

Figure 1. Walleye gill net catches from 1980 – 2019. Dashed lines are the upper and lower level of expected values for lakes similar to Clearwater.

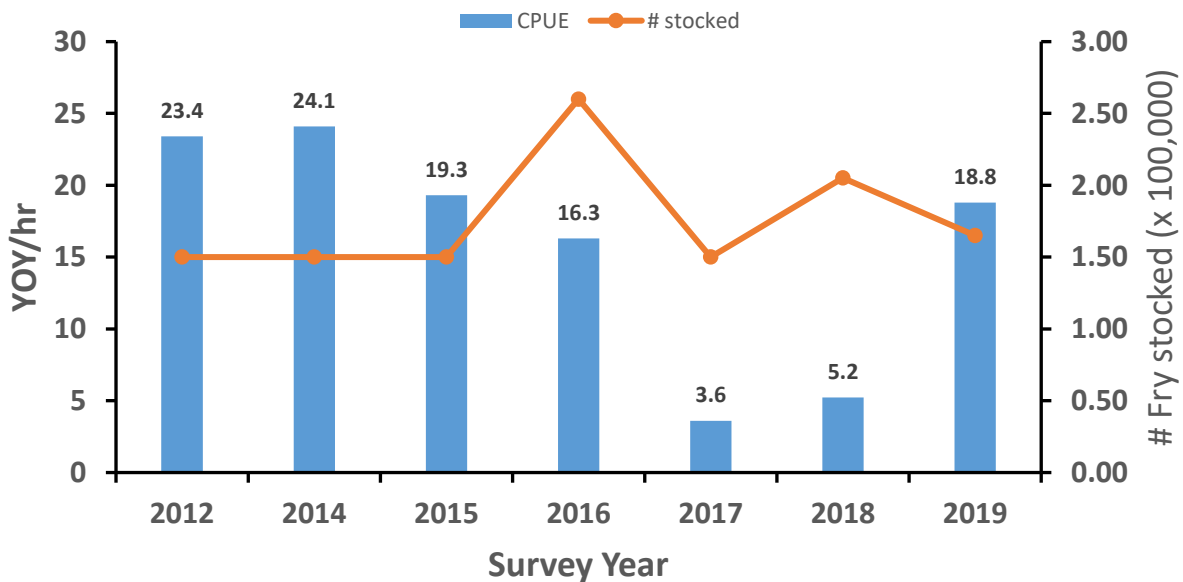


Figure 2. Young of the year (YOY) walleye catches (blue bars) from fall electrofishing 2012 – 2019. Orange line indicate the number of fry stocked x 100,000. Clearwater Lake has been stocked during even numbered years with walleye fry since 1998. However, due to low catches during the fall over the last 6 years the lake has been stocked annually. In October 2019, we supplemented the fry stocking by stocking 1,792 lbs of fingerlings (55,900 fish).

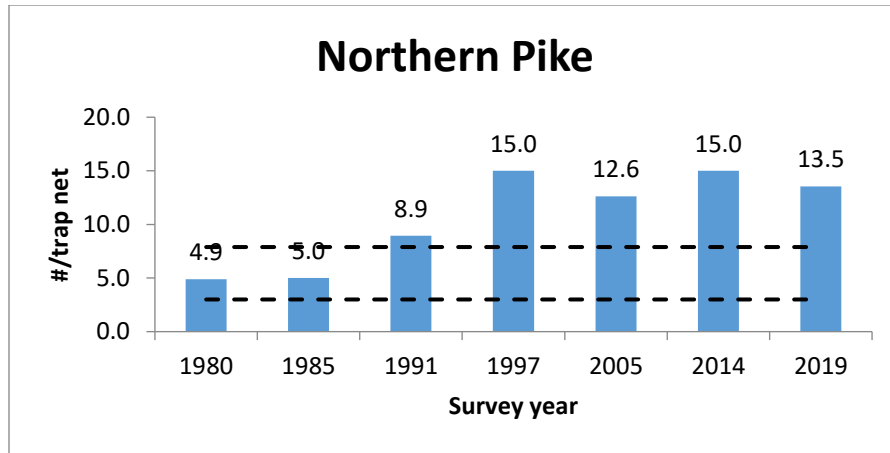


Figure 3. Northern Pike gill net catches from 1980 – 2019. Dashed lines are the upper and lower level of expected values for lakes similar to Clearwater.

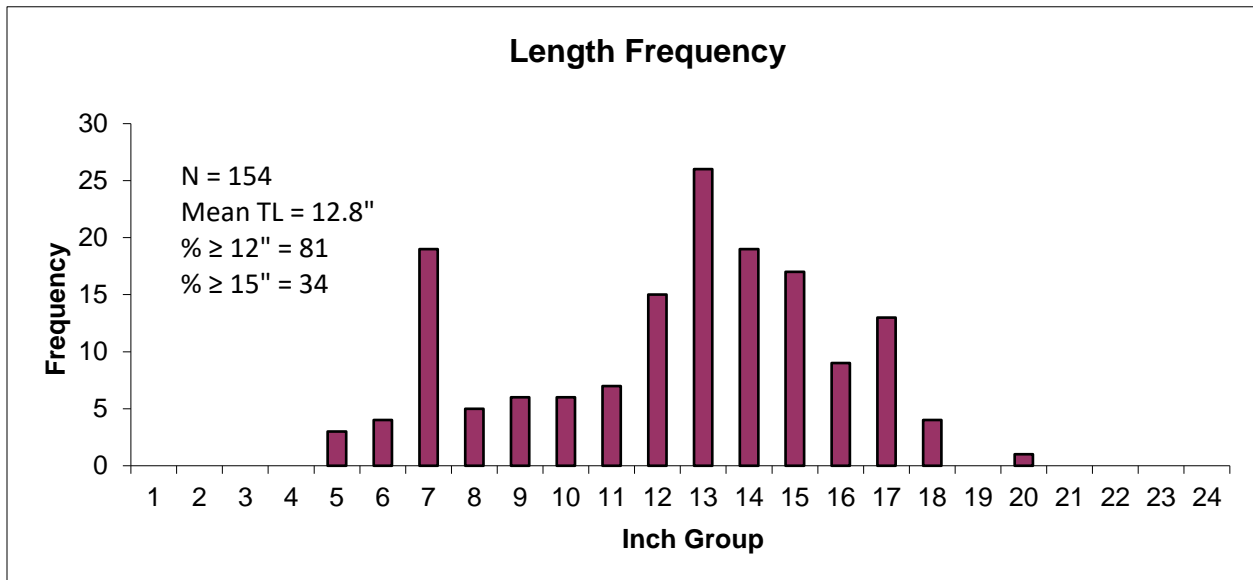


Figure 4. Length frequency of largemouth bass collected from Clearwater Lake on June 5, 2019.

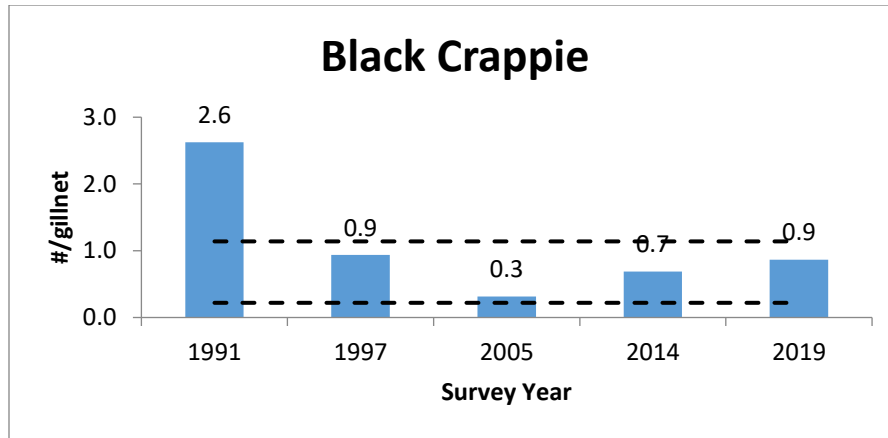


Figure 4. Black Crappie gill net catches from 1991 – 2019. Dashed lines are the upper and lower level of expected values for lakes similar to Clearwater.

In 2013, the Clearwater Lake Association approached DNR with concerns about the Black Crappie population. Their concern was that they perceived crappie fishing was not as good as it used to be; consequently, they were wondering if there was a fishing regulation that could improve the fishery. Upon review of past lake surveys, we did not feel comfortable making any decision about potential regulations without further information. This was because only five crappies were sampled during the previous lake survey.

In 2014 and 2015, DNR conducted spring targeted Black Crappie Assessments in order to answer some questions about the crappie population. The objective of this 2-year project was to determine if growth, mortality and recruitment of the crappie population was sufficient to be considered for one of the regulations in the crappie toolbox. Results of the 2-year project were presented to the Lake Association with recommendation of possibly reducing the bag limit from 10 to five (5), but the Lake Association was less than luke warm to the idea and would have preferred some minimum length limit which doesn't seem warranted at this time. Conversations will continue with the Lake Association, we will inform them of the population dynamics of this population, and if a regulation would help.

Results from 2014:

Spring trap netting

- 667 BLC collected; 661 used for age estimation
- Lengths ranged from 126-366 mm (5.0-14.4 in)
- Ages seen 2-13; every age class seen except for 12 year olds
- Mean length at age 3 was 215 mm (8.4 in)
- Mean length at age 4 was 263 mm (10.3 in)
- 332 female; 340 male; 5 unknown

- Little difference was seen between males and females in either number of fish per size or age group

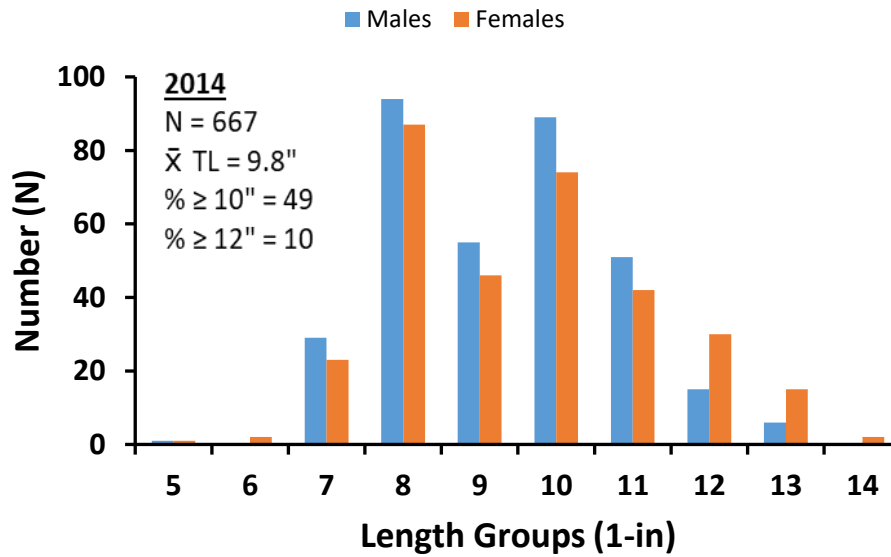


Figure 5. Length frequency of Black Crappie from Clearwater Lake, spring 2014.

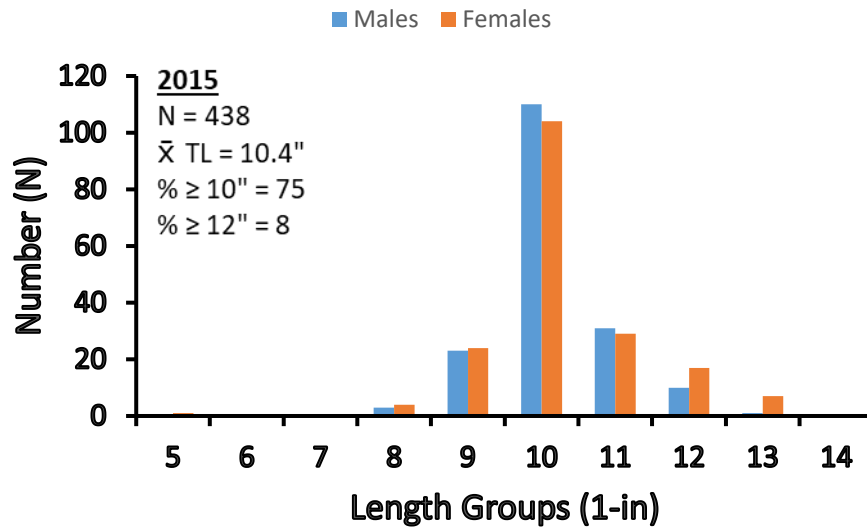


Figure 6. Length frequency of Black Crappie from Clearwater Lake, spring 2015.

Table 1. Results of BJ’s Spring Black Crappie and Fall Northern Pike Tournaments held on Clearwater Lake. Crappie Tournament ended after 2016.

Year	BJ’s Black Crappie Tournament			BJ’s Northern Pike Tourney	
	1 st Place (lbs)	Largest BLC	# weighed	1 st Place (lbs)	Largest NOP
2018				16.8	10.0
2017				18.8	10.8
2016	13.9	1.8	366	19.0	7.3
2015	14.4	1.8	356	12.1	9.0
2014		cancelled		18.6	10.1
2013		cancelled		22.3	9.0
2012	13.7	1.9	n/a	16.2	7.5
2011	14.4	1.7	314	cancelled	
2010	11.5	1.6	502	16.8	7.6
2009	8.8	1.5	407	14.9	11.0
2008	9.0	1.5	425	19.2	11.5
2007	13.2	2.2	n/a	19.8	12.1
2006	11.7	1.7	n/a	18.0	10.7
2005	10.2	1.5	n/a	16.6	10.8
2004	14.0	1.8	n/a	22.2	n/a

** - Crappie Limit – 10/team;

Northern Pike Limit – 3/team

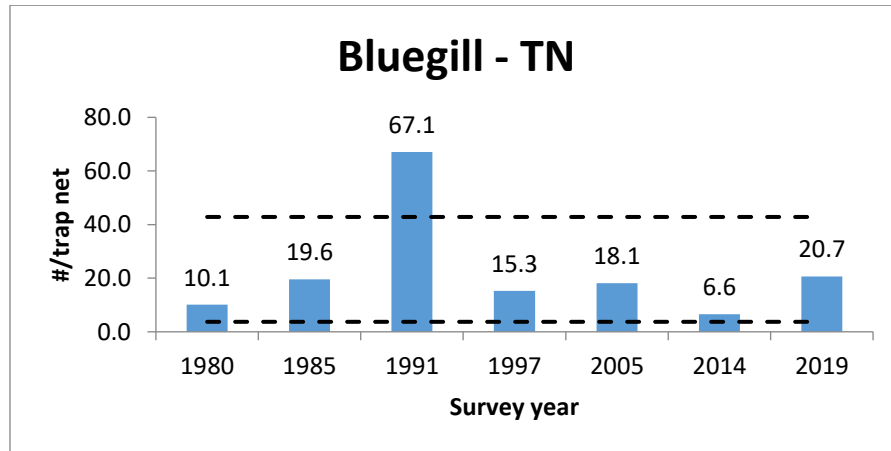


Figure 7. Bluegill trap net catches from 1980 – 2019. Dashed lines are the upper and lower level of expected values for lakes similar to Clearwater.