

estimated total catch by species, which presumably only included harvest. Thus, our comparisons include fish harvested, but not released. Total angler hours were similar for Cisco Lake among years, with 27,085, 28,171, and 30,400 hours in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. In both historic angler surveys, the total catch was dominated by yellow perch (12,641 fish, 47% of total catch – 1977; 7,275 fish, 30% of total catch – 1978). These estimates are much lower than the 22,269 (53% of total catch) yellow perch harvested in 2002, though their percentage of the total catch was similar among years. Yellow perch harvest rates from Cisco Lake also increased from 0.47 and 0.26 per hour in 1977 and 1978, to 0.73 per hour in 2002. Overall harvest of panfish species was lower in 1977 (23,498 fish) and 1978 (21,337 fish) than in 2002 (40,509 fish). Interestingly, no black crappie were detected in the 1977 and 1978 surveys, though 2,529 fish were harvested in 2002. Harvest of northern pike varied among years, with 362, 84, and 730 fish harvested in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. Northern pike harvest rates also varied among years, with 0.09, 0.08, and 0.02 fish harvested per hour in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. The number of walleyes harvested also varied among years. In 1977 and 1978 the total harvest of walleye was 372 (1% of total catch) and 595 (2% of total catch), respectively, compared to 42 (< 1% of total catch) in 2002. The lower harvest of walleyes observed in 2002 may be due, in part, to a more restrictive size limit. The size limit for walleyes was 13 inches in 1978, compared to 15 in currently. Other differences from the 1977 and 1978 surveys were the presence of lake herring, brook trout, largemouth bass, muskellunge, and carp in the 2002 angler catch.

Thousand Island Lake was also surveyed during the summers of 1977 and 1978 (Ryckman and Lockwood 1985). Total angler hours were similar among years, with 30,301, 37,599, and 37,505 hours in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. In both historic angler surveys, the total catch was dominated by yellow perch (13,946 fish, 53% of total catch – 1977; 7,668 fish, 37% of total catch – 1978). These estimates are lower than the 26,553 (24% of total catch) yellow perch caught in 2002, though their percentage of the total catch was similar among years. Yellow perch catch rates also increased from 0.40 and 0.20 per hour in 1977 and 1978, to 0.71 per hour in 2002. Overall catch of panfish species was much lower in 1977 (22,758 fish) and 1978 (16,758 fish) than in 2002 (90,890 fish). Similar to Cisco Lake, no black crappie were detected in the 1977 and 1978 surveys, though 1,060 fish were harvested in 2002. Catch of northern pike varied among years, with 2,132, 1,784, and 4,129 fish caught in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. Northern pike catch rates also varied among years, with 0.06, 0.05, and 0.11 fish caught per hour in 1977, 1978, and 2002, respectively. The number of walleyes caught varied among years, but not considerably. In 1977 and 1978 the total catches of walleye were 497 (2% of total catch) and 1,228 (6% of total catch), respectively, compared to 1,476 (1% of total catch) in 2002. Other differences from the 1977 and 1978 surveys were the presence of lake herring and round whitefish in the 2002 angler catch.

The methods used in the Wisconsin surveys of Big Lake may differ slightly, but in general, we consider their estimates as comparable to ours. Total annual angler hours (summer + winter) on Big Lake were 33,727 in 1990–91, and 26,940 in 1991–92. These estimates were similar to our estimate of 29,364 angler hours for Big Lake in 2002–03. In contrast to angler effort, the harvest was rather different among the surveys. Total harvest of all species was 2,577 in 1990-91, 20,167 in 1991-92, and 10,295 fish in 2002–03. The differences were mainly due to the extent of yellow perch harvest among years.

Total catch and harvest of walleyes in Big Lake was quite variable among the survey periods. Total catch and harvest of walleyes was 3,727 and 390 in 1990–91, 11,551 and 437 in 1991–92, and 6,938 and 883 in 2002–03, respectively. Harvest per hour was also slightly different among the surveys. Harvest per hour (general effort) of walleye was higher in 2001–02 (0.030) than in 1990–91 (0.012) and 1991–92 (0.016).

Total catch and harvest of northern pike in Big Lake was generally low in all survey periods. Total catch and harvest of northern pike was 31 and 0 in 1990–91, 873 and 247 in 1991–92, and 502 and 78 in 2002–03, respectively. The total catch of muskellunge was surprisingly different among