

STUDY FINAL REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-53-R-15

Study No.: 473

Title: Assessment of lake trout populations in Michigan waters of Lake Superior

Period Covered: April 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999

Study Objective: (1) To annually determine relative abundance, length and age composition, sex and maturity, sea lamprey wounding rates, growth, mortality rates, and total allowable catches (TACs) for hatchery (fin clipped) and wild (unclipped) origin lean-variety lake trout, as well as siscowet-variety lake trout, in Michigan's Lake Superior lake trout management zones. (2) To utilize these parameters in assessing effectiveness of sea lamprey control and progress of lean lake trout rehabilitation efforts in Michigan waters of Lake Superior. (3) To periodically determine what lake trout are eating especially to document the switch from rainbow smelt to lake herring, and to determine if competition for food exists between the lean and siscowet varieties of lake trout. (4) To monitor lake herring abundance and age composition in lake trout habitat.

Findings: Results of this study are given in the following report:

Peck, J. W. In press. Lake trout assessment and management in Michigan waters of Lake Superior, 1993-97. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Research Report, Ann Arbor.

Prepared by: James W. Peck

Date: September 30, 1999