

## Agenda

Minnesota 1837 Fisheries Committee  
October 27, 2020, 9:00am  
Zoom

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Agenda approval
3. Harvest update
  - a. State – Combined with Item 4a - presentation
  - b. Bands – Reviewed harvest totals to date for 2020.
4. Fall Assessment: Preliminary Results for Walleye
  - a. State GN/EF/Forage results – MNDNR reviewed harvest, gill net, electrofishing, and forage netting results from 2020. Overall, the walleye population appeared to be fairly stable when compared to the last few years. Electrofishing catch rates were moderate even with only one dipper allowed on the front of the boat due to COVID restrictions. Forage net catch rates were the highest observed in the time series for YOY yellow perch. These catch rates were influenced by exceptional catches in some of the shallow water sets.
  - b. Bands EF results – Tribal electrofishing covered much less of the shoreline than usual due to COVID restrictions, and an attempt to simplify the electrofishing survey going forward. Adam R. did some analysis to help choose smaller segments, and will forward a copy for MNDNR to review.
5. Initial discussions on status of the 2020 Walleye fishery
  - a. 52 net summary
    - i. Spawning Stock- The catch per net lift was 19.4 lbs of mature walleye for the 52 nets.
    - ii. Condition- Walleye condition was below average as it has been in the last few years.
    - iii. Incoming Recruitment- the 2017 year-class appears to be at least average, and will start recruiting to the adult population in 2021.
6. Modeling Subgroup Update:
  - a. Update on development of new walleye harvest strategy plan – The modeling subgroup presented a summary on the work towards developing a walleye harvest strategy.

Overall, the larger group expressed some hesitancy about proceeding with a plan that emphasizes fishery goals, and uses simulations to determine whether the population outcomes are acceptable. The Bands noted that they do not want to be bound by results of successfully modeled scenarios, but were willing to proceed with the analysis.

7. Tullibee Assessment and Management Options – GLIFWC provided a surplus production model report for tullibee on Mille Lacs. Bmsy and MSY were highly variable depending on assumptions of sport netting. Using either model, current biomass was estimated fairly close to Bmsy. John H. expressed an interest in protecting tullibee populations rather than harvesting them. GLIFWC noted that the models indicate noticeable impacts to population growth associated with occasional large harvest years. It was noted that these patterns could be artifacts of the model structure. MN DNR stated that the assessment data supports an increasing trend over time with a pattern of occasional high recruitment. MNDNR expressed a desire to review model results more thoroughly prior to the January meeting.
8. AFS Presentation: Seasonal habitat, temperature, and depth of adult and juvenile Ogaa in Mille Lacs (Carl and Aaron). Carl K. presented an update on the initial results of the acoustic telemetry study.
9. Other updates
  - a. State Mille Lacs Fisheries Management Plan
  - b. Northern Pike Sampling – Tom Heinrich presented a comparison of pike catch in an inshore standard gill net subset vs pike nets, which showed similar trends in abundance. He suggested that the extra work associated with pike nets is not justified because the data do not provide any additional information in regard to relative abundance. No major objections to this change were identified at this time. A proposal to end pike gill nets and increase pike spring trap netting will be sent to Bands.
10. Identify steps to prepare for January meeting - a timeline was discussed for modeling results and reports to be completed. The January meeting was set for January 21 and 22, likely over Zoom.
11. Open discussion – Tom Jones noted that the Zebra mussel data manuscript had recently been published in Bioinvasion Records.
12. Adjourn