option 1 – Retain existing 30” minimum regulation

Potential Benefits:

- Preserves increases in size structure gained since 2003

Potential Drawbacks:

- Current regulation may be overly restrictive and result in additional increases in pike abundance
- Very few opportunities to harvest pike

Option 2 – Central MN Zone Regulation

- 10 fish, not more than two over 26"
- All 22"-26" must be released



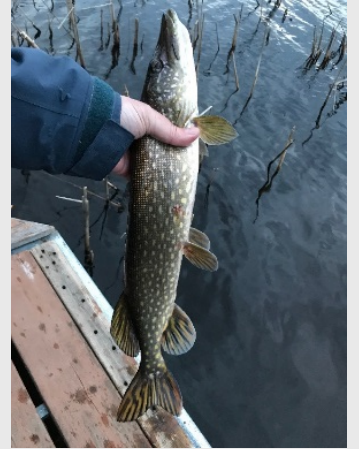
Option 2 – Central MN Zone Regulation

Potential Benefits:

- Allows very liberal angler harvest
- Large bag limit

Potential Drawbacks:

- May be unsustainable harvest for a lake with historically low abundance and low recruitment
- Size structure improvements gained with 30" min lost
- Anglers will rarely catch 10 due to low abundance



Option 3 – New Protected Slot Limit (PSL)

New protected slot limit (PSL):

- PSL 24”-36” with one fish over 36”; bag limit 3



Option 3 – New Protected Slot Limit (PSL)

Potential Benefits:

- Conservative approach that allows significantly more harvest opportunities
 - Allows limited harvest of trophy pike (> 36”)
- Will sustain (and may accelerate) pike size structure improvements

Potential Drawbacks:

- Not as liberal of harvest as Zone Regulation

Thank You!

Any questions/comments?

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Please Provide Input For Your Preferred Northern Pike Regulation

Option 1

Retain existing regulation:

- 1 fish bag, 30" minimum

Option 2

Central MN Zone Regulation:

- 10 fish bag, not more than two over 26"
- All 22"-26" must be released

Option 3

New protected slot limit (PSL):

- 3 fish bag, PSL 24"-36" with one fish over 36"



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