## STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan
Project No.: F-53-R-15
Study No.: 451
Title: Evaluation of lake trout stocks in Lake Huron

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

Study Objective: To determine stock parameters for lake trout in Lake Huron from index sampling.

Summary: During the spring of 1998 and 1999, index sampling for lake trout in U.S. waters of Lake Huron was conducted with graded, large-mesh gill nets at 10 sites. Four of these index sites have been sampled annually since the mid-1970's. The project design was modified in 1995 to accommodate more stations, as required for the Lake Huron Technical Committee's (LHTC) movement studies. Annual mortality estimates from the 1998 spring assessment catch curves were: $78 \%$ at MH-1 (9-Mile Point and Adams Point); $56 \%$ at MH-2 (Thunder Bay); $44 \%$ at MH3 (Au Sable Point and Sturgeon Point); and 46\% at MH-4,5 ("Thumb" area of south-central Lake Huron). Excessive mortality rates in northern and north-central Lake Huron appear to preclude lake trout rehabilitation there. Mortality rates in the southern two statistical districts, on the other hand, were very near or below the $45 \%$ target level set by the LHTC. Currently, sea lamprey predation and commercial fishing are the leading causes of mortality, especially in the north, but recreational fishing harvest has been on the rise since 1993. Annual mortality attributable to sea lampreys for fish over 630 mm was estimated to range from $32 \%$ to $65 \%$. Weight-length regressions and lake trout body condition were similar across statistical districts. Smelt and alewives have consistently made up over $95 \%$ of the spring diet, but other fish species have begun to increase recently.

## Job 1. Title: Fish graded-mesh experimental gill nets at assessment stations.

Findings: Six assessment stations were added to the study design in 1995. Therefore, a total of 10 assessment stations were sampled in 1998 and 1999. Lake trout marked with coded wire tags are being stocked at each of four sites along the Michigan coastline; returns of the coded wire tags will be used by the LHTC to document movement and will become the basis for delineation of lake trout management unit boundaries. The locations of assessment stations were designed to document distribution of these marked lake trout at and between the four stocking sites. The data from all assessment sites within each statistical district were combined for the purpose of estimating area stock parameters.

Survival-Age-specific catch per 305 m of gill net from the 1998 spring assessment, adjusted for stocking rate, was calculated for each of four statistical districts (Table 1). Mortality rates were estimated using the methods of Robson and Chapman (1961) for catch-at-age data (Table 2).

The assessment stations in MH-1 (northern Lake Huron) were Nine-Mile Point and Adams Point. Catch of lake trout older than age three in MH-1 increased from 1997, but catch adjusted for stocking rates declined sharply from ages $5-8$ suggesting few fish reach maturity (Table 1). The
mortality estimate for MH-1 was 78\% (Table 2). This is far above the LHTC target level of $45 \%$. This area, which includes waters deferred from lake trout rehabilitation by the 1985 consent decree, supports a tribal commercial fishery that averaged 150,000 pounds of lake trout landings per year from 1985 to 1998. Tribal commercial harvest of lake trout has declined by more than $50 \%$ from 1996 to 1998 likely due to the cessation of lake trout stocking north of the $45^{\text {th }}$ parallel, but tribal commercial fishing remains a significant source of mortality in MH-1. Commercial fishing, along with high levels of sea lamprey predation, has nearly eliminated mature lake trout in MH-1.

Three stations were netted in MH-2 (north-central Lake Huron): Presque Isle, Nordmeer, and South Point of Thunder Bay. The 1992, 1993, and 1994 lake trout year classes were strong in 1998 (Table 1). However, catch and adjusted catch rates drop dramatically after age 6 (Table 1). Swink (1990; 1991) reported that vulnerability of lake trout to sea lamprey attack increases sharply at about 635 mm in length. In 1998, lake trout from MH-2 averaged 620 mm at age 7 and 697 mm at age 8. Thus, the high losses of lake trout after age 6 in Thunder Bay may be partly due to size-specific lamprey effects. Annual mortality since 1988 has ranged near or above LHTC guidelines (Table 2). There is no commercial fishery for lake trout in MH-2. The sport harvest in 1993 (Study 427) was less than 1,000 lake trout at Alpena and Rockport combined, but rose steadily to 2,091 in 1994, 4,893 in 1995, 10,958 in 1996, 12,942 in 1997, and 12,370 in 1998. Until recently, lamprey-induced mortality has been the chief cause of the high mortality rates in MH-2, but sport harvest is now a significant if not equal source of mortality, especially on the older, mature fish that are targeted by the sport fishery. Average lakewide age of mature, female lake trout has been steadily declining since 1993, and is now at or below the age of first maturity for female lake trout. This lack of spawners will preclude lake trout rehabilitation.

Two assessment sites were used to represent MH-3: Sturgeon Point and Au Sable Point. Mortality was lower than in the more northerly stations (Table 2). Like MH-2, there was a sharp decline in catch rate for fish older than age 6 (Table 1).

Assessment sites in MH-4,5 ("Thumb" area) were at Grindstone City, Harbor Beach north, and Harbor Beach south. Survey catch rates and number of age groups sampled here have consistently been higher than in the north and, therefore, have allowed more accurate estimation of survival. The mortality rates for this area have remained much lower than in the north. In 1998, the mortality estimate was near target at $46 \%$ (Table 2).

Offshore stocking began at all sites in 1989 and 1990, and this may have increased survival of more recent year classes, which in turn, would increase apparent mortality (by violating the assumption of equal recruitment rates over time).

Sea lamprey control began in 1998 on the St. Marys River and will be nearly complete by year 2000. Because most sea lampreys are believed to originate there, the St. Marys treatment is expected to significantly enhance lake trout survival, particularly in northern Lake Huron. In anticipation of this effect, the Lake Huron Committee resumed stocking lake trout in the northern grids of Lake Huron in 1999. With increasing recreational and commercial harvest, further regulation of fishing may be required to attain target survival levels.

Movement-In 1992, the Lake Huron Technical Committee initiated a lake trout movement study with the stocking of 60,000 coded-wire-tagged lake trout at each of 4 sites: Adams Point, Middle Island, Sturgeon Point, and Point aux Barques. Sixty thousand coded-wire-tagged lake trout were subsequently planted at each of the four sites in 1994, 1996, and 1998. In addition, coded-wire-tagged lake trout have been stocked at Drummond Island and 6-Fathom Bank since 1985.

To capture information on distribution of these marked fish, we increased the number of stations along the Michigan shore of Lake Huron such that one station was on each stocking site and other stations were located equal distances between them.

Tagged Lake trout originating from all research stocking sites were represented in each year's samples from 1995 through 1998 (Table 3). Although some lake trout had moved considerable distances, there was a tendency for those lots stocked from Sturgeon Pt. south to be sampled in the south and those stocked north of Sturgeon Pt. to be found at the northern stations (Table 3). A total of 484 coded-wire tagged lake trout have been taken in this assessment since 1995 (Table 3). This sample size indicates the number of marked fish and the survey effort deployed are both adequate to meet study objectives. One hundred twenty one lake trout stocked at 6-Fathom Bank were taken at the near-shore sites ( 39 in 1995, 42 in 1996, 19 in 1997, and 21 in 1998), and they appeared at all 10 stations (Tables 3 and 4). Stockings at 6-Fathom have been equally divided between three lake trout strains. However, for fish age 7 and older, nearly two times as many Seneca strain were taken at the near-shore sites than the other two strains combined (Table 4). Assessment nettings by the National Biological Survey on 6-Fathom Bank have likewise found that Seneca strain composes the majority of older fish on this mid-lake reef.

A more in-depth analysis of lake trout movement based on coded-wire-tag data is currently being conducted. In 1998, the LHTC designed a common lake trout coded-wire-tag data base for Lake Huron that contained data from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Geological Service Biological Resource Division (BRD), Chippewa/Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority (COTFMA) and Ontario Ministry of Resources (OMNR). I am working with the USFWS to analyze the common database and determine the extent of lakewide lake trout movement. This movement data will be part of the stock assessment model being developed by the modeling subgroup of the Technical Fisheries Review Committee (TFRC) as part of the treaty negotiations between the state of Michigan and the Native American tribes of northern-Michigan.

Lamprey wounding-Lamprey-induced mortality was estimated using rates of A1-A3 wounds (King and Edsall 1979) from spring assessment netting, survival rates from laboratory studies by Swink (1990), and the equation (Koonce and Pycha unpublished):

$$
\mathrm{ZL}=\mathrm{W}(1-\mathrm{P}) / \mathrm{P}
$$

where $\mathrm{ZL}=$ instantaneous lamprey-induced mortality, $\mathrm{W}=$ the number of A1-A3 type wounds per lake trout, and $\mathrm{P}=$ probability of surviving a single lamprey attack.

The annual mortality rate for lake trout attributable to lamprey ranged from $32 \%$ to $65 \%$ for lake trout over 630 mm in 1998 (Table 5). Indexing of lamprey wounding on lake trout requires large samples of fish larger than 535 mm . Unfortunately, few lake trout of larger size groups were available from spring assessments at MH-1. The high loss to lampreys, in combination with natural mortality, leaves little, if any, surplus production for harvest in any of the Lake Huron statistical districts. Wounding generally increased with host size and was most pronounced in fish over 630 mm (Table 5). This pattern is consistent with laboratory observations of Swink (1991).

Growth-Parameters of weight-length regressions and condition factors for the assessment stations were fairly similar across statistical districts in 1998 (Table 6), suggesting uniform lake trout growth across statistical districts. Average total length at age five followed a north-south
gradient for the Michigan assessment stations (Table 7), likely reflecting the colder, less productive conditions of northern Lake Huron.

Food habits-The stomach contents of all gill-netted lake trout were examined, and a sub-sample of stomach contents was brought back to the lab to obtain lengths and weights of individual prey items. A summary of stomach contents from 1998 spring index netting is given in Table 8. As with past years, smelt and alewives comprised the majority ( $96.8 \%$ ) of the diet lakewide. Alewife were the dominant prey in all statistical districts except MH-1, where smelt were the dominant prey. Average weights of prey items are also given (where possible) in Table 8. Sample sizes of measured prey are small and preclude meaningful analysis. A larger number of stomach samples was collected in the 1999 field season to allow for a more complete analysis of lake trout diet. A large proportion (27.7\%) of the lake trout sampled in 1998 had void stomachs (Table 8). Previous to 1998, the average void rate for lake trout in the assessment study was $12.7 \%$. This sudden increase may indicate a drop in the Lake Huron forage base.

## Job 2. Title: Net for adults on spawning reefs.

Findings: We sampled Mischleys Reef in Thunder Bay to index the incidence of wild spawning lake trout there. We also sampled at Rockport and Middle Island in search of wild spawners. In 1998, 57 lake trout ( 32 wild and 25 hatchery) were captured in 2 lifts at Mischley's Reef, and no wild lake trout were captured at Rockport or Middle Island. The average CPE of wild lake trout on Mischley's Reef was 26.7 per 305 m . This is higher than the 1997 fall catch rage of 21.7, but lower than the 1993 average of 37.7. All fish caught were tagged and released.

## Job 3. Title: Analyze field data and coordinate with other agencies. Participate in interagency

 planning and management of lake trout.Findings: I designed a new lake trout database for the Alpena Station. The database is relational (MicroSoft ACCESS) and includes all spring gill-netting data from 1970 to 1998. Formats of all fields have been standardized and made uniform over the entire time series. I also added lake trout coded-wire-tag stocking data so that lake trout movement could be more easily assessed. Most data were also converted to ArcView format for GIS analysis. Fall gill-netting data are being entered and proofed in the new format. Fall data are currently available in ACCESS format from 1986 to 1998. I prepared analyses for the coordinated interagency studies of the LHTC, presented lake trout status reports at the annual Upper Lakes meetings, presented a rehabilitation status report to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Board of Technical Experts task area meeting, and presented lake trout population dynamics to the Lake Huron Fisheries Advisory Committee. I also attended the summer and winter Lake Huron Technical Committee meetings where updates on lake trout progress and technical reports were presented. I am also a member of the TFRC Modeling Technical Subcommittee and am charged with compiling Lake Huron lake trout biological data, coded wire tag movement data, and lake trout stock assessment model development.

## Job 4. Title: Write annual and final reports.

Findings: The required reports and documents were completed as scheduled.

## Job 5. Title: Trawl for age-0 wild lake trout in Thunder Bay and monitor other evidence of lake trout reproduction.

Findings: Trawling was completed as scheduled at the annual index station near North Point of Thunder Bay. A semi-balloon otter trawl with a $23-\mathrm{m}$ bridle, $11-\mathrm{m}$ foot rope, and $13-\mathrm{mm}$ mesh (stretch measure) cod-end liner was used to sample age-0 lake trout. Age-0 wild lake trout were taken in bottom trawls every year at the North Point station from 1986 through 1999, but the catch decreased to the lowest levels of the study in 1995 to 1999 (Table 9).

The number of unclipped lake trout at spring assessment stations has been used as another index of reproduction. The contribution of unclipped, potentially wild, lake trout to the assessment catch in MH-2 was 10-18\% for the 1984, 1985, and 1986 year classes (Johnson and VanAmberg 1995). In 1998, however, the contribution of unclipped fish, averaged over all year classes, was only $5.8 \%, 1.5 \%, 0.0 \%$, and $1.4 \%$ for MH-1, 2, 3, and 4,5 respectively. There was no evidence that unclipped fish composed a larger than expected proportion of any one year class. Although reproduction continues, its contribution to the fishery is almost too weak to be measurable.

## Literature Cited:

Johnson, J.E., and J.P. VanAmberg. 1995. Evidence of natural reproduction of lake trout in western Lake Huron. Journal of Great Lakes Research 21 (Supplement 1):253-259.

King, E. L., Jr., and T. A. Edsall. 1979. Illustrated field guide for the classification of sea lamprey attack marks on Great Lakes lake trout. Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Special Publication 79-1, Ann Arbor.

Robson, D. S. and D. G. Chapman. 1961. Catch curves and mortality rates. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 90:181-189.

Swink, W. D. 1991. Host size selection by parasitic sea lampreys. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 120:637-643.

Swink, W. D. 1990. Effect of lake trout size on survival after a single sea lamprey attack. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 119:996-1002.

Table 1.-Annual age-specific lake trout catch, adjusted for stocking and effort (per 305 m of net), by statistical district, Michigan waters of Lake Huron, 1998.

| Age | Year class | Effective \# stocked | Stocking adjustment factor ${ }^{1}$ | Count | Catch per 305 m | Adjusted $\mathrm{CPE}^{2}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MH-1: Effort=5,486 m |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 1996 | 135,300 | 3.70 | 1 | 0.06 | 0.21 |
| 3 | 1995 | 190,900 | 2.62 | 8 | 0.44 | 1.16 |
| 4 | 1994 | 128,680 | 3.89 | 29 | 1.61 | 6.26 |
| 5 | 1993 | 59,400 | 8.42 | 28 | 1.56 | 13.10 |
| 6 | 1992 | 234,200 | 2.13 | 23 | 1.28 | 2.73 |
| 7 | 1991 | 479,500 | 1.04 | 10 | 0.56 | 0.58 |
| 8 | 1990 | 462,745 | 1.08 | 3 | 0.17 | 0.18 |
| MH-2: Effort $=\mathbf{4 , 3 9 0} \mathrm{m}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 1996 | 366,343 | 1.36 | 5 | 0.35 | 0.47 |
| 3 | 1995 | 291,414 | 1.72 | 16 | 1.11 | 1.91 |
| 4 | 1994 | 298,367 | 1.68 | 129 | 8.96 | 15.02 |
| 5 | 1993 | 428,000 | 1.16 | 189 | 13.13 | 15.34 |
| 6 | 1992 | 421,964 | 1.18 | 172 | 11.95 | 14.16 |
| 7 | 1991 | 536,405 | 0.93 | 82 | 5.70 | 5.31 |
| 8 | 1990 | 542,217 | 0.92 | 10 | 0.69 | 0.64 |

## MH-3: Effort=3,292 m

| 2 | 1996 | 218,243 | 2.29 | 3 | 0.28 | 0.64 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 3 | 1995 | 157,524 | 3.17 | 1 | 0.09 | 0.29 |
| 4 | 1994 | 341,972 | 1.46 | 36 | 3.34 | 4.88 |
| 5 | 1993 | 240,000 | 2.08 | 46 | 4.26 | 8.86 |
| 6 | 1992 | 364,148 | 1.37 | 38 | 3.52 | 4.83 |
| 7 | 1991 | 193,605 | 2.58 | 15 | 1.39 | 3.59 |
| 8 | 1990 | 186,017 | 2.69 | 4 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| 9 | 1989 | 163,669 | 3.05 | 5 | 0.46 | 1.42 |
| 10 | 1988 | 316,893 | 1.58 | 3 | 0.28 | 0.44 |
| 11 | 1987 | 160,029 | 3.12 | 1 | 0.09 | 0.29 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{M H - 4 , ~ 5 : ~ E f f o r t = 4 , 3 9 0 ~ m}$ | 1.32 | 7 | 0.49 | 0.64 |  |  |
| 3 | 1995 | 378,624 | 1.39 | 25 | 1.74 | 2.42 |
| 4 | 1994 | 358,992 | 0.94 | 104 | 7.23 | 6.82 |
| 5 | 1993 | 529,364 | 1.27 | 87 | 6.04 | 7.70 |
| 6 | 1992 | 392,464 | 1.17 | 47 | 3.27 | 3.82 |
| 7 | 1991 | 427,505 | 1.18 | 4 | 0.28 | 0.33 |
| 8 | 1990 | 423,017 | 1.64 | 2 | 0.14 | 0.23 |
| 9 | 1989 | 304,119 | 1.24 | 2 | 0.14 | 0.17 |
| 10 | 1988 | 403,243 | 2.17 | 2 | 0.14 | 0.30 |
| 11 | 1987 | 230,029 | 2.30 | 2 | 0.14 | 0.32 |
| 12 | 1986 | 217,764 |  |  |  |  |

[^0]Table 2.-Mortality rates (\%) by station and agency, from spring gill-net assessments, Michigan waters of Lake Huron.

|  | North (MH-1) <br>  <br> BRD | N. Central <br> (MH-2) <br> MDNR | Central <br> (MH-3) <br> MDNR | "Thumb" <br> (MH-4,5) <br> MDNR |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1982-86$ |  |  |  |  |
| (average) | 76 | 49 | 42 | 28 |
| $1986-87$ | 87 | NA | NA | 36 |
| $1987-88$ | 76 | NA | 43 | 40 |
| $1988-89$ | 89 | 52 | 43 | 37 |
| $1989-90$ | NA | 52 | 47 | 46 |
| $1990-91$ | $>70$ | 35 | 43 | 31 |
| $1991-92$ | $>70$ | 42 | 48 | 27 |
| $1992-93$ | $>70$ | 69 | 62 | 28 |
| $1993-94$ | $>70$ | 55 | 51 | 32 |
| $1994-95$ | 74 | 52 | 49 | 37 |
| $1995-96$ | 81 | 55 | 54 | 53 |
| $1996-97$ | $>80$ | 68 | 45 | 37 |
| $1997-98$ | 78 | 56 | 44 | 46 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Table 3.-Total gill net catch and catch per effort (number per 3,050 m of net) of coded-wire-tagged lake trout at 10 near-shore Michigan

|  | Survey station and effort (combined 1995-1998 m of net in parenthesis) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total by stocking site |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { S. Harbor } \\ & \text { Beach } \\ & (5,487) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { N. Harbor } \\ \text { Beach } \\ (6,036) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Grindstone $(4,391)$ | AuSable Pt. $(6,310)$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sturgeon } \\ \text { Pt. } \\ (6,584) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Thunder } \\ \text { Bay } \\ (6,310) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Nordmeer $(6,036)$ | Presque Isle $(6,036)$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Adams } \\ \text { Pt. } \\ (6,340) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Nine-mile Pt. <br> $(19,752)$ |  |
| Catch by stocking site: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drummond Island | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 22 |
| Adams Pt. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 31 | 22 | 101 |
| Middle Island | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 26 | 10 | 9 | 92 |
| Six-Fathom | 8 | 10 | 22 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 36 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 122 |
| Sturgeon Pt. | 6 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 80 |
| Pt. Aux Barques | 6 | 15 | 26 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 67 |
| Total by station | 21 | 28 | 64 | 37 | 42 | 40 | 96 | 59 | 55 | 42 | 484 |
| Catch/3050 m by stocksite: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drummond Island | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.48 | 2.53 | 2.02 | 2.89 | 0.77 | 9.15 |
| Adams Pt. | 0.56 | 0.51 | 2.78 | 1.45 | 0.00 | 4.83 | 6.57 | 8.08 | 14.91 | 3.40 | 43.09 |
| Middle Island | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.39 | 2.42 | 2.32 | 4.83 | 12.63 | 13.14 | 4.81 | 1.39 | 42.93 |
| Six-Fathom | 4.45 | 5.05 | 15.28 | 4.35 | 6.95 | 2.90 | 18.19 | 2.53 | 3.37 | 0.62 | 63.68 |
| Sturgeon Pt. | 3.34 | 1.01 | 6.95 | 6.28 | 7.41 | 5.80 | 6.57 | 2.53 | 0.48 | 0.31 | 40.67 |
| Pt. Aux Barques | 3.34 | 7.58 | 18.06 | 3.38 | 2.32 | 0.48 | 2.02 | 1.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 38.69 |
| Total | 11.67 | 14.15 | 44.45 | 17.88 | 19.46 | 19.33 | 48.51 | 29.81 | 26.46 | 6.49 |  |

Table 4.-Age composition, by strain, of coded-wire-tagged lake trout stocked on 6-Fathom Bank and sampled at 10 nearshore stations, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 spring gill-netting.

| Age | Strain |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Seneca/Ontario |  |  |  | Marquette |  |  |  | Jenny/Lewis |  |  |  |
|  | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 21 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 9 |
| Age > $=7$ | 12 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Table 5.-Estimated mortality attributable to sea lamprey attacks, Lake Huron, 1997-98, based on wounding rates measured in 1998.

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Length group } \\ & (\mathrm{mm}) \end{aligned}$ | Probability of survival | Marks per fish (M) | Sample size <br> (N) | Lamprey instantaneous (ZL) | Annual lamprey (AZ) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MH-1: Drummond Island to Rogers City (combined DNR, BRD \& COTFMA) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 430-529 | 0.35 | 0.089 | 124 | 0.17 | 0.152 |
| 530-629 | 0.45 | 0.247 | 73 | 0.30 | 0.261 |
| 630-734 | 0.45 | 0.857 | 7 | 1.05 | 0.649 |
| 735+ | 0.55 | 0.000 | 1 | --- | --- |
| MH-2: North-Central |  |  |  |  |  |
| 430-529 | 0.35 | 0.057 | 264 | 0.11 | 0.100 |
| 530-629 | 0.45 | 0.282 | 202 | 0.34 | 0.292 |
| 630-734 | 0.45 | 0.320 | 64 | 0.39 | 0.324 |
| 735+ | 0.55 | 1.500 | 2 | --- | --- |
| MH-3,4,5: "Thumb" \& Central |  |  |  |  |  |
| 430-529 | 0.35 | 0.047 | 127 | 0.09 | 0.084 |
| 530-629 | 0.45 | 0.199 | 216 | 0.24 | 0.216 |
| 630-734 | 0.45 | 0.318 | 66 | 0.39 | 0.322 |
| 735+ | 0.55 | 0.429 | 7 | 0.35 | 0.296 |

Table 6.-Condition factors, weight-length regressions at assessment stations, and estimated weight (g) at 600 mm total length from 1998 index netting in Michigan waters of Lake Huron.

| Statistical <br> District | Area | Ktl @600 mm | a intercept | b slope | R squared | Wt (gm) <br> @ 600 mm |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MH-1 | North | 1.014 | $6.5 \mathrm{E}-06$ | 3.069 | 0.984 | 2191 |
| MH-2 | North Central | 0.976 | $7.3 \mathrm{E}-06$ | 3.046 | 0.966 | 2109 |
| MH-3 | Central | 0.988 | $5.5 \mathrm{E}-06$ | 3.092 | 0.972 | 2135 |
| MH-4,5 | "Thumb" | 1.006 | $5.1 \mathrm{E}-06$ | 3.107 | 0.922 | 2174 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

$\mathrm{Ktl}=\left(\mathrm{W} / \mathrm{L}^{3}\right)^{*} 10^{5}$
Length-weight regression: $\mathrm{W}=\mathrm{aL}^{\mathrm{b}}$

Table 7.-Mean total lengths (mm) at age-5 of lake trout sampled from 5 statistical districts of Lake Huron, 1998.

| Statistical district | Mean | Standard deviation | N |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| MH-1 | 516 | 50 | 28 |
| MH-2 | 504 | 57 | 189 |
| MH-3 | 515 | 54 | 46 |
| MH-4,5 | 541 | 45 | 104 |

Table 8.-Lake trout stomach contents (number consumed, \% of total identifiable prey, and average weight of prey and sample size) by statistical district from MDNR 1998 assessments.

| Prey | MH-1 |  |  | MH-2 |  |  | MH-3 |  |  | MH-4, 5 |  |  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. | \% | Avg. weight (g) | No. | \% | Avg. weight (g) | No. | \% | Avg. weight (g) | No. | \% | Avg. weight (g) | No. | \% | Avg. weight (g) |
| Alewife | 84 | 29.7 | 6.2 (20) | 463 | 70.8 | 5.0 (17) | 439 | 77.6 | 4.6 (67) | 1844 | 96.4 | 6.2 (194) | 2830 | 82.9 | 5.8 (298) |
| Smelt | 129 | 45.6 | 5.7 (17) | 158 | 24.2 | 6.3 (9) | 123 | 21.7 | 5.1 (28) | 66 | 3.5 | 2.8 (12) | 476 | 13.9 | 5.0 (66) |
| Slimy sculpin | 13 | 4.6 | 2.0 (7) | 4 | 0.6 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.1 | 4.6 (1) | 18 | 0.5 | 2.3 (8) |
| 9-spine stickleback | 57 | 20.1 | 1.4 (2) | 23 | 3.5 | --- | 3 | 0.5 | 2.3 (1) | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 83 | 2.4 | 1.7 (3) |
| Lake whitefish | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 4 | 0.6 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 4 | 0.1 | --- |
| Chinook salmon | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.2 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.03 | --- |
| Brown trout | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.2 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.03 | --- |
| Trout perch | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.2 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.03 | --- |
| Zebra mussels | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 0 | 0.0 | --- | 1 | 0.1 | --- | 1 | 0.03 | --- |
| Total identifiable | 283 | 100 |  | 654 | 100 |  | 566 | 100 |  | 1912 | 100 |  | 3415 | 100 |  |
| Unidentifiable fish | 60 | --- |  | 319 | --- |  | 136 | --- |  | 93 | --- |  | 608 | -- |  |
| Void | 16 | 15.7 |  | 226 | 37.5 |  | 23 | 15.2 |  | 44 | 16.9 |  | 309 | 27.7 |  |
| Number examined | 102 |  |  | 602 |  |  | 151 |  |  | 260 |  |  | 1115 |  |  |

Table 9.-Trawl catch of age-0 lake trout from Thunder Bay, 1984-99.

| Year | North Point |  |  | Mischley Reef |  |  | Black River |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tows | Catch | CPE | Tows | Catch | CPE | Tows | Catch | CPE |
| 1984 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- | 13 | 9 | 0.69 |
| 1985 | 8 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | --- | --- | 2 | 2 | 1.00 |
| 1986 | 19 | 41 | 2.16 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1987 | 23 | 19 | 0.83 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1988 | 33 | 43 | 1.30 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1989 | 63 | 39 | 0.62 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1990 | 54 | 44 | 0.81 | 0 | --- | --- | 24 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 1991 | 39 | 6 | 0.15 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1992 | 36 | 7 | 0.19 | 6 | 1 | 0.17 | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1993 | 35 | 13 | 0.37 | 11 | 1 | 0.09 | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1994 | 36 | 21 | 0.81 | 4 | 2 | 0.50 | 3 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 1995 | 36 | 4 | 0.11 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1996 | 36 | 2 | 0.06 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1997 | 48 | 5 | 0.10 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1998 | 40 | 3 | 0.08 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |
| 1999 | 38 | 2 | 0.05 | 0 | --- | --- | 0 | --- | --- |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Adj. factor $=500,000 /$ no. stocked.
    ${ }^{2}$ Adj. $\mathrm{CPE}=$ catch $/ 305 \mathrm{~m} x$ adj. factor

