

# Hauser & Holter Fisheries Trends



Adam Strainer - FWP

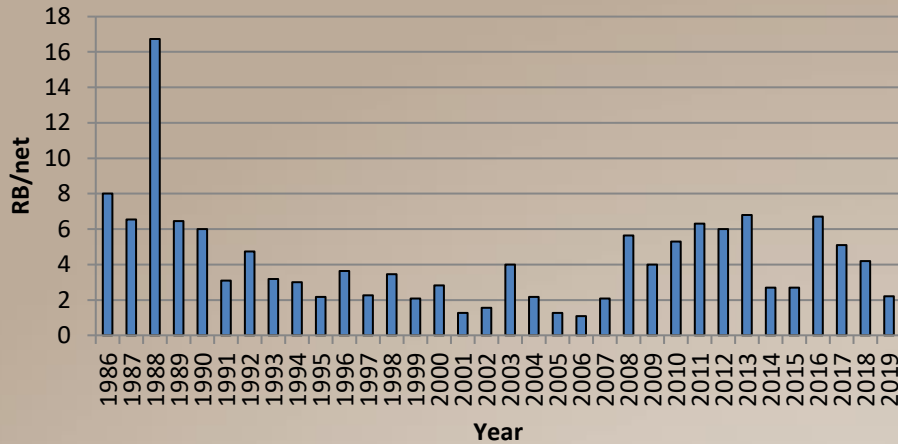


# Hauser Reservoir

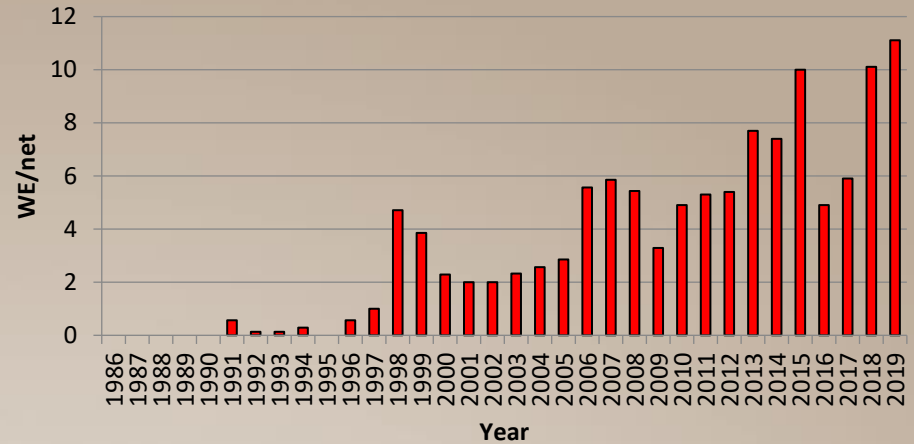
## Annual Relative Abundance

Fall Gillnetting Survey

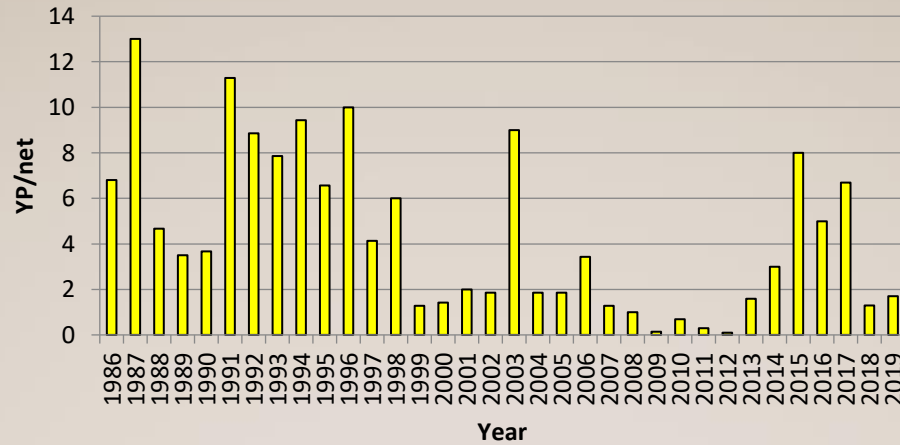
### Rainbow Trout

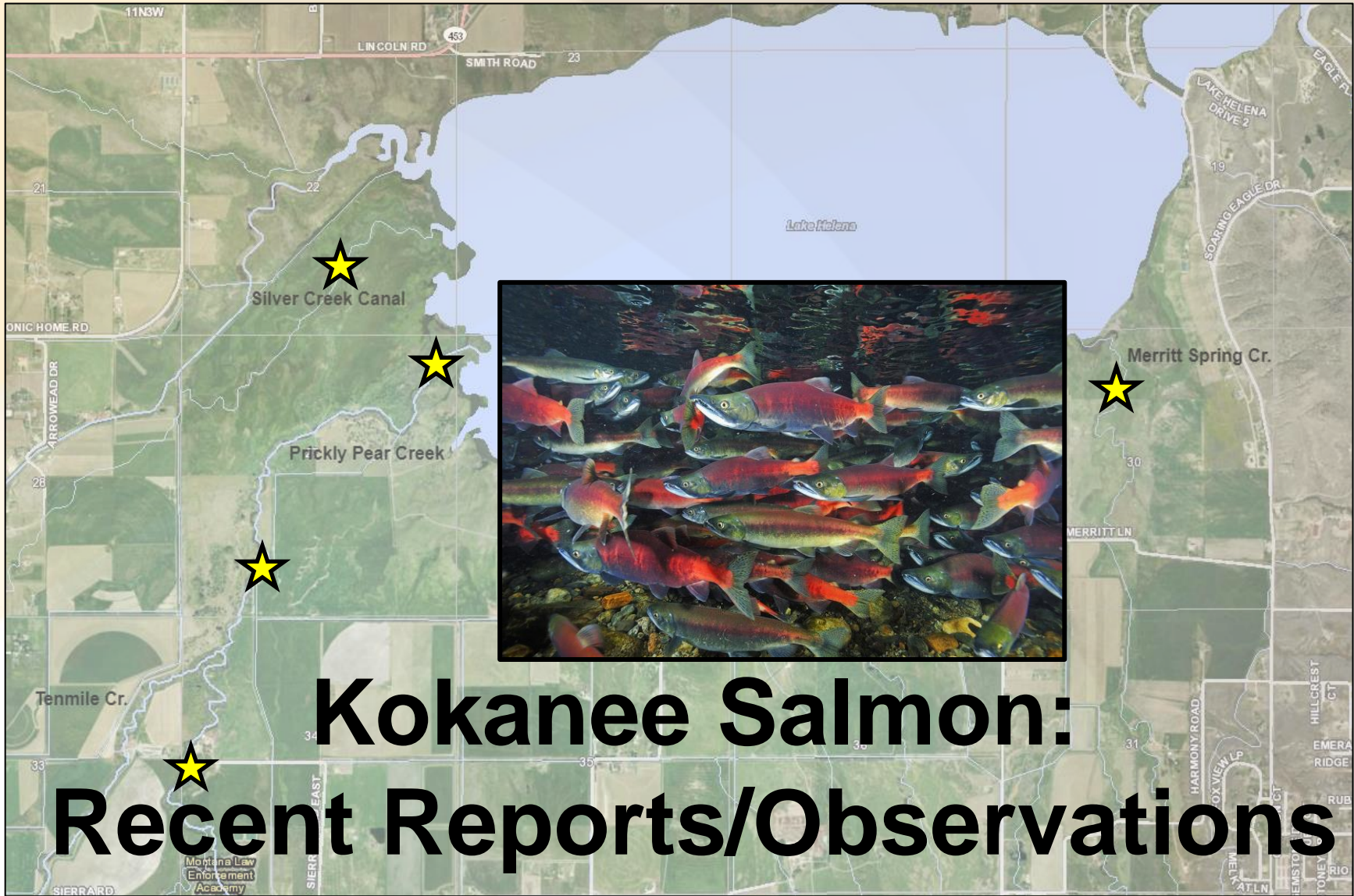


### Walleye



### Yellow Perch





# Kokanee Salmon: Recent Reports/Observations

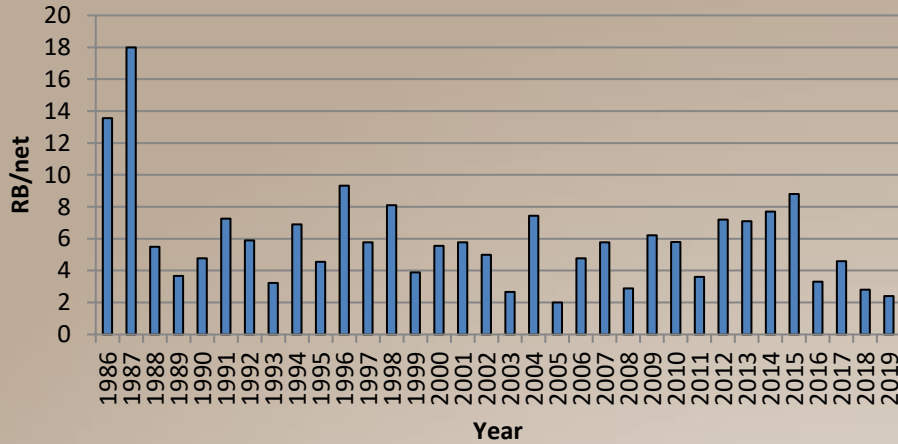


# Holter Reservoir

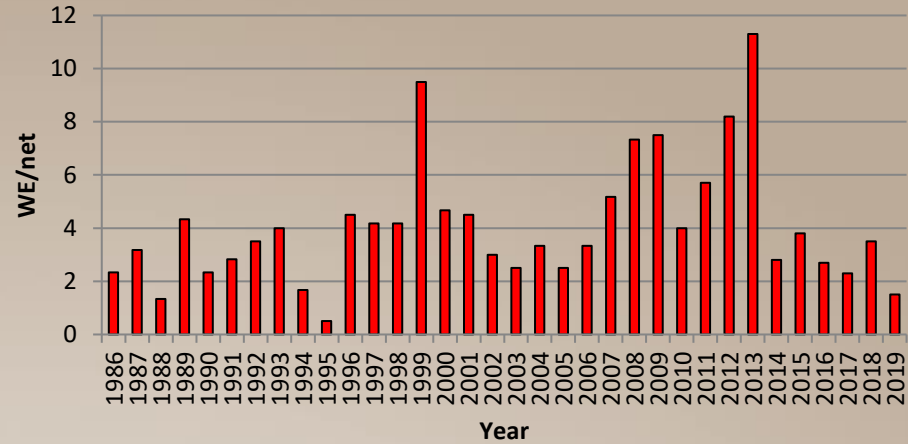
## Annual Relative Abundance

Fall Gillnetting Survey

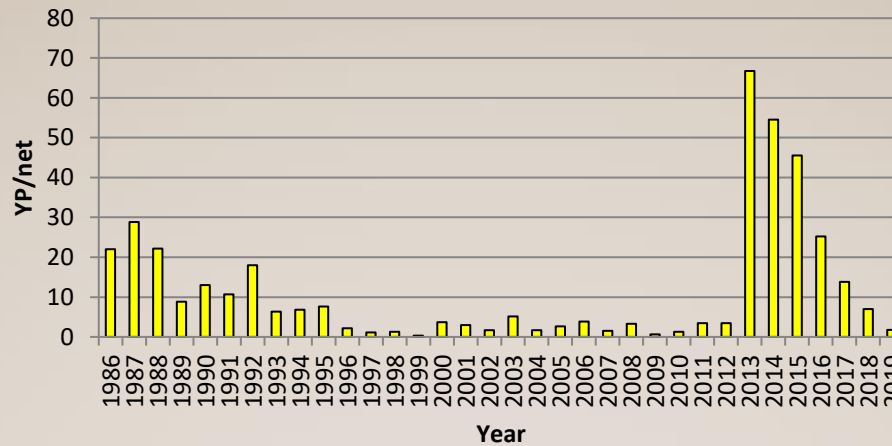
### Rainbow Trout



### Walleye



### Yellow Perch



# New: Walleye & Yellow Perch Regulations Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

 **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 4**  
January 9 · 🌐

New Walleye and Perch Regulations Now in Effect on Holter Reservoir  
Anglers are reminded of a regulation change that began Jan. 1 for walleye and perch fishing at Holter Reservoir south of Great Falls.  
Yellow perch limits are now 25 daily and in possession.  
Walleye limits are now five daily, only one larger than 25 inches; and the possession limit is twice the daily limit.  
The changes will be listed in the new fishing regulations, which will be out in time for the new license year that begins March 1.  
New hunting and fishing licenses that are required starting March 1 are usually available for sale in mid-February.

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 **MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
----- New Fishing Regulations -----

## Holter Reservoir

  
YELLOW PERCH – 25 daily and in possession

  
WALLEYE – 5 daily, only 1 over 25 inches;  
possession limit is twice the daily limit.

----- Effective January 1, 2020 -----

 47 28 Comments 35 Shares

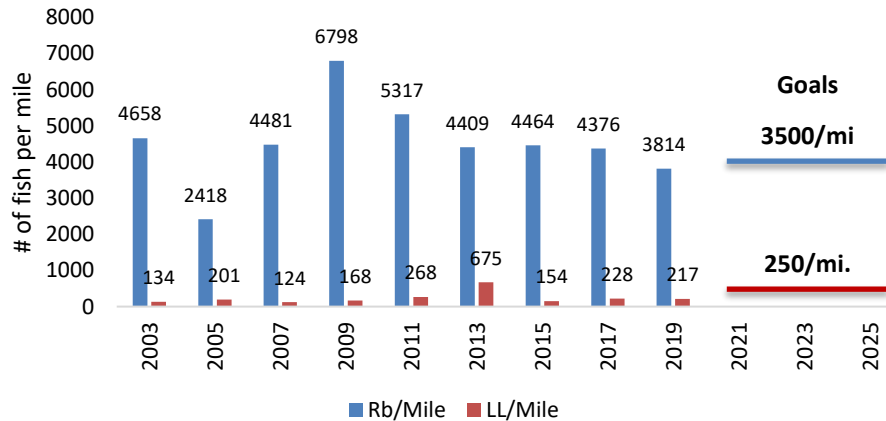
 Like  Comment  Share



# Missouri River – Holter Dam Tailrace

## Fisheries Surveys

Missouri River - Hauser Dam Tailrace  
Fall Electrofishing



2012-2019 Missouri River (Hauser Tailrace) Creel Summary

Year	# Interv	Hours	RB	KOK	LL	WE	RB/HR	KOK/HR	LL/HR	WE/HR	# Boats
2012	1943	4862.7	3163	1	138	41	0.65	0.00	0.03	0.01	264
2013	2376	6107.5	3694	0	167	20	0.60	0.00	0.03	0.003	459
2014	2459	5765.4	4749	10	86	124	0.82	0.002	0.01	0.02	367
2015	1569	4129.8	3959	1	87	47	0.96	0.0002	0.02	0.01	257
2016	2721	6703.2	6155	1	98	52	0.92	0.0001	0.01	0.008	583
2017	2483	6218.7	5164	28	115	62	0.83	0.005	0.02	0.01	515
2018	2421	6179.8	5244	14	164	200	0.85	0.002	0.03	0.03	546
2019	1858	4818.5	2111	30	93	113	0.44	0.006	0.02	0.02	312
<b>Average</b>	2229	5598	4280	11	119	82	0.76	0.00	0.02	0.01	413
<b>Total</b>	17830	44786	34239	85	948	659					3303



# Report Card

## Upper Missouri River Reservoirs Fisheries Management Plan

### Walleye



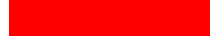
	Target Range	Goal	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canyon Ferry	3-6.9/net	5/net	3.5	3.9	5.4	6.5	6.1	5.5	6.2	8.6	9.1	7.9
Hauser	2-5.9/net	2-3/net	4.5	4.5	5.2	6.1	6.8	8.4	7.4	6.9	6.9	9.1
Holter	2-5.9/net	4/net	6.3	5.7	6.0	8.4	7.4	6.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.4

### Rainbow Trout

	Target Range	Goal	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canyon Ferry	>3/net	5-6/net	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.6	4.2	3.5	2.6	2.6
Hauser	>1/net	3/net	5.0	5.2	5.9	6.4	5.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	5.3	3.8
Holter	>2/net	6/net	5.0	5.2	5.5	6.0	7.3	7.9	6.6	5.6	3.6	3.3

### Yellow Perch

	Target Range	Goal	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canyon Ferry	3-14.9/net	10/net	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.6	4.9	4.7	4
Hauser	1-6.9/net	4/net	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.6	4.2	5.3	6.6	4.3	3.5
Holter	2-9.9/net	6/net	1.8	1.8	2.8	24.6	41.6	55.6	41.7	28.2	15.3	7.5

-  = meets management goals
-  = below management goals, within management range
-  = exceeds upper or lower management triggers



# 2020-2029 Upper Missouri River Reservoirs Fisheries Management Plan

FWP.MT.GOV



THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

## UPPER MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Executive Summary

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN DIRECTIVES AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan (UMRRFMP) will be used by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to direct fisheries management activities for the next 10 years (2020-2029) on Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Hauser Reservoir, Holter Reservoir, and the Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir. Fish population surveys will be conducted annually to monitor population trends and to investigate the effectiveness of management decisions. A Citizen Advisory Committee, appointed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, will provide oversight of the management plan. Population monitoring data will be evaluated, summarized, and presented annually to the Citizen Advisory Committee and interested citizens at annual public meetings for review. A five-member Citizen Advisory Committee will be appointed each year by the FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions throughout the plan area.

#### Public Involvement

The UMRRFMP revision process began in June 2018. Public involvement included a Citizen Working Committee, five open houses, four public meetings, an online survey, a Citizens Workgroup, and three additional open houses. Public involvement from summer 2018 to spring 2019 identified and defined five core public concerns for FWP and the Citizens Workgroup to address:

1. Management plan responsiveness
2. Management plan duration
3. Re-establishing pre-2010 yellow trout stocking rates throughout the plan area
4. Declining yellow perch population trends, specifically in Canyon Ferry and Holter Reservoirs
5. Walleye population size and structure throughout the plan area



## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Population abundance goals for each species in each waterbody section have been established using standardized relative abundance or catch per unit effort (CPUE) surveys. Species-specific goal ranges have been developed for each reservoir and CPUE goals have been developed for applicable species within each river section to determine if annual trend values are meeting species-specific goals.

#### River Sections

The primary plan goal for the river sections is to emphasize management for wild trout while recognizing the importance of walleye and kokanee (Hauser Reservoir only) for providing additional angling opportunity.

- Management decisions based on standardized surveys (e.g., electrofishing)

#### River Section Species Goals

River Section	Species				
	Wild Trout	Brown trout	Walleye	Northern Pike	Kokanee
Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir	1.0 per minute	0.40 per minute	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor
Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir	1,500 per mile	250 per mile	Monitor	Suppress	Monitor

#### Reservoir Sections

The UMRRFMP emphasizes management for trout and walleye while recognizing the importance of yellow perch as a game fish and a forage species.

- Management decisions based on standardized Relative Abundance surveys (e.g., gillnetting)
- Introduce Proportional Stocking Density (PSD) to walleye management in reservoirs throughout the plan area. PSD goal for all reservoirs is 30-60.

#### Reservoir Section Species Goal Ranges (number per net)

Reservoir Section	Species				
	Rainbow trout	Yellow perch	Walleye	Brown trout	Burbot
Canyon Ferry Reservoir	4 to 9	6 to 30	5 to 7	0.5 to 3.5	0.25 to 0.5
Hauser Reservoir	8 to 6	9 to 8	8 to 6	0.5 to 3.5	0.5 to 1.5
Holter Reservoir	8 to 4	8 to 12	8 to 6	NA	0.25 to 0.5


#### Other Management Issues

In addition to species and waterbody-specific fisheries management strategies, the UMRRFMP establishes management criteria for the following issues: reservoir operations, fishing contests, habitat, disease and aquatic invasive species, piscivorous birds, access, flushing losses, low dissolved oxygen, and recreation management.



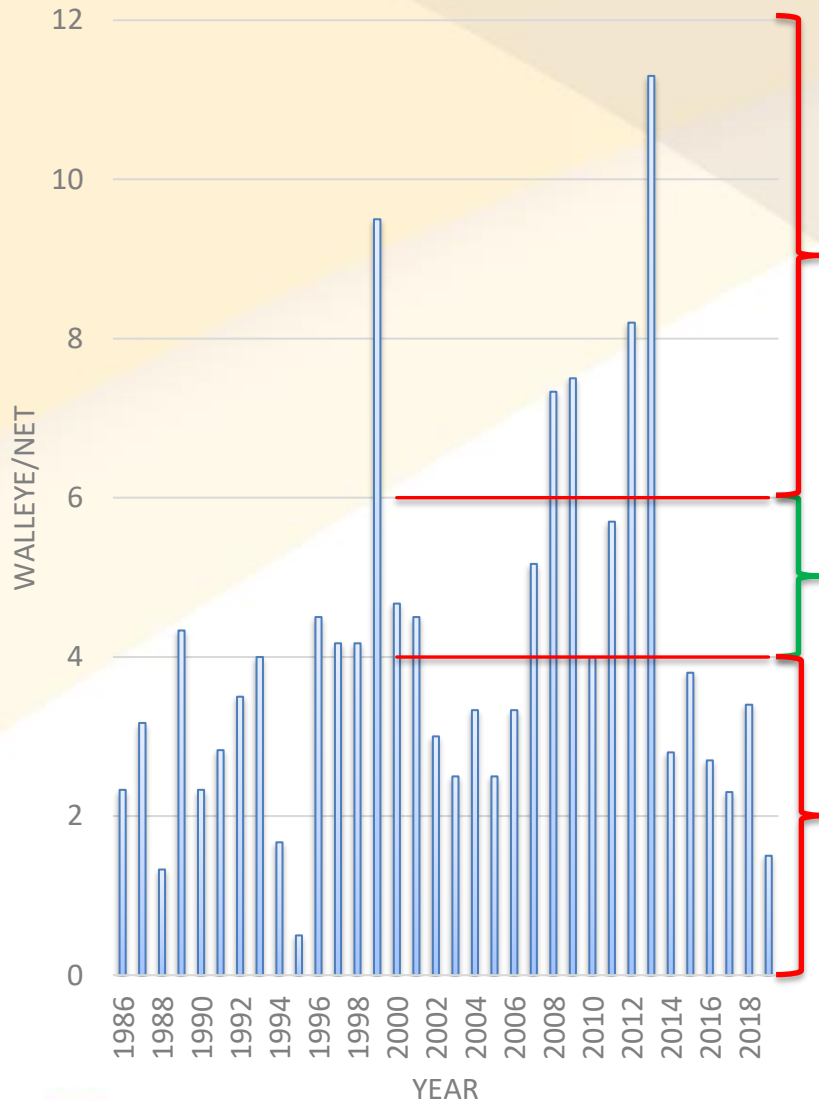


# Future Management

- Continue to manage system as a “quality, multi-species fisheries”
- Highly visible & adaptive plan
  - Consumable versions of the plan (short, full, AGOL Story Map)
  - Annual Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
  - FWP can make changes annually, if necessary
-  3-year averages to Goal Ranges
- Rainbow Trout – No stocking = FWP cannot meet goals
- Yellow Perch - More conservative management, if necessary (Holter)
- Walleye – Simultaneously manage abundance and size
  - Introduced Proportional Stock Density (PSD's) to walleye management



## Holter Walleye



# Goal Ranges

### **Goal Range Exceeded:**

- Expect: PSD < 30; Low relative weight; Potential for high angler catch rates
- Regulations: Liberal regulations to lower abundance, improve PSD. Forage abundance will be considered with reg change considerations.

### **Goal Range:**

- Expect: PSD 30-60; Good relative weight; Good angler catch rates
- Regulations: Bag limits to maintain population within goal range and maintain quality.

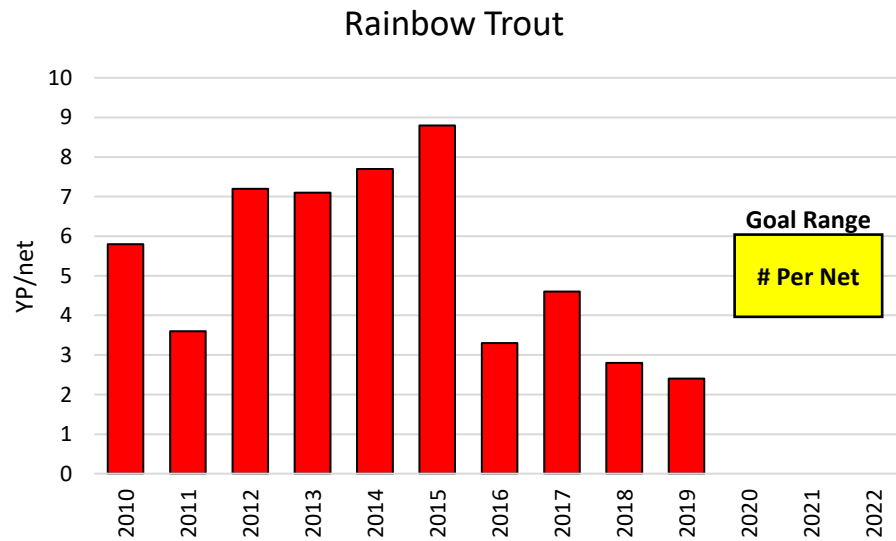
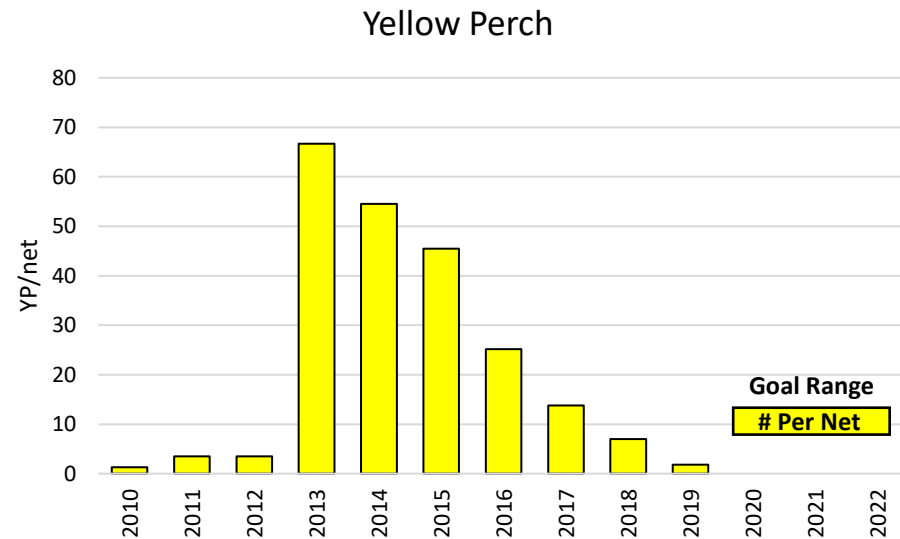
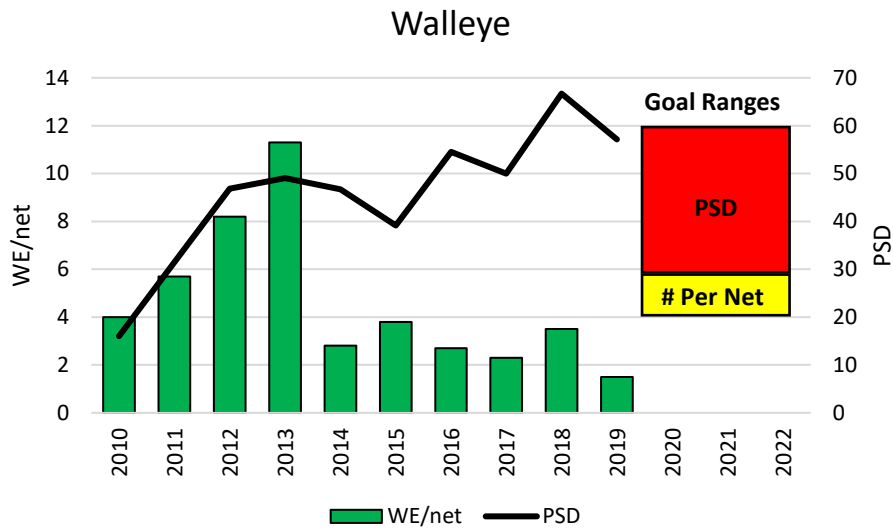
### **Below Goal Range:**

- Expect: Variable PSD; Good relative weight if forage available; Variable angler catch rates
- Regulations: Conservative regulations to improve abundance and stabilize PSD.



# Holter Reservoir - Annual Relative Abundance

## Fall Gillnetting Survey



# Hauser Reservoir - Annual Relative Abundance

## Fall Gillnetting Surveys

