

# Harveys Lake

## Luzerne County

### 2024 Gill Net Survey



*Fisheries Biologist Dan Drake with a 27.6-inch, 11.0-pound female Walleye caught from Harveys Lake in March 2024.*

Harveys Lake is a 658-acre lake located in Luzerne County. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission owns and maintains a boat ramp at the northwest corner of the lake. Harveys Lake is designated as a Stocked Trout Water Open to Year-Round Fishing and under Miscellaneous Waters regulations. The lake is stocked annually with adult trout and fingerling Walleye.

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a gill net survey of Harveys Lake on March 18-20, 2024, to assess the Walleye population. Walleye fingerlings have been stocked annually at rates ranging from 20-60/acre since 2018. Previous gill net surveys captured low numbers of walleye. These prior surveys were conducted during daytime in the spring and fall periods. For this survey a total of 17 gill nets were fished for an average of 3.2 hours around sunset. A total of 56 individual fish of 6 different species were captured (Table 1).

Walleye were the most abundant fish species captured. Thirty-two Walleye were caught ranging from 18.5 inches to 27.6 inches (pictured above, Figure 1). The catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all Walleye was 0.56/hour which is the highest of the last 7 surveys since 2000 (Table 2).

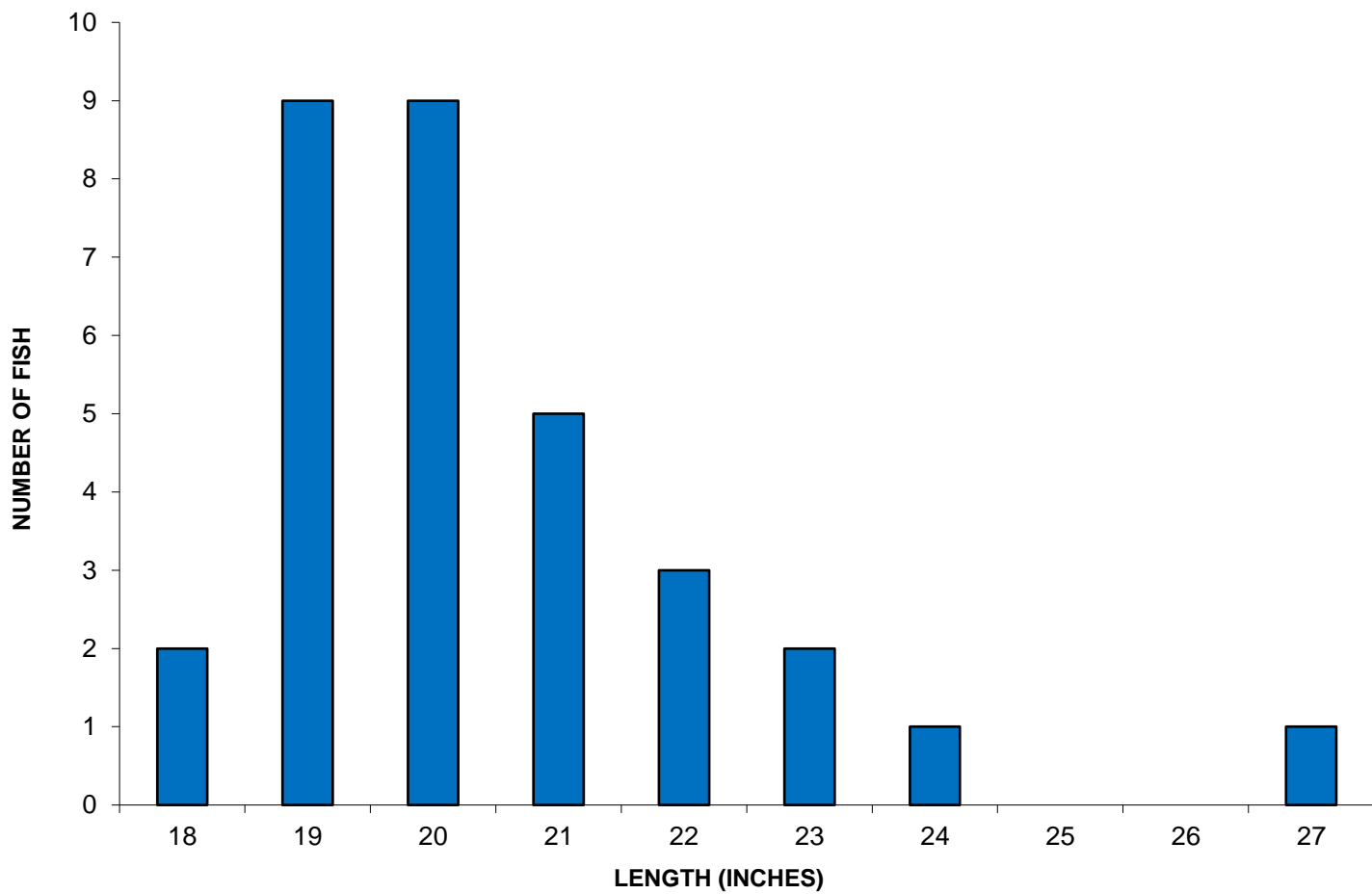
**Table 1: Catch summaries from Harveys Lake March 2024 gill net survey.**

Species	Number Caught	Average Length (in)	Min Length (in)	Max Length (in)
Walleye	32	20.7	18.5	27.6
Brown Trout	13	15.7	14	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	15.7	14	17
Rock Bass	5	7.2	7	11
Yellow Perch	1	12	-	-
Pumpkinseed	1	6	-	-

**Table 2: Walley catch rates from 2000-2024 gill net survey at Harveys Lake.**

Year	Mean CPUE	Number of Nets	Time of year
2024	0.56	17	Spring
2022	0.07	19	Fall
2016	0.12	16	Spring
2015	0.04	37	Fall
2009	0.06	33	Fall
2005	0.24	27	Fall
2000	0.12	24	Fall

The result of this survey is promising for the Walleye population in Harveys Lake. The method of setting the gill nets in the evening proved to be effective for Walleye in the early spring. It is also speculated that the catch was negatively impacted by the weather. The survey followed a week of unseasonably warm temperatures while the weather during the survey was unseasonably cold with periods of mixed precipitation and windy conditions. Timing of the survey might have been a little early. Ninety-three percent of the Walleye catch was comprised of male individuals while the females captured were not quite ready to spawn. It is likely that the catch rate would be higher with greater percentage of females if the survey was closer to the actual spawning period.



**Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Walleye caught from Harveys Lake in March 2024.**

*Aaron Frey  
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